

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
for providing Legal Aid to the Under Trial Prisoners
to file their Bail Applications in time before
the Trial Court/Hon'ble High Court

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been prepared by the U.P. State Legal Services Authority (UPSLSA) in compliance of the order dated 12-09-2022, passed by Hon'ble the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, in Criminal Misc. Bail Application No. 16961 of 2022 Anil Gaur @ Sonu @ Sonu Tomar Vs. State of U.P., to prevent undue long detention of Under Trial Prisoners(UTPs).

The Hon'ble Court has directed the UPSLSA to prepare a SOP for legal aid prisoners, accused of various crimes, including heinous offences, **who have not filed bail applications before the Hon'ble High Court within a period of one year after the rejection of the bail by the Trial Court** and also to prepare a SOP for the above mentioned prisoners, **who have not been able to move bail applications before the Trial Court, 06 months after imprisonment.**

In the order dated 12-09-2022, the Hon'ble Court, in Para 69, has issued following directions:-

- 1- To identify prisoners who are under trial for various crimes including heinous offences and have not applied for bail before the Trial Court in timely manner after their imprisonment.**
- 2- To identify prisoners who are facing trials for various crimes including heinous offences but have failed to file bail**

applications before the High Court even in an expeditious time frame after rejection of their bail application by the Trial court.

- 3- To identify prisoners who are facing trials in various offences including heinous crimes but are unable to file subsequent bails before the High Court after rejection of earlier bail application by the Hon'ble High Court.**
- 4- To identify prisoners who are unable to effectively prosecute their pending bail applications in various offences including heinous crimes causing delays in hearing.**
- 5- To ascertain whether inability of the said prisoners to expeditiously file or effectively prosecute bail application is caused by factors comprehended under Section 12 read with Section 13 of the Act.**
- 6- To approach prisoners who qualify for legal aid, educate them on their rights of filing bail applications without delay, and determine the nature of legal aid needed by them.**
- 7- To provide legal aid and facilitate filing of bail applications of such prisoners in a timely manner before the competent courts.**
- 8- To facilitate counsels in getting necessary instructions, relevant documents, office support for filing the bail applications.**

9- To facilitate effective prosecution of bail applications by the counsels who should take out measures for listing of bails and hearing of matters.

SOP for timely filing of Bail Applications of Under Trial Prisoners before the Trial / Sessions Court

1) The jail authorities and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) shall maintain a list of all UTPs, who have not been able to move bail applications before the Trial/Sessions Court, 06 months after imprisonment, in the following format:-

Sl.No.	Name & Father's Name of UTP	Crime No. , Sections of the Act, P.S.	Date of imprisonment	Whether bail application filed by panel lawyer of DLSA (Yes / No)	Date of filling of bail application before the Trial/Sessions Court by panel lawyer of DLSA	Date of order of grant / rejection of bail by the Trial / Sessions Court

2) The DLSA shall approach such UTPs, who are entitled for legal aid, make them aware of their rights of filing bail applications without delay and determine the nature of legal aid needed by them.

3) The DLSA, in coordination with Jail Authorities, shall contact with such prisoners and after obtaining his/her consent, provide legal aid (as per Section 12 read with Section 13 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987) to such UTPs and ascertain to expeditiously file and effectively prosecute their bail applications, through panel lawyers, before the competent court.

- 4) The DLSAs shall facilitate panel lawyers in getting instructions, relevant documents etc. for filing the bail applications of such prisoners.
- 5) The Panel Lawyers, so appointed, should take out measures for early hearing of the bail applications by the competent court, by specifically mentioning and apprising to the court that the matter is related to the UTP, who has been provided legal aid.
- 6) The DLSAs shall ensure that the date of grant/rejection of bail application by the competent/trial court shall be mentioned in the above format.
- 7) The DLSAs, through Panel /Jail Visiting Lawyers/PLVs, shall intimate the status of the case to such prisoners and take regular feedback from them.
- 8) The DLSAs as well as the Jail Authorities should regularly update the above mentioned list of UTPs.
- 9) The DLSAs/Jail Authorities should also update the details of above mentioned prisoners on e-prison portal, after modifications made by NIC in the e-prison module.
- 10) The DLSAs should maintain a record of such UTPs, whose bail applications have been filed through the Panel Lawyers of DLSAs and the same shall be shared with the UPSLSA, whenever it is desired.

