

Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Correctional Services
Jessop Building, 1st floor, 63, N.S.Road, Kolkata- 700001

No.064 / ADG-IG/20

Dated. 08.04.2020

To,
The Ld. Registrar General,
In the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta
Kolkata

Sub : Submission of Statement of fact with regard to precautionary measures against spreading of COVID 19 in Correctional Homes

Sir,

As requested with reference to subject cited above, I am to submit that due precautionary measures have been taken by the Directorate of Correctional Services, West Bengal in view of outbreak of Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19). The preventive measures and other initiatives taken in Correctional Homes throughout the State are as follows :

I. All the Correctional Home authorities in the State of West Bengal have been directed vide No. 135/DG-IG/20 Dated. 16.03.2020 to strictly follow the guidelines circulated by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India vide No. V-17013/17/2020-PR Dtd. 12.03.2020 with regard to precautionary measures in prisons in view of COVID-19.

..... (Annexure-I).

II. A supplementary guidelines has been issued by the Directorate of Correctional Services, WB to all Correctional Home authorities vide No. 136/DG-IG/20 Dated. 16.03.2020 elaborating preventive measures to be taken by the said Correctional Homes.

..... (Annexure-II).

III. The Ld. Amicus Curiae in the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta has been duly informed about the preliminary measures taken by the Directorate vide No. 138/DG-IG/20 dated. 16.03.2020.

..... (Annexure-III).

IV. All Correctional Home authorities and other offices under control of the Directorate of Correctional Services, WB have been duly informed about 'The West Bengal Epidemic Disease, COVID-19 Regulations, 2020' and to act accordingly.

..... (Annexure-IV).

- V. Another Order has been issued to all concerned vide No. 145/DG-IG/20 Dated. 18.03.2020 to ensure medical screening of all prisoners on every occasion while entering Correctional Home from Ld. Courts and to keep and watch all newly admitted prisoners at least three days in a reception ward.

..... (Annexure-V).

- VI. The Superintendents of Correctional Homes and jurisdictional AIsG / DIsG of Correctional Services have been directed to follow the suggestions of Intelligence Branch, West Bengal regarding prevention of spreading of corona virus in Correctional Homes vide No. 17/ADG-IG/20 dated. 28.03.2020.

..... (Annexure-VI).

- VII. The instructions issued and measures taken / implemented at this end are summarized hereunder for ready references :

- To act according to MHA, GOI Advisory;
- Medical screening of each prisoners on admission from outside on each occasion is being undertaken;
- Newly admitted prisoners are kept under watch for at least three days (and up to five days where possible) in a separate ward;
- Any cases of a prisoner showing any symptom of virus infection are immediately referred to outside Government Hospital;
- A prisoners who has been in close proximity of suspected prisoners with cough, cold and fever etc. are kept in an isolation cell for observation;
- Awareness amongst the prisoners about COVID-19 symptoms and Do's and Don'ts has been undertaken by interaction and by displaying posters inside the Correctional Homes without creating any panic;
- Extra liquid soap / sanitizer have been provided to prisoners in order to ensure clean hygiene and sanitation;
- Sanitization and disinfections has been undertaken in Correctional Homes and will continue regularly;
- Double the quantity of bathing soap has been distributed for the interim period;
- Hand sanitizer have been supplied to all Correctional Home throughout the State;
- All prisoners and staff have been issued face masks;
- Infrared Thermometer have been provided to all Correctional Home throughout the State;

- To move the concerned Ld. Courts so that maximum production can be done through video-conferencing facilities to avoid outside contact;
- To maintain social distance, particularly during interviews;
- Marking system on the ground during food distribution so that there is enough social distancing has been undertaken and completed in majority of the prisons;
- Wherever feasible wards are being opened on a staggered manner so as to prevent mixing of inmates from one ward to another;
- To closely monitor the foreigners recently admitted in Correctional homes or the prisoners having history of travelling abroad in recent past;
- To request the local District / SD Hospital to detail Medical Officer / Medical Personnel to Correctional Home (where no medical Officer is available) to ensure medical screening of the prisoners on their arrival from Ld. Courts;
- To provide diet to convict prisoners in Open Correctional Homes since they are not being allowed to work outside to earn their livelihood since Complete Safety Restrictions are in force.

VIII. The update status of medical screening of new prisoners on arrival and related measures are as follows :

No. of Prisoners Screened on admission	No. of prisoners admitted in outside hospital on suspicion	No. of prisoners kept in separate isolation ward	No. of confirmed COVID-19 cases
6273	05	375	NIL

IX. In view of the directives dtd. 23.03.2020 of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P. (Crl) No. 01 of 2020 in Suo Moto Case, a High Powered Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dipankar Datt, Judge in the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta & Hon'ble Chairman, State Legal Services Authority for taking appropriate measures for decongestion of Correctional Homes to prevent spreading of COVID-19 in Correctional Homes. Accordingly, bail petitions of certain category of Under Trial Prisoners are being moved in the concerned Ld. Courts by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) in the Districts. On the other hand certain category of convict prisoners are also being granted special parole for three months. So far 1226 number of UTPs have been granted bail by different Ld. Courts and 252 convict prisoners have been granted special parole for three months. Further initiative has been started for decongestion of Correctional Homes through interim bail / parole for certain other

categories. The resolutions of two meetings of the High Powered Committee are annexed for reference.

..... (Annexure-VII).

This is for favour of kind perusal.

Yours sincerely,



(PEEYUSH PANDEY), IPS
ADG & IG of Correctional Services
West Bengal

**Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Correctional Services
Jessop Building, 1st Floor, 63, N.S.Road, Kolkata-1**

No.135/DG-IG/20


Dated.16.03.2020

To,

- (1) The Superintendent, All Correctional Homes
- (2) The Controller-in-Charge, All Sub Correctional Homes

Enclosed, please find herewith a circular of MHA, Govt. of India, duly forwarded by the Department of Correctional Administration, Government of West Bengal, you are directed to take all precautionary measures in Correctional Homes accordingly in view of present scenario due to COVID-2019.


Encls. As stated.


(ARUN KUMAR GUPTA)
OSD & Ex-Officio DG & IG
Correctional Services, West Bengal
(ARUN KUMAR GUPTA)
OSD & Ex-Officio DG & IG
Correctional Services, West Bengal

No.135/1(12)/ DG-IG/20 Dated.16.03.2020

Copy to:

1. The Chief Medical Officer, Correctional Services, West Bengal.
2. All DIsG of Correctional Services, West Bengal.
3. All AlsG of Correctional Services, West Bengal.
..... for monitoring and ensuring strict compliance.
4. The Secretary, Department of Correctional Administration, Government of West Bengal.
.....for information.
5. The PS to Hon'ble Minister-In-Charge, Department of Correctional Administration,
Government of West Bengal. for kind information of Hon'ble MIC.


