GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1773

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 02ND JULY, 2019/ ASHADHA 11, 1941 (SAKA)

CONDITIONS OF FOREIGN PRISONERS

1773. SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether guidelines have been framed for ensuring humane conditions in detention centres where foreign national prisoners are confined pending their repatriation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether advisories have been issued to the States to facilitate prompt consular access, schemes to permit video conferencing with families and access to legal aid for foreign national prisoners in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Home Affairs has prepared a 'Model Detention Centre/Holding Centre/Camp Manual', which was circulated to all States and UTs on 9.1.2019. The Model Manual specifies the amenities to be provided in such Detention Centres/Holding Centres/Camps. The guidelines, inter-alia, provide that such Centres should be designed to provide all necessary facilities for the inmates to maintain standard of living in consonance with human dignity. It lays down that basic amenities like electricity, drinking water, hygiene, accommodation with beds, sufficient toilets with running water, communication facilities, provision for kitchen etc. shall be provided. Special attention is to be given to women/nursing mothers, children etc. Children lodged in detention centres are to be provided educational facilities in nearby local schools.

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(c) & (d): Government attaches high importance to providing timely consular access to foreign Missions for their nationals detained in India. State Governments are required to give immediate intimation of the arrest/detention of the foreigner in any part of the country to Ministry of External Affairs which in turn notifies the foreign Embassy concerned. Likewise, upon request from any foreign Mission for consular access to any of their nationals detained/imprisoned in India, Ministry of External Affairs notifies the relevant authorities who are required to provide Consular access thus sought. The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued advisories to the States and UTs on various aspects of prison administration, provision of legal aid and video conference facility to prisoners etc. The Model Prison Manual, 2016 circulated to all States and UTs also has chapters on 'Legal Aid', 'Welfare of Prisoners' and 'Repatriation of foreign prisoners' etc.

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