

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1398
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 28th JULY, 2022

Need of new law for undertrial prisoners

1398 **Shri Narain Dass Gupta:**

Will the Minister of **Law and Justice** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has an estimate of the number of undertrial prisoners in the jails of the country;
- (b) whether a new law is needed as suggested by Supreme Court to facilitate grant of bail in the country;
- (c) whether the new law is needed because of low rate of conviction in criminal cases, if so, in terms of legislation that can be done to augment the speed of disposals of legal proceedings; and
- (d) whether arrest and detention in cases of minor offences can be regulated by deadlines?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles prison statistics as reported by the States and Union Territories (UTs) and it publishes the same in its annual publication "Prison Statistics India". The latest published report is of the year 2020. 3,71,848 undertrial prisoners are in the jails of the country as on 31st December, 2020.
- (b) to (d) As per information received from Ministry of Home Affairs, the Departmental-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, in its 146th Report dated 23.06.2010, had recommended that there is a need for a comprehensive review of the Criminal Justice System of the country. Earlier, the

Parliamentary Standing Committee in its 111th and 128th Report had also stressed upon the need to reform and rationalize the criminal law of the country by introducing a comprehensive legislation in Parliament rather than bringing about piecemeal amendments in respective Acts. The Government has agreed with the recommendations of Departmental-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs regarding need to reform and rationalize the criminal laws and introduction of comprehensive legislation in the Parliament..