(ARUN KUMAR GUPTA)
OSD & Ex-Officio DG & IG
Correctional Services, West Bengal
(ARUN KUMAR GUPTA)
OSD & Ex-Officio DG & IG
Correctional Services, West Bengal

No.V-17013/17/2020- PR
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
Women Safety Division

Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium
India Gate, New Delhi – 110002
March 12, 2020

To

- 1) The Chief Secretaries of all States and UTs
- 2) The Home Secretaries of all States and UTs
- 3) The DsG/IsG Prisons of all States and UTs

Sub: Precautionary measures in Prisons in view of Covid-2019 Corona Virus scenario.

Sir/Madam,

As per the Bulletin of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as on 11.3.2020 the total number of confirmed COVID 2019 cases across India is 60. This is a rapidly evolving situation and information is being updated as it becomes available.

2. The Government of India is taking a series of measures to check and contain the spread of Corona Virus. The situation is being monitored at the highest level. However, in view of the prevailing situation, it is considered necessary that appropriate measures are taken at all levels without any exception.
3. According to the World Health Organisation, the most effective protective measures are the following: cleaning hands regularly, properly covering mouth when you cough and social distancing.
4. While the Prison authorities in States and UTs may take appropriate precautions and steps for maintaining proper hygiene condition in Prisons, it may also be necessary to take various steps to reduce movement of prisoners including their production in Courts, for the time being, to ensure 'social distancing'. A large number of Prisons and Courts in the country have Video Conferencing set up for court production of prisoners. This includes traditional VC setup (point to point) connected to designated places in Court Complexes and "Vidyo" system setup - established under eCourts project, which is an internet based software solution for VC between court and prisons. Majority of the prisons and Courts in the country are equipped with 'Vidyo' set up facility.

However, at places where the "Vidyo" set up is not operational, State NIC Units may be approached by Prison and Court authorities for obtaining user-ids and passwords and making the system operational. The system is very user friendly and can be operated on Smartphone also. State NIC Units will render all necessary assistance to Prisons in this regard. This procedure will reduce movement of prisoners and their visit to crowded places in Court complexes and contact with anyone having this virus. States and UTs may engage with appropriate authorities of Courts, State Legal Services Authority and Legal Service Clinics for various measures to reduce movement of prisoners.

5. Due care may also be taken in handling prisoners (including foreign nationals) and visitors to Prisons. States and UTs are requested to engage with their Health Department for arranging screening devices and kits to be used in Prisons for screening inmates and their visitors. You are also requested to encourage the meeting of prisoners with their visitors through video conferencing facility available as e-mulakat, a module under e-prisons project, for the time being, to avoid physical contact.

6. It is expected that with the cooperation of all concerned, these measures can go a long way in checking the spread of Corona virus.

Yours sincerely,

Punya Salila
(Punya Salila Srivastava)

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

Tele: 011-23092785

Copy to:

- 1) Registrars of all High Courts with the request for appropriate action.
- 2) Member Secretary, NALSA, Jamnagar House, New Delhi – for issuing appropriate instructions to all concerned.
- 3) Secretary, Department of Justice, R.No. 14, Jaisalmer House, New Delhi
- 4) DG, NIC, CGO Complex – to issue appropriate instructions to all State Units.

**Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Correctional Services
Jessop Building, 1st Floor, 63, N.S.Road, Kolkata-1**

No.136/DG-IG/20

Dated.16.03.2020

To,

- (1) The Superintendent, All Correctional Homes
- (2) The Controller-in-Charge, All Subsidiary Correctional Homes

In view of outbreak of corona virus you are directed to take following precautionary measures in your Correctional Homes in addition to other measures already circulated vide this Directorate's No. 135/DG-IG/20 Dated.16.03.2020:

- (i) To ensure screening of every prisoners during each admission from outside;
- (ii) To immediate refer to outside Government Hospital in the cases showing any symptom of virus infection;
- (iii) To keep prisoners who were close proximity of the suspected prisoners with cough and fever, in isolation cell;
- (iv) To aware the prisoners about corona virus by posters inside the Correctional Home without creating any panic;
- (v) To provide liquid soap to prisoners in order to ensure clean hygiene and sanitation;
- (vi) To move the Ld. Courts so that maximum production can be done through video conferencing facilities to avoid outside contact;
- (vii) To maintain social distance, particularly during interviews. No close interviews should be allowed ;
- (viii) To closely monitor the foreigners recently admitted in Correctional Homes or the prisoners having history of travelling abroad in recent past.

Bert
16/3/20

(ARUN KUMAR GUPTA)
OSD & Ex-Officio DG & IG
Correctional Services, West Bengal
(ARUN KUMAR GUPTA)
OSD & Ex-Officio DG & IG
Correctional Services, West Bengal

No.136/1(14)/ DG-IG/20 Dated.16.03.2020

Copy to:

1. The Chief Medical Officer, Correctional Services, West Bengal.
2. The Principal, Training Institute, Midnapore.
3. The Director, RICA, Dum Dum, Kolkata- 28.
4. All DIsG of Correctional Services, West Bengal.
5. All AIsG of Correctional Services, West Bengal.
..... for monitoring and ensuring strict compliance.
6. The Secretary, Department of Correctional Administration, Government of West Bengal.
.....for information.
7. The PS to Hon'ble Minister-In-Charge, Department of Correctional Administration, Government of West Bengal.
..... for kind information of Hon'ble MIC.

1046
16/3/20

(ARUN KUMAR GUPTA)
OSD & Ex-Officio DG & IG
Correctional Services, West Bengal
(ARUN KUMAR GUPTA)
OSD & Ex-Officio DG & IG
Correctional Services, West Bengal

**Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Correctional Services
Jessop Building, 1st Floor, 63, N.S.Road, Kolkata-1**

Dated.16.03.2020

No.138/DG-IG/20

To,
Sri Tapas Kumar Bhanja
Ld. Amicus Curiae
In the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta
Bar Association, Room No. 9
Calcutta High Court

Sub : Precautionary measures in Correctional Homes with regard to spreading COVID-19

Sir,

In view of outbreak of corona virus all Correctional Home authorities have been directed to take precautionary measures according to guidelines circulated by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. In addition to that an outline instruction has further been issued at this end to keep safe our inmates in Correctional Homes. The copies of said communications are enclosed herewith for ready references.


