



December 21, 2018

JAIL MAIL

Prisons & Parliament: Monsoon Session 2018

Dear friends,

As the year comes to an end, we share our last jail mail for 2018 on questions asked in the Monsoon Session of the Parliament. This is in continuation of our previous [jail mail](#) on the Budget Session. You may recollect that in that session, which was held from 20 January to 6 April 2018, with 31 sittings, Members of Parliament asked 45 questions on prisons and prisoners.

The monsoon session was held between 18 July and 10 August 2018 and had 18 sittings. This session saw 29 questions on prisons over a wide range of issues such as prison conditions, monitoring and modernisation, prison infrastructure, legal aid, prison overcrowding, bail, women inmates, children of prisoners, open prisons and Indians in foreign prisons, among others.

14 questions were asked in the Rajya Sabha and 15 questions were asked in the Lok Sabha. Of these 29 questions, 13 were directed towards the Ministry of Home Affairs, nine to the Ministry of External Affairs, four to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, and three to the Ministry of Law and Justice. The attached note provides a link to all these questions and answers as well as a brief summary of the information received through these questions in this session.

What can you do?

- You can suggest questions that you would like to be asked in the next session of Parliament.
- You can inform your representative about the issues and challenges that you face or are important to you.
- You can also ask questions on these issues from your MP or other MPs who may, in turn, ask it from the relevant ministry. The admissibility of the question in parliament is governed by the Rules and Procedures and Conduct of Business in the [Lok Sabha \(Rule 41\)](#) and [Rajya Sabha \(Rule 47\)](#). You can also look at the questions earlier asked in the Lok Sabha [here](#) which can help you in drafting the questions. After the questions are drafted, they can be sent to the MPs through the following links: [Lok Sabha Members details](#) and [Rajya Sabha Member details](#).
- In order to understand the areas of work of your MP/ other MPs, you can use PRS Legislative Research's [MP Track](#).
- There is another platform where questions can be sent to the parliament. You can view it [here](#).

In case you missed our jail mails sent in 2018, you can access them by using the links below:-

JAIL MAIL: PRISONS AND PARLIAMENT 2018	<i>19 January 2018</i>	Click Here
JAIL MAIL: BEYOND PRISON WALLS – CONVERSATION ON PRISONERS’ RIGHTS	<i>20 February 2018</i>	Click Here
JAIL MAIL: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN PRISONERS	<i>8 March 2018</i>	Click Here
JAIL MAIL: PRISONS AND PARLIAMENT - BUDGET SESSION 2018	<i>19 June 2018</i>	Click Here
JAIL MAIL: NELSON MANDELA DAY	<i>20 July 2018</i>	Click Here
JAIL MAIL: SAFEGUARDING RIGHTS OF THE ARRESTED	<i>05 October 2018</i>	Click Here
JAIL MAIL- LEGAL SERVICES DAY- LOOKING BACK AT AN EVENTFUL YEAR 2018	<i>14 November 2018</i>	Click Here
JAIL MAIL: KEY TO TRANSPARENCY: CHRIS GUIDEBOOK ON RTI AND PRISONS	<i>28 November 2018</i>	Click Here
JAIL MAIL: HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2018 - PRISON REFORMS: “HAS ANYTHING CHANGED ON THE GROUND?”	<i>13 December 2018</i>	Click Here

Write to us at chriprisonsprog@gmail.com with your comments and suggestions. Please send us an email if you wished to subscribe to these updates.

Best Regards,

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About *Jail Mail*

Jail Mail is a regular series of Prison Reform Updates from CHRI for readers interested in the rights of prisoners and the reform of prisons as a matter of public concern. The engagement of civil society in the management and monitoring of prisons and the rights of prisoners is vital to the transparency of this traditionally closed institution and to ensure the practical realisation of the rights of those behind bars. *Jail Mail* invites discussion between civil society members and those entrusted to oversee and manage prisons.

Evidence-based research and watch reports of CHRI's Prison Reforms Programme, interviews with critical stakeholders, topical issues and developments concerning the liberty of prisoners, and health of prisons in India and around the world will form the sources of *Jail Mail*. Its periodicity will depend on the urgency of issues and the interest they generate.

About CHRI and the Prison Reforms Programme

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organisation headquartered in New Delhi, with offices in London, United Kingdom and Accra, Ghana. CHRI works for the practical realisation of human rights across Commonwealth countries. It has specialised in the areas of Access to Justice (Police and Prison Reforms) and Access to Information for over two decades. It has special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council and is recognised for its expertise by governments, oversight bodies and civil society. It is registered as a society in India.

The Prison Reforms Programme of CHRI is more than 15 years old. The programme focuses on improving prison monitoring through the strengthening of undertrial review mechanisms and prison visiting system nationally, and ensuring early safeguards against unnecessary pre-trial detentions, specifically in Rajasthan and West Bengal. The programme also advocates for timely repatriation of foreign national prisoners and immediate release of asylum seekers. Evidence-based research, advocacy, capacity-building of actors of the criminal justice system including prison officials, welfare and probation officers, criminal defense lawyers, magistrates, legal aid functionaries and civil society actors are the regular activities of the programme.

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