SOP for timely filing of Bail Applications of Under Trial Prisoners before the Hon'ble High Court

- 1) The Jail Authorities and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) shall maintain a list of all UTPs, who have not filed bail applications before the Hon'ble High Court, within a period of one year after rejection of bail by the Trial/Sessions Court, in the following format:-

Sl.No.	Name & Father's Name of UTP	Crime No. , Sections of the Act, P.S.	Date of imprisonment	Date of rejection of bail by the Trial/Sessions Court	Date of rejection of bail by the Hon'ble High Court, if any

- 2) The DLSAs shall approach such UTPs, who are entitled for legal aid, make them aware of their rights of filing bail applications before the Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad/Lucknow without delay and determine the nature of legal aid needed by them.
- 3) The DLSA, in coordination with Jail Authorities, shall contact with such prisoners and after obtaining his/her consent provide legal aid (as per Section 12 read with Section 13 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987) to such UTPs and ascertain to expeditiously file and effectively prosecute their bail applications, through panel lawyers of High Court Legal Services Committee (HCLSC) Allahabad or High Court Legal

Services Sub-Committee (HCLSSC) Lucknow, before the Hon'ble Court.

- 4) After taking consent of the prisoner, the Secretary of the concerned DLSA shall make a request, in writing, to the Secretary, HCLSC Allahabad / HCLSSC Lucknow to file bail application of such prisoner through Panel Lawyers.
- 5) The HCLSC, Allahabad/ HCLSSC, Lucknow to facilitate panel lawyers in getting instructions, relevant documents etc., for filing the bail applications of such prisoners, with the assistance of the concerned DLSA.
- 6) The appointed Panel Lawyers of HCLSC Allahabad/ HCLSSC Lucknow, should take measures for listing and early hearing of the bail application by specifically requesting mentioning and apprising to the Hon'ble Court that the matter is related to the UTP, who has been provided legal aid.
- 7) The HCLSC Allahabad/ HCLSSC Lucknow shall communicate to the concerned DLSA, the date of grant/rejection of first / subsequent bail application by the Hon'ble Court, so that the same shall be mentioned in the list of UTPs, on the above mentioned format.
- 8) After receiving the communication from the HCLSC Allahabad/ HCLSSC Lucknow, the concerned DLSA, through Panel /Jail Visiting Lawyers/PLVs, shall intimate the status of bail

application to such prisoners and take regular feedback from them and thereafter communicate the same to the HCLSC Allahabad/ HCLSSC Lucknow, if any.

- 9) The DLSAs/ HCLSC Allahabad/ HCLSSC Lucknow as well as the Jail Authorities should regularly update the above mentioned list.
- 10) The DLSAs/ HCLSC Allahabad/ HCLSSC Lucknow/ Jail Authorities should also update the details of above mentioned prisoners on e-prison portal, after modifications made by NIC in the e-prison module, on regular basis.
- 11) The DLSAs/HCLSC Allahabad/ HCLSSC Lucknow should maintain a record of such UTPs, whose bail applications have been filed through the Panel Lawyers of HCLSC, Allahabad/ HCLSSC, Lucknow and share the same with the UPSLSA, whenever it is desired.
- 12) It is, relevant to mention that , in case, the Trial Court passed the judgment of conviction against a prisoner and no bail application has been filed by him /her before the Hon'ble High Court, even after one year from the date of judgment, such prisoners shall also be made aware of his /her right of filing bail application, before the Hon'ble Court.
- 13) If, such convicted prisoner give his/her consent, the Secretary of the concerned DLSA, shall also request to the Secretary,

HCLSC Allahabad / HCLSSC Lucknow to file bail application of such prisoner before the Hon'ble Court.

- 14) The date of grant / rejection of bail applications and status of appeal shall also be communicated by the Secretary, HCLSC Allahabad / HCLSSC Lucknow to the Secretary of the concerned DLSA/Jail Superintendent, so that the same may be intimated to the prisoner and uploaded on the e-prison portal.

ITEM NO.2

COURT NO.2

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

IA 173194/2018 in Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 406/2013

R E - I N H U M A N C O N D I T I O N S I N 1 3 8 2 P R I S O N S

(REPORT OF NALSA ON STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR UNDER-TRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE)

Date : 04-12-2018 This application was called on for hearing today.

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HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK GUPTA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HEMANT GUPTA

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UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

Guidelines have been framed by NALSA called "The Standard Operating Procedure for Under-Trial Review Committees".

These Guidelines are taken on record and the Under-Trial Review Committees will adhere to these Guidelines.

It has been stated by NALSA, as a background Note, that, as on 31.12.2017, the data received from different prison authorities indicates that the holding capacity of 1250 prisons in India is 3.78 lakhs and the actual inmates are about 4.19 lakhs. In other words, there is an excess of inmates over the holding capacity. In some prisons, overcrowding is to the extent of 150% of the holding capacity. The overcrowding is particularly acute in the States of Uttar Pradesh (182%), Uttarakhand (159%), Chhattisgarh (157%) and Maharashtra (144%).

We have been given to understand that the number of under-trial prisoners of this country constitutes more than 67% of the prisons' population. Urgent steps are quite clearly and obviously necessary for the release of under-trial prisoners, if not for the early conclusion of their trial.

