1337
05/12/2020

Agenda: Effective implementation of the directions issued by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Suo Motu Petition (Civil) No.1/2020 – In Re: Contagion of COVID-19 vide its orders dated 23.03.2020 and 13.04.2020

ITEM NO.1:- FOLLOW UP OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED EARLIER WITH RESPECT TO PREVENTION, SCREENING, IDENTIFICATION & TREATMENT OF PRISONERS AND JAILSTAFF

At the outset, **Sh. Sandeep Goel, D.G. (Prisons)** informed the Chair about concerted efforts of officers and officials of Jail Administration being made in following and complying with the **guidelines, instructions and resolutions** passed by this Committee in its earlier meetings. He further informed that by scrupulously complying with the resolutions adopted earlier they have been successful in keeping a check on the increase of cases of COVID-19, and have also been successful in bringing down the number of active cases of **COVID-19 (Novel Corona Virus)** inside the jail premises; despite the fact that presently the cases of COVID-19 are rapidly increasing in Delhi.

D.G. (Prisons) informed the committee through his letter **No.PS/ DG(P)/2020/2089 dated 27.11.2020** that as on **27.11.2020**, the cumulative figure of **COVID -19** Positive cases in Delhi Prisons is as under:

Prison ***Inmates***	:	**114** (**111** recovered, **02** expired, **01** Active case)
Prison ***Staff***	:	**279** (**263** recovered, **16** Active cases)

Branch Incharge (Computer) to upload the same on website of North District.

Sd/-
PA to DC/North
5/12/2020

On being inquired by the Chair about **one active case** of **COVID-19**, D.G. (Prisons) informed that minor child of one female inmate from Jail No.16 Mandoli was found positive and she has been admitted in GTB Hospital along with her mother where she is recuperating well.

D.G. (Prisons) also informed the Committee that in terms of the resolution adopted vide meeting dated **20.06.2020** as well as in subsequent meetings, Jail Administration is taking extra precautions with respect to inmates who are more than **55 years** of age, so that they are not **'immuno-compromised'**. D.G. (Prisons) has further assured the Committee that they shall continue doing the needful.

The Members of the Committee also deliberated upon the possible ways through which **COVID-19 (Novel Corona Virus)** can enter the jail premises. Deliberations were made for taking possible steps to prevent the spread of **COVID-19 (Novel Corona Virus)** through:

(a) New entrants including the one's coming back to surrender after expiry of period of interim bail/emergency parole/furlough

(b) Jail Staff, Paramilitary Staff, Medical Staff

(c) Other persons entering the Jail premises for delivery of ration and other essential items.

Precautionary Measures for Jail Staff etc.

D.G. (Prisons) had informed that in view of resolutions passed by this Committee in the last meeting, they are **carrying out 'Rapid Tests'** of jail staff, para military staff and others, as per ICMR guidelines. He further informed that **'thermal screening'** of the jail staff is also being conducted before letting them enter the jail premises. He informed that jail staff are cautioned to wear **Mask** and to also **maintain social distance,** while interacting with each other as well as with inmates. They are also cautioned to wear **Personal Protective Equipment Kit** as per need. DG (Prisons) has further informed that as suggested by the Chair, the jail staff is taking **two layer protection**, i.e. in addition to using face Mask they have also been provided with visor's, which they are using regularly.

He also informed that **till 27.11.2020, 279 Jail Staff** were found **COVID-19** Positive, out of which **263** have already recovered. He also apprised the Chair that at present there are only **16** active cases of jail staff, who are home quarantined.

D.G. (Prisons) further informed that as and when any jail staff is tested **COVID-19 Positive,** he/she is relieved from their respective duties and is asked to remain home quarantined. D.G.(Prisons) further informed that contact tracing is being done in such cases and all those who had come in contact with these Jail Staff, are being medically screened and tested. D.G. (Prisons) further informed that they have minimized the contact of jail staff, para military staff and others with the inmates, so as to prevent spread of **COVID-19** inside the jail premises.

Precautionary Measures qua New Entrants including the one's coming back to surrender after expiry of period of interim bail/emergency parole/furlough

Members of the Committee after deliberations, **reiterated** that in terms of the resolution adopted in the earlier meeting, **new entrants** should be kept in **"Isolation Cells"** so as to prevent their **intermingling** with other inmates who are already inside the jail.

In the earlier meetings of this Committee, it was resolved to create **"Isolation Cells"** in Jail No.1, Jail No.2, Jail No.4, Jail No.7, and Jail No.8/9 at Tihar and Jail No.15 at Mandoli comprising of **248** individual cells (with attached toilets) for the new male entrants who are above 21 years of age; and in Jail No.5 at Tihar for fresh inmates who are between 18-21 years of age. Whereas separate **"Isolation Cells"** were resolved to be created in Jail No.6 at Tihar for fresh women inmates.

Considering the fact that these **"Isolation Cells"** so carved out, may become fully occupied, therefore, it was resolved in the earlier meeting that requisition be made to Govt. of NCT of Delhi for allocation of Police Quarters, Mandoli situated adjacent to Mandoli Jail, for converting the said flats into a **"Temporary Jail"**. It was resolved that these flats after allocation can be put to use for creation of **"Isolation Cells"**, to keep the **new entrants** who are above 21 years of age, for initial period of 14 days.

Temporary Jail : Additional accommodation in Jail

Principal Secretary (Home) as well as D.G. (Prisons) informed the Chair that, for the creation of **"Temporary Jail"**, to be used as **"Isolation Cells"**, they have made **concerted efforts** for getting allocation of **12 towers**, each having **30 flats** from the Govt. of NCT of Delhi. Principal Secretary (Home) informed the Committee that Govt. of NCT of Delhi vide Notification bearing **No.9/70/2020/HG/2427-2441 dated 31.07.2020** has been pleased to declare Police quarters in the Police Housing Complex adjoining Mandoli Jail, Delhi as **"Temporary Jail"**, till further order, in view of **COVID-19**pandemic.

DG (Prisons) has also informed the Chair that Police Housing Complex, Mandoli consists of **12 Towers**, each having **30 flats**. He has submitted that 4 towers out of 12 towers viz. B, C, D & E are already **fully functional as "Temporary Jails"**. It is also submitted that at present they have housed **223 inmates** in these towers, which have been converted into **"Temporary Jail"**. He has also submitted that Towers G, H, I, J, K & L are also ready for housing the inmates and two towers i.e. A & F have been kept reserved for accommodating outside security forces, so that their intermingling with jail staff is minimized.

Upon being apprised about the fact that **223 inmates** have been presently housed in the "Temporary Jail", and others are likely to be housed on their surrender, the Chair enquired about the **security measures** put in place by the Prison Authorities, in the said "Temporary Jail" for ensuring safety and security of the inmates; and for also ensuring that no untoward incident takes place while the inmates are housed in "Temporary Jail".

In response to the Chair's **curiosity** for the safety and security of the inmates housed in the "Temporary Jail", D.G. (Prisons) apprised the Chair about adequate measures undertaken for '*safety*' and '*security*' of the inmates housed in the "Temporary Jail".

He assured that all necessary precautions as per the **Standard Operating Procedures (S.O.P.)** and other protocols to be followed at the Jails, for the safety and security of the inmates, have been put in place in the "Temporary Jail". He also informed that requisite support has been taken by the Prison Administration from P.W.D to **seal** the portions of the "Temporary

Jail", so as to check the unnecessary movement of the inmates inside the "Temporary Jail", especially restricting their accessibility to the Balconies of the Flats/Apartments which have been converted into "Temporary Jail". As such, the chances of escape of inmates from the Temporary Jails have also been checked and necessary precautions have been taken.

D.G. (Prisons) has further informed that once all Towers are made fully functional, then this **"Temporary Jail"** can house about **2000 inmates**. The Committee after getting this information from D.G. (Prisons) is of the view that the problem of creation of **"Isolation Cells"** for the **new entrants** in jails stand solved to a considerable extent.

In an eventuality of UTPs/Convicts surrendering in Delhi jails, pursuant to any order passed by the Court of Law, the Chair suggested that all such UTPs/Convicts may be **housed** initially for a period of 14 days in the **Temporary Jail** before sending them in the concerned Jail. D.G. (Prisons) assured the Chair to comply with this suggestion.

It is made clear that fresh male inmates who are between 18 to 21 years of age and fresh women inmates shall continue to be kept in separate **"Isolation Cells"** at Jail No. 5 and 6 respectively at Tihar and Jail No.16 Mandoli, in terms of the earlier resolution.

Jail Hospital

Chairperson made enquiries regarding usage of **"Oxygen Concentration Machines"** in Jail Hospital as well as regarding **"Rapid Antigen Test Facility"** for the inmates. D.G. (Prisons) has informed that they have procured **04 "Oxygen Concentration Machines"** whereafter Delhi Health Department has also supplied them **15"Oxygen Concentration Machines".** Thus, sufficient number of **"Oxygen Concentration Machines"** are available in the Jail Hospital at Tihar, Mandoli and Rohini Jail Complex. D.G. (Prisons) has further informed that inmates are being tested as per the ICMR guidelines with **'Rapid Antigen Test'** .D.G. (Prisons) has further informed that they have **sufficient availability** and regular supply of **essential medicines** and **equipments** including **oximeters** and **oxygen cylinders** in the Jail Hospitals.

Other Precautionary Measures

D.G. (Prisons) further informed the Chair about the other measures being taken by the Jail Staff, prisoners and other persons working in Jail so as to prevent the outbreak of **COVID-19 (Novel Corona Virus)**. He apprised the Chair that the principle of '**social distancing**' is being followed **scrupulously**. It has further been informed that common areas which are frequented by the inmates like Bathing area, Kitchen Area and Jail Telephone Area are being regularly cleaned and sanitized using appropriate disinfectant. D.G.(Prisons) further informed that necessary precautions i.e. **Do's and Don'ts** are being told to the inmates through **"Public Address System"** installed in Jails.

D.G. (Prisons) has informed that regular medical checkup of Jail Staff and inmates is being done through Jail doctors who have been advised to immediately inform the Jail Superintendent if they find or suspect any symptoms of **COVID-19 (Novel Corona Virus)** in any inmate so that necessary steps in terms of the advisory/guidelines issued by ICMR and Ministry of Health, Government of India, can be taken. He further informed the Chair regarding the necessary steps that are being taken to practice, promote and demonstrate **Positive Hygiene Behaviour** in Jails.

D.G. (Prisons) has submitted that besides the above, they have adopted a multi-pronged approach to tackle the threat of **COVID-19 (Novel Corona Virus), i.e. :**

a. **Discontinuation of all visit** of outside agencies, including NGOs.

b. **Restriction of movements** of inmates outside the wards in Jails.

c. **Sanitization and disinfection** of the lodgment areas of the inmates and residential complexes of staff, on **regular basis**.

d. **All new inmates are pre-screened** at CPRO before lodging them in jail.

e. **Procurement and distribution** of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Kit, Mask, Gloves, Alcohol-based hand rubs and Soaps.

f. **Formation of Special Task Force (STF)** for Contact Tracing of suspected **COVID-19 (Novel Corona Virus)** cases in all Jails.

g. **Psychological screening** of newly admitted inmates to properly manage their mental health issues.

h. **Emphasis on Kitchen hygiene** and proper handling of vegetables and other essentials by personnel in kitchen/ canteen.

D.G. (Prisons) has **assured** that the jail administration shall continue following these precautions and resolutions, so as to prevent the spread of **COVID-19 (Novel Corona Virus)** in the jail premises.

Committee is **satisfied** with the above steps being taken by D.G. (Prisons) and directed him to continue doing the same.

ITEMNO.2:- STEPS TAKEN TOWARDS SCREENING OF JAIL STAFF, PARA-MILITARY AND MEDICALSTAFF

Considering the possibility of **COVID-19 (Novel Corona Virus)** entering the jail premises through Jail Staff, para-military staff and medical staff, besides others and its outbreak amongst the inmates, deliberations were made by the Committee about the additional measures to be taken.

On being asked by the Chair regarding implementation of resolutions adopted in the previous meeting, D.G. (Prisons) has informed that all the officers and officials of Jail Administration are strictly abiding by all those directions and have adopted multi-pronged strategies to tackle the spread of **COVID-19 (Novel Corona Virus)** through Jail Staff and others, to the inmates.

D.G. (Prisons) has further informed the Chair that in terms of the directions given by this Committee for conducting **"Rapid Test"** of **above referred jail staff** according to ICMR guidelines, they have started getting this test conducted of the jail staff, as per need.

D.G. (Prisons) has further informed that **wearing of Mask** by the jail staff has been made **mandatory** and they have been cautioned to **maintain social distancing** while interacting with the inmates.

Committee is **satisfied** with the above steps being taken by D.G. (Prisons) and directed them to continue following the same. It is **resolved** accordingly.

ITEM NO.3:- TAKING STOCK OF THE EFFECT OF CRITERION EARLIER ADOPTED TOWARDS DECONGESTION OF JAIL

Number of inmates released pursuant to the criteria adopted earlier in terms of the orders passed by the Division Bench of High Court of Delhi dated **23.03.2020** headed by Hon'ble Chairperson; as well as on the basis of criteria adopted by High Powered Committee vide **meetings dated 28.03.2020, 07.04.2020, 18.04.2020, 05.05.2020, 18.05.2020, 20.06.2020, 31.07.2020, 30.08.2020 and 24.10.2020** is put up before the Committee. Besides the number of inmates released pursuant to criteria adopted earlier, Committee has further perused the number of UTPs released on **Personal Bond**, on the basis of orders passed by Hon'ble High Court in **W.P. (Criminal) No.779/2020**. The figures are also mentioned in letter of D.G. Prisons, beating **No.PS/ DG(P)/2020/2089 dated 27.11.2020**

The same was perused by the Committee which is as under:-

UTPs released on interim bail till 27.11.2020	**3499**
UTPs released pursuant to modification of bail orders by Hon'ble High Court in W.P.(Criminal) No.779/2020	**310**
Convicts released on Emergency Parole	**1183**
Convicts released on remission of sentence	**122**
TOTAL UTPs/ CONVICTS RELEASED ON INTERIM BAIL/PAROLE/ REMISSION OF SENTENCE TILL 27.11.2020	**5114**

INTERIM BAIL:

Members of the Committee, reminded themselves of the object for which it was formed by **Hon'ble Supreme Court of India** in ***"Suo Motu Petition (Civil) No.1/2020 – In Re: Contagion of COVID-19"*** i.e. for determining **class/category** of prisoners who can be released on **interim bail/parole** depending not only upon severity of offence, but also the nature of offence and/or any other relevant factor.

This Committee was constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court owing to the unprecedented circumstances formed due to the Pandemic, resulting into lockdown and restricted functioning of the Courts, and for decongesting the jails so that **principle of social distancing** can be followed and spread of **COVID -19** can be prevented inside the prisons. Members of the Committee also reminded themselves of the subsequent order dated **13.04.2020** of Hon'ble Supreme Court, whereby Hon'ble Supreme Court has clarified that it has not directed the States to **compulsorily** release the prisoners.

On the basis of directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Members of the Committee have observed, that this Committee was formed for the stated object, i.e. only for the purposes of finding a solution to help decongestion and **to avoid** the spread of virus inside the prisons; and while doing so, it was to be kept in mind that the benefit of interim bail granted in such circumstances, cannot be to the detriment of social order.

