

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2607**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH AUGUST, 2021/ 20 SRAVANA, 1943 (SAKA)
FACILITIES FOR WOMEN PRISONERS**

2607. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of pregnant women currently in prisons, State-wise;**
- (b) the details of the number of child births happened inside prisons in the country in last three years;**
- (c) whether there have been medical terminations of pregnancies inside prisons, if so, the details thereof for the last three years;**
- (d) the women prisoners and their children's access to pre-natal and ante-natal care;**
- (e) the access to Gynaecologists and Obstetricians when in prisons, the details thereof;**
- (f) whether Government has received complaints regarding lack of access to medical care and medical negligence; and**
- (g) if so, the action taken thereon?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI AJAY KUMAR MISHRA)**

(a) to (g): 'Prisons' and 'persons detained therein' are State subjects as per Entry 4 of List II of Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The management and administration of prisons falls exclusively in the domain of the State Governments and is governed by the Prisons Act, 1894 and the Prison Manuals/Rules of respective State Governments. The States have the primary duty and responsibility to take appropriate steps for providing

medical care to inmates, including women inmates. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been supplementing the efforts of State Governments by issuing various advisories and guidelines from time to time. These advisories are available at: <https://mha.gov.in/> . MHA had issued a detailed advisory to States and UTs sharing the guidelines for providing facilities to women prisoners and their children, which inter-alia, provide that every jail must have adequate facilities for pre-natal and post-natal care for female prisoners and their children. A comprehensive Model Prison Manual 2016 was also forwarded to all States and UTs in 2016. The Manual has a dedicated chapter on ‘Women Prisoners’, which provides guidelines on Pregnancy of inmates, Child birth in Prisons, Children of Women prisoners, Healthcare, Diet, Food, and Personal Hygiene of inmates etc. MHA had also forwarded a report titled ‘Women in Prisons’, received from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, to all States and UTs for implementation of various suggestions relating to women inmates and their children contained in the said report.

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles prison statistics reported to it by States and Union Territories (UTs) and publishes the same in its annual publication “Prison Statistics India”. The latest published report is of the year 2019. However, specific data in this regard is not maintained centrally.