In this context your kind intervention is solicited to move the Ld. Courts to encourage production of prisoners through video conferencing facilities, so far it is practicable, to minimize prisoners' movement outside the Correctional Home that in due course may minimize the possibilities of infection from outside sources.

This is for kind perusal.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Enclo. (2) As stated.


16/3/20
(ARUN KUMAR GUPTA)
OSD & Ex-Officio DG & IG
Correctional Services, West Bengal
(ARUN KUMAR GUPTA)
OSD & Ex-Officio DG & IG
Correctional Services, West Bengal

Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Correctional Services
 Jessop Building, 1st Floor, 63, N.S.Road, Kolkata-1

No. 142/DG-IG/20

Dated. 17.03.2020

To,

1. The Superintendent, All Central / District / Special / Open / Women's and Subsidiary Correctional Homes
2. The Principal, Training Institute, Midnapore, Paschim Medinipur
3. The Chief Probation cum After Care Officer, West Bengal
4. The Manager, Jail Depot, West Bengal
5. The Chief Medical Officer of Correctional Services, West Bengal
6. The Director, RICA, Dum Dum, Kolkata-28
7. All DIsG of Correctional Services, West Bengal.
8. All AlsG of Correctional Services, West Bengal
9. The Special IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal.

Sub: Circulation of notification of 'The West Bengal Epidemic Disease, COVID-19 Regulations, 2020'

This is to inform that in view of outbreak of Corona Virus, the Government has framed regulations called 'The West Bengal Epidemic Disease, COVID-19 Regulations, 2020' through a Notification vide No.H&FW/118/20 Dated 16th March, 2020. The aforesaid notification is enclosed herewith for ready reference and necessary follow up action with regard to prevention of COVID-19.

Internal Distribution : PA to IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal. For record and awareness of all employees in the Directorate of Correctional Services, West Bengal.

(ARUN KUMAR GUPTA)
OSD & EX-OFFICIO DG & IG
Correctional Services, West Bengal

(ARUN KUMAR GUPTA)
 OSD & Ex-Officio DG & IG
 Correctional Services, West Bengal

Notification

No: H&FW/118/20

The 16th March, 2020

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 2, 3 & 4 of the Epidemic Disease Act, 1897, the Governor of West Bengal is pleased to issue following regulations regarding COVID-19.

1. These Regulations may be called '**The West Bengal Epidemic Disease, COVID-19 Regulations, 2020**'.
2. 'Epidemic Disease' in these regulations means COVID-19.
3. 'Authorized' persons under this Act are the Director of Health Services, the Director of Medical Education at the State Level, and the District Magistrate, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Sub Divisional Officer and Block Medical Officer of Health in the districts and any other officer who may be authorized by the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal.
4. All hospitals (Government and Private) shall have Influenza Like Illness(ILI) corners /Flu corners for screening of suspected cases of COVID-19.
5. It shall be mandatory for all hospitals (Government and Private), Nursing Homes, Medical Officers in Government health institutions, Registered Medical Practitioners to notify such person(s) who, within their knowledge, are having travel history of COVID-19 affected countries as per the extant guidelines and are having symptoms of fever or cough or respiratory infection/difficulty or without any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, to the concerned District Surveillance Unit, along with duly filled up Self Reporting Form(s). In addition, the history of coming in contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 shall be recorded.
 - I. In case the person has any such history in the last 14 days and the person is asymptomatic then the person must be kept in home quarantine for 14 days from the day of exposure or as may be notified by the State.
 - II. In case the person has any such history in last 14 days and the person is symptomatic, as per case definition of COVID-19, the person must be isolated in a hospital as per protocol or as may be notified by the State Government and the person will be tested for COVID-19 as per protocol.
 - III. Information of all such cases should be given to Director of Health services in Kolkata and to Chief Medical Officer of Health of the respective district immediately.

6. The Health & Family Welfare Department and the respective District Magistrates have been authorized for making emergency procurement of necessary drugs and consumables, equipment and other required services etc as are necessary to prevent /contain COVID-19.
7. The Authorized Officers may impose required restriction on assemblies, congregations etc. aiming at 'social distancing' to contain the spread of the disease.
8. Only laboratories authorized by the Government of India/ State Government shall test samples for COVID-19 in the State of West Bengal. All such samples will be collected as per guidelines of the Government of India/ State Government and these will be sent to designated laboratories as may be notified by the Health & Family Welfare Department, West Bengal.
9. Any person with a history of travel, in the last 14 days to a country or area from where COVID-19 has been reported, must report to the nearest Government Hospital or call at 24x7 Call Centre number: 1800 313 444 222 / 033 2341 2600 or any another number notified by the State Government so that necessary action may be taken by the Health & Family Welfare Department.
10. All persons with a history of travel to a country or area from where COVID-19 has been reported in last 14 days, but who do not have any symptoms of cough, fever, difficulty in breathing, should isolate themselves at home or as may be prescribed by the Government of India/ State Government. Such persons must take precautions to avoid contact with any person, including family members for 14 days from the date of arrival from such country or area.
11. Authorized Persons as per section 3 of these Regulations can isolate a person if he/ she is symptomatic of COVID-19 and has a history of visit to a country/ area as notified by the Government of India from time to time.
12. If a suspected person of COVID-19 refuses admission or isolation, the Officers authorized in section 3 of these Regulations will have the powers to forcefully admit and isolate such person(s) for a period of 14 days from the onset of symptoms or till the reports of laboratory tests are received or such period as may be necessary.
13. If cases of COVID-19 are reported from a defined geographic area such as village, town, ward, colony, settlement, the District Administration of the concerned district may implement any or all of the following containment measures but not limited to these, in order to prevent the spread of the disease.
 - I. Sealing of the geographical area,
 - II. Barring entry and exit of population from the containment area,
 - III. Closure of schools, offices and banning public gatherings,
 - IV. Banning vehicular movement in the area,
 - V. Initiating active and passive surveillance of COVID-19 cases,
 - VI. Hospital isolation of all suspected cases,

- VII. Designating any Government/Private Building as containment unit for isolation of the cases,
- VIII. Staff of all Government Department will be at disposal of district administration of the concerned area for discharging the duty of containment measures,
- IX. Any other measure as directed by the Health & Family Welfare Department, West Bengal.
14. The District Disaster Management Committee is authorized for planning the strategy regarding containment measures for COVID-19 in respective districts. The committee may co-opt more officers from different departments as may be required.
15. Any person/institution/organization found violating any provision of these regulations shall be deemed to have committed an offence punishable under section 188 of Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860). The Director of Health Services or the District Magistrate of a district may take penal action against any person/institution/organization found violating these Regulations or any other orders issued by the Government under these Regulations.
16. No suit or legal proceeding shall lie against any Authorized Person for anything done or intended to be done in good faith under these Regulations.
17. These Regulations shall come into force immediately and shall remain valid until further orders.



