

Minutes of the meeting dated 09.07.2021 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 Sixty-sixth 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 **02.07.2021 to 08.07.2021** as received from all the DLSAs consequent upon holding of Under Trial Review Committees in the districts for the aforementioned period, in view of the guidelines issued by the High-Powered Committee –

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------|
| a) | No. of UTPs identified for release on Interim Bail | : 291 |
| b) | No. of UTPs released on interim bail | : 143 |
| c) | No. of convicts identified for release on parole/
furlough | : 3 |
| d) | No. of Convicts released on Parole/Furlough/
Special Remission | : 0/2/0 |
| e) | No. of prisoners found infected by COVID- 19 | : 01 |
| f) | No. of prisoners recovered from COVID-19 | : 172 |
| g) | No. of prisoners succumbed to COVID-19 | : 0 |
| h) | No. of prisoners kept in quarantine wards | : 1353 |

II. Report submitted by DLSA, Cuttack regarding prisoner infected by COVID-19

The Secretary, DLSA, Cuttack vide L. No. 1063 dated 05.07.2021 communicated to this office on 09.07.2021 regarding one UTP of Circle Jail, Cuttack being found COVID positive on 29.06.2021. The UTP was remanded to jail along with apposite report for COVID- 19 through police escort party. As per the SOP of the State Govt., the UTP has been immediately handed over to the same police escort party for shifting the accused to a COVID Hospital, L.N.T. Gopalpur, Cuttack for better treatment. Further, the Senior Superintendent, Circle Jail, Cuttack intimated that all medical facility has been provided to the UTP in Covid Care Centre and all the Covid protocol has been maintained as per govt. guidelines inside the jail.

III. Report submitted by Health & Family Welfare Department and D.G. Prisons & DCS, Govt. of Odisha

- The Deputy Secretary to Government, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Odisha vide File No. HFW-SCH-I-COVID-0014-2020-18272/H dated 28.06.2021 communicated to the Member Secretary, OSLSA on 08.07.2021 regarding that all the Collectors & DMs and all CDM & PHOs have been requested to take necessary steps to ensure timely treatment of prisoners and to look after the health of symptomatic prisoners without any lapses of time so as to avoid further spread of the infection in the jails during the second wave of COVID pandemic.
- The I.G. of Prisons & C.S. Odisha vide memo No. 12166 dated 08.07.2021 intimated to OSLSA that a request has been done to customize provisions for Premature Release/Furlough for various convicts of Odisha Prisons on e-Prisons Portal to the Sr. Technical Director, ICJS/ePrisons & eVisitors Project (MHA), NIC Head Quarter, New Delhi. And further requested to customize e-Mulaqat, e-Custody Certificate modules for all Prisons of Odisha, Courts and State Legal Services Authority.

In view of the above reports and in wake of spread of the pandemic in the State, Chairperson, HPC reiterates to ensure that efforts be continued with same care and intensity for treatment of critical and symptomatic prisoners without delay to prevent infections.

Further, the Chairperson, HPC reiterates that all the previous directions of the HPC may be followed in letter and spirit.

By Order
Sd/-
Member Secretary
OSLSA