

Minutes of the meeting dated 16.10.2020 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 thirtieth 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 **10.10.2020 to 16.10.2020** 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	:419
b) No. of UTPs released on interim bail	: 268
c) No. of Convicts identified released on Parole/ Furlough/Special Remission	: 35/0/20
d) No. of prisoners found to be affected by COVID- 19	: 242
e) No. of prisoners recovered from COVID-19	: 411
f) No. of prisoners succumbed to COVID-19	: NIL
g) No. of prisoners kept in quarantine wards	: 1535

II. **Report on prisoners infected by COVID-19 and steps taken thereafter**

Sl. No.	District	Name of Jail	No. of Prisoners affected by COVID& date on which identified	Treatment	Measures taken for safety
1.	Cuttack	Circle Jail, Cuttack	63 nos. On dated 10.10.2020	The Senior Superintendent, Circle Jail, Cuttack has intimated that CDMO, Cuttack may be requested to depute a team of Doctors to the jail for health check up and treatment of the said inmates inside the jail who are tested positive as shifting to outside Hospital is not possible at present.	i) Complete sanitization of the jail premises and the quarantine ward/isolation ward of the circle jail. ii. Effective step for contact tracing of the inmate found positive. iii. Swab testing of the jail inmates and the warders. iv. Shifting of sick persons to COVID hospital in case of any possible situation is seen.
2.	Deogarh	Special Sub-Jail, Deogarh	9 nos. On dated 13.10.2020	After being found COVID positive, the said inmates have been kept in the isolation ward within the Special Sub-Jail, Deogarh so as to restrain them from coming in contact with other inmates.	i. Sanitization of the jail premises. ii. To depute a medical officer for health check up of the said inmates.
3.	Boudh	Special Sub-Jail, Boudh	4 nos. On dated 14.10.2020	After ascertaining the inmates to be COVID positive, it has been decided by the UTRC to keep the affected inmates inside the jail in separate cell/room by following govt. guidelines.	i. The CDMO, Boudh has been requested to send his team to the Spl. Sub-Jail, Boudh to provide necessary advice and medicine to the inmates. ii. Sanitization of the entire jail premises.

					iii. COVID- 19 test of the other inmates and the jail staff who have come close contact with the said UTPs in consultation with CDMO, Boudh by following govt. guidelines.
4.	Angul	Special Sub-Jail, Talcher	1 no. On dated 12.10.2020	The said inmate has been kept in separate isolation ward after being tested COVID positive.	<p>i. A letter of request has been made to the Assistant Fire Officer, Talcher for complete sanitization of the jail premises as well as the isolation ward.</p> <p>ii. Request has been made to the SDMO, Talcher for COVID- 19 test of all the rest inmates and staff of the jail.</p> <p>iii. To depute a medical officer for health check up of the inmates on daily basis.</p>
5.	Koraput at Jeypore	Sub- Jail, Kotpad	5 nos. On dated 13.10.2020	The Superintendent, Sub-Jail, Kotpad reported that the 04 nos. of prisoners are being treated inside the jail premises in Covid Ward and one UTP namely Bharat Huika has been shifted to Covid Hospital, Koraput after being found COVID positive.	<p>i. Sanitization of the jails, use of mask and maintenance of distance among the inmates.</p> <p>ii. Medical examination of all other inmates in consultation with the CDMO, as per the Govt. guidelines.</p>
6.	Sundargarh	District Jail, Sundargarh	112 nos. On dated 14.10.2020	The positive inmates have been kept in a segregated ward and they are being provided medical treatment by the Jail Medical Officer.	i. Complete sanitization of the entire premises of the District Jail, Sundargarh and the Special Sub-Jail, Bonaigarh.

		Special Sub-Jail, Bonaigarh	1 no. On dated 08.10.2020 (Communicated to OSLSA on 14.10.2020)	The UTP was getting treated for Acid Peptic Disease at S.D.H., Bonai. Later on he was undergone Rapid Antigen Test after which he was found COVID positive. Subsequently, the said UTP was shifted to the COVID Hospital, Rourkela for better treatment.	ii. COVID- 19 test of all the rest inmates and staff of the said jail in consultation with the CDMO, Sundargarh following the Govt. guidelines.
7.	Sonepur	Sub-Jail, Sonepur	47 nos. On dated 08.10.2020 (Communicated to OSLSA on 16.10.2020)	The inmates were immediately shifted to isolation ward to restrict the spread of COVID- 19 infection after being found COVID positive.	<p>i. Sanitization of the entire Sub-Jail premises by taking help of Fire Service and Municipality.</p> <p>ii. To make arrangement for conducting random test of the UTPs who has come in closest contact with infected COVID positive UTPs.</p> <p>iii. Shifting of sick persons to a nodal medical institution in case of any emergency arises.</p>

- DLSA, Sundargarh vide minutes of UTRC meeting held on dated 14.10.2020 submitted a report regarding 10 nos. of staff found to be COVID positive and the staffs have been instructed to be in home quarantine.

The AIG of Prisons, Odisha vide Memo No. 16120 dated 14.10.2020 intimated to the Member Secretary, OSLSA that the directions of the High Powered Committee in its meeting held on 25.09.2020 in connection to the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Suo Motu W.P.(C) No. 01/2020 has been communicated to the Superintendent of all jails,

Odisha asking them to take appropriate steps for ensuring that the SOP for testing of newly remanded accused persons be strictly complied in the jails to identify covid positive cases immediately and isolate them from other prisoners, without fail.

The Joint Secretary to Government, Home Department, Govt. of Odisha through Memo No. 33354/JAILS dated 12.10.2020 has communicated to the Member Secretary, OSLSA that the directions of the High-Powered Committee in its meeting held on 01.10.2020 in connection to the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Suo Motu W.P.(C) No. 01/2020 has been sent to the Additional Chief Secretary, H&FW Department, the Addl. Chief Secretary, Forest Department, the Principal Secretary, Excise Department, the D.G. & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Cuttack, the DG of Prisons & DCS, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, the Registrar General, Orissa High Court, the Director, Vigilance, Cuttack, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhubaneswar, all Collectors, all Superintendents of Police, all Chief District Medical Officers, all Secretaries, District Legal Services Authorities to kindly take immediate appropriate actions for scrupulous compliance of the directions of the HPC as resolved in the said meeting and to make utmost efforts as per directions issued earlier to arrest the spread of the pandemic in the jails of Odisha.

In light of the above mentioned reports, the HPC also took note of the steps taken by different departments for compliance of its directives. Further, the HPC also noted that during this week total 242 prisoners were infected, whereas, 411 prisoners have recovered from COVID- 19, which shows that number of recoveries is higher than number of newly infected cases this week.

However, in wake of spread of COVID-19 pandemic in the State, efforts should be continued for proper treatment of critical and symptomatic prisoners without any delay on part of authorities to prevent casualties as far as possible.

The HPC again reiterates that all the stakeholders in management of COVID pandemic in prisons must coordinate and ensure to contain the spread of COVID- 19 infection in the jails.

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