

Minutes of the meeting dated 21.08.2020 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 decongestion of jails in view of spreading of Covid-19 disease, over telephonic conversation.

The twenty second meeting of HPC is convened through telephonic conversation by the following dignitaries-

- a. Hon'ble Kumari Justice Sanju Panda, Judge, Orissa High Court and Executive Chairperson, Odisha State Legal Services Authority.
- b. Shri Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Govt. of Odisha.
- c. Shri Santosh Kumar Upadhyay, IPS, Director General of Prisons, Odisha.

I. The Member Secretary placed the following information for the period from 15.08.2020 to 21.08.2020 as received from all 30 DLSAs consequent upon the holding of Under Trial Review Committees in all districts in the aforementioned period, in view of the guidelines issued by the High-Powered Committee -

a) No. of UTPs identified for release on interim bail	: 306
b) No. of UTPs released on interim bail	: 183
c) No. of Convicts identified released on Parole/ Furlough/Special Remission	: 41/0/20
d) No. of prisoners found to be affected by COVID- 19	: 67
e) No. of prisoners kept in quarantine wards	: 1702

II. Report regarding prisoners infected by COVID-19

Sl. No.	District	Name of Jail	No. of Prisoners affected by COVID& date on which identified	Treatment	Measures taken for safety
1.	Mayurbhanj	Sub- Jail, Udala	1 no. On dated 14.08.2020 (communicated to OSLSA on 15.08.2020)	At the time of admission the UTP had no symptom of COVID- 19 but on a random test on 12.08.2020 he has been tested positive. Since the UTP is asymptomatic, the Collector, Mayurbhanj suggested to provide treatment to the UTP at the Sub-Jail, Udala by keeping him in separate cell.	i. Complete and full sanitization of the premises of Sub-Jail, Udala. ii. COVID-19 test of other UTPs and staffs in consultation who came in contact with the infected UTP in consultation with the CDMO, Mayurbhanj by following Govt. guidelines.
2.	Khurda	Sub-Jail, Khurda Special Jail, Bhubaneswar	2 nos. On dated 18.08.2020 (Memo No. 1886 (8)) 1 no. On dated 18.08.2020	At the time of admission, the two UTPs did not have any symptom of cold and cough. But after the test they were found to be symptomatic and they have been kept in separate isolation ward. On a Rapid Antigen Test on 18.08.2020 the UTP has been	i. The prisoners have been kept in isolation so as to restrain them from coming in contact with other inmates of the jail. ii. the Superintendent, Special Jail, Bhubaneswar has already made a requisition to Commissioner, BMC, Bhubaneswar to depute Rapid Response Team

			(Memo No. 5160)	<p>found COVID positive. Since the UTP has not yet developed any symptom and found to be asymptomatic for which he has been kept at cell No. 2 and provided with necessary medical treatment inside the jail as per the instruction of the CDMO, Khurda.</p>	<p>iii. The Superintendent, Sub Jail, Khurda has already made a requisition to CDMO, Khurda to depute one M.O to check the health condition of respective UTPs.</p> <p>iv. The Superintendents have already made requisition for sanitization of the jail premises. Even the district administration has already been directed the local authorities for sanitization of the jail premises.</p>
3.	Balasore	District Jail, Balasore	<p>1 no. On 20.08.2020</p>	<p>On 30.07.2020 the UTP was shifted to Fakir Mohan Medical College & Hospital, Balasore for treatment as he was suffering from fever. After the 1st Antigen Test he was not found to be COVID positive. But on a 2nd round Antigen Test on 19.08.2020 the UTP was found to be COVID positive. Now the UTP is confined at Fakir Mohan Medical College & Hospital, Balasore in isolation ward.</p>	<p>i. Sanitization of the entire jail premises.</p> <p>ii. Contact tracing of other inmates.</p> <p>iii. Immediate treatment to the inmates if complaining of cold and fever.</p>

4.	Jagatsinghpur	Sub-Jail, Jagatsinghpur	1 no. On dated 19.08.2020	On being identified as COVID positive the UTP has been immediately isolated and kept in a separate cell and have been put under treatment immediately inside the jail by Medical Team of DHH, Jagatsinghpur.	i. Shifting of the UTP to the nearby COVID Hospital or any other immediate medical attention as per prevalent guidelines of Govt. of Odisha. ii. Sanitization of the entire Sub-Jail, Jagatsinghpur. iii. Swab test of the other inmates and jail staff.
5.	Sambalpur	Circle Jail, Sambalpur	2 nos. On dated 18.08.2020	On being detected COVID positive the UTPs have been kept in isolation ward No. 11-A.	i. Complete and full sanitization of the premises of Circle Jail, Sambalpur. ii. To keep the other UTPs in isolation who had came in contact with the infected UTP so as to restrain them from coming in contact with the other inmates.
6.	Sundargarh	Special Jail, Rourkela	56 nos. On dated 12.08.2020 (intimated to OSLSA on 19.08.2020)	The said inmates have been shifted to the COVID Hospital, Rourkela through Warder Escort Party as per the advice of the treating physician of COVID Hospital, Rourkela.	i. Complete sanitization of the entire premises of Special Jail, Rourkela. ii. Steps to be taken for shifting of COVID-19 positive inmates who are symptomatic to the COVID Hospital, Rourkela. iii. COVID- 19 test of all the rest inmates and staff in