(Vivek Kumar)
Principal Secretary,
Health & Family Welfare Department
Government of West Bengal

Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Correctional Services
Jessop Building, 1st Floor, 63, N.S.Road, Kolkata-1

No. 145/DG-IG/20

Dated. 18.03.2020

To,

1. The Superintendent, All Central / District / Special / Open / Women's and Subsidiary Correctional Homes
2. The Controller-in-Charge of all Subsidiary Correctional Homes

Sub: Medical Screening of all prisoners entering Correctional Home - Rgarding.

In view of present health scenario due to COVID-19, it is directed to take following measures in addition to guidelines circulated earlier:

- I. All prisoners should be medically screened while entering the Correctional Home on every occasions;
- II. The newly admitted prisoners should be kept in a separate reception ward for at least three days, where they should be closely monitored;
- III. Being ensured about their health status, they may be shifted to general ward.

In addition to above, a letter should be given to local District / SD Hospital to detail medical officer / personnel to Correctional Home (where no Medical Officer is available) to ensure medical screening of the prisoners on their arrival from Ld. Courts. It should be specifically mentioned in the letter that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta have expressed deep concern about the prisoners' health in present situation, since prisons are vulnerable places for contagious diseases.

b26 18/3/20
 (ARUN KUMAR GUPTA)
OSD & EX-OFFICIO DG & IG
Correctional Services, West Bengal
 (ARUN KUMAR GUPTA)
 OSD & Ex-Officio DG & IG
 Correctional Services, West Bengal

No. 145/1(13)/DG-IG/20 Dated. 18.03.2020

1. The Chief Medical Officer of Correctional Services, West Bengal for information and follow up action.
2. All DIsG of Correctional Services, West Bengal.
3. All AIsG of Correctional Services, West Bengal
4. The Special IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal.
for information and ensuring compliance by all concerned.
5. The Secretary, Department of Correctional Administration, Government of West Bengal.
for information.
6. The PS to Hon'ble Minister-In-Charge, Department of Correctional Administration, Government of West Bengal.
 for kind information of Hon'ble MIC.

b26 18/3/20
 (ARUN KUMAR GUPTA)
OSD & EX-OFFICIO DG & IG
Correctional Services, West Bengal
 (ARUN KUMAR GUPTA)
 OSD & Ex-Officio DG & IG,
 Correctional Services, West Bengal

OFFICE OF STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY,
WEST BENGAL

High Powered Committee: Meeting dated 27.3.2020 held at the Chamber of Hon'ble Justice Dipankar Datta, Judge, High Court at Calcutta and Hon'ble Executive Chairman, State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal.

Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 23.03.2020 in **Suo Moto Writ Petition (C) No. 1/2020, In Re: Contagion of COVID 19 Virus in Prisons**, has constituted a High Powered Committee comprising of (i) Chairman of State Legal Services Authority; (ii) The Principal Secretary (Home/Prison); and (iii) Director General of Prison, to determine which class of inmates can be released on parole or on interim bail for such period as may be thought appropriate.

Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed that States/Union Territories could consider the release of the inmates: regarding under-trials the offences for which prescribed punishment is up to 7 years and regarding convicts where the convict has been convicted up to 7 years of imprisonment, though prescribed maximum punishment may be more. Hon'ble Supreme Court has also directed that while deciding the issue relating to release of the under-trials and convicts, the Committee would honour the parameters given in para no. 11 of the judgment in Criminal Appeal No. 1277 of 2014 (Arnesh Kumar vs. State of Bihar).

Keeping in mind the above direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, an Hon'ble Division Bench of the High Court at Calcutta cor: Hon'ble the Chief Justice T. B. Radhakrishnan and Justice Arijit Banerjee in W.P. 8573 (W) of 2018 with W.P. 7252 (W) of 2018 with W.P. 4510 (W) of 2018 has directed that the release of eligible inmates be decided on case to case basis by the Committee. Hon'ble High Court directed the constitution of a Committee by the State Government, with due involvement of the Legal Services Authority. Hon'ble High Court has been pleased to order that the Executive Chairman of WBSLSA, who is a member of the Committee, may nominate the Member Secretary or any other officer of the State Legal Services Authority to represent the Chairman in any meeting of the Committee.

The order mandates that the committee will consider all precautionary measures within the correctional homes apart from taking adequate steps to enable release of eligible convicts and under trial inmates.

The above referred twin directions are in close harmony in so far as over crowding of prisons causing potential danger and exposing the inmates to the risk of infection with the deadly CONVID 19 Virus and welfare of inmates per se is concerned. Thus, this committee shall strive to comply both directions by inculcating all perspectives of the issue of welfare of prison inmates.

Meeting is chaired by Hon'ble Executive Chairman, State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal Justice Dipankar Datta.

The Secretary, Department of Correctional Administration has sought exemption from attending the meeting. The Joint Secretary Mr. Adip Kumar Roy represents the Department. Mr. Peeyush Pandey, Additional Director General and Inspector General of Correctional Services, West Bengal is present in the meeting.

Registrar General of the High Court at Calcutta Smt. Rai Chattopadhyay is present in the meeting. Member Secretary, State Legal Services Authority Smt.Durga Khaitan is present.

(1) First, the issue of release of Under Trial inmates and Convicts on interim bail and parole, respectively, is taken up.

The Joint Secretary, Department of Correctional Services, Government of West Bengal Mr. Adip Kumar Roy and ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal have furnished information regarding number of under-trials and convicts as requested.

Their reports are considered by the committee.

