

V-17014/1/2024-PR
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs

Women Safety Division, 2nd Floor,
Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium,
India Gate Circle, New Delhi-110001
February 26, 2024

To

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

Sir/Madam,

It has been the constant endeavour of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to reach out to the Prison authorities of all States and Union Territories and provide them assistance in the form of financial aid for technology driven projects as well as sharing contemporary best practices and guidelines on varied aspects of efficient prison administration from time to time. As part of the above exercise, the following guidelines/ instructions are shared with the States/UTs, which they may take note of and apply in their respective jurisdictions:

(i) **Advice on Caste/Religion-based Discrimination of Prisoners**

It has come to the notice of this Ministry that the Jail Manuals of some States provide for segregation of prisoners **on the basis of their caste and religion** and they are being assigned duties in the prisons accordingly.

It may be noted that the Constitution of India prohibits any kind of discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, place of birth etc. The Model Prison Manual, 2016 prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs and circulated to all States and UTs in May 2016 explicitly prohibits caste and religion-based discrimination of prisoners in management of kitchen or cooking of food on caste or religious basis. The manual also provides that any special treatment to a group of prisoners belonging to a particular caste or religion is strictly prohibited. It further provides that no classification of prisoners shall be allowed on grounds of socio-economic status, caste or class.

All States and UTs are requested to take note of the above and ensure that their State Prison Manual/ Prison Act should not contain such discriminatory provisions. In case any such provision exists, immediate steps must be taken to amend/remove the discriminatory provision from the

Manual/Act. It is reiterated that there should be no caste based assignment of duties or work in the Prisons.

(ii) **Medical Care of Prisoners**

Medical care of prisoners is one of the significant concerns of prison management. MHA has been advising the States/UTs from time to time to ensure that due importance is given to the physical and mental well-being of prisoners.

To maintain uniformity in the process of medical check-up of prisoners, the Model Prison Manual 2016 provides for the procedure to be followed by the States and UTs. There is a dedicated Chapter on 'Medical Care' in the Model Prison Manual, 2016, which may be carefully perused for guidance by the States/UTs. **In particular, States/ UTs are requested to ensure the following:**

- (a) Periodic health check-up of prisoners should be conducted on regular basis.
- (b) An annual health check-up of prisoners should be conducted.
- (c) Periodic health check-up of aged prisoners and inmates with disabilities should be conducted.
- (d) Health check-up/ screening of prisoners for infectious diseases including STD, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis should be done on periodic basis.
- (e) Special health check-up of women prisoners and transgender prisoners should be conducted.
- (f) Periodic check-up/screening of inmates for their mental well-being should be conducted.

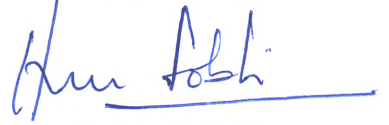
Details of the above health check-up should be **updated on the e-Prisons portal on regular basis.**

(iii) **Updating of Online Database of Prisoners on e- Prisons**

The Ministry of Home Affairs has implemented the e-prisons project with the objective of creating end-to-end IT solution for automation of prison operations, including digitization and availability of prisoner records at an electronic platform accessible to designated authorities, enabling them to have direct access to information related to the prisoners. All State/ UT Prison authorities are requested to **update the database of the prisoners on the e-prisons platform on regular basis** and also ensure that the information is entered in all columns and no field is left blank.

For this, the relevant information can be obtained from the prisoners' records and also from inmates and entered into the system. The e-prisons portal is designed to significantly contribute towards the objective of efficient prison management and therefore State/UT Prison authorities are requested to pay serious attention to the regular updation of entries in the e-prisons portal.

Yours sincerely,



(Arun Sobti)

Deputy Secretary (PR & ATC)

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