					consultation with the CDMO, Sundargarh by following Govt. guidelines.
7.	Puri	District Jail, Puri	1 no. On dated 18.08.2020 (received on 20.08.2020)	The said UTP has been shifted to a completely segregated ward after being tested as COVID positive.	<p>i. The Collector and District Magistrate, Puri and S.P, Puri has been requested to make necessary arrangements for shifting of the said UTP to Special Hospital for COVID-19 for the treatment.</p> <p>ii. The Collector, Puri suggested that since the UTP is asymptomatic, his treatment can be done at the District Jail, Puri.</p> <p>iii. Complete and full sanitization of premises of the jail</p> <p>iv. COVID- 19 test of other UTPs, convicts and staffs in consultation with the CDMO, Puri following Govt. guidelines.</p>
8.	Koraput	Sub-Jail, Jeypore	2 nos. On dated 11.08.2020 (communicated to OSLSA on 17.08.2020)	The treatment of the said UTPs has been done inside the jail premises of the Sub-Jail, Jeypore.	<p>i. Sanitization of the Sub-Jail, Jeypore</p> <p>ii. Medical examination of all other inmates in consultation with the CDMO, as per the Govt. guidelines.</p>

- DLSA, Sambalpur submitted a report vide minutes of proceedings of UTRC held on dated 19.08.2020 intimated that on 17.08.2020, warder namely Anirudha Senapati and one extra temporary daily wagger sweeper namely Pramod Sandha were found COVID positive and on 19.08.2020, warder Sri Bijaya Kumar Panigrahi is found to be COVID positive. They all are now under home isolation as per the advice of the Doctors.
- DLSA, Jagatsinghpur has submitted a report vide minutes of proceedings of UTRC held on dated 19.08.2020 stating that two warders namely Sri Ajit Kumar Nayak and Sri Prahallad Mallick of Sub Jail, Jagatsinghpur have been tested positive for COVID- 19 and both the warders have been shifted to Paradeep COVID Hospital by the Ambulance of DHH, Jagatsinghpur for the better treatment.

Compliance by Directorate of Prisons & Correctional Services, Odisha

The DG of Prisons & DCS, Odisha vide Memo No. 12828 dated 19.08.2020 intimated to OLSA that he has directed to all the Superintendents of Jails, Odisha regarding effective implementation of the directions of Hon'ble the High Powered Committee (HPC) given in its meetings on 13.07.2020, 24.07.2020 and 07.08.2020 in connection to Supreme Court Suo Motu W.P (C) No. 01/2020 vide L. No. 12827 dated 19.08.2020 :

- **The Hon'ble HPC had pointed out in their direction dated 24.07.2020 about overcrowding in different jails like Nuapada, Phulbani, Baliguda, Jharsuguda, Boudh, Jajpur, Bhawanipatna, Dharmagarh and Sambalpur and had directed to decongest such jails. In obedience to the said direction, 170 nos. of prisoners have been ordered by Directorate of Prisons to be transferred to other less populated jails on 17.08.2020 to decongest 3 jails like Bhawanipatna, Nuapada and Kendrapara.**

- Directorate of Prisons requested all the Superintendents of Jails to ensure production of accused persons before the Court through virtual means i.e. video conferencing system. The Superintendent of Jails at Sambalpur and G. Udayagiri are directed to take immediate steps for restoration of their V.C system at an early date if not yet done.
- The Superintendents of all jails were also directed once again to ensure E-Mulakat system for interview of prisoners with their relatives/lawyers. The Superintendent of Jails at Baliguda and G. Udayagiri are directed to pay special attention on this, since the concerned DLSA has pointed out about non-availability of such facility there.

The Additional Chief Secretary, Health & FW, Govt. of Odisha is again directed to ensure that testing in prisons is done on top priority as per minutes dated 31.07.2020.

It is reiterated by HPC that all stakeholders make utmost efforts as per earlier directions to arrest the spread of the pandemic in the Jails of Odisha.

By Order

Sd/-

**Member Secretary
OSLSA**