WHO KEEPS AN EYE ON PRISONS?

BOARD OF VISITORS (BOVs)

By law (Section 59(25) of Prisons Act, 1894) every jail must have a Board of Visitors. The Board is made up of officials, elected representatives and also people of good standing from the local community known as Non-Official Visitors (NOVs).
WHO KEEPS AN EYE ON PRISONS?

WHAT DO THEY DO

Meet regularly

Visit the jails together or individually

Observe the material living conditions,

Report to the higher ups

Follow up with the prison staff and other local authorities
27 States & Union Territories
ONLY 5 OUT OF 1382 JAILS ARE MONITORED ACCORDING TO THE LAW
Only 4 states have Board of Visitors constituted in all their jails.
Only 3 STATES appointed visitors according to the criteria.
11 states are governed by the rules of other states
ONLY 4 OUT OF 36 STATES HAVE THEIR OWN PRISONS ACT
ONLY 13 STATES SEEK REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN VISITORS
ONLY 14 STATES include sub jails to have Board of visitors
8 STATES do not lay down the frequency of inspections
Only 4 states have a Prisons Act of their own

Only 7 states prescribe professional qualifications and background as appointment criteria

11 states are governed by the rules of other states

Only 4 states have a Board of Visitors constituted in all their jails

Only 10 jails have Board of Visitors constituted in some of their jails

Only 3 jails appointed visitors according to the criteria

Only 3 states have Board of Visitors constituted in all their jails

**Name**
Indian prisons or ‘Nobody’s baby’

**Age**
Ever-so-old and perpetually decaying

**Appearance**
Overcrowded, underfunded and on the verge of collapse