

**Minutes of the meeting dated 22.02.2021 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 forty-seventh 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 **16.02.2021 to 22.02.2021** 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 –

<b>a) No. of UTPs released on interim bail</b>	<b>: 126</b>
<b>b) No. of Convicts released on Parole/ Furlough/ Special Remission</b>	<b>: 0/0/0</b>
<b>c) No. of prisoners found infected by COVID- 19</b>	<b>: 0</b>
<b>d) No. of prisoners recovered from COVID-19</b>	<b>: 166</b>
<b>e) No. of prisoners succumbed to COVID-19</b>	<b>: 0</b>
<b>f) No. of prisoners kept in quarantine wards</b>	<b>: 1342</b>

The Under Secretary to Government, Home Department, Govt. of Odisha vide Memo No. 6297/Jails dated 15.02.2021 has communicated to the Member Secretary, OSLSA on 19.02.2021 that the decision of the High Powered Committee in its meeting dated 01.02.2021 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.

II. **Compliance report submitted by Directorate of Prisons & Correctional Services, Odisha**

The AIG of Prisons, Odisha vide memo No. 3624 dated 22.02.2021 intimated to the Member Secretary, OSLSA that the NHRC Advisory on Human Rights of Women in the context of COVID- 19 has been communicated to all jails of Odisha on 26.11.2020 for its strict implementation and also to send an action taken report by 07.12.2020. But despite several reminders, the report in this regard has not yet been received from some of the jails. Therefore, the Superintendents of the remaining jails have been requested to look into the matter personally and send the action taken report positively by 23.02.2021 through e-mail along with reasons for such inordinate delay for submission of final report to the HPC.

III. **Report submitted by the Office of the Superintendent of Sub-Jail, Soro**

The Superintendent, Sub-Jail, Soro vide memo No. 496 dated 20.02.2021 intimated to the Member Secretary, OSLSA regarding NHRC Advisory for Protection of the Rights of LGBTQI + community in context of the COVID- 19 pandemic. The Superintendent draws the kind attention regarding steps being taken during pandemic such as there are no Transgender and Intersex person in Sub-Jail, Soro, all the inmates are being examined by Jail Medical Officers and Pharmacist for any acute infection while entering to this Jail, any suspected cases are being referred to local hospital for treatment and sanitization is being done on regular basis to avoid spread of the infection.

**Even though the pandemic toll has dipped in the State, the HPC directs all the stakeholders to be still alert on second wave of COVID-19 infection and to look after the health of symptomatic prisoners without any lapses so as to avoid spread of infection in the jails.**

**By Order**

**Sd/-**

**Member Secretary  
OSLSA**