

Madan B Lokur asked the Centre as to what action has been taken in the matter.

It said a report by Additional Sessions Judge, who carried out inspection in the jail on September 4 following complaints from inmates that the Chandra brothers and others were enjoying "luxurious lifestyle", was already available.

"Report of a judge says that Unitech officials are enjoying facilities in Tihar. Is there a parallel system running in jails? Do they have special rights in jails? What have you done about it?" the bench asked Lekhi, who said he would get back to the court on this issue.

**On sofas, the Bench observed**

When the ASG said the top court was dealing with the issue related to speedy trial for undertrial prisoners, the bench observed, "We are dealing with something which is shocking".

"What is your government planning to do?", the bench asked Lekhi, who said he would get back to the court on this issue.

The court also flagged the issue raised in recent media reports about use of mobile phones inside jails in several states, including Bihar.

The issue cropped up in the court when it was hearing a

had carried out inspection in Tihar jail, had said in his

report submitted to the Delhi High Court that the circumstances indicated "corruption" and "grave misuse of power" on the part of Director General (DG) Prisons and Tihar Jail officials.

The judge has recommended that an FIR be lodged against DG Prisons and officials of Tihar Jail as such activities also pose an "extra burden on the public exchequer".

He had said in his report that apart from household amenities, including mattresses, mustard oil, foot-mats and stools, in their cell, the Chandra brothers also enjoyed a sepa-

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**Sabarimala ban existed even 200 years ago, says British-era report**

Nobody knows exactly when girls and women of reproductive age were forbidden from offering prayers at Lord Ayyappa shrine in Sabarimala, but a 19th century British survey report says the ban was in place even 200 years ago.

Amid the rancour-filled debate and protracted protests over allowing girls and women in the 10-50 years age group into the temple, the colonial era document compiled by two British military officers is considered a vital document by those who believe the ban was part of a centuries-old tradition and should continue.

The Supreme Court's historic September 28 verdict lifting the ban, hailed by rights activists but panned by traditionalists, has set off intense protests by the Hindu right as also political parties like the Congress and the BJP.

According to the "Memoir of the Survey of the Travancore and Cochin States", published in two volumes by the then Madras government, women of menstruating age were denied entry into the Sabarimala temple even two centuries ago.

Though Benjamin Swain Ward and Peter Eyre Conner, lieutenants of the Madras Infantry, completed the survey by the end of the year 1820 after nearly five years of research, it was published in two volumes in 1893 and 1901. "Old women and young girls may approach the temple, but those who have attained the age of puberty and to a cer-

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For SBI Funds Management Private Limited  
Sd/-

Vinaya Datar

Head - Compliance & Company Secretary

Place: Mumbai  
Date: November 22, 2018

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