Under these circumstances, though NALSA has recommended for quarterly meetings to be held by the Under-Trial Review Committees, we direct that in the first six months of the year 2019, the Under-Trial Review Committees will meet once in a month to review the cases of under-trial prisoners and submit a report to the State Legal Services Authority. The reports will then be compiled and forwarded to NALSA.

The Guidelines be circulated to all the States/Union Territories, Director General of Prisons in all States/Union Territories and the State Legal Services Authorities.

Application stands disposed of.

(SANJAY KUMAR-I)
AR-CUM-PS

(KAILASH CHANDER)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR



NALSA's
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)
for UNDER TRIAL REVIEW COMMITTEES (UTRCs)

WP (C) 406/2013 – In Re-Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prisons

NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

12/11, JAM NAGAR HOUSE, NEW DELHI

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Background

In terms of the Section 12(g) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, a Person in Custody is entitled to free and competent legal services. In India, as per prison statistics. 2015 released by NCRB, there are around 1250 Central, State and Sub-jails, housing around 4.19 lacs prisoners including 80,000 women. According to NCRB data, 67 % of the above inmates i.e. 2.94 lacs are UTPs. This percentage of UTPs is one of the highest in the World in so far as the World UTP average in the prisons is only 31 %.

As on 31.12.2017, as per the data received from different Prison Authorities the holding capacity of 1250 prisons in India is 3.78 lacs and the actual inmates are 4.19 lacs. Accordingly, the prisons in India are overcrowded by 114 %. Situation in some of the Prisons is so precarious that they are holding more than 150% of their holding capacity. While the situation in States like Tamil Nadu (66%), Telangana (76 %), West Bengal (66 %) is comfortable given to the fact that the States constructed adequate number of prisons but the situation is serious in States like Uttar Pradesh (182%), Uttarakhand (159%), Chhattisgarh (157 %), Maharashtra (144%) where the number of Prisons is quite low.

1158 Legal Services Clinics have been established by the Legal Services Institutions in around 1250 jails.

In this background, Chief Justice R. C. Lahoti (Retired) wrote a letter dated 13.06.2013 addressed to Hon'ble Supreme Court of India highlighting over crowding in prisons, inadequacy of staff, need of training, unnatural deaths, etc. This letter was registered as Public Interest Litigation by Supreme Court of India on 05.07.2013.

Series of directives on the above subjects were passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to various Authorities/Departments. On 24.04.2015, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India directed that Prisoners Management Software (PMS) being used in Tihar Jail, Delhi may be improved and deployed in all other jails in the country.

It was followed by the appointment of Director, NALSA as Nodal Officer to assist the Hon'ble Supreme Court Bench. NALSA issued directions to the State Legal Services Authorities and District Legal Services Authorities for helpline release of prisoners who could not furnish the bail bonds. Model Prison Manual was also drafted by Ministry of Home Affairs with the help of NALSA.

On. 18.09.2015, It was highlighted that the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs shall consider the cases of inmates who have completed half of their sentence in terms of Section 436A Cr. P.C.

On 05.02.2016, UTRCs were directed to meet at least once in every quarter starting from 31.03.2016 and Secretary of District Legal Services Authority was made member of the Committee to assist the UTRC.

On 06.05.2016, the domain of UTRC was enhanced much beyond Section 436(A) Cr. P.C. by inclusion of total 14 categories of inmates for consideration of their early release.

On 31.10.2017, NALSA was directed to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for smooth functioning of Under Trial Review Committees (UTRCs) with an aim to ensure that UTPs covered under 14 categories get benefit without delay.

On 12.12.2017, SOP was prepared and as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India the same was circulated with the various stakeholders and placed on website of NALSA for inviting suggestions. The suggestions received from different stakeholders were incorporated with the help of Ld. Amicus Curiae.

On 08.05.2018, an SOP containing additional suggestions was placed on Record of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Vide an order dated 02.08.2018, NALSA was directed to redraft the SOP.

This redrafted final SOP has been prepared accordingly.





NALSA's

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR UTRCs

PART-I

Definitions:

- a) "Jail" means Central Jail, District Jail, Sub Jail, Women Jail, Special Jail and borstals.
- b) "Jail Superintendent" includes Deputy Superintendent and Officer Incharge of the jail.
- c) "UTPs" means Under Trial Prisoners who are in custody at the time of preparation of the list of UTPs by the Superintendent and includes inmates who are out on interim bail.
- d) "UTRC" means Under Trial Review Committee chaired by District & Sessions Judge consisting of District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police, Secretary, DLSA and Jail Superintendent, as members.
- e) "E-Prison Portal/ PMS" means E-Prison Portal developed by NIC under directives of Ministry of Home Affairs and includes stand alone Software developed by States for their Jails.
- f) "Secretary DLSA" means Secretary of the concerned District Legal Services Authority appointed u/s 9(3) of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and any other officer officiating as Secretary.
- g) "Bail Applications" Bail applications include applications moved u/s 436A, 437 Cr.P.C. and 439 Cr.P.C. apart from other provisions pertaining to technical bail under the Cr.P.C., namely bail under proviso to Sections 167 and 437 (6) Cr.P.C. and similar provisions in other special enactments.

