

*Mrs. Minakshi Das, OSJS*  
Member Secretary



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
ODISHA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY  
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(30)  
**L.No.1532/Dtd.23.04.2020**

To,  
**The District Judge-cum-Chairperson,  
District Legal Services Authority,  
.....ALL.....**

**Sub: Resolution of the meeting dated 22.04.2020 of the High  
Powered Committee in connection to the directives of the  
Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Suo Motu Writ Petition No.  
01/2020.**

Sir,

I am directed to send herewith the resolution of the meeting dated 22.04.2020 of the High Powered Committee (copy enclosed) in connection to the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in **Suo Motu Writ Petition No. 01/2020**, for favour of your information and necessary action.

The Chairperson(s) of the TLSC(s) in your district may be intimated for favour of their information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

  
23.4.20  
**Member Secretary**

**Encl: As above**

**Minutes of the meeting dated 22.04.2020 of the High Powered Committee (HPC) under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Kumari Justice Sanju Panda, Acting Chief Justice, Orissa High Court and Executive Chairperson, Odisha State Legal Services Authority with regard to release of prisoners for decongestion of jails in view of spreading of COVID-19 disease over telephonic conversation.**

1. The meeting is convened through telephonic conversation on 22.04.2020 by the following dignitaries:

- (i) **Hon'ble Kumari Justice Sanju Panda, Acting Chief Justice, Orissa High Court and Executive Chairperson, Odisha State Legal Services Authority.**
- (ii) **Shri Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Government of Odisha.**
- (iii) **Shri Santosh Kumar Upadhyay, IPS, Director General of Prisons, Odisha.**

2. This meeting was urgently convened as DG of Prisons and DCS, Odisha apprised the committee that in compliance of the decision taken by the High Powered Committee on 26.03.2020, total 291 number of convicts have been released on one time special furlough/parole leave for a period of 21 days and in the meantime the lockdown period has been extended to 03.05.2020. In view of the extended lockdown period, it is difficult on the part of the prisoners to come back to jails for surrender from 23.04.2020 onwards.

Considering such matter raised by the DG, Prisons, the Committee resolved to extend the period of furlough/parole leave to those 291 prisoners as would be deemed necessary by the DG, Prisons, preferably till 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, 2020 in view of the continuing lockdown.

3. The High Powered Committee also felt it proper to direct the Director General of Police, Odisha to take necessary steps for examination of the accused persons at the time of arrest to find out whether the accused is infected by COVID-19 virus or not.

Further, the HPC directed the DG Police to instruct all the police stations of the State to ensure production of accused before the Magistrate after ascertaining that the accused is not infected by Corona Virus (COVID-19) as far as practicable. The committee unanimously resolved to take such decision with a view to take precaution from further spread of infection. For this purpose the committee also felt it proper to instruct the Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Odisha to provide all assistance to police department in this regard.

4. The Member Secretary, OSLSA apprised the HPC that the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) are conducting the Under Trial Review Committee weekly meeting to review of status of prisoners in conformity with direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in **Suo Motu Writ Petition No. 01/2020**.

**By order**  
**Sd/-**  
**Member Secretary**  
**OSLSA**