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JAMMU & KASHMIR
LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
OLD SECRETARIAT, SRINAGAR

ORDER

Dated:27.05.2021

In pursuance to the order passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 07.05.2021 in Writ Petition, RE: Contagion of Covid-19 Virus in Prisons, the High Powered Committee constituted by the Govt. of UT of J&K vide order no: 96-Home of 2020 dated 29.03.2020 met under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Executive Chairman, J&K LSA with Mr. Shaleen Kabra, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department, Govt. of UT of J&K and Dr. B. Srinivas, IPS, Director General of Police (Prisons) J&K as its members. The committee deliberated through Video Conference on 17.05.2021, and issued several directions for release of prisoners to de-congest the jails and to prevent spread of COVID-19 in the jail premises. Shri M K Sharma, HJS, Member Secretary, J&K LSA also attended the conference.

The committee recommended that all the convicts / under trial prisoners who were released on the recommendations of High-Power Committee in the past, may be considered for grant of interim bail / parole/special parole for 90 days.

To stop spread of Covid-19 (Novel Corona Virus) in the Jail premises, the committee directed to take following steps:

- MK*
27/05/2021
- Discontinuation of all visits of outside agencies, including NGOs.
 - Restriction of movements of inmates outside the wards in Jails.
 - Sanitization and disinfection of the lodgement areas of the inmates and residential complexes of staff, on regular basis.
 - All new inmates are pre-screened before lodging them in jail.
 - Procurement and distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Kit, Mask, Gloves, Alcohol-based hand rubs and Soaps.

- f) Psychological screening of newly admitted inmates to properly manage their mental health issues.
- g) Emphasis on Kitchen hygiene and proper handling of vegetables and other essentials by personnel in kitchen /canteen.

It was further decided and recommended that the thermo-screening of the Jail staff on their entering the Jail Premises be made mandatory and wearing of masks and maintaining the social distance while interacting each other as well as the inmates, is ensured. The staff shall also wear the PPE kit as per requirement.

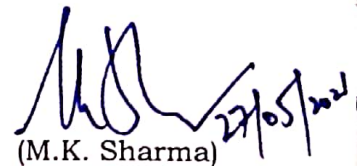
It is further recommended that in view of the new Corona virus (covid -19) variant being more infectious, therefore, the Jail inmates be provided double masks i.e one surgical mask and one cloth mask. It is further decided that new entrants and those who report back after availing the benefit of bail/parole/special parole are quarantined for 14 days for ensuring safety of the other jail inmates/staff.

The committee also recommended creating of additional accommodation within and adjacent to the jail premises for ensuring maintaining of longer distance. The committee also recommended repeating of regular testing of the staff /inmates as also for vaccination of staff/jail inmates.

D.G.P (Prisons) informed that majority of the jail staff has been vaccinated. He also apprised the committee that as on date 38 jail inmates in Central Jail Srinagar and 16 inmates at District Jail Rajouri have also been vaccinated with first dose. It is decided that Principal Secretary Home as well as DGP (Prisons) shall take up the issue with Health Department to accelerate the vaccination of the inmates as well as Jail staff as per Government guidelines in all the Jails of UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

NO:SLSA/LS/2021/L-05.

Dated: 27.05.2021



(M.K. Sharma)
Member Secretary
J&K SLSA