

**Minutes of the meeting dated 04.09.2020 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 fourth 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.

1. The Member Secretary placed the following information for the period from **29.08.2020 to 04.09.2020** 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 -

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|---|-----------|
| a) No. of UTPs identified for release on interim bail                           | : 329     |
| b) No. of UTPs released on interim bail   | : 280     |
| c) No. of Convicts identified released on Parole/<br>Furlough/Special Remission | : 38/0/19 |
| d) No. of prisoners found to be affected by COVID- 19                           | : 19      |
| e) No. of prisoners kept in quarantine wards                                    | : 1587    |

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.      | Jagatsinghpur | Sub-Jail, Jagatsinghpur | 2 nos.<br>On dated <b>29.08.2020</b>  | The said UTPs have been immediately separated in a segregated cell and they are under treatment immediately inside the jail by Medical Team of DHH, Jagatsinghpur.   | i. Sanitization of the entire Sub-Jail, Jagatsinghpur.<br>ii. Collection of swab of rest of the inmates and jail officials.  |
| 2.      | Balasore      | District Jail, Balasore | 2 nos.<br>On dated <b>31.08.2020</b><br><br>1 no.<br>On dated <b>29.08.2020</b> | On 30.08.2020 the said UTPs were shifted to Fakir Mohan Medical College & Hospital, Balasore for specialized treatment as they are found COVID positive. Now the UTPs are confined in isolation ward of FMM C & H, Balasore.<br><br>The said convict was shifted to Fakir Mohan Medical College & Hospital on 28.08.2020 due to uncontrolled hypertension. After admission the convict was found COVID positive. Now the convict is confined in isolation ward No. RP-10 of FMM C & H, Balasore. | i. Sanitization of the entire jail premises.<br>ii. Instructions have been given to carry out antigen test of other inmates after contact tracing.<br>iii. Keeping the inmates in quarantine ward inside the jail who were in close contact with the said UTPs and convict.<br>iv. Providing immediate treatment to the inmates if anybody complaining of cold or fever. |
| 3.      | Cuttack       | Circle Jail, Cuttack    | 1 no.<br>On dated <b>31.08.2020</b>   | The Senior Superintendent, Circle Jail, Cuttack has been requested to  | i. Complete sanitization of the jail premises and the quarantine   |

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| 4. | <b>Berhampur</b>  | Circle Jail,<br>Berhampur | 1 no.<br><br>On dated<br><b>01.09.2020</b>   | <p>take effective step in consultation with CDMO, Cuttack for shifting of above named UTP to the COVID hospital for proper treatment.</p> <p>After being detected COVID positive, the said UTP has been shifted to the Covid Care Center, Circle Jail, Berhampur.</p>   | <p>ward/isolation ward of the circle jail.</p> <p>ii. Contact tracing of the inmate found positive.</p> <p>iii. Swab testing of the jail inmates and the warders.</p> <p>i. Complete and full sanitization of the premises of Circle Jail and the learned Court of SDJM, Berhampur.</p> <p>ii. COVID- 19 test of other UTPs who were confined with the UTP in the Quarantine ward in consultation with the CDMO, Ganjam.</p> <p>iii. Shifting of sick persons to a Nodal Medical Institution in case of any emergency arises.</p> |
| 5. | <b>Malkangiri</b> | Sub-Jail,<br>Malkangiri   | 3 nos.<br><br>On dated<br><b>27.08.2020</b><br>(communicate to OSLSA to<br><b>01.09.2020</b> ) | <p>After ascertaining the UTPs to be COVID positive, the District Magistrate-cum-Collector, Malkangiri has been requested to take immediate steps for shifting the said UTPs to COVID Care Centre/COVID Hospital/Isolation ward for treatment. But it is reported by the Superintendent of Sub-Jail that the COVID- 19 positive UTPs have been kept inside the Sub-Jail in a single cell isolation ward for the time being.</p> | <p>i. Sanitization of the entire premises of the jail especially the quarantine ward of the jail and wards by making necessary requisition to the local administration.</p> <p>ii. Keeping the rest of the UTPs/Convicts in isolation came in contact with the positive UTPs so as to restrain them from coming in contact with other inmates.</p> <p>iii. Collection of swab of the prisoners who have come in contact with the UTP tested</p>   |

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| 6. | <b>Nuapada</b>   | Sub-Jail,<br>Khariar      | 1 no.<br>On dated<br><b>30.08.2020</b>  | After being found COVID- 19 positive, the said convict has already been sent to the COVID Care Centre, Nuapada.                  | positive.<br><br>iv. Instructions to be given to CDMO, Malkangiri to depute one doctor and Pharmacist to the Sub-Jail, Malkangiri on daily basis.<br><br>i. Jail premises have already been sanitized.<br><br>ii. Request letter has already been sent to the Medical Officer, CHC, Kharia for conducting swab/antigen test for all prisoners and staff of sub-jail, Khariar. |
| 7. | <b>Koraput</b>   | Sub-Jail,<br>Jeypore      | 5 nos.<br>On dated<br><b>01.09.2020</b> | After being tested positive the prisoners are being treated inside the jail premise in COVID ward.                               | i. Sanitization of the jail.<br><br>ii. Medical examination of all other inmates in consultation with the CDMO following govt. guidelines.  |
| 8. | <b>Sambalpur</b> | Circle Jail,<br>Sambalpur | 3 nos.<br>On dated<br><b>01.09.2020</b> | On 30.08.2020 due to deterioration of health condition, the said inmates have been admitted in COVID-19 Care Hospital, Sambalpur | i. Complete and full sanitization of the premises of Circle Jail, Sambalpur.<br><br>ii. Instructions have been given for immediate segregation of the inmates showing Covid symptoms or those who have come in contact with the infected persons.<br><br>iii. Shifting of sick persons to Nodal Medical Institution in case or any further detection.                         |

- DLSA, Deogarh has intimated to OSLSA vide L. No. 700 dated 31.08.2020 regarding detection of COVID- 19 positive of one guard staff of Special Sub-Jail, Deogarh. He has proceeded on leave to his native village in the district of Sonapur. He joined his duty on dated 29.08.2020. On dated 30.08.2020, he was detected as COVID- 19 positive as per the report of DHH, Deogarh. The said staff has been shifted to COVID Hospital, Deogarh & on dated 31.08.2020, Fire brigade sanitized the jail premises including wards. The UTRC directed the District Administration for deputation of Medical team to the Spl. Sub- Jail, Deogarh to conduct COVID- 19 test of all staffs and inmates of the jail.
- The District Judge, Phulbani vide L. No. 372 dated 03.09.2020 has intimated to OSLSA regarding COVID-19 test result with respect to two nos. of judicial officers and Driver of the District Judge, Phulbani. The test was conducted under TruNAT test with respect to twelve persons including all the officers of the headquarters station on dated 31.08.2020. Further, it is to say that the two nos. of judicial officers namely Shri Souvagya Ranjan Swain, Registrar, Civil Courts, Phulbani and Smt. Patanjali Sahoo, Secretary, DSLA, Phulbani and Shri Binod Bihary Dhal, Driver of District Judge, Phulbani are now undergoing treatment at District Head Quarters Hospital, Phulbani.
- DLSA, Sambalpur vide proceeding of the minute held on 02.09.2020 of UTRC, Sambalpur intimated about detection of 8 nos. of new staff namely Bhagirathi Kumbhar, Ashok Gartia, Rudradhar Jal, Pahilman Patra, Nityananda Karma, Deepak Seth, Akash Behera and Prakash Khamari found as COVID-19 positive. They all are undergoing treatment in the COVID Care Centre established inside the jail except Bhagirathi Kumbhar and Rudradhar Jail who are presently undergoing treatment at COVID Care Hospital.

**Compliance report to HPC guidelines by Department of Health & Department of Home**

- **In response to letter dated 26.08.2020 of OSLSA, the Joint Secretary to Government of Odisha, Health & Family Welfare Dept. vide L. No. HFW-SCH-I-COVID-0014-2020-19740 dated 01.09.2020 has intimated that as per Antigen Swab Test for COVID-19 on dated 21.08.2020 and 22.08.2020**

by the Medical officer, CHC Korai, Jajpur, 112 nos. of inmates found COVID Positive in Sub-Jail, Ragadi of Jajpur district. Out of 112 nos. of positive inmates, 2 nos. of positive inmates admitted in TATA COVID Hospital, Duburi, Jajpur, 17 nos. of positive inmates admitted in NC COVID Care Hospital, Jajpur and 93 nos. of positive inmates advised for self home isolation at Ragadi Sub-Jail. They have been provided with required quantity of sanitizers, medicines, gloves and masks for their use and the Medical team is visiting Ragadi Sub-Jail everyday for their treatment.

- Further, the Joint Secretary to Government of Odisha, Health & Family Welfare Dept. has intimated that 66 nos. of inmates found COVID Positive in District Jail Dhenkanal. Four Camps were organized by the CDM & PHO, Dhenkanal on dated 06.07.2020, 25.07.2020, 21.08.2020 and 25.08.2020 at District Jail Dhenkanal and one camp at Sub-Jail, Kamakhyanagar on dated 24.07.2020. The jail inmates have been provided with required quantity of sanitizers, medicines, gloves and masks for their use. Sick persons are shifted to dedicated Medical Institutions in case of any emergency and the CDM & PHO, Dhenkanal are taking steps for COVID testing of other inmates and jail staffs.
- The Joint secretary to Government, Home Department, Odisha has intimated to OSLSA vide Memo No. 28800/JAILS dated 31.08.2020 that he has communicated to the DG of Prisons & DCS, Odisha vide L. No. 28799/JAILS dated 31.08.2020 regarding the displeasure expressed by the Hon'ble Chairperson, HPC-cum-Executive Chairperson on the matter of spreading of COVID- 19 to a large number of jail inmates in Sub-Jail, Ragadi and Dhenkanal jail. Further, he has requested to kindly furnish a report on the matter directly to the Hon'ble Chairperson, HPC-cum-Executive Chairperson of OSLSA under intimation to the Home Department.

*On perusal of the compliance reports placed by the Department of Health and Department of Home, the HPC takes note of the steps taken by health*

*authorities to attend to the treatment of sick prisoners at Ragadi Sub-Jail, Jajpur and District Jail, Dhenkanal.*

*It is also directed that the DG Prisons, DG Police and health authorities co-ordinate amongst themselves to ensure that the S.O.P issued by Department of Home for testing of freshly remanded prisoners to jails is implemented properly to check the spread of the COVID- 19 pandemic in jails. Subsequently, an action taken report be placed by DG Prisons before the HPC in the next meeting.*

**By Order**

**Sd/-**

**Member Secretary**

**OSLSA**