

Minutes of the meeting dated 30.03.2021 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 fifty-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 **23.03.2021 to 29.03.2021** 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 –

a) No. of UTPs released on interim bail	: 254
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	: 171
e) No. of prisoners succumbed to COVID-19	: 0
f) No. of prisoners kept in quarantine wards	: 1550

II. **Report regarding infected UTP in Sub Jail, Jeypore**

The Chairman, DLSA, Koraput-Jeypore has submitted a report vide proceedings of the UTRC meeting held on dated 24.03.2021 as per the information furnished by the Supt. of Sub Jail, Jeypore vide Memo No. 1035 dated 23.03.2021 informing to this Authority regarding one prisoner of Sub Jail, Jeypore to have been detected as COVID- 19 positive. Further the Supt. Sub Jail, Jeypore reported that the said prisoner is being treated inside the jail premises in Isolation ward. The measures for sanitization of the jails, medical examination of all other inmates has been taken for safety.

In light of the above mentioned report, it was noted that 01 prisoner was infected, whereas 171 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. 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 Health Department, Govt. of Odisha be requested to submit the compliance report regarding steps being taken for COVID vaccination of prisoners above 60 years of age as well as prisoners above 45 years of age (having co-morbidities) inside the jails to be placed before the HPC in its next meeting and reiterates the DG Prisons to instruct the remaining jails to submit the compliance report regarding the advisory for women prisoners issued by NHRC.

By Order

Sd/-

**Member Secretary
OSLSA**