

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGH POWER COMMITTEE FOR THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS ON BAIL/ PAROLE CHAIRED BY HIS LORDSHIP HON'BLE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, MASLSA HELD ON 09TH APRIL 2020, AT THE OFFICE OF THE MASLSA, ADR BUILDING, LAMPHEL COURT COMPLEX

In pursuance of the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the High Powered Committee so constituted to oversee the release of prisoners on bail/ parole as a measure to avoid congestion/ overcrowding in jails in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic held its first meeting on 31.03.2020. However, in the wake of the changing circumstances and also as requested by the Home Department, the second meeting of the High Powered Committee was held on 09th April 2020 at 11.00 am, at the office of the MASLSA, ADR Building, Lamphel Court Complex, with His Lordship Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kh. Nobin Singh, Executive Chairman, Manipur State Legal Services Authority in the chair.

The following were present in the meeting :

1. P. DOUNGEL, Additional Director of Police (Prisons) , Manipur
2. Golmei Gaiphulshillu, Member Secretary, MASLSA.
3. K. Radhashyam Singh, Special Secretary (Home), Govt of Manipur
4. Ojesh Mutum, Addl. Member Secretary, MASLSA.
5. K. Nirojit, Secretary, Imphal West DLSA.
6. Sorokhaibam Sadananda, Deputy Member Secretary, MASLSA.

The meeting of the High Powered Committee is being reconvened at the request of the state government in order to reconsider the determination of the release of the prisoners on bail/ parole as the case may be.

The Jail Authorities have placed before the High Powered Committee, the details as to the prisoners who can be released as a preventive measure to contain the spread of the pandemic COVID-19.

In addition to that, it is noted that there has been a surge of COVID-19 cases all across the country, with the possibility that the trend is likely to continue.

Further, it has been stated by the Special Secretary (Home) that the capacity of the jails is getting saturated and there is strict directive to adhere the health advisories and to maintain social distancing as far as possible. As such, the High Powered Committee will be reconsidering the issue of determining the prisoners who can be so released as per the directive of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

After detailed deliberations and upon consideration of all aspects including the situation prevailing in the state, it has been resolved by the Committee that out of the list of prisoners as proposed by the State Government, the names of those UTPs at Annexure-A enclosed are recommended for being considered for release on bail on PR bonds by the concerned court/ magistrate for an interim period of 3 months subject to such other conditions as may be imposed by them.

With respect to the list of convicts as recommended at Annexure-B enclosed, the competent authority is directed to consider their cases expeditiously for releasing them on parole.

It has also been resolved by the Committee that if any of the above named prisoners are lying in jail, due to the non-furnishing of surety bonds only, they may be so released on their personal bonds. Further, it has been resolved that, in respect of similarly situated prisoners, if any, not proposed by the State Government, the Jail Authorities and the State Home Department shall examine them, and their cases shall be considered by the Committee in the next meeting.

It is also been resolved by the Committee that as public curfew has been announced all over Manipur, the State Home Department in co-ordination with the Jail Authorities shall make the necessary arrangements for conveyance of the released prisoners to their residences.

It has also been resolved that in the view of the prevailing circumstances in state, including curfews and lockdowns, this resolution shall be treated as bail application of the above mentioned UTPs. The release orders of the prisoners so released may be communicated to the jail authorities in the given e-mail- dte.prisons-mn@gov.in and igprisonsmanipur@gmail.com and a digitally signed copy may be communicated for convenience. Further, the District Judges, who are

also the Chairpersons of the DLSAs, to ensure that the Remand Advocates/ Legal Aid Counsel attached in each court shall provide all necessary legal aid and assistance to the recommended persons in case their services are required. They shall make themselves available for the same.

For removing any doubts, it is clarified that

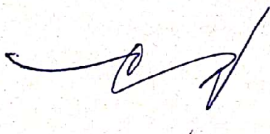
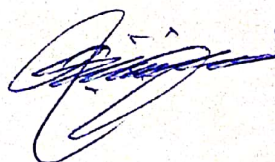
(a) Under no circumstances, a prisoner is to be released without proper medical screening and tests, and if the prisoner to be released shows symptoms typical of flu, fever etc., he/ she has to be kept in quarantine instead.

(b) Under no circumstance, a prisoner is to be released without his consent.

A copy of this Resolution be also sent to

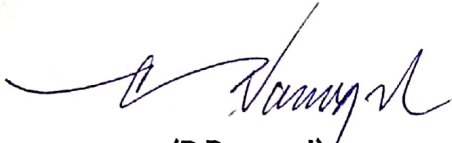
- (a) The State Home Department for approaching the concerned courts/ magistrates and all other necessary action;
- (b) The Director General of Police for information and compliance and providing logistics and other assistance as may be prescribed
- (c) All the District Judges for compliance and for necessary action
- (d) To all the Chairpersons/ Secretaries, DLSAs for compliance
- (e) Concerned courts/ magistrates and the Director of Prosecution, Govt of Manipur for information/ compliance and providing necessary assistance.
- (f) Superintendent of Central Jail, Imphal and Central Jail, Sajiwa for information and necessary action.

An Action Taken Report by all the concerned is to be submitted at the earliest to the Chairman of the High Powered Committee.

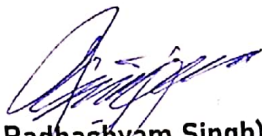




Next meeting of the Committee is to be convened as and when the state home department and the jail authorities request or when the situation changes.


The meeting thus concluded with the permission from the chair.



(P.Dounghel)
ADGP (Prisons)



(K. Radhashyam Singh)
Special Secretary (Home)
(Representing the Chief
Secretary)



(Justice Kh. Nobin Singh)
Executive Chairman
MASLSA