As per the above directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta and guidelines laid down by the Hon'ble Apex Court, vide judgment dated 02.07.2014, in Arnesh Kumar (supra), it is appropriate that the proposed parameters are adopted and the benefit of the above judgment may be offered to the convicts/under-trials in other offences except the following :-

- i. Cases relating to Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act;
- ii. Crimes relating to sexual offences committed against the women;
- iii. Offences relating to rioting and waiging war against the State;
- iv. Crimes relating to counterfeit currency;
- v. Crimes against children relating to kidnapping;
- vi. Crimes relating to anti corruption matters;
- vii. Crimes relating to commercial and economic offences;

- viii. Crimes relating to Gangsters Act;
- ix. Crimes under NDPS Act relating to the recovery of commercial quantity and less than commercial quantity but more than small quantity.

In addition to the above list the Committee proposes that- (a) convicts and UTPs under Foreigners Act may not be considered for release at this stage and (b) convicts and UTPs having residence out side the State of West Bengal may not be considered for release at this stage.

Considering the object for which the order has been passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and existing social health conditions relating to Corona Virus (COVID-19) in West Bengal, it is proposed that term of interim bail/parole may be for three months for the present unless any contrary order is made/passed by the appropriate authority in any particular case of a convict/under trial inmates.

The Joint Secretary, Department of Correctional Administration, Government of West Bengal and ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal have agreed to the above proposal.

In compliance with the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the information regarding number of under-trials and convicts had been sought from the Secretary, Department of Correctional Services and ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal.

They have provided the list to the State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal

After due deliberation and on consideration of all parameters, the Committee has prepared a proposed list of under trial inmates who may be released on interim bail (**Annexure-B**) and another list of convicts who can be released on parole (**Annexure-A**)

The Committee recommends that considering the present health hazards it will not be appropriate to recommend release of those home inmates suffering from cold, cough, fever, HIV etc as of now.

However, they may be considered for interim bail/parole as per order of Hon'ble Apex Court in future when their health conditions improve.

At the time of release, the medical condition of each and every inmate shall be checked by the Correctional Home Administration and such of those who are medically fit shall be released.

The State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal will work out the modalities for implementation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgment and proceed with the same after due approval of the Executive Chairman..

In view of the Government Order dated 24.03.2020 relating to complete lockdown, some states enquired with National Legal Services Authority as to whether the implementation of the order dated 23.03.2020 may be made after the lockdown period of 21 days. The authorities of National Legal Services Authority informed that directions given in the order dated 23.03.2020 have to be complied with without any compromise with the direction of Government of India given in the order dated 24.03.2020. It was also informed by the National Legal Services Authority that implementation of directions given in the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 23.03.2020 cannot be deferred.

However, the guidelines and advisories of the Government regarding complete lockdown shall also have to be complied with in letter and spirit.

Advisory given by National Legal Services Authority dated 24.03.2020 regarding the order dated 23.03.2020 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court says that:-

"Keeping in view the overarching idea of social distancing, the members of the Committees may have to devise ways to perform the weekly meetings without visiting prisons frequently, at least for the 21 days. It may be noted here that order by the Supreme Court was passed on 23rd March, and the Home Ministry's order, which seems to have been passed under Disaster Managements Act, was passed on 24th March. I think that the order dated 24th also has to be followed in letter and spirit. So the things are to be worked out keeping in view both the orders which predominantly intend to apply the principle of social distancing, the only way to contain spread of virus. Thus, visits to the prisons in person may be avoided and instead video conferencing, wherever required, or data through emails, telephone etc. may be transmitted and used for achieving the intended results."

In the light of the above discussions, the following recommendations are being made by the Committee:-

- A) The 1017 convicts and 2059 undertrial inmates, as mentioned in Annexure-A and Annexure-B are proposed to be released on parole or interim bail, as the case may be, for a period of three months unless any contrary order is made/passing by the appropriate authority in any particular case of a convict/under trial inmate.

- B) The parole and interim bail applications, as the case may be, may be moved through correctional home authorities with the help of District Legal Services Authorities before the Courts concerned. The applications may be filed by any Para Legal Volunteer or panel advocate as assigned by DLSA.
- C) At the time of release, the medical condition of each and every inmate shall be checked by the Correctional Home Administration and such of those who are medically fit shall be released.
- D) Interim bail may be granted on the following conditions:-
- (i) that the under-trial shall furnish his complete current address in the Personal bond and to the Correctional Home authority;
 - (ii) that the under-trial shall not leave the address so provided during the period of interim bail;
 - (iii) that the under-trial shall surrender before the Court on expiry of the period of interim bail;
 - (iv) that the under-trial shall, on surrender, will have the liberty to move appropriate application before the Court on expiry of the period of interim bail;
 - (v) that the under-trial shall be accessible to the Officer in Charge of the local police station at all times during this period;
- E) The concerned Courts may be directed to release such undertrial inmates on personal bond as they may have difficulty in furnishing sureties.
- F) The Secretary, Department of Correctional Administration, Government of West Bengal may be directed to issue directions to the concerned authorities to release the convicts on parole for three months. All the applications received by the competent authority may be decided within

seven days and order shall be conveyed to the Correctional Home Authorities.

G) District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police may make the arrangements for transmission of such inmates on their release from correctional home to their home. The District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police may also be directed to ensure that policies and guidelines of the Government regarding complete lock down shall not be violated during the process of transmission and the policy of social distancing is complied with in true spirit.

H) The Chief Medical Officer of the concerned district may be asked to ensure proper health check-ups of such inmates/under-trials before their release on parole or interim bail.

I) The Under Trial Review Committee at the District Level shall meet every week and take such decision in consultation with the concerned Authority as per the judgment in Re: Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prisons (2016) 3 SCC 700.

J) The Officer in Charge of local Police Station or any officer assigned by him, shall pay periodical surprise visit to the convicts and under-trial during the period of interim bail on parole, as the case may be. If any such under trial or convict on interim bail or parole as the case may be is found absent appropriate action in accordance with law shall be taken.

(2) **So far as direction of Hon'ble High Court as regards, "the committee will consider all precautionary measures within the correctional homes apart from taking adequate steps to enable release of eligible convicts and under trial inmates"** is concerned, the committee directs the ADG & IG of Correctional Services to ensure proper health and hygiene conditions inside prisons as per standard

protocol as laid down by WHO and also in the relevant guidelines set by the Health Ministry of the Government of India as well as the Government of West Bengal and submit fortnightly compliance report to the SLSA.

- (3) The Member Secretary, SLSA/ Secretary, DLSA shall draft the interim bail application and standard personal bond proforma and send the same to the Panel Advocates /PLVs for necessary action.
- (4) State may issue necessary instructions to the prosecutors in this regard.
- (5) The District Judges may ensure special sitting of remand Magistrates to dispose of all applications for interim bail as regards the UTPs mentioned in the list annexed latest by seven days of this day and report compliance to SLSA by email positively by 03.04.2020.

