

Minutes Of The Meeting Dated 06-06-2021 Of The High Powered Committee
Meeting Formed By The Assam Government In Compliance Of The Guidelines
Of Hon'ble Supreme Court Of India

Members Present:

- i. Hon'ble Mr Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Executive Chairman, ASLSA and Judge, Gauhati High Court..... Chairman.
- ii. Mr. M.S. Manivannan, Commissioner and Secretary, Home and Political Department, Assam.....
.....Member
- iii. Mrs B. Sharma, IG(Prison), Assam.....Member

The Meeting of the High Powered Committee (HPC) was held via Goggle Meet. The Member Secretary, and Deputy Secretary of ASLSA, Assam were also present in the meeting through video conferencing.

The HPC has been considering the aspect of De-congestion of Jail in pursuance to the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court made in Suo Moto W.P. (C) 01/2020.

In today's meeting, the Committee members under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Mr Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Executive Chairman, ASLSA and Judge, Gauhati High Court took an overview of the present scenario of the Jails in Assam. Mrs B. Sarma, the IG (Prison), Assam, apprised the Committee members and shared the data as of date 06-06-2021 in the Jails of Assam. The data stood on 06-06-2021 was as under:

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. of Inmates
1	Total No. Jails	31
2	Total population in the Jails	9820
3	Total number of inmates tested positive for	173

	Covid	
4	Total number of test conducted in the Jails	13464
5	Total number of Inmates Vaccinated	4821
6	Total number of Inmates recovered from Covid	1016
7	Total capacity for Covid Care	1499
8	Death due to Covid	NIL
9	Total Number of Oxygen Cylinder In Jail	32

The IG (Prison) also mentioned that the inmates who were vaccinated were being provided with the vaccination certificate so as to facilitate them to take the second dose in the event of them being released from the jail. It was further mentioned that as on 06-06-2021, total 1809 inmates were released from the jail either on PR bond (546) or bail bond (1263).

The HPC appreciated the steps taken by the state officials at various levels for protection of health and welfare of the prisoners to restrict the transmission of Covid 19 and consequently having not a single casualty in the jail due to Covid.

The Committee members also taking note of the fact of fresh arrest of accused in connection with different criminal cases which has resulted overcrowding of few Jails, resolved that the DLSAs be directed to hold UTRC meeting immediately to identify and recommend such cases in which the inmates could be released in the light of directions passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court in Suo Moto 01/2020.

The Committee members considered the scenario at Morigaon where a special jail was set up to house the violators of Covid protocol which are in force in the State of Assam. The Commissioner and Secretary, Home and Political Department, Assam apprised the Members that the act of running away by some passengers who were on board in a train from Kerela, at Morigaon to avoid Covid test at the railway station was viewed very seriously by the State Government, as it could result in aggravating the spread of the contagious virus in the rural areas as most of these returnees hail from rural areas. It was also apprised that the public in general are also very much

agitated with this gross violation of Covid protocol in place, by the train passengers which could add a threat factor to the safety of the violators in the event of being released from the public.

In view of the a above, the Committee members resolved to call for a report from the State Government in this regard and decided to defer the matter relating to the cases relating to Covid protocol violators till the next sitting.

The Committee Members resolved to have the next meeting on 08-06-2021.

The meeting ended with thanks from the Chair.