

**MINUTES OF THE 13<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE HIGH POWERED COMMITTEE  
CONSTITUTED AS PER DIRECTION OF HON'BLE SUPREME COURT'S  
ORDER DATED 23/03/2020 IN SUO MOTU WP(C) NO. 1/2020 HELD  
ON 26<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2021 AT 2.00 PM THROUGH JITSI MEET**

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 twelve meetings till date, i.e. on 31.03.2020, 09.04.2020, 24.04.2020, 07.07.2020, 15.09.2020, 06.10.2020, 04.12.2020, 5.01.2021, 22.01.2021, 01.03.2021, 26.04.2021 & 24.05.2021 respectively.

In view of the request from Home Department as well as Jail Authority to convene a meeting of the High Powered Committee for consideration of the extension of the period of parole/interim bail for the eligible UTPs/convicts which will expire on 31/07/2021, the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the High Powered Committee is being convened on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 at 2.00 PM through video conferencing with His Lordship Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kh. Nobin Singh, Chairman, High Powered Committee in the chair.

The following Officers/Members of the High Powered Committee attended the meeting through video conferencing:

1. P. DOUNGEL, Director General of Prisons , Manipur
2. Ojesh Mutum, Member Secretary, MASLSA.
3. H. Gyan Prakash, Special Secretary (Home), Govt. of Manipur
4. Dr. Th. Charanjeet Singh, Dy. Secretary (Home), Govt. of Manipur.
5. Sorokhaibam Sadananda, Dy. Member Secretary, MASLSA.

Following agendas are discussed during the meeting:

**Agenda No. 1: Present situation of UTPs/ Convicts with regard to the capacity & occupancy in both the jails.**

The meeting started with discussion on the present situation of the prisoners inside the Jails with regard to the capacity & occupancy as well as cases of covid-19 positive prisoners inside the Jails. The D.G. (Prisons) placed before the committee, the details of the prisoners, occupancy rate of the jails & other details as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of Jail	Sanctioned Capacity	Prison population as on 25.07.2021	Occupancy rate	No. of prisoners admissions as on 25.07.2021	No. of prisoners released as on 25.07.2021	Number of Prisoners in isolation	Number of Prisoners in Quarantine prison	Number of Covid-19 positive prisoners in JNIMS Hospital
1	Central Jail, Imphal	250	24	9.6%	1	6	03	0	0
2	Central Jail, Sajiwa	845	563	67.33 %	61	55	52	03	03

**Agenda No. 2: Consideration of the extension of period of parole/interim bail for the convicts and the UTPs which will expire on 31/07/2021.**

The Member Secretary, MASLSA placed before the Committee that 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of HPC held on 26.04.2021 recommended to extend the interim bail period of 6 UTPs for 3 months, i.e. from 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2021. Again, the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of HPC held on 24.05.2021 recommended to release 9 UTPs on interim bail for a period upto 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2021. Further, 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of HPC also recommended to extend the period of parole for 4 convicts for a period of 3 months i.e. from 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2021.

The Member Secretary, MASLSA also brought to the notice of the Committee that a report has been received from the JMFC/BPR stating that one accused namely Nongmaithem Sanjoy Singh was released on interim bail on PR bond as per the recommendation of the 7<sup>th</sup> HPC meeting held on 04.12.2020 and he was appearing before the court regularly. However, due to oversight, the name of the said accused was not included in the list prepared by MASLSA during the 11<sup>th</sup> HPC meeting in which the interim bail of only 6 UTPs was recommended for further extension. Thus, the total number of UTPs whose interim bail is to be extended during 11<sup>th</sup> HPC meeting should be 7(seven).

Accordingly, the total number of UTPs whose interim bails are to be considered by HPC for further extension is: 7+9 = **16 UTPs**.

***Agenda No.3: Status of the 24 UTPs whose interim bails have been cancelled by the HPC, so as to the execution of summons or warrants, as the case may be.***

With regard to the status of the 24 UTPs whose interim bails have been cancelled by the HPC in its earlier meeting, the Member Secretary, MASLSA placed before the Committee that as per report received from the courts, one UTP has been granted default bail by the CJM, Thoubal. For the remaining 23 UTPs, summons or W/A has not been executed yet.