**SOP FOR UTRCS WHERE JAIL RECORDS ARE NOT
DIGITIZED AND EVEN IF DIGITIZED NO SOFTWARE
FILTERS HAVE BEEN APPLIED.**

STEP 1: Reporting of Data of UTPs / Convicts by Prisons.

1.1 The Jail superintendent of every jail in the district will collate the data regarding the UTPs lodged in the jail in the format as per **Annexure-A** with the following information and share it with Secretary, DLSA preferably in soft Excel Sheet.

Particulars of UTPs

- (1) Name of the UTP
- (2) Father's name
- (3) Gender / Age
- (4) FIR/Crime No
- (5) Police Station
- (6) District
- (7) Arrested under section-
- (8) Particulars of the Court
- (9) Date of Arrest
- (10) Date of First Remand
- (11) Date of admission in prison
- (12) Date of filing charge sheet.
- (13) Chargesheeted under Section-
- (14) UTP represented by Legal Aid/Private Lawyer
- (15) Name of the lawyer with contact details, if available.
- (16) Whether bail has been granted to the accused, if so when.
- (17) If accused is not released on bail despite grant of bail, reason for the same, if available.
- (18) If the UTP suffering from any disease, mental or physical, details regarding the same.
- (19) Whether UTP is a convict/Under trial in any other case.
- (20) If yes, separate entry in the data sheet be made qua the additional Case.

1.2 Particulars of convicts - A separate 'List of Convicts' be prepared as per **Annexure-B** with the following information and share it with Secretary, DLSA preferably in soft Excel Sheet: -

- (1) Name of the Convict
- (2) Father's Name
- (3) FIR No.
- (4) Police Station
- (5) District
- (6) Name of the Trial Court
- (7) Date of Conviction
- (8) Duration & Nature of Sentence
- (9) Total Remission Earned
- (10) Date when sentence completed
- (11) Reason for Non-Release
- (12) Whether case considered by Sentence Review Board?
- (13) Reason for not granting pre-mature release
- (14) Additional information or Remark

1.3 The aforesaid detail as on 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, 31st December of every year may be sent by the Jail Superintendent to the Secretary DLSA latest by 7th day of the next following month.

STEP 2: Processing of Data by Secretary, DLSA

2.1 The office of Secretary, DLSA, with the aid of empaneled panel lawyers, Retired Judicial Officers and law students trained as PLVs, if required and available, shall draw list of UTPs/Convicts eligible for consideration by the UTRC out of Data sent to him from Step-I in the light of criteria laid down by Hon'ble Supreme Court in *WP(C) 406/2013-Re-Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prisons*, as per detailed hereunder (Para 2.2).

If any further details are required by the Secretary, DLSA from any court or from the Jail Superintendent or from the police authorities, the same may be ascertained by the Secretary DLSA. Thereafter, the Secretary DLSA shall prepare a list of eligible UTPs for consideration of UTRC in the Excel Sheet/Soft form as per **Annexure A & B**.

2.2 Cases of UTPs / Convicts falling under following categories shall be considered by the Secretary, DLSA for placing them before the UTRC:-

2.2.1 UTPs / Convicts falling under covered under Section 436A Cr.P.C.
[As per order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 24th April, 2015]

- 2.2.2 UTPs released on bail by the court, but have not been able to furnish sureties.
[As per order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 24th April, 2015]
- 2.2.3 UTPs accused of compoundable offences.
[As per order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 24th April, 2015]
- 2.2.4 UTPs eligible under Section 436 of Cr.P.C.
[As per order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 05th February, 2016]
- 2.2.5 UTPs who may be covered under Section 3 of the Probation of Offenders Act, namely accused of offence under Sections 379, 380, 381, 404, 420 IPC or alleged to be an offence not more than 2 years imprisonment.
[As per order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 05th February, 2016]
- 2.2.6 Convicts who have undergone their sentence or are entitled to release because of remission granted to them.
[As per order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 05th February, 2016]
- 2.2.7 UTPs become eligible to be released on bail u/s 167(2)(a)(i) & (ii) of the Code read with Section 36A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (where persons accused of Section 19 or Section 24 or Section 27A or for offences involving commercial quantity) and where investigation is not completed in 60/90/180 days.
[As per order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 06th May, 2016]
- 2.2.8 UTPs who are imprisoned for offences which carry a maximum punishment of 2 years.
[As per order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 06th May, 2016]
- 2.2.9 UTPs who are detained under Chapter VIII of the Cr.P.C. i.e. u/s 107, 108, 109 and 151 of Cr.P.C.
[As per order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 06th May, 2016]
- 2.2.10 UTPs who are sick or infirm and require specialized medical treatment.
[As per order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 06th May, 2016]
- 2.2.11 UTPs women offenders
[As per order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 06th May, 2016]
- 2.2.12 UTPs who are first time offenders between the ages 19 and 21 years and in custody for the offence punishable with less than 7 years of

imprisonment and have suffered at least 1/4th of the maximum sentence possible.

