

Minutes of the meeting dated 05.11.2020 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 thirty third 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 **30.10.2020 to 05.11.2020** as received from all 30 DLSAs consequent upon the holding of Under Trial Review Committees in all districts for the aforementioned period, in view of the guidelines issued by the High-Powered Committee -

a) No. of UTPs released on interim bail	: 261
b) No. of Convicts released on Parole/Furlough/ Special Remission	: 0/21/0
c) No. of prisoners found infected by COVID- 19	: 32
d) No. of prisoners recovered from COVID-19	: 258
e) No. of prisoners succumbed to COVID-19	: 1
f) No. of prisoners kept in quarantine wards	: 1839

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.	Dhenkanal	Sub-Jail, Kamakhyanagar	28 nos. On dated 03.11.2020	After being found COVID positive, the Superintendent of Sub-Jail, Kamakhyanagar has been directed to take effective steps in consultation with CDMO, Dhenkanal for shifting of said inmates to the COVID Care Centre for proper treatment.	i. Complete sanitization of the entire premises of the jail as well as quarantine ward/isolation wards. ii. Medical examination of all other inmates.
2.	Koraput at Jeypore	Sub-Jail, Jeypore	1 no. On dated 03.11.2020	The Superintendent, Sub Jail, Jeypore reported that the prisoner is being treated inside the jail premises in COVID ward after being tested COVID positive.	i. Sanitization of the Sub-Jail, Jeypore. ii. Medical examination of all other inmates in consultation with the CDMO, as per the Govt. guidelines.
3.	Mayurbhanj	Sub Jail, Rairangpur	3 nos. On dated 05.11.2020	After being detected COVID positive, the Collector-cum-District Magistrate, Mayurbhanj and SP, Mayurbhanj has been requested to make necessary arrangements for shifting of the said UTPs to Special Hospital for COVID-19 and further SDMO, Rairangpur	i. Complete and full sanitization of the premises of the sub jail, Rairangpur. ii. COVID- 19 test of other UTPs and staffs in consultation with CDMO, Mayurbhanj by following Govt. guidelines.

				has been requested for taking necessary steps for treatment of the said UTP. But the Collector, Mayurbhanj suggested since the said UTPs are asymptomatic, their treatment can be done at the Sub-Jail Rairangpur by keeping them in separate cell.	
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- **DLSA Cuttack vide L. No. 2360 dated 02.11.2020 submitted a report to OSLSA intimating that the Senior Superintendent, Circle Jail, Cuttack vide W.T. message dated 28.10.2020 has confirmed regarding one convict of Circle Jail, Cuttack namely Sania @ Srikanta Jena, aged about 68 years of Jajpur District who was undergoing treatment for his cardiac problem and diabetic mellitus at SCB Medical College & Hospital tested COVID- 19 positive on 28.10.2020 and died on the same day. The DLSA, Cuttack has further intimated that the Senior Superintendent of Circle Jail, Cuttack has been requested to take necessary steps for complete sanitization of the jail premises and to follow the govt. guidelines for COVID- 19 test of other inmates and warders.**
- **Further, Member Secretary submitted that Home Department, Govt. of Odisha is to submit the compliance report regarding steps taken in view of the NHRC advisory and directives of HPC as per the previous minutes of the HPC dated 22.10.2020.**

In light of the above mentioned reports, the HPC observed with regret that there was one COVID casualty during this week which may have been precipitated by the co-morbidity of the patient. Yet, it was also noted that total 32 prisoners were infected, whereas 258 prisoners have recovered from COVID- 19, which indicates that number of recoveries

continues to be much higher than the number of newly infected cases in prisons of the State during the said period.

However, in wake of spread of COVID-19 pandemic in the State, Chairman HPC exhorted that efforts should be continued with same care and intensity for proper treatment of critical and symptomatic prisoners without any delay on part of authorities to prevent casualties.

By Order
Sd/-
Member Secretary
OSLSA