

Minutes of the meeting dated 29.10.2020 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 thirty 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 **23.10.2020 to 29.10.2020** 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	: 265
b) No. of Convicts released on Parole/Furlough/ Special Remission	: 0/19/0
c) No. of prisoners found infected by COVID- 19	: 83
d) No. of prisoners recovered from COVID-19	: 170
e) No. of prisoners succumbed to COVID-19	: 0
f) No. of prisoners kept in quarantine wards	: 1770

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.	Mayurbhanj at Baripada	Sub-Jail, Rairangpur	2 nos. On dated 23.10.2020	After being found COVID positive, the Collector, Mayurbhanj and SP, Mayurbhanj has been requested to shift the inmates to COVID hospital at Baripada. The CDMO, Mayurbhanj has been requested to provide necessary medical treatment to COVID-19 patient but Collector, Mayurbhanj suggested that treatment can be done at Sub Jail, Rairangpur by keeping them in separate cell.	i. Complete and full sanitization of Sub Jail Premises, Rairangpur. ii. COVID-19 test of other inmates and staff in consultation with CDMO as per Govt. guidelines.
2.	Nabarangpur	Sub-Jail, Umerkote	2 nos. On dated 29.10.2020	One among the infected inmate has been kept in isolation ward in the jail premises along with proper medication and care and the other infected inmate has been shifted to Covid Care Hospital, Nabarangpur after being found COVID positive.	i. To ensure periodical and timely sanitization of the jail premises. ii. The Superintendent, Sub-Jail, Umerkote is directed to monitor the situation as well and report immediately to the Medical Officer in case of any exigency.

3.	Sundargarh	Special Sub-Jail, Bonaigarh	39 nos. On dated 21.10.2020 (communicated to OSLSA on 29.10.2020) 37 nos. On dated 22.10.2020 (communicated to OSLSA on 29.10.2020)	The positive inmates have been kept in a segregated isolation ward after detected COVID positive.	i. The CDMO, Sundargarh has been requested to provide necessary medical care to the said patients. ii. COVID test of the staff and other inmates of the jail who were in contact with the said positive inmates and staff.
4.	Bargarh	Sub-Jail, Padampur	1 no. On dated 21.10.2020 (communicated to OSLSA on 29.10.2020)	The said UTP was immediately admitted at Covid Care Centre at Bargarh by the Police Escort after being found as COVID positive.	The entire premise of the Sub-jail, Padampur has been sanitized and preventive steps have been taken for spreading the deadly virus.
5.	Koraput at Jeypore	Sub Jail, Kotpad	2 nos. On dated 27.10.2020	After being found infected with COVID, the Superintendent, Sub Jail, Kotpad reported that the said prisoners are being treated inside the Jail premises in Covid Ward.	i. Sanitization of the jails. ii. Use of mask and maintenance of distance among the inmates. iii. Medical examination of all other inmates in consultation with the CDMO, as per the Govt. guidelines.

- **DLSA, Sundargarh vide minutes of the UTRC meeting held on dated 28.10.2020 intimated to OSLSA regarding one female warder to be found COVID positive after the Rapid Antigen Test on 21.10.2020 and the said staff has been instructed to remain in home quarantine.**

In light of the above mentioned reports, the HPC observed that there was no casualty of prisoners during this week. Total 84 prisoners were infected, whereas, 170 prisoners have recovered from COVID- 19, which shows that number of recoveries is much higher than the number of newly infected cases in the said period.

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. All the stakeholders in management of COVID pandemic in prisons must continue to coordinate and ensure to contain the spread of COVID- 19 infection in the jails. And further, the DG Prisons and Home Department, Govt. of Odisha be requested to submit the compliance report regarding steps taken in view of the NHRC advisory and directives of HPC as directed in the previous minutes of the HPC dated 22.10.2020.

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