[As per order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 06th May, 2016]

2.2.13 UTPs who are of unsound mind and must be dealt with Chapter XXV of the Code.

[As per order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 06th May, 2016]

2.2.14 UTPs eligible for release under Section 437(6) of Cr.P.C, wherein in a case triable by a Magistrate, the trial of a person accused of any non-bailable offence has not been concluded within a period of 60 days from the first date fixed for taking evidence in the case.

[As per order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 06th May, 2016]

2.3 The DLSA Secretary must inform the District & Sessions Judge that the complete list has been prepared and request him to convene the UTRC meeting at the earliest. A copy of the list may also be shared with other members of the UTRC so that they can come prepared for the meeting.

STEP 3: Processing of identified cases by UTRC

3.1 The District & Sessions Judge shall convene the UTRC meeting as soon as the intimation is received from the DLSA, Secretary about the completion of the lists.

3.2 UTRC shall consider the cases shortlisted by the Secretary, DLSA and make recommendations for release/ appropriate action.

3.3 Upon processing the individual cases, the recommendations of UTRC may include:-

3.3.1 In case UTPs covered under Section 436A Cr.P.C.:

UTRC may recommend to concerned trial court to take up the matter and consider him/her for release on bail if there are no special reasons to deny bail, with or without sureties.

3.3.2 UTPs released on bail by the court, but have not been able to furnish sureties:

The UTRC may recommend the trial court to examine the reason why the accused is not furnishing surety/ bail bonds and if he/she is unable to do so due to poverty, then the trial court may consider reducing the

bail amount on the application of the lawyer under S.440, CrPC or release on personal bond.

3.3.3 UTPs accused of compoundable offences:

The UTRC may recommend to the trial court to consider if the offence can be compounded between the complainant and the accused as per law.

3.3.4 UTPs eligible under Section 436 of Cr.P.C.:

The UTRC may recommend to the trial court to consider releasing such an accused on personal bond in case he is unable to furnish bail bond within seven days of bail order.

3.3.5 UTPs who may be covered under Section 3 of the Probation of Offenders Act, namely accused of offence under Sections 379, 380, 381, 404, 420 IPC or alleged to be an offence not more than 2 years imprisonment:

The UTRC may recommend to the trial court to consider invoking of Probation of Offenders Act in fit cases as also plea bargaining in appropriate cases.

3.3.6 Convicts who have undergone their sentence or are entitled to release because of remission granted to them:

The UTRC may examine the reason for non-release of the convict and the Officer in-charge of prison may be recommended to look into the matter so that the convict is released as soon as possible.

3.3.7 UTPs become eligible to be released on bail under Section 167(2)(a)(i) & (ii) of the Code read with Section 36A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (where persons accused of Section 19 or Section 24 or Section 27A or for offences involving commercial quantity) and where investigation is not completed in 60/90/180 days:

The UTRC may recommend to the trial court to consider release of the accused in cases where chargesheet is not submitted within the statutory time frame.

3.3.8 UTPs who are imprisoned for offences which carry a maximum punishment of 2 years:

The UTRC may recommend to the trial court to consider releasing of the UTP on bail in such cases.

3.3.9 UTPs who are detained under Chapter VIII of the Cr.P.C. i.e. under Sections 107, 108, 109 and 151 of Cr.P.C.:

The Executive Magistrate/ District Magistrate court may be recommended to release/discharge such persons with or without conditions or to make an order reducing the amount of the security or the number of sureties or the time for which security has been required.

3.3.10 UTPs who are sick or infirm and require specialized medical treatment:

The UTRC may examine the medical condition of the inmate and if it is found that the inmate is very sick and specialized treatment is essential for survival, then the UTRC may recommend the trial court to consider granting bail on medical ground, as provided under S.437, CrPC, even for temporary period.

3.3.11 UTPs women offenders:

Women under trial prisoners who are not accused of serious offences may be considered for release on bail under S.437, CrPC, especially they are first time offenders by the concerned trial courts. The UTRC may also recommend suitable measures under the directions of the Hon'ble Court in R. D. Upadhyay vs State of A.P. & Ors. (AIR 2006 SC 1946).

3.3.12 UTPs who are first time offenders between the ages 19 and 21 years and in custody for the offence punishable with less than 7 years of imprisonment and have suffered at least 1/4th of the maximum sentence possible:

The UTRC may request the trial court to consider granting bail to such young offenders. If the person is found guilty in the course of trial, benefit of S.3 or S.4 of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, may be given to the accused.

