

Minutes of the meeting dated 03.04.2020 of the High Powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Kumari Justice Sanju Panda, Acting Chief Justice, Orissa High Court cum Executive Chairperson, Odisha State Legal Services Authority with regard to release of prisoners for de-congestions of jails in view of spreading of Covid-19 disease, over telephonic conversation.

The meeting is convened through telephonic conversation by the following dignitaries-

1. **Hon'ble Kumari Justice Sanju Panda**, Acting Chief Justice, Orissa High Court & Executive Chairperson, Odisha State Legal Services Authority.
2. **Shri Sanjeev Chopra**, IAS, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Govt. of Odisha.
3. **Shri Santosh Kumar Upadhyay**, IPS, Director General of Prisons, Odisha.

The Member Secretary placed the following information, as received and collated from all 30 DLSAs consequent upon the holding of Under Trial Review Committees in all districts, in view of the guidelines issued by the High Powered Committee dated 26.03.2020.

1. **Number of UTPs identified for recommendation of interim bail- 1027**
2. **Number of convicted prisoners identified for recommendation of parole- 292**
3. **Number of prisoners found to be affected by COVID-19 virus- Nil**
4. **Number of prisoners found to be suffering from other diseases- 1568**
5. **Number of prisoners provided with immediate medical facilities- 2315**

On considering the data placed by Member Secretary, OSLSA, the High Powered Committee (HPC) instructed the DG, Prisons to take immediate necessary follow up in providing proper medical care to those prisoners who are in need of urgent medical facilities.

The Director General, Prisons placed before the Committee the steps taken as per the guidelines issued by the High Powered Committee from 27.03.20 till 1.4.2020:

- 1. Total 1873 number of UTPs been released during the period 20.03.2020 to 01.04.2020**
- 2. 989 prisoners have been shifted to less crowded jails from over crowded jails**
- 3. 20 prisoners have been released on parole/furlough extension**
- 4. 177 number of convicts have been granted special remissions**

On considering the information placed before the Committee by Director General Prisons, the Committee took note of the expeditious steps taken within a week for decongestion of the jails in the state of Orissa in wake of spread of COVID 19 virus.

The Committee further resolved to recommend that steps be taken for consideration of parole in cases of convicts who have already undergone/completed sentence for a period of 10 years and above in Jails in Odisha.

The Committee resolved to direct all the stakeholders to take necessary follow-up action in the light of the aforementioned **Guidelines issued by the High Powered Committee** and furnish the required information to Member Secretary OSLSA with regard to steps taken by 8.4.2020.

By order

Sd/-

**Member Secretary
OSLSA**