Keeping in mind the orders **No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 30.09.2020** passed by Govt. of India regarding **Unlock-5** effective from **15.10.2020** and taking into consideration consequent change in circumstances including the Office Order **No.538/RG/DHC/2020 dated 19.10.2020** of Hon'ble High Court whereby all the Courts including High Court of Delhi and Courts subordinate thereto have **resumed functioning** through physical mode/ Video Conferencing mode, this Committee has decided **not to further relax** the criteria for the purposes of recommending grant of interim bail to the UTPs.

It is also made clear that benefit of the criteria adopted by this Committee in its earlier meeting, which as per the last meeting were to continue till **30.09.2020**, is **not being extended** any further.

It was **though clarified** earlier but the same is **reiterated** that the criteria adopted by this Committee for release of prisoners on "**Interim Bail**" in its meetings dated **28.03.2020, 07.04.2020, 18.04.2020, 05.05.2020, 18.05.2020, 20.06.2020, 31.07.2020, 30.08.2020 and 24.10.2020** shall in **no way** affect the rights of other UTPs, who **do not** stand covered under these categories, from invoking the jurisdiction of concerned courts for grant of regular/interim bail. The concerned courts on filing of applications by such UTPs may **consider** the same **on merits**, in accordance with law.

REMISSION:

On inquiry by Chairperson, it is informed by D.G. (Prisons) that **'remission to the eligible convicts'** was granted by Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Delhi in terms of recommendations of High Powered Committee dated **28.03.2020** vide **order No.F.9/63/2020 dated 07.04.2020**. He further informed that as per the said Office Order, benefit was initially extended to **72 convicts,** who were released on remission of sentence.

D.G. (Prisons) further informed the Committee that Hon'ble L.G. vide order No.F.9/63/2020/HG/2184 dated 21.07.2020 had directed to extend the **benefit of remission to the convicts** who would become eligible for the same upto **30th September, 2020**. It is brought to the notice of the Committee that on the basis of fresh Office Order **33 more convicts** were released on remission on sentence taking the total to **105**.

It is further informed by the D.G. (Prisons) that again, the Govt. of NCT of Delhi has further extended the orders of 07.04.2020 for *grant of Special Remission* upto **31.12.2020**. Accordingly, **17 more convicts** have been released. As such, as on 27.11.2020 the benefit of **remission has been extended to 122 convicts.**

Chairperson **appreciated** the efforts put in towards the implementation of resolution adopted in earlier meetings, by Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Jail Administration and DSLSA.

ITEM NO.4:- FEEDBACK REGARDING EXTENSION OF INTERIM BAIL GRANTED TO UTPs IN TERMS OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED IN THE MEETING DATED30.08.2020

Kanwal Jeet Arora, Member Secretary, DSLSA has informed the Committee that a **letter dated 28.10.2020**was written by him to the Ld.Registrar General, High Court of Delhi in terms of directions given in the meeting dated **24.10.2020.**

On the basis of said letter, **Hon'ble Special Bench** in *"Writ Petition (Civil) 3080/2020"*, titled *"Court on its own Motion Vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Anr."* vide its order dated **05.11.2020 extended** the **'interim bail'** so granted to the **3337** UTPs for a **further period of 30 days** from the date their earlier interim bail is expiring.

D.G (Prisons) has informed the Committee that period of **extended interim bail** as well as the period of interim bail granted to UTPs on the basis of criteria laid down by this Committee on 24.10.2020 (which constitute **3499 UTPs**) is going to expire w.e.f. **05.12.2020** onwards.

D.G. (Prisons) brought to the notice of the Committee that if **3499 UTPs** and **1183 convicts** who have been granted *'interim bail/emergency parole'* under different criteria laid down by this Committee, are asked to surrender, then the total population of Delhi Prison is likely to **reach 20500,** which would be **unprecedented** and may become **unmanageable** owing to the present situation and circumstances.