3.3.13 UTPs who are of unsound mind and must be dealt with Chapter XXV of the Code:

UTRC may recommend the trial court to take appropriate steps in accordance with Chapter XXV of the Code and provide adequate treatment to such inmates.

3.3.14 UTPs eligible for release under Section 437(6) of Cr.P.C., wherein in a case triable by a Magistrate, the trial of a person accused of any non-bailable offence has not been concluded within a period of 60 days from the first date fixed for taking evidence in the case:

UTRC may request the trial court to consider granting bail to such UTPs under Section 437(6) of Cr.P.C.

3.4 The UTRC shall enter its recommendation in column no. 21-23 of Annexure-A and column no.15-17 of Annexure-B.

3.4.1 Recommendation of UTRC

3.4.2 Date of recommendation

3.4.2 Brief reasons for UTRC recommendation

3.5 The UTRC shall share recommendations with the concerned Trial Court/Jail Superintendent and Secretary, DLSA. Jail Superintendent shall bring it to the notice of UTP/Convict. Secretary, DLSA shall instruct the panel lawyers to move appropriate application in legal aided cases. The Trial Courts may deal with the recommendations in the manner deemed appropriate for each particular case with the assistance of Legal Aid/Private Lawyer.

STEP 4: Follow up:

UTRC shall keep track of the follow up action in recommended cases as detailed in **Annexure-A (Column No.24- 26) & Annexure-B (Column No.18-20)** as under:-

4.1 Action taken on recommendation.

4.2 Final Outcome

4.3 Date of release of UTP/Convict.

STEP 5: Collation of data on quarterly basis by the Secretary, DLSA

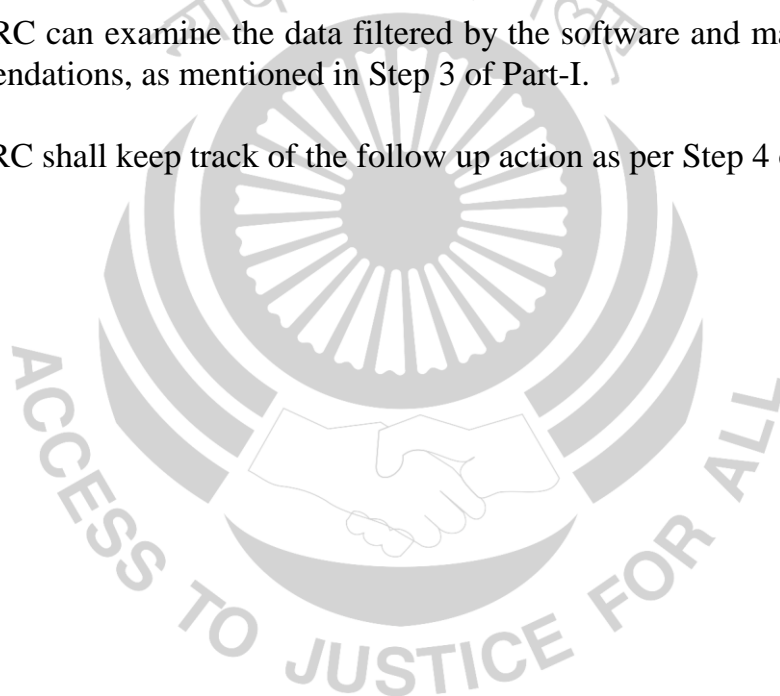
Secretary, DLSA shall collate the above data in **Annexure-A & B** and generate quarterly report under the following heads:

1. Number of UTPs/Convicts considered by UTRCs in a given quarter/year.
2. Number of UTPs/Convicts recommended for bail/release.
3. Number of bail/other applications moved post recommendations.
4. Number of inmates released pursuant to UTRC's recommendation.

PART-II

SOP for UTRC where Jails are digitized and have Software to filter the cases which are eligible for release

- 5.1 If the jail concerned has appropriate data in digital format and is able to apply the filters, then the Step 1 and Step 2 of Part-I would merge into one and the filtered data shall be shared by Jail Authorities with Secretary, DLSA.
- 5.2 The UTRC can examine the data filtered by the software and make appropriate recommendations, as mentioned in Step 3 of Part-I.
- 5.3 The UTRC shall keep track of the follow up action as per Step 4 of Part-I.



NALSA's ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

In order to expedite Trials and ensure Access to Justice for UTPs/Convicts NALSA suggests following new initiatives:-

Suggestion No.1 : Usage of modified 'Custody Warrant'

- NALSA has designed a new Modified Custody Warrant which is annexed as **Annexure 'C'**. The need thereof arose since as on date the Prison Data is maintained only on the basis of case details received by the Jail Authorities from the First Custody Warrant which is in turn based solely on case particulars contained in the FIR. This data is amenable to change at different stages i.e. stage of filing of Chargesheet, framing of Charge and then passing of final Judgement.

