

No. 16012/2/2018-PR
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs

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Women Safety Division, 2nd Floor,
Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium,
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November 2, 2018

To

1. ACS/Principal Secretary/Secretary (Home & Jails) of all States and UTs.
2. DG/IG Prisons of all States and UTs.

Sub: Report titled 'Women in Prisons' prepared by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Sir/Madam,

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) had asked the National Commission for Women (NCW) to carry out a study on the living condition of women inmates in prisons across the country. MWCD had also asked the National Law University, Delhi (NLU) to analyse the prison manuals of different States as well as the Model Prison Manual 2016 to see if there are any gaps in so far as the provisions for women inmates are concerned. The National Commission for Women did a study of 25 prisons and the National Law University did a comprehensive analysis of various issues involved. Based on the inputs of NCW and NLU, the MWCD has prepared a report titled 'Women in Prisons' and have also prepared a set of recommendations for amendment to the Model Prison Manual 2016 with a view to ensure that women inmates in prisons live with dignity.

2. In its report, the MWCD has analysed the following major issues/ documents:
 - a) Model Prison Manual 2016
 - b) Government Reports and Studies on Prisons
 - c) Review of Supreme Court judgements and orders
 - d) Qualitative as well as quantitative analysis of the statistics published by NCRB relating to women in prisons,
 - e) Lack of staff, Accommodation, Sanitation, Hygiene and Education in Prisons
 - f) Vocational Training, Legal Aid, Violence in Prisons
 - g) Children of women inmates, re-integration after release, non-custodial measures etc.

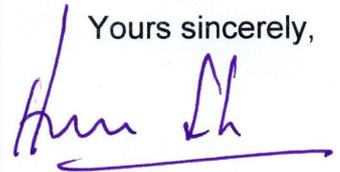
3. Based on the study undertaken by it, the MWCD has made the following major recommendations in the report:

- i. Adoption and implementation of Model Prison Manual 2016 by all States and UTs
- ii. Independent and regular inspection of prisons
- iii. Robust Grievance redressal mechanism
- iv. Special procedure for arrest of women, searching with dignity and privacy
- v. Special provision for pregnant women and better accommodation for new mothers
- vi. After-care programme for reintegration and taking care of children of women inmates
- vii. Improving mental health of inmates
- viii. Improved access to legal aid
- ix. Better Hygiene, Health and Sanitation in prisons
- x. Improving Education, Skilling and right to vote for inmates
- xi. Faster release of undertrials etc.

4. The report has suggested some additions/changes to various clauses of Model Prison Manual 2016, which was circulated by MHA to all States and UTs in May, 2016. The additions/changes suggested in the report have been examined by MHA and it has been decided that these may be shared with States and UTs who can seek guidance from the same in conjunction with Model Prison Manual 2016 and adopt it in their State Manuals.

5. **The report titled 'Women in Prisons' is hereby circulated** to the Home/Jail Department of all States and UTs and DG/IG Prisons for their careful perusal and implementation of the suggestions made in the report for the welfare of women prison inmates. The State Governments/ UT Administrations are requested to provide their feedback / status update to the Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure that the recommendations made in the report are fully utilized for providing better living condition to women inmates.

Yours sincerely,



(Arun Sobti)

Under Secretary (PR & ATC)

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