

MOST IMMEDIATE
SECRET

No.V-17013/18/2010-PR
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA/BHARAT SARKAR
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS/GRIH MANTRALAYA
(CS DIVISION)

North Block, New Delhi, 7th June, 2010.

To

The Principal Secretary (Prisons)/
Principal Secretary (Home-in charge of Prisons)
All States / UTs.

Subject: Use of mobile phone in prisons- regarding

Sir/Madam,

You may be aware that a number of instances have come to the notice where different jails located in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Gujarat have emerged as major centres for organizing and carrying out terrorist activities, collection of funds, as also recruitment of fresh cadres. This has been possible due to the blatant misuse of cell phones in the State jails, with the connivance of some jail officials. As a result, militants housed in such jails are not only contacting their cadres and sympathizers in India, but are also in touch with their handlers, well-wishers and financiers based abroad. Many intelligence inputs have indicated conspiracies being hatched inside the prison by the inmates for escaping from custody by way of contact with their associate outside the prison.

2. The Central Government has from time to time, been advising the State Governments by way of various advisories for ban on entry of prohibited items including mobile phones in jails. However, entry of these prohibited items into the jails is a matter of grave concern as it facilitates interaction between extremists/ militants/ underworld and their associates. These instances suggest not only negligence on the part of prison administration but also connivance on the part of some corrupt jail staff. Unless some extreme steps are taken against these officials, the situation is not going to improve.

3. Keeping in view the gravity of situation, the State Governments/ UT administrators are requested to take immediate measures for strengthening of security in jails and keep a

regular watch on entry of mobile phones in jails. It may be ensured that no one is allowed to take mobiles into the jail.

4. The State Governments may consider installation of jammers in select jails to prevent malicious cell phone transactions detrimental to national security. The jail officials may also be sensitized and they must be apprised categorically that in case any mobile phone is found in the jail, the concerned jail superintendent and/ or the concerned jail officials will be held accountable and suitable action will be initiated against them.

5. The receipt of this letter may please be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Dr. Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi)

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

Tel: 23092630

Fax: 23092675