

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 355**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1ST DECEMBER, 2021/ 10 AGRAHAYANA, 1943 (SAKA)
UNDERTRIAL PERSONS**

355. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of undertrial persons in various jails across the country and the steps taken to initiate early trial for these people;

(b) whether existing jails are adequate to house these persons who are undertrial; and

(c) if not, the steps taken for fair accommodation?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles prison statistics reported to it by the 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. As on 31.12.2019, there were 3,30,487 undertrial prisoners in various jails of the country.

‘Prisons’/‘persons detained therein’ is a “State-List” subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Administration and management of prisons and inmates is the responsibility of respective State Governments, who are competent to take appropriate measures for expediting the trial proceedings of undertrial prisoners and to also provide for more accommodation for inmates as per local requirement and need from time to time.

The Model Prison Manual 2016 circulated to all States and UTs provides comprehensive guidance on various aspects of efficient prison management and has dedicated chapters on ‘legal aid’, ‘undertrial prisoners’, ‘welfare of prisoners’, ‘maintenance of prisoners’, including guidance on accommodation for prisoners, etc. MHA has also issued various advisories to States & UTs for adopting various measures to address the issue of undertrials and to reduce overcrowding in prisons. These advisories are available on MHA’s website at: <https://mha.gov.in>.