It may be recalled that said 24 UTPs were released during April/ May, 2020 on the recommendation of HPC. Since their first release on interim bail, they are not appearing before the courts till date. The concerned courts have tried to secure their appearance by way of issuing summons and W/A. However, some of the summons/WA has been returned stating that the accused person was not found in the given address and summons/WA for most of the accused has not been returned at all.

***Agenda No.4: Status with regard to preparation of SOP for video conferencing/ video calling between the prisoners and Advocates and family members as resolved in the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of HPC***

The Committee also discussed about the status with regard to the preparation of standard SOP for video conferencing/ video calling between the prisoners and Advocates and family members as resolved in the 11<sup>th</sup> HPC meeting. The D.G. (Prisons) informed that facility for video conferencing with Advocates and family members is provided to the prisoners as and when desired by the prisoners or Advocate/family members.

***Agenda No.5: Status for the constitution of proper UTRC for Ukhrul district and UTRCs for Kakching/Jiribam/Kamjong/Tengnoupal/ Kangpokpi/ Noney/ Pherzawl districts as resolved in the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of HPC.***

The Committee discussed with regard to the status for constitution of Under Trial Review Committee (UTRCs) for the districts of Ukhrul/ Kakching/ Jiribam/ Kamjong/ Tengnoupal/ Kangpokpi/ Noney/ Pherzawl districts.

The Special Secretary (Home) placed before the Committee that steps for reconstitution of Under Trial Review Committee (UTRCs) for all the districts is under active process and the order will be issued within few days.

After, due deliberations and as agreed upon by all the members of the Committee, it is unanimously resolved that:

- 1. It is resolved that the interim bail period of 16 UTPs (enclosed as Annexure - A) are recommended to be extended for another 3 months, i.e. from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2021. State Home Department is requested to move the concerned courts for the same.**
  
- 2. It is also resolved that period of parole of the 4(four) convicts as released on parole on the recommendation of 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of HPC be extended for another 3(three) months i.e. from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2021. State Home Department is requested to take appropriate steps for the same**
  
- 3. It is also resolved that Home Department may take up expeditious action for securing appearance for those 23 UTPs, before the Courts. Also, the Courts may take such steps as per procedure established by law for mandatorily securing their appearance (List enclosed as Annexure-B).**

***In case if their Warrants of arrest are executed or if the accused surrenders or appears before the Courts or are otherwise brought before the courts (either physically or through video conferencing), the concerned courts may consider their cases on merits, and take into consideration the reason for their non-appearance- whether it has been due to the Covid enforced curfew and lockdowns or not. Accordingly, such orders may be passed by the Courts.***

- 4. It is also resolved that Jail Authority is to prepare and notify a standard SOP/ guidelines for video conferencing between the prisoners and Advocates and family members for convenience of all the concerned, on priority basis.**

**5. It is also resolved that the State Home Department shall expedite the constitution/reconstitution of Under Trial Review Committee (UTRCs) for Ukhrul/ Kakching/ Jiribam/ Kamjong/ Tengnoupal/ Kangpokpi/ Noney/ Pherzawl districts within 15 days, in compliance with the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P. (C) No. 406/2013.**

A copy of this Resolution be sent to:

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur, for information and necessary action;
2. The Director General of Police for necessary action and providing logistics and other assistance as may be prescribed;
3. The State Home Department for necessary action;
4. The concerned courts for necessary action.
5. Superintendent of Central Jail, Imphal and Central Jail, Sajiwa for information and necessary action;

Next meeting of the Committee will be held tentatively on third week of October, 2021 or in case if any urgency arises in between, the State Home Department and the jail authorities can move for convening the meeting of the HPC.

The meeting thus concluded with the permission from the chair.

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

**Sd/-**  
**(H. Gyan Prakash)**  
**Special Secretary (Home)**  
**(Representing the Chief**  
**Secretary)**

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