Review on 06.04.2020

Prepared under direction of the Hon'ble Executive Chairman, State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal.

Dated: 27th March, 2020

Sd./-
(Durga Khaitan)
Member Secretary
State Legal Services Authority
West Bengal

URGENT

No. 1212(6) SLSA- 115/2020

Dated 27.03.2020

Copy of the recommendations forwarded to:

1. The Secretary General, Supreme Court of India
- ✓ 2. The Registrar General, High Court, Calcutta
3. The Advocate General for the State of West Bengal
4. The Legal Remembrancer, West Bengal
5. The District Judges, All Districts
6. The Secretary, All DLSAs

Durga Khaitan

(Durga Khaitan)

Member Secretary

State Legal Services Authority

West Bengal

OFFICE OF STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, WEST BENGAL

2 & 3, Kiran Sankar Roy Road, Kolkata - 700001

High Powered Committee: Meeting dated 06.04.2020 held at the Chamber of Hon'ble Justice Dipankar Datta, Judge, High Court at Calcutta and Hon'ble Executive Chairman, State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal.

Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 23.03.2020 in **Suo Moto Writ Petition (C) No. 1/2020, In Re: Contagion of COVID 19 Virus in Prisons**, has constituted a High Powered Committee comprising of (i) Chairman of State Legal Services Authority; (ii) The Principal Secretary (Home/Prison); and (iii) Director General of Prison, to determine which class of inmates can be released on parole or on interim bail for such period as may be thought appropriate.

Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed that States/Union Territories could consider the release of the inmates: regarding under-trials the offences for which prescribed punishment is up to 7 years and regarding convicts where the convict has been convicted up to 7 years of imprisonment, though prescribed maximum punishment may be more. Hon'ble Supreme Court has also directed that while deciding the issue relating to release of the under-trials and convicts, the Committee would honour the parameters given in para no. 11 of the judgment in Criminal Appeal No. 1277 of 2014 (Arnesh Kumar vs. State of Bihar).

Keeping in mind the above direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, an Hon'ble Division Bench of the High Court at Calcutta cor: Hon'ble the Chief Justice T. B. Radhakrishnan and Justice Arijit Banerjee in W.P. 8573 (W) of 2018 with W.P. 7252 (W) of 2018 with W.P. 4510 (W) of 2018 has directed that the release of eligible inmates be decided on case to case basis by the Committee. Hon'ble High Court directed the constitution of a Committee by the State Government, with due

involvement of the Legal Services Authority. Hon'ble High Court has been pleased to order that the Executive Chairman of WBSLSA, who is a member of the Committee, may nominate the Member Secretary or any other officer of the State Legal Services Authority to represent the Chairman in any meeting of the Committee.

The order mandates that the committee will consider all precautionary measures within the correctional homes apart from taking adequate steps to enable release of eligible convicts and under trial inmates.

The above referred twin directions being in close harmony in so far as over crowding of prisons causing potential danger and exposing the inmates to the risk of infection with the deadly COVID 19 Virus and welfare of inmates per se is concerned, the Committee resolved in its first meeting on 27.03.2020 to comply with both the directions by inculcating all perspectives of the issue of welfare of prison inmates and this day has been fixed for review and also for making fresh recommendations.

Today's meeting is chaired by Hon'ble Executive Chairman, State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal Justice Dipankar Datta.

The Secretary, Department of Correctional Administration, Ms. Neelam Meena is present. Mr. Peeyush Pandey, Additional Director General and Inspector General of Correctional Services, West Bengal is present in the meeting.

Member Secretary, State Legal Services Authority Smt.Durga Khaitan is present.

The issue of release of Under Trial inmates and Convicts on interim bail and parole, respectively, is taken up.

In its first meeting dated 27.03.2020, the High Powered Committee, approved the proposed list of 2059 under trial inmates who may be released on interim bail (Annexure-B) and another list of 1017 convicts who could be released on parole

(Annexure-A) as submitted by the ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal on the premise that primarily it is State's prerogative to take administrative decision as regards who among the inmates may be released on interim bail or parole as the case may be. Such prerogative of State is, of course, subject to judicial discretion which ought to be exercised by Courts hearing interim bail petitions.

The Secretary, Department of Correctional Services, Government of West Bengal Ms. Neelam Meena and ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal have furnished information that 252 number of convicts have been so far released on parole in view of the resolution of the first meeting dated 27.03.2020 as requested. As per reports submitted by ADG & IG of Correctional Services 1226 under-trial inmates have been so far released on interim bail and prayer for interim bail has been rejected in respect of 713 under-trial inmates.

It was found that the list of recommendations as submitted by the Secretary, Department of Correctional Administration and ADG & IG, Correctional Services before the High Powered Committee on 27.03.2020 contained recommendations for release of prisoners of offences relating to rioting and waging war against the State, crimes relating to counterfeit currency, offences punishable under Section 121, 121A, 123, 125, 130, 489, 489A, 489B and 489C IPC, various offences under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967 read with offences under Explosive Substance Act, offences under the Foreigners Act and such other offences and both the high officials were accordingly requested to study each case and take utmost care in submitting further recommendation in today's meeting of the High Powered Committee.

The reports are considered by the committee.

The categories of convicts and under-trial inmates who cannot be considered for parole/ interim bail will remain the same as enumerated in the minutes of the first meeting dated 27.03.2020.

In the first meeting dated 27.03.2020 it was decided that the term of interim bail/parole may be for three months for the present unless any contrary order is made/passed by the appropriate authority in any particular case of a convict/under trial inmates and the same rule will apply in respect of today's recommendation.

The recommendation of the Committee dated 27.3.2020 regarding release of inmates suffering from cold, cough, fever, HIV etc remains unaltered.

At the time of release, the medical condition of each and every inmate shall be checked by the Correctional Home Administration and such of those who are medically fit shall be released.

Following applications were received by the High Powered Committee via email and were sent to the Secretary, Department of Correctional Administration and ADG & IG, Correctional Services for their response but the ADG & IG, Correctional Services has sought for some time to prepare their response to these applications. These applications will be considered by the Committee on receipt of their response which may be submitted latest by 9.4.2020.