Adoption of this new Modified 'Custody Warrant' is necessary as unless the specific offence in which UTP is kept in detention is regularly updated, the software filters will not be able to give correct results. For example, an accused initially arrested u/S 302 IPC may be finally chargesheeted u/S 304 IPC.

This new Modified Custody Warrant carry the particulars of the Legal Aid Counsel/Private Counsel representing the UTPs at different stages.

Suggestion No.2: Training/sensitization of Remand Court/Trial Court to safeguard the rights of the UTPs to be considered for bail.

It is suggested that judicial academies of respective States may undertake training/sensitization courses of judicial officers with an aim to highlight the reason behind the UTPs : Convicts ratio in prisons which currently stands as 67% : 33% in our country. The world average of UTPs : Convicts ratio stands at only 31%:69%. The Training of judicial officers may include highlighting importance of -

- Compliance of Section 41, 41 A to D Cr.P.C. by police authorities.
- Release of arrested persons/UTPs in deserving cases by invoking Section 59 of Cr.P.C with or without bond.
- Highlighting importance of 14 situations/criteria laid down by Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP Civil No. 406/2013 "Re-inhuman conditions in 1382 prisons" and their timely compliance for decongestion of jails.

Suggestion No.3: Inclusion of Chief Public Prosecutor in UTRC.

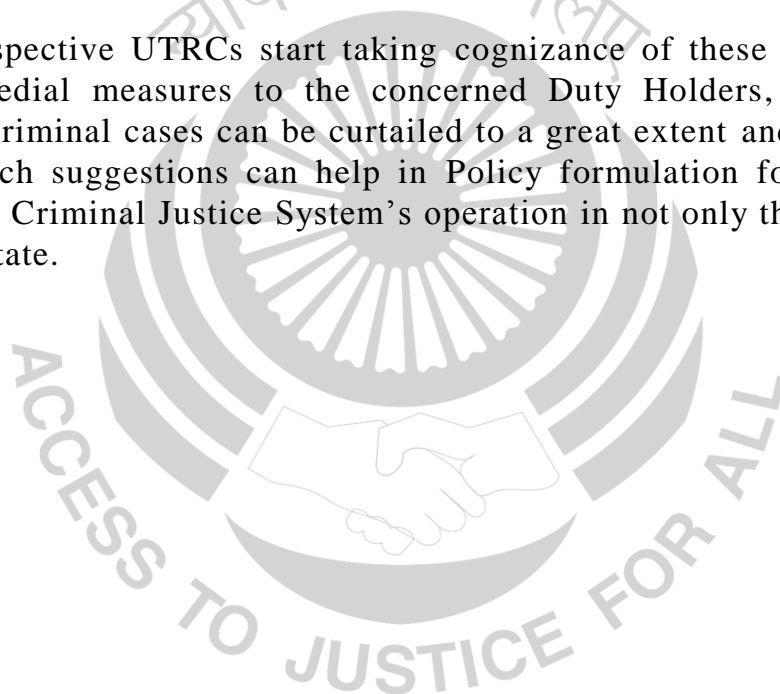
- State is represented by Public Prosecutor in each criminal court i.e. MMs/Sessions. As and when any Bail Application is moved by the UTPs either on merits or on technical grounds, as a matter of routine, it is observed that they are opposed by Public Prosecutors/Additional Public prosecutors/Asstt. Public prosecutors representing State in the Court. Hence, inclusion of Chief Public Prosecutor of the District in the UTRC would assist in compliance of directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Suggestion No.4: Expanding the mandate of UTRC

- UTRC is mandated to ensure compliance of directions issued by Hon'ble Supreme Court. However to ensure that UTPs' right to speedy trial is upheld, it is proposed that UTRC shall look into the individual cases so as to ascertain as to why a particular criminal trial is not getting concluded in a reasonable time and is getting dragged. Such a review of individual cases would go a long way in identifying the broad reasons which results in the delay of trials. This would also help reduce imbalance of 67%:33% UTPs:Convicts ratio.
- While identifying bottle necks in the Criminal Justice System of a particular district, other facets which can be looked into and addressed by the UTRC may include:
 - 4.1 Check on non-compliance of Section 41 Cr.P.C. to curtail avoidable/unnecessary arrests by the Police.
 - 4.2 Non production of UTPs before the Remand/Trial Court either in person or via video conferencing facility on account of lack of logistic facilities.
 - 4.3 Delay caused by frequent inter-state transfer of UTPs
 - 4.4 Non filing of FSL/CFSL report in time.
 - 4.5 Failure of police to trace, serve and produce the Public/Expert witnesses.
 - 4.6 Delay caused in frequent transfer of investigation related witnesses like police officials, documents.
 - 4.7 Non availability of dedicated PPs in each criminal court.
 - 4.8 Rational distribution of criminal cases in different courts within district