He also informed that till date only on one occasion the maximum population of Delhi Prisons has touched **18,000** in this year.

D.G. (Prisons) thus contended that considering to the present prison population which is **16100** and situation of COVID-19 in N.C.T. of Delhi, it would be appropriate, if *'interim bail/emergency parole'* granted to **3499 UTPs** and **1183 convicts** under HPC criteria may be **extended** for a further period of **45days**.

A letter dated **27.11.2020 bearing No. PS/DG(P)/2020/2090** written by D.G. (Prisons) to this effect is also brought to the notice of Committee.

Members of the Committee have gone through the letter dated **27.11.2020** written by D.G. (Prisons) and deliberated on the contentions raised by D.G (Prisons), especially in the backdrop of the current situation of Pandemic and the present status of cases of COVID–19 in Delhi.

In its last meeting, this Committee had taken into account the then prevailing situation of COVID-19 in Delhi and taking into account the pattern, Committee was hopeful that situation would improve. However, COVID-19 situation has taken a **360 Degree** turn.

The Committee being alive to this situation has thus taken into consideration sudden spurt of fresh COVID-19 positive cases in Delhi ***from 01.11.2020 till yesterday i.e. 27.11.2020.***

The data of the number of **COVID – 19 Positive cases**, as well as of **Deaths caused** due to COVID-19 in Delhi is tabulated hereunder:

Data of COVID-19 in Delhi			
S.No.	**Date**	**No. of Positive cases**	**Death**
1.	01.11.2020	5664	51
2.	02.11.2020	4001	42
3.	03.11.2020	6724	48
4.	04.11.2020	6842	51
5.	05.11.2020	6715	66
6.	06.11.2020	7178	64
7.	07.11.2020	6953	79
8.	08.11.2020	7745	77
9.	09.11.2020	5023	71
10.	10.11.2020	7830	83
11.	11.11.2020	8593	85
12.	12.11.2020	7053	104
13.	13.11.2020	7802	91
14.	14.11.2020	7340	96
15.	15.11.2020	3235	95
16.	16.11.2020	3797	99
17.	17.11.2020	6396	99
18.	18.11.2020	7486	131
19.	19.11.2020	7546	98
20.	20.11.2020	6608	118
21	21.11.2020	5879	111
22.	22.11.2020	6746	121
23.	23.11.2020	4454	121
24.	24.11.2020	6224	109
25.	25.11.2020	5246	99
26.	26.11.2020	5475	91
27.	27.11.2020	5482	98

It is apparent from the above data that situation of COVID-19 worsened during the month, as compared to October. Even though there is a slight improvement over the peak new cases since 11.11.2020, the cumulative cases are **556744** as on **27.11.2020,** and daily active cases are still very high.

This sudden spurt of COVID - 19 cases in Delhi reflects that there is no certainty when the threat of pandemic shall be over. Taking this into account, Members of the Committee are of the view that the interim bail granted to **3499 UTPs** and **1183 convicts** who are on ***'interim bail/emergency parole'*** under the criteria laid down by HPC, if at this stage are not extended, and the UTPs/Convicts are asked to surrender at this time then it, would be a dangerous proposition, as they might bring with them the infection. The Committee is, therefore, of the considered opinion that no such chance/risk can be taken and thus resolved that interim bail granted to **3499 UTPs needs to be further extended** for a period of **45 days**.

Member Secretary, DSLSA has further apprised the Committee that **Special Bench** so constituted by Hon'ble the Chief Justice, which had last extended interim bail of the UTPs admitted to bail under the HPC criteria vide order dated **05.11.2020 in W.P. (C) 3080/2020** has now listed the said matter on **02.12.2020**.

The Committee is of the opinion that in this regard, a judicial order would be required from Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and **recommends** accordingly. It is **clarified** that these **3499 UTPs** for whom recommendation is being made, are the ones who fall in any one of the criteria laid down by this Committee in its previous meetings, irrespective of the fact as to whether the application for interim bail on their behalf, was filed by **any private counsel** or by **panel lawyer of DSLSA**.

