

4. Trends of overcrowding

The prison population as on 31.12.2010 has marginally declined by 3.47% in comparison with the population on 31.12.2009. The trend of decline of prison population which started in year 2007 retains its momentum and there are several factors responsible for maintaining this level which includes fast judicial pronouncement, fewer arrests under preventive sections of laws, release of poor prisoners who were unable to furnish surety, disposal of cases through Special / Plea Bargaining Courts etc. The trend of overcrowding of Delhi Prisons during the preceding 10 years is depicted in the table below:-

Total population of prisoners as on 31 December of Each year	11023	12041	12172	12580	12317	13436	11605	11553	11246	10856
Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010

Prison Population Category Wise as on 31.12.2010.

CATEGORY	MALE	FEMALE	(% age)	
			MALE	FEMALE
Undertrials	7686	401	74.25	79.41
Convicts	2647	104	25.57	20.59
Detenues	13	0	0.13	0.00
Others	5	0	0.05	0.00
Total	10351	505	100.00	100.00

around 9% in undertrial population while there is corresponding increase @ 20% in the convict population. The increase in percentage of convicts show there was better conviction rate during the year.

It may be worthwhile to mention here that national average of undertrial prisoners in county jails was around 66.6% and in Delhi the population of undertrials (74.49%) is much above the national average.