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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA/BHARAT SARKAR
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS/GRINH MANTRALAYA

Dated the 29th November, 2007

To

The Director General of Police,
All States and Union Territories.

Subject: Sensitization to Prison inmates on HIV / AIDS – regarding.

As you are aware, prisons have a number of characteristics, which are conducive to the spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and HIV infections. The prevalence of HIV within prisons is usually several times than that in outside world. It happens due to low awareness levels on STDs, HIV/AIDS, lack of access to preventive practices, over crowding, poor sanitary conditions, close physical proximity on the inmates, loneliness, lack of social control, lack of entertainment, being away from the family for a longer time leading to homosexuality. The prison population is inherently dynamic with releases, admissions and transfer occurring regularly. The vulnerability of the population can be prevented through awareness.

In view of the above it is requested that all prison inmates be provided access to primary prevention services. It is also requested that counseling and testing services be set up with the support of State Aids Control Societies (SACS) in major prisons like central jails and condoms may be distributed among the inmates. The prison personnel could also be trained and sensitization workshops on the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS among prison personnel and among the inmates could be held with the help of the State Aids Control Societies.

The above measures will help in bringing about a behaviour change among prison inmates, in detecting HIV infected inmates who could in turn be given care and treatment.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
(Rita Acharya)
Director (CS-II)