Member Secretary, DSLSA is directed to place these **recommendations** of the Committee by forwarding a copy of these minutes to Ld. Registrar General High Court of Delhi, for necessary action in this regard.

In the event of passing of any such order by Hon'ble High Court of Delhi on the basis of recommendations of this Committee, it is made clear that jail administration **shall inform** such UTPs about extension of their **"interim bail"** for a further period of **45 days** from the date, the earlier period of interim bail is expiring, telephonically. D.G. (Prisons) **assures** that jail administration shall do the needful and shall inform all such UTPs about the exact date of their surrender.

It is though apparent but is still being **clarified** that interim bail was granted to UTPs under the criteria laid down by this Committee by different Courts on **different dates for a period of 45 days.** This period of interim bail was extended on recommendations made by this Committee by **Division Bench of Hon'ble High Court** in ***"W.P.(C) 3080/2020,*** titled ***"Court on its own Motion Vs. State"***, initially vide orders dated **09.05.2020** for a further period of **45 days** from the date their respective interim bail were expiring and the same **were extended** from time to time on **22.06.2020, 04.08.2020** and **18.09.2020** for a further period of **45 days**. The same was lastly extended vide order dated 05.11.2020 for a further period of 30 days. Considering that these **3499 UTPs** were granted interim bail on **different dates**, thus their interim bail shall expire in a phased manner, therefore, **no separate dates are required** to be given for their **surrender**.

ITEM NO.5:- FEEDBACK REGARDING EXTENSION OF "EMERGENCY PAROLE" GRANTED TO THE CONVICTS BY GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI

D.G. (Prisons) has informed that on the basis of recommendation made by this Committee, Govt. of NCT of Delhi had granted**" Emergency Parole"** to the convicts for a period of **8 weeks**, which was subsequently extended from time to time by orders of Department of Home, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

In compliance of the resolutions adopted by this Committee in its earlier meetings and also considering the situation of pandemic in Delhi at that time, D.G. (Prisons) was directed to send a requisite requisition to Govt. of NCT of Delhi for extension of **"Emergency Parole"** already granted to the convicts. In the last meeting dated 24.10.2020, Shri B.S. Bhalla, Principal Secretary (Home), Govt. of NCT of Delhi brought to the notice of the Committee orders bearing **No. 18/191/2015-HG/3263-68 dated 06.10.2020** whereby on the basis of letter of D.G. (Prisons) and the recommendations made by this Committee, **"Emergency Parole"** of all the convicts released earlier was **extended** for a period of **4 weeks**.

Further, Govt. of NCT of Delhi vide orders No.**F.18/191/2015-HG/3554-61** dated **29.10.2020 extended** the period of **"Emergency Parole"** for a further period of **4 weeks** to all such convicts whose parole was going to expire **on or before 28.11.2020**.

Considering the deliberations made by Members of the Committee in **Item No.4** hereinabove and taking into account the present prison population, the Committee is of the view that emergency parole of **1183 convicts** which is going to **expire on or before 09.01.2021** may be **extended** for a further period of **6 week**.

D.G. (Prisons) may send a letter to that effect, to Govt. of NCT of Delhi. D.G. (Prisons) has informed that in anticipation of this meeting, he has already written a letter dated **26.11.2020** to the Special Secretary (Home), Govt. of NCT of Delhi **seeking extension** of period of **Emergency Parole** of **1183 convicts** for a further period of **6 weeks** whose **Emergency Parole** is going to expire **upto 09.01.2021**.

Principal Secretary (Home) stated that he would get necessary orders/directions issued thereon from Govt. of NCT of Delhi at the earliest.

Minutes of this Meeting **be implemented** by all concerned, in anticipation of the signatures of Members and Chairperson of the Committee.

Meeting ended with ***Vote of Thanks*** to the Chair.