MESSAGE

I am happy to see the report ‘Prison Statistics India’ for the year 2006 brought out by National Crime Records Bureau which is an annual publication presenting detailed information on prisoners and various aspects of prison administration in the country.

The concept of prisons is undergoing a sea change and rights of the prisoners are in focus today. Prisons which were earlier looked upon as places of punishment and indignity are the correctional centres today which are required to provide a healthy, positive and reformative environment to the inmates. All out efforts are made to inculcate necessary skills for the rehabilitation of the convicts/undertrials so that they may play a productive role as a member of the society instead of living a marginalized life with an odium after their release. Government of India is coordinating efforts and providing required financial support to State/UT Governments to improve the conditions in jails by way of increasing the capacity of existing jails, construction of new jails, improving hygiene, health and medical facilities in order to provide more humane conditions inside the jails. To realize these larger objectives set out by the Government, these efforts need to be supplemented by appropriate and timely information on various aspects of prison administration. This is where this publication is of immense use to the policy planners and other stakeholders.

I will urge the State Governments and UT Administrations to keep their data updated and furnish the same to NCRB regularly and timely so that the larger goals can be realized and the prison administration can be made humane, effective and safe.

(NIRMALJEET SINGH KALSI)