Sl . No.	Date of e-mail	Name of the sender	Nature of Prayer
1.	27.03.2020	Raghunath Chakraborty Appearing in WP 8573 (W) of 2018 for the <i>Intervenor</i> , Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR)	Submitted a List of 459 Life Convicts (of little earlier date, not exhaustive, and may be a section already released but still relevant to a great extent) languishing in West Bengal Jails for far more than fourteen years with an appeal to consider their premature release or at least granting them parole for 45 days-two months or more considering their age and infirmity and the severity of the

			present situation.
2.	28.03.2020	Ranjit Kumar Ghosh, husband of Debjani Ghosh	Prayer for release of Smt. Debjani Ghosh on parole, who is under custody of Alipore Women's Correctional Home on and from 26.08.2019 vide an order of the President, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, South 24-Parganas, Baruipur, Kolkata-700144 in case No. EA/101/2018.
3.	29.03.2020	Raghunath Chakraborty Appearing in WP 8573 (W) of 2018 for the <i>Intervenor</i> , Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR)	<p>Prayer quoted below:</p> <p><i>"Through the forum of this High Powered Committee we would like to beseech the kind attention of District Under Trial Review Committee(s) towards the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) formulated by the National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) and recommended by the Hon'ble Apex Court in its Order dated 04-12-2018 in W.P. (C) 406 of 2013 concerning release of Under Trial Prisoners (UTPs). Copy of the SOP is being attached herewith for convenience and ready reference.</i></p> <p><i>We would like to further implore the High Powered Committee (HPC) to ensure thorough medical check-up of all the inmates in all Correctional</i></p>

			<i>Homes. Aged and infirm inmates, in particular, require special care and attention as also their release on Parole or Bail may kindly be considered on humanitarian ground by the HPC and UTRCs irrespective of the length/probable length of punishment."</i>
4.	30.03.2020	<p>Dr. Partho Sarothi Ray Prodip Chatterjee (On behalf of Persecuted Prisoners Solidarity Committee- PPSC) 120 Raja S. C. Mullick Road, Kolkata-700047 Mobile No- 9874703899 Email- psray40@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Prayer for considering the release of political prisoners suffering long term imprisonment in the different Correctional Homes either as Under trial prisoners (UTPs) or as convicts. Some of them have been incarcerated for more than ten years and have become old and critically sick, probable high risk candidates for the virus attack.</p> <p>The petitioners named a few of them like Mr. Akhil Chandra Ghosh, Mr. Sukumar Mondal, Mr. Sambhu Charan Paul, Mr. Asim Bhattacharya, Mr. Anup Roy, Mr. Sadula Ramakrishna, Mr. Mohan Viswakarma, Mrs. Paro Patel, Mrs. Kalpana Maity and many others who are all senior citizens and/or suffering from chronic diseases.</p> <p>The petitioners have prayed</p>

			for release of 4 adivasi prisoners, namely Rajaram Besra, Narayan Mahato, Ananda Singh and Bhaktu Singh, presently lodged at Dumdum Central Correctional Home are serving life sentence for 16 years, and residents of a Jharkhand part village of Purulia- Jharkhand border.
5.	31.03.2020	Akhtar Parwez, 37 Syed Amir Ali Avenue Dutta Park, 1 st Floor, Flat 15 P.S: Karaya Kolkata 700019	Prayer for release of the petitioner's son Raghib Parwez who is in judicial custody in connection with Sessions Case no. 65 of 2019 for offences u/s 279/304/308/427 of IPC and Section 3 of PDPP Act along with Section 119/177 of MV act, arising out of Shakespeare Sarani P.S case no.159 of 2019 dated 17.08.2019, who is allegedly a patient of Bipolar Affective Disorder (unsound mind).

Mr. Peeyush Pandey, Additional Director General and Inspector General of Correctional Services, West Bengal informed the committee that one under-trial prisoner who was released on interim bail on 1.4.2020 following recommendation of this committee is again caught on allegation of committing theft and is put under judicial custody.

It is made abundantly clear that the recommendations of this committee shall be seen by the relevant authority as a 'recommendation' and not as a 'command' and each case may be decided on its own merit but in the light of the recommendation as made hereunder.

In the light of the above discussions, the following recommendations are being made by the Committee:-

- A) The proposed list of 742 convicts (**Annexure-I**) as submitted by the ADG & IG of Correctional Services for consideration of special parole for a period of 3 months to the life convicts who have completed 14 years of actual imprisonment is hereby approved provided they are found eligible/fit for parole upon examination by the Secretary, Correctional Administration and ADG & IG of Correctional Services on a case to case basis.
- B) The list of 45 term convicts (**Annexure II**) who have attained the age of 60 years and above and not involved in sexual offences/POCSO/ NDPS /Kidnapping/ Extortion/ Waging war against the State/fake currency/ foreigners and resident of other States/ UAPA etc., as submitted by the ADG & IG of Correctional Services is hereby approved provided they are found eligible/fit for parole upon examination by the ADG & IG of Correctional Services on a case to case basis.
- C) The list of 13 female under-trial inmates (**Annexure III**) aged 60 years or more and not involved in sexual offences/ POCSO/ NDPS / Kidnapping/ Extortion/ Waging war against the State/fake currency/ foreigners and resident of other States/ UAPA etc. is hereby approved and the concerned Courts may consider the interim bail applications of these inmates and if interim bail is granted, then release them on personal bond as they might have difficulty in furnishing registered or other sureties.
- D) The list of 9 under-trial inmates (**Annexure IV**) found eligible under section 436A CrPC is hereby approved and the concerned Courts may consider the interim bail applications of these inmates and if interim bail is granted, to release them on personal bond as they might have difficulty in furnishing registered or other sureties.
- E) The list of 17 under-trial inmates (**Annexure IV**) detained under section 110 CrPC is hereby approved and the concerned Courts may consider the interim

bail applications of these inmates and if interim bail is granted, to release them on personal bond as they might have difficulty in furnishing registered or other sureties.

- F) The ADG & IG of Correctional Services has stated in his report that the interim bail applications in respect of UTPs under section 399/402 IPC, UTPs under section 498A IPC combined with other sections of IPC, UTPs under section 406/418/419/420 IPC and UTPs under section 25/27 Arms Act may be considered by the concerned Courts as they account for a major portion of the prison population. However no list of such UTPs has been submitted and in the absence of any such list, the Committee is unable to take any decision in this regard.
- G) The interim bail applications, as the case may be, may be moved through correctional home authorities with the help of District Legal Services Authorities before the Courts concerned. The applications may be filed by any Para Legal Volunteer or panel advocate as assigned by DLSA.
- H) At the time of release, the medical condition of each and every inmate shall be checked by the Correctional Home Administration and such of those who are medically fit shall be released.
- I) Interim bail may be granted subject to the conditions enumerated in the minutes of the first meeting dated 27.03.2020.
- J) The Secretary, Department of Correctional Administration, Government of West Bengal may be directed to issue directions to the concerned authorities to release those convicts on parole as may be determined by the ADG & IG of Correctional Services on case to case basis.
- K) District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police to make appropriate arrangements as resolved in the first meeting dated 27.03.2020.

