

PRESS RELEASE

Imphal, the 21st June, 2025

“High Court Judges interacted with the convicts”

On June 21, 2025, the office of Manipur State Legal Services Authority in association with High Court Legal Services Committee (HCLSC), High Court of Manipur organised an Interaction Programme cum Legal Awareness on the topic “Legal Rights of the Convicted Persons” at Manipur Central Jail, Sajiwa.

The programme was graced by Hon’ble Mr. Justice A. Bimol Singh, Executive Chairman, MASLSA; Hon’ble Mr. Justice A. Guneshwar Sharma, Judge, High Court of Manipur & Chairman, HCLSC; Mr. Alek Muivah, Member Secretary, MASLSA; Ms. Athokpam Shanta Devi, Secretary, HCLSC; Shri Syed Abdul Samad, S.P., Manipur Central Jail, Sajiwa.

Shri H. Balkrishna Singh, Joint Secretary (Home), Govt. of Manipur & other officers from Home Department, Govt. of Manipur also attended the programme

In his speech Hon’ble Mr. Justice A. Bimol Singh stated that as per the direction of Hon’ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee, a Special Campaign is being carried out for identification of convicted prisoners who are willing & entitled to avail free legal aid for filing of appeal against their conviction order before the High Court as well as Supreme Court of India. He further stated that those convicts who have already appealed before the High Court but whose application have been rejected may also come forward again to avail free legal services for further course of action.

Hon’ble Mr. Justice A. Guneshwar Sharma, Chairman, High Court Legal Services Committee (HCLSC) stated that during the campaign conducted by the Panel Lawyers of High Court Legal Services Committee, they have identified 58 convicts who have not yet filed their appeal before the High Court of Manipur. HCLSC have already provided legal aid for filing appeal to 20 convicts and the remaining 38 convicts will also be provided with Panel Lawyers for filing appeal shortly. Further, he also explained to the convicted inmates that in case any remission application has been rejected previously, HCLSC will be providing free legal services if the applicant wants to avail free legal aid to file appeal before the High Court.

Shri Alek Muivah, Member Secretary, MASLSA highlighted on the various legal rights of the convicts such as Appeal, Suspension, Remission etc. He briefly elucidated on the relevant provisions of law on Remission and explained on the procedure for filing remission application.

He further stated that at present State of Manipur does not have its own policy for grant of remission but as per directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Re: Policy Strategy for grant of bail, all States are mandated to form its policy for grant of remission at the earliest including the state of Manipur and accordingly we are expecting the State of Manipur to have a policy at the earliest. Meanwhile, the Standard Operating Procedure on the process of Premature Release Parole and Furlough of Prisoners, 2022 framed by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) will continue to govern.

Carrying on further with the interaction programme, Ms. S. Mangaleibi Devi, Deputy Member Secretary, MASLSA explained to the convicted inmates on the various factors that are taken into consideration for grant of remission to the convicted person, such as potential of the convict to commit crimes in the future, fruitful purpose of continued incarceration, convict's age, state of health, familial relationships, possibility of reintegration etc.

Further, she briefly explained the functioning of the State Sentence Review Board which is the concerned authority for considering remission application.

The Interaction Programme was concluded with question & answer sessions with various officials present including representative from the Home Department. Convicted inmates also raised various queries regarding the remission, pardon, furlough application procedures & the same was answered to their satisfaction.

The programme was participated by convicted persons at Manipur Central Jail, Sajiwa who are mainly life convicts.

Sd/-

(S. Mangaleibi Devi)

Deputy Member Secretary,
Manipur State Legal Services Authority