

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE HIGH POWERED COMMITTEE FOR THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS ON BAIL/ PAROLE CHAIRED BY HIS LORDSHIP HON'BLE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, MASLSA HELD ON 7TH JUNE, 2020 AT 2.30 PM AT THE OFFICE OF MASLSA, ADR BUILDING, LAMPHEL COURT COMPLEX

In pursuance of the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the High Powered Committee 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 have held three meetings as of now, i.e. on 31.03.2020, 09.04.2020 & 24.04.2020 respectively. In the second meeting, a total of 69 UTPs have been recommended for release on interim bail and 4 convicts on parole for an interim period of 3 months. In the third Meeting, a total of 108 UTPs were recommended for release on bail on PR bonds by the concerned court/ magistrate for an interim period of 3 months.

However, in the wake of the changing circumstances and also as requested by the ADGP (Prisons), Manipur, the 4th meeting of the High Powered Committee is held on 7th June, 2020 at 2.30 pm, 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 are 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. Shri K. Nirojit, Secretary, Imphal West DLSA
6. Dr. Th. Charanjeet Singh, Deputy Secretary (Home). Govt of Manipur
7. Sorokhaibam Sadananda, Deputy Member Secretary, MASLSA.

As requested, the agenda of the Meeting is concentrated on extension of the period of parole and interim bail in respect of the convicts and UTPs released as per recommendation of the Meeting of High Powered Committee (HPC) held during April, 2020.

The Addl. Director General of Police (Prisons), Manipur placed before the Committee that as per the recommendation of the 2nd meeting of the High Powered Committee held on 09.04.2020, 4 convicts and 69 UTPs were recommended for release on parole and interim bail for a period of 3(three) months. Out of which, 1 convict and 68 UTPs were released on parole and bail respectively. The period of 3(three) months will be completed during 1st week of July, 2020.

It is further submitted that third Meeting of the High Powered Committee held on 24.04.2020 recommended for release of 108 UTPs on interim bail for 3(three) months. Out of which, 89 UTPs were released on interim bail for 3(three) months. The interim bail period of 3(three) months for the said 89 UTPs will also be completed during 3rd week of July, 2020.

The ADGP (Prisons), Manipur place before the Committee that in view of the present scenario of the COVID19 pandemic and direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court for maximum reduction of the prisoner's population in jails, the period of parole and interim bail in respect of the convict and UTPs released during April, 2020 may be extended for another 3(three) months.

The ADGP (Prisons) also stated that Manipur Sajiwa Central Jail has a capacity of 845 prisoners and Imphal Central Jail has a capacity of 250 prisoners. At present, 589 prisoners and 34 prisoners are lodged in these jails respectively. Hence, there is no congestion/ overcrowding in these jails at present. As such, there is no need for release of further prisoners from the jails as of now.

The Special Secretary (Home) Govt. of Manipur placed before the Committee that in pursuance of recommendation of the 1st Meeting of the High Powered Committee held on 31.03.2020, State Government has declared “The Whole premise which is covered by the Ideals Teachers Training Academy, Sajiwa Jail Lamkhai, Khongnangamkhong, Imphal East” as “Quarantine Prison” for detention of prisoners who are remanded to the Prison and COVID19 positive and directed for institutional quarantine. Hence, the recommendation of the Committee has been complied.

The Member Secretary, MASLSA placed before the Committee that an application has been submitted to MASLSA by one Sh. Poireiton Meitei, Advocate requesting for release of three accused persons currently lodged at Manipur Central Jail, Sajiwa in c/w FIR No. 0021 of 2020 [Cyber Crime Police Station] on interim bail.

After detailed deliberations and upon consideration of all aspects including the situation prevailing in the state, the members of the Committee unanimously resolved the following-

- (1) It has been resolved that the period of interim bail in respect of the 157 UTPs released as per the recommendation of the second and third Meetings of HPC held on 09.04.2020 and 24.04.2020 are recommended for extension of their interim bail period for another 3(three) months subject to such other conditions as may be imposed by the concerned Court.
- (2) The Committee also recommended for extension of the period of parole for another 3(three) months with respect to the convict released as per the recommendation of HPC Meeting held on 09.04.2020. State Home Department is directed to take appropriate steps for the same.

(3) With regard to Application filed by Sh. Poireiton Meitei, Advocate for releasing of three accused persons on interim bail, the Committee resolved that status report be called from Jail Authority for further course of action.

A copy of this Resolution be also sent to:

- 1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur, for information and necessary action;**
- 2. The State Home Department for approaching the concerned courts/ magistrates and all other necessary action;**
- 3. The Director General of Police for information and compliance and providing logistics and other assistance as may be prescribed;**
- 4. All the District Judges for compliance and for necessary action;**
- 5. To all the Chairpersons/ Secretaries, DLSAs for compliance;**
- 6. Concerned courts/ magistrates and the Director of Prosecution, Govt of Manipur for information/ compliance and providing necessary assistance;**
- 7. Superintendent of Central Jail, Imphal and Central Jail, Sajiwa for information and necessary action;**

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.

**Sd/-
(P.Doungel)
ADGP (Prisons)**

**Sd/-
(K. Radhashyam Singh)
Special Secretary (Home)
(Representing the Chief
Secretary)**

**Sd/-
(Justice Kh. Nobin Singh)
Executive Chairman
MASLSA**