Foreword

It is my proud privilege to release 20th edition of the report ‘Prison Statistics India 2014’, an annual publication of National Crime Records Bureau. The first edition of this report was brought out for the year 1995 and over the years, this has become a principal reference document on various parameters related to prison management.

The current publication is divided into thirteen chapters along with related graphs, tables and maps. The content of each chapter deals with a particular aspect of prison administration and the salient features of the report are summarized in ‘Snapshots’.

Prisons are nowadays expected to function as centers of reformation and rehabilitation, where the prisoners undergoing sentences are to be provided a conducive environment for their physical and mental development, so that they can reform themselves with a positive outlook towards the society and be integrated with mainstream of the society. In this context, the Bureau has published one exclusive chapter on ‘Best Practices in the field of Welfare and Rehabilitation of Prison Inmates’. This would facilitate the Prison Department of States/UTs to adopt the best practices of other States/UTs. Besides, one exclusive table on the foreign nationals, who are lodged in the jail in India, has also been published in this edition.

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The report brings out that there are 1,84,386 inmates lodged in central prisons of India against the authorized capacity of 1,52,312 inmates, showing an occupancy rate of 121.1%. In all types of jails taken together, there were 4,18,536 inmates of whom 2,82,879 were under-trials, constituting 67.6% of total inmates. Prison reforms, thus, need to be accelerated for creating congenial and reformative environment for the inmates.

Timely publication of this report is as important as the richness of its contents. This edition, I am happy to place on record, has been published within the timeframe. For this achievement, express my sincere gratitude to all DGs/IGs of Prisons of States and UTs for timely furnishing of data and also solicit their co-operation in our efforts to reduce the time lag of publication for our future editions. I also compliment the painstaking and meticulous work of the NCRB team entrusted with this report.

We hope that this report will fulfill the requirements of all stakeholders including law makers, Central & State/UT Governments, policy makers, prison administrators, researchers, criminologists and media. It is our firm belief that these statistics and trends would facilitate the much-needed prison reforms. The task of collection, collation and dissemination of data is the core mandate of NCRB and it is our constant endeavor to fine-tune these processes. NCRB has currently undertaken the revision of proformae for the future editions, so that the quality of data on various parameters relating to prison statistics is further refined. Therefore, we would be highly obliged if the readers could send their valuable suggestions to us in the feedback form attached at the end of this report for enhancing the content as well as quality of the publication at our email address: dct@ncrb.nic.in

(ARCHANA RAMASUNDARAM)

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New Delhi

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