

PROCEEDING OF THE HIGH POWERED COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 03-02-2022 AT 4.30 P.M., BY VIRTUAL MODE
PURSUANT TO THE ORDER OF
THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA DATED 07-05-2021
IN SUO-MOTU WRIT PETITION (C) NO. 1 OF 2020

PRESENT

Hon'ble Sri Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah,
Executive Chairman, APSLSA, Amaravathi

Hon'ble Sri Justice A.V.Sesha Sai,
Chairman, APHCLSC, Amaravathi

Sri Kumar Vishwajeet, IPS,
Principal Secretary, Home Department,
Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Sri Mohd. Ahsan Reza, IPS,
Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services,
Andhra Pradesh.

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The Committee perused the letter No.Jud-2/40/2020 dated 27.01.2022 and its enclosures, submitted by the Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services. Report shows that adequate medical facilities are being extended to the inmates and staff, and one Sub Jail in each District has been declared as Special Jail for Covid-19 prisoners and that all the initial admissions of prisoners are being sent to the Special Jail and after the test results they are being transferred back to their respective jails if their test results reported negative.

The report further shows that all the prisoners, who are tested positive, are being provided with medical kits, hot water for drinking, steam inhalation, special diet, etc. The report also shows that 4165 RTPCR tests are conducted to the prisoners, 528 prisoners were given 1st dose vaccination and 691 prisoners were given 2nd dose vaccination, and that 67 RTPCR tests are conducted to the prison staff, 134 prison staff were given 1st dose vaccination and 224 prison staff were given 2nd dose vaccination pursuant to the High Powered Committee Meeting held on 30.11.2021. It also shows that a pilot project on providing e-Mulakath to inmates of District Jail, Vijayawada through video calling was conducted in two spells on 27.07.2021 and 07.09.2021 and M/s. Deepija Telecom Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad has been requested for extending e-Mulakath facility to all central prisons and district jails in Andhra Pradesh.

The report further shows that still there are 17 aged/ailing prisoners to be released, and out of them 13 prisoners were not selected by the scrutiny committee. It also shows that proposals were submitted to the concerned DLSAs for release of 3 such prisoners in which orders are awaited and that one prisoner was not released as she belongs to other State.

1. Having perused the report, it is resolved that the Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services shall continue to take necessary steps in conducting RTPCR tests in respect of new prisoners, who are admitted to Prisons and those who tests positive be isolated and be given medical treatment.

2. It is further resolved that vaccination drive of all the prisoners and prison staff be persuaded and continued till it reaches the last person.

3. It is further resolved that e-Mulakath facility as is provided in District Jail, Vijayawada be extended as early as possible to Central prisons and other District Jails in the State and the same be expedited, as it is noticed that the said project is at snail's pace.

4. It is further resolved that the Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services shall furnish information regarding the prisoners who were granted interim bail but who could not furnish surety as ordered, and shall also furnish information regarding the prisoner who was not released on the ground that she belongs to other State, as mentioned in his report. The above information shall be furnished to the Secretary, concerned District Legal Services Authority, who will examine and pursue the matter.

5. As it is expressed by the Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services that in most of the jails there is facility of CCTV coverage and to improve the said system he would send proposals to the Principal Secretary, Home Department, it is resolved that necessary steps be taken to provide zero shadow Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) system in all the Jails in the State and also to see that there is proper coverage of all barracks safeguarding the privacy of inmates.

6. The Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services informed that he is receiving oral requests that the facility of interim bail be extended to life convicts also and he would submit a requisition to A.P. State Legal Services Authority in that regard. As per the previous proceedings of this Committee and as per the guidelines given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, referred to in the earlier proceedings of this Committee, such facility cannot be extended to life convicts. However, it is resolved that if a requisition is received from the Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services in that regard, the same shall be examined by A.P. State Legal Services Authority and if necessary it would be transmitted to the Hon'ble National Legal Services Authority for taking necessary steps.
7. The Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services shall submit action taken report on each of the resolutions referred above in detail by the next date of High Powered Committee Meeting.
8. It is resolved to hold next Meeting of the High Powered Committee on **12.04.2022.**

Sd/- (Ahsanuddin Amanullah)

**HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE AHSANUDDIN AMANULLAH
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN,
A.P.STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
AMARAVATHI**

Sd/- (A.V.Sesha Sai)

**HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE A.V.SESHA SAI
CHAIRMAN
HIGH COURT LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
AMARAVATHI**

Sd/- (Sri Kumar Vishwajeet)

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

Sd/- (Mohd. Ahsan Reza)

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRISONS