

Minutes of the meeting dated 19.06.2020 of the High Powered Committee 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 de-congestion of jails in view of spreading of Covid-19 disease, over telephonic conversation.

The meeting is convened through telephonic conversation 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, Govt. of Odisha.
- iii. Shri Santosh Kumar Upadhyay, IPS, Director General of Prisons, Odisha.

1. The Director General, Prisons placed before the HPC **letter No. 9174-J/MISC-12/2020 dated 11.06.2020**, regarding the directions issued to all the Superintendent of Jails, Odisha to take steps for effective implementation of the directions of the High Powered Committee as issued in its meeting dated 26.03.2020 and 30.04.2020 in connection to Supreme Court's Suo Motu W.P.(C) No. 01/2020. In the letter all the Superintendent of Jails of Odisha have been directed to follow the instruction of the HPC regarding segregation and treatment of prisoners during COVID pandemic in conjunction with Rule 455 of Odisha Jail Manual read with relevant provisions of Section III (on Infectious diseases and Epidemics) of the Manual. Further, the Superintendent of Special Jail, Rourkela has been asked to pay special attention in the matter.

On considering the information placed before the Committee by Director General, Prisons, Govt. of Odisha, the Committee took note of the instructions given by A.I.G. of Prisons, Odisha for effective implementation of the directions of the High Powered Committee as issued in its meeting

dated 26.03.2020 and 30.04.2020 in connection to Supreme Court's Suo Motu W.P.(C) No. 01/2020.

2. The Member Secretary, OSLSA placed the following information, as received from all 30 DLSAs consequent upon the holding of weekly Under Trial Review Committee in all districts especially with respect to UTPs charged with offences punishable up to 7 years :

- i. **No. of UTPs released from jails who were remanded in cases punishable up to 7 years from 16.06.2020 to 19.06.2020 - 303**
- ii. **No. of UTPs who have been granted bail but not released as bail bond and surety not furnished - 372**
- iii. **No. of UTPs in jails remanded in cases punishable up to 7 years as on 19.06.2020 - 1086**

As regards to the letter of DG, Prisons vide **Letter No. 8870 J/MISC-12/2020 dated 08.06.2020 regarding remand of 1109 UTPs** to jails charged with offences punishable under 7 years, the HPC noted that of those, 303 UTPs have been granted bail and released. However, there are **372 UTPs** charged with offences punishable upto 7 years imprisonment who have been allowed bail, but not released as they were unable to furnish bail bond and surety.

Therefore, the HPC resolved to direct all the Chairman DLSAs to contact those UTPs through the Jail Legal Aid Clinics and facilitate in filing of bail bonds and production of surety of such UTPs in the respective Courts or provide legal assistance as required. In this context, the DG Prisons is also requested to co-ordinate regarding release of the said UTPs at the earliest.

The DLSAs are directed to submit the compliance report regarding the same to the Member Secretary by 30.06.2020 to be placed before the HPC.

By order

Sd/-

**Member Secretary
OSLSA**