

No.17015/02/2014-PR
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
(CS Division)

5th Floor, NDCC-II Building,
Jai Singh Road, New Delhi
Dated : the 28th April, 2015

To,

The Principal Secretary/Secretary Home (In-charge of Prisons)
All States and Union Territories

Sub: Adoption of measures by the States/UTs for improvement of security of jails - reg.

Sir/Madam,

As you are aware "Prisons" is a State subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The management and administration of Prisons falls exclusively in the domain of the State Governments, and is governed by the Prisons Act, 1894 and the Prison Manuals of the respective State Governments.

2. The Central Government has been interacting from time to time with the State Governments through advisories, conferences and meetings etc on various aspects of prison administration including appropriate security measures in the prisons and getting feedback from them for improvement in the security system in the jails.

3. The Government of India is aware that the State Governments/UT Administrations are taking efforts to meet the security related challenges in the jails and working incessantly to improve the living condition of the inmates. However, security and living condition inside the jails requires continued attention from all stakeholders. Based on the current security challenges faced by the jail administration of various States/UTs in the country, the following measures need serious consideration for being implemented on priority:-

(i) Immediate need to decongest the jails by setting up security prison for terror accused outside the city. If that is not feasible, then very high risk prisoners and other UTPs under the category of terrorist/security suspects are required to be segregated effectively from the ordinary prisoners within the complex of Central and District jails.

(ii) Appointment of adequate number of jail staff to manage and supervise prisoners' activities.

(iii) Installation of CCTV cameras, mobile jammers with state of the art prison's surveillance system to manage the present prison security challenges to be shared with all concerned as per their need.

(iv) Regular security classification protocol to be enforced strictly for screening and risk assessment of the prisoners. Quarterly review of such classification by a committee comprising of representatives of magistrates, police, prison, prosecution, etc.

(v) The level of security within a prison to be categorized in terms of risk to prisoners etc. for better scrutiny;

(vi) Strict monitoring of activities of visitors as well as prisoners inside the jail premises and also in transit outside.

(vii) Restriction on movement of high risk prisoners within the jails and their mixing with other prisoner even during transit to court, hospital etc to avoid the chance of indoctrination.

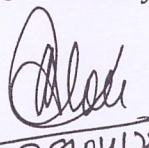
(viii) Ban on possessing objects that could potentially be used to harm others.

(ix) Arrangements of court's hearing through video conferencing in case of high risk prisoners.

4. The aforesaid measures would go a long way in improving the security inside the jails besides strengthening the criminal justice system as a whole. It is expected that the States/UTs would do their best to implement them on priority. A point-wise intimation on action taken on all the above points [(i) to (ix)] in this regard will be highly appreciated.

The receipt of this letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,


28/04/2015
(Kumar Alok)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India
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