

Chapter – 2

Inmate population and Overcrowding in prisons

An important aspect of prison administration is the population of inmates that the authorities have to handle in the prisons. One thing that comes out strikingly on the basis of available data is that the jails are over-crowded.

Data relating to the population of both male and female inmates are collected from the prison authorities in order to find

the relationship in terms of occupancy/overcrowding between the capacity available in prisons and the actual number of prison inmates. The occupancy in any jail changes on daily basis due to addition of new prisoners and release of old ones, nevertheless, an estimate of population of inmates at the end of the year would serve as a good indicator to determine the occupancy rate. *The*

Table 2(A)

Capacity in jails, Population of inmates and Occupancy rate in States/UTs at the end of 2012

Sl. No.	State/UT	Available Capacity	Inmate Population	Occupancy Rate# (2012)	Occupancy Rate# (2011)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	15060	13285	88.2	82.2
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	56	71	126.8	98.2
3	ASSAM	7978	8271	103.7	109.6
4	BIHAR	35107	28550	81.3	83.0
5	CHHATTISGARH	5850	14780	252.6	256.3
6	GOA	395	472	119.5	123.8
7	GUJARAT	12218	11585	94.8	123.5
8	HARYANA	16964	16952	99.9	93.7
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	1626	1716	105.5	98.8
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR	2895	2540	87.7	92.0
11	JHARKHAND	13922	17331	124.5	128.1
12	KARNATAKA	13100	13137	100.3	96.7
13	KERALA	6654	6947	104.4	97.8
14	MADHYA PRADESH	26583	33959	127.7	128.2
15	MAHARASHTRA	24656	24509	99.4	97.7
16	MANIPUR	970	723	74.5	66.7
17	MEGHALAYA	530	696	131.3	107.5
18	MIZORAM	1302	847	65.1	67.7
19	NAGALAND	1450	398	27.4	34.6
20	ODISHA	18012	12867	71.4	64.7
21	PUNJAB	17410	23219	133.4	149.1
22	RAJASTHAN	16600	19351	116.6	100.5
23	SIKKIM	207	236	114.0	91.8
24	TAMILNADU	21951	13195	60.1	63.3
25	TRIPURA	1322	901	68.2	68.0
26	UTTAR PRADESH	47518	80311	169.0	175.1
27	UTTARAKHAND	3562	3535	99.2	91.5
28	WEST BENGAL	20297	20431	100.7	94.4
	TOTAL(STATES)	334195	370815	111.0	110.5
29	A & N ISLANDS	1109	1126	101.5	362.1
30	CHANDIGARH	1000	734	73.4	62.6
31	D & N HAVELI	60	37	61.7	41.7
32	DAMAN & DIU	120	25	20.8	24.2
33	DELHI	6250	12113	193.8	194.0
34	LAKSHADWEEP	16	0	0.0	500.0
35	PUDUCHERRY	419	285	68.0	54.4
	TOTAL(UTs)	8974	14320	159.6	173.7
	TOTAL (ALL-INDIA)	343169	385135	112.2	112.1

Occupancy Rate = $\frac{\text{Inmate population}}{\text{Total capacity}} \times 100$

Occupancy rate <100 shows space available for inmates in prisons.
Occupancy rate >100 shows overcrowding in prisons.

occupancy rate defined as number of inmates staying in jails against the authorized capacity for 100 inmates has been calculated to determine the 'Crowding in Prisons'.

It is evident as per the information available from States/UTs regarding population of inmates in various prisons (**Table 2(A)**), that the prison population was satisfactorily managed during the year 2012 in 13 States and 5 UTs as the occupancy rate in these States/UTs remained less than 100%. These States and UTs are Haryana (99.9%), Maharashtra (99.4%), Uttarakhand (99.2%), Gujarat (94.8%), Andhra Pradesh (88.2%), Jammu & Kashmir (87.7%), Bihar (81.3%), Manipur (74.5%), Chandigarh (73.4%), Odisha (71.4%), Tripura (68.2%), Puducherry (68.0%), Mizoram (65.1%), D&N Haveli (61.7%), Tamil Nadu (60.1%), Nagaland (27.4%), Daman & Diu (20.8%) and Lakshadweep (0.0%). Chhattisgarh has reported the highest overcrowding (252.6%) followed by Delhi (193.8%), Uttar Pradesh (169.0%), Punjab (133.4%), Meghalaya (131.3%), Madhya Pradesh (127.7%), Arunachal Pradesh (126.8%), Jharkhand (124.5%), Goa (119.5%), Rajasthan (116.6%), Sikkim (114.0%), Himachal Pradesh (105.5%), Kerala (104.4%), Assam (103.7%), A&N Islands (101.5%), West Bengal (100.7%) and Karnataka (100.3%).

*Capacity for male and female inmates and their occupancy rate in various Jails for the year 2012 in respect of States/UTs are also presented in **Table 2.1**.* It is observed that the occupancy rate of such prisons during the period under consideration was high against the available capacity for the female inmates in the State of Uttarakhand (153.6%) followed by Chhattisgarh (150.3%), Delhi (135.0%), Goa (112.0%), Jharkhand (106.9%) and Uttar Pradesh (102.8%).

Chart 2.1 depicts the actual male and female inmates in different States/UTs at the end of the year 2012.

Chart 2.2 depicts comparative position of occupancy rates at the end of the year 2011 and 2012. The occupancy rate at All India level at the end of 2011 was 112.1% which remained almost same at 112.2% at the end of the year 2012. Only two States reporting further overcrowding in their prisons were Meghalaya (107.5% in 2011 to 131.3% in 2012) and Rajasthan (100.5% in 2011 to 116.6% in 2012). The States / UTs where the inmate population was still more than the available capacity, although the overcrowding declined at the end of 2012, were A & N Islands (from 362.1% in 2011 to 101.5% in 2012), Chhattisgarh (from 256.3% in 2011 to 252.6% in 2012), Delhi (from 194.0% in 2011 to 193.8% in 2012), Uttar Pradesh (from 175.1% in 2011 to 169.0% in 2012), Punjab (from 149.1% in 2011 to 133.4% in 2012), Madhya Pradesh (from 128.2% in 2011 to 127.7% in 2012), Jharkhand (from 128.1% in 2011 to 124.5% in 2012), Goa (from 123.8% in 2011 to 119.5% in 2012) and Assam (from 109.6% in 2011 to 103.7% in 2012).