

Minutes of the emergency meeting dated 02.05.20 of the High Powered Committee (HPC) under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Kumari Justice Sanju Panda, Judge, 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 urgently convened through telephonic conversation on 02.05.20 in view of the extension of lockdown till May 17th 2020 by the following dignitaries:
 - (i) **Hon'ble Kumari Justice Sanju Panda, Judge, 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. The Member Secretary, OSLSA placed the urgent matter of DG, Prison & DCS, Odisha vide letter dated 02.05.2020 stating that in view of the guidelines of the High Powered Committee on 26.03.2020 and 22.04.2020, 361 convicted prisoners of different jails are now availing special Furlough/Parole leave up to 3rd of May, 2020 and are supposed to surrender at their respective jails on 4th of May. In the meantime as the lockdown period has been extended up to 17th of May, DG Prisons, Santosh Kumar Upadhyay submitted before the High Powered Committee to urgently consider extension of the special Furlough/Parole leave of 361 convicted prisoners till May 17th, 2020.

After considering the order of Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India Order no 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 1.5.2020 and the order No. GAD-COOD-MISC-0001-2018-10780/GEN of Govt of Odisha dated 2.5.2020 regarding extension of lockdown, and reviewing the urgency of

the situation, the High Powered Committee issued the following guidelines to DG, Prisons:

1. **The High Powered Committee has resolved to extend the special Furlough/Parole leave till 17th of May, 2020 in case of those prisoners only who are to return and surrender in the jails located in the districts of the red zone as classified by order of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India (D.O.No.Z.28015/19/2020-EMR 30-4-2020) i.e. in three districts of Odisha State (Jajpur, Bhadrak & Balasore). The extension is also applicable to those released prisoners who are residents of red zone districts as mentioned above.**
2. **The prisoners who are to surrender in jails in the red zone or are residents of red zone districts may surrender in their respective jails by 18th of May, 2020 after the extended lockdown period ends i.e., on 17th of May, 2020. As far as all other convicts (of orange and green zones) are concerned, they are to surrender in their respective jails as previously scheduled.**

By order

Sd/—

**Member Secretary
OSLSA**