- 4.9 Paucity of staff like Ahlmad or stenographer for the criminal court
- 4.10 Delay caused by lack of efficiency in administrative set up like Copying Agency, Facilitation Centre, Record Room(in case of fetching of old file) etc.
- 4.11 IT Infrastructural need like, Desktop, printer, NIC-net, stationary etc. apart from Data entry professionals.
- 4.12 Popularize ADR methods as also Plea Bargaining for quick disposal.
- 4.13 Suggest segregation of trial in case one or more co-accused are absconding.
- 4.14 Availability of effective and efficient Free Legal Aid Services.
- 4.15 Seeking Cooperation from the Bar for expediting trial.
- 4.16 Any other issue which is hampering the early conclusion of criminal trials in the District.

Once the respective UTRCs start taking cognizance of these problems and suggest remedial measures to the concerned Duty Holders, the delay in disposal of criminal cases can be curtailed to a great extent and learning out comes of such suggestions can help in Policy formulation for improving efficiency of Criminal Justice System's operation in not only the District but also in the State.



TEMPLATE

List of eligible UTPs for consideration of UTRC																		Annexure-A	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Name of the UTP	Father's name	Gender/Age	FIR/Crime no.	Police Station	District	Arrested under Section	Particulars of the Court	Date of arrest	Date of first Remand	Date of admission in Prison	Date of filing chargesheet	Chargesheeted under Section	UTP represented by Legal aid/private	Name of the lawyers with contact details, if available	Whether bails has been granted to the accused, if when	If accused is not released on bail despite grant of bail, reason for the same, if available.	If the UTP suffering from any disease, mental or physical, details regarding the same.	Whether UTP is a convict/Under trial in any other	If yes, separate entry in the data sheet be made qua the additional Case.

Note:

- Column Nos. 1 to 20 to be filled by Jail Superintendent.

Contd.....

TEMPLATE

Annexure-A

21	22	23	24	25	26
Recommendation of UTRC	Date of Recommendation	Brief reasons for UTRC recommendation	Action Taken on recommendation	Final Outcome	Date of release of UTP

Note:

- Column Nos. 21 to 26 to be filled by UTRC.

TEMPLATE

Annexure-B

List of Convicts

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
S.No.	Name of the Convict	Father's Name	FIR No.	Police Station	District	Name of the Trial Court	Date of Conviction	Duration & Nature of Sentence	Total Remission Earned	Date when sentence completed	Reason for Non-Release	Whether case considered by Sentence Review Board?	Reason for not granting pre-mature release

Note:

- Column Nos. 1 to 14 to be filled by Jail Superintendent.

Contd...

TEMPLATE

Annexure-B

15	16	17	18	19	20
Recommendation of UTRC	Date of Recommendation	Brief reasons for UTRC recommendation	Action Taken on recommendation	Final Outcome	Date of release of Convict

Note:

- Column Nos. 15 to 20 to be filled by UTRC.

“CUSTODY WARRANT”

Jail No. : _____

Name		FIR No	
Father's Name		U/s(as per FIR)	
Age		Arrested U/s	
Gender		Police Station	
Address		District	
Nationality		Date of Arrest	

PHOTO
OF
INMATE

REMAND DURING INVESTIGATION

ADVOCATE.....(Pvt/Legal Aid)

S.No.	Date	Remand Order by Ld. Judge/Next date in the Court
1		
2		
3		
4		

- Date of Filing of Charge Sheet :
- Offences against the Accused :

REMAND AFTER FILING OF CHARGE SHEET

ADVOCATE.....(Pvt/Legal Aid)

S.No.	Date	Remand Order by Ld. Judge/Next date in the Court
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

- Date of Committal in Sessions trial cases:.....
- Date of Framing of Charge :
- Charge framed under offences :

REMAND DURING PROSECUTION EVIDENCE

ADVOCATE.....(Pvt/Legal Aid)

S.No.	Date	Remand Order by Ld. Judge/Next date in the Court
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

REMAND DURING STATEMENT OF ACCUSED

ADVOCATE.....(Pvt/Legal Aid)

S.No.	Date	Remand Order by Ld. Judge/Next date in the Court
1		
2		
3		

REMAND DURING DEFENCE EVIDENCE

ADVOCATE.....(Pvt/Legal Aid)

S.No.	Date	Remand Order by Ld. Judge/Next date in the Court
1		
2		
3		

REMAND DURING FINAL ARGUMENTS

ADVOCATE.....(Pvt/Legal Aid)

S.No.	Date	Remand Order by Ld. Judge/Next date in the Court
1		
2		
3		

- **Result of Trial** :
- **Judgement Pronounced on** :
- **If convicted, offences convicted under** :
- **Sentence imposed** : (Attach separate sheet)
- **Compensation awarded to victim** : (Attach separate sheet)