

Minutes of the meeting dated 18.12.2020 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-eighth 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 **12.12.2020 to 18.12.2020** 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	: 119
b) No. of Convicts released on Parole/ Furlough/ Special Remission	: 0/0/0
c) No. of prisoners found infected by COVID- 19	: 1
d) No. of prisoners recovered from COVID-19	: 161
e) No. of prisoners succumbed to COVID-19	: 0
f) No. of prisoners kept in quarantine wards	: 1317

II. Report submitted by Superintendent of Sub Jail, Jeypore

As per the information furnished by UTRC Koraput vide its minutes dated 16.12.2020, the Superintendent of Sub-Jail, Jeypore vide letter dated 15.12.2020 states that 1 no. of prisoner has been detected as COVID- 19 positive. The Superintendent reported that the said prisoner is being treated inside the jail premises in the Covid Ward. It is also reported by the jail authorities that all prisoners have been given medical treatments as a measure of precaution from COVID- 19. The UTRC has accordingly instructed that such cases should be given priority for their immediate required medical treatments and should be shifted to hospitals whenever required.

In light of the report mentioned above, it is noted that 01 prisoner is infected, whereas 161 prisoners have recovered from COVID- 19, which indicates that number of recoveries continues to be higher than the number of newly infected cases in the prisons of the State.

The HPC has taken note of the fact that the stakeholders have not submitted the compliance report regarding directions issued earlier, so the HPC once again directs the D.G. Prisons and other stakeholders to report compliance regarding the advisory for Women prisoners issued by NHRC on 07.10.2020 to be placed before the HPC in its next meeting.

Further, in wake of spread of COVID- 19 pandemic in the State, efforts should continue with same care and intensity for ensuring timely treatment of prisoners without any lapses on part of authorities to prevent any untoward situation.

By Order

Sd/-

**Member Secretary
OSLSA**