- L) The Chief Medical Officer of the concerned district may be asked to ensure proper health check-ups of such inmates/under-trials before their release on parole or interim bail.
- M) The Under Trial Review Committee at the District Level shall meet every week and take such decision in consultation with the concerned Authority as per the judgment in Re: Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prisons (2016) 3 SCC 700.
- N) The Officer in Charge of local Police Station or any officer assigned by him, shall pay periodical surprise visit to the convicts and under-trial during the period of interim bail on parole, as the case may be. If any such under trial or convict on interim bail or parole as the case may be is found absent appropriate action in accordance with law shall be taken.

The Legal Remembrancer, Government of West Bengal had been intimated for issuance of necessary instructions to the prosecutors in this regard and a copy of this resolution be communicated to his Office accordingly.

The Ld. District Judges are requested to ensure special sitting of remand Magistrates to dispose of all applications for interim bail as regards the UTPs mentioned in the list annexed latest by five days of this day and report compliance to SLSA by email positively by 11.04.2020.

Review meet to be scheduled as per requirement.

Prepared under the direction of the Hon'ble Executive Chairman, State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal.

Dated : 6th April, 2020


(Durga Khaitan)
Member Secretary
State Legal Services Authority
West Bengal

URGENT

No. 1245 (6) SLSA- 115/2020

Dated 06.04.2020

Copy of the recommendations forwarded to:

1. The Secretary General, Supreme Court of India
2. The Registrar General, High Court, Calcutta
3. The Advocate General for the State of West Bengal
4. The Legal Remembrancer, West Bengal
5. The Ld. District Judges, All Districts
6. The Secretary, All DLSAs

Durga Khaitan
(Durga Khaitan)

Member Secretary
State Legal Services Authority
West Bengal

Government of West Bengal
Directorate of Correctional Services
Jessop Building , 63, N.S.Road, Kolkata- 700001

No. 17/ ADG-IG/20

Dated. 28.03.2020

To,

The Superintendent,

All Central / District / Special / Open / Women's / Sub Correctional Homes


Sub: Inputs from IB, West Bengal regarding prevention of spreading of Corona Virus and other issues

An input has been received from the Intelligence Branch, West Bengal suggesting a few measures for prevention of any untoward incident in Correctional Homes as well as to prevent spreading of Corona virus. The copy of the said letter is enclosed herewith for reference. So far it is concerned to interview of prisoners as mentioned in Sl. 8, you are advised not to allow unnecessary gathering of visitors at a time at Correctional Home premises for the purpose of interview.

The Addl. IsG and DIsG of Correctional Services are advised to survey and to submit a report regarding the issues of decongestion of overcrowded Correctional Homes by shifting prisoners elsewhere and identifying places in and around the Correctional Home, that can be used as a temporary prison in case of outbreak of the virus as mentioned in sl. 14 and 15.


The Superintendents of Correctional Homes are also to submit report compliance to this office at an early date.

Enclo. (1) As stated.


(PEEYUSH PANDEY), IPS
ADG & IG of Correctional Services
West Bengal

No. 17/1(13) /ADG-IG/2020 Dated. 28.03.2020

1. All DIsG of Correctional Services, West Bengal.
2. All AIsG of Correctional Services, West Bengal.
.....for information and necessary follow up action.
3. The Spl. Superintendent of Police (C), Intelligence Branch, West Bengal.
4. The Spl. IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal.
.....for information .
5. The Secretary, Department of Correctional Administration, Govt. of West Bengal.
6. The PS to Hon'ble Minister-In-Charge, Department of Correctional Administration, Govt. of West Bengal..... for kind information of Hon'ble MIC.


(PEEYUSH PANDEY), IPS
ADG & IG of Correctional Services
West Bengal

o/c

Message

To: - All In-Charges of all Correctional Homes of West Bengal -W-
ADG Correctional Home -W- IG Correctional Home -W- ADG
(L&O) WB - W - Police WB (For kind information).

From: - IB. West Bengal.

Org No: 1927 (64)/C

Date:-28.03.2020


In view of the recent incident of violence in Dum Dum Central Correctional Home on 21st of March and 22nd of March, 2020, arising out of Corona Virus Issue (COVID-19) it is suggest to take the following measures for prevention of any untoward incident in Correctional Campus as well as to prevent spreading of Corona virus (COVID-19).

Some of the correctional homes are overcrowded compared to their capacity. So there is every possibility of any unrest even violence inside the correctional homes. The family members of the inmates may also become hostile and may create law and order issue outside correctional homes.

1. Creation of isolation wards.
2. Quarantine of new prisoners including prisoners of foreign nationality for a specific period.
3. Preliminary examination of prisoners for COVID-19.
4. Ensuring availability of medical assistance.
5. Scanning of Entry points of staff and other service providers.
6. Exercise of sanitization and cleanliness of prison campus and wards.
7. Supply of masks to everyone including inmates.
8. Barring or limiting of personal visit of visitors to prisoners.
9. Suspension of cultural and other group activities.
10. Awareness and training in regard to stoppage of transmission of COVID-19.
11. Installation of digital thermometers for the purpose of examination of the prisoners, staff and visitors.
12. Visitors may be allowed to interact with prisoners only through video calling or telephone call.
13. Screening of prisoners, returning from parole to prevent possible transmission.

14. Measures can be taken to decongest the prison by transferring prisoners from congested prisons to other prisons where the number of prisoners is low.
15. To identify places in and around the prison, which can be used as a temporary prison in case if there is an outbreak of the virus.
16. Preparation of block wise time table relating to food and other services for prevention of overcrowding.
17. Identify special groups of prisoners, which are more vulnerable such as old age prisoners with respiratory diseases etc. to infections for special focus and scrutiny.

Superior for kind information

 28/3/2020
Special Superintendent of Police (C)
Intelligence Branch, West Bengal

NB. IGP Correctional Home is requested to arrange to transmit the message to all In-Charges of all Correctional Homes of West Bengal