

**MINUTES OF THE 8<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2021 AT 11.00 AM 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 seven 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 respectively.

As requested by the Home Department, the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the High Powered Committee is being convened on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 at 11.00 AM through video conferencing with His Lordship Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kh. Nobin Singh, Executive Chairman, Manipur State Legal Services Authority in the chair to discuss the following agendas:

1. Release of two convicts namely (i) Shri Laishram Bijoy and (ii) Shri Huidrom Sanjoy Singh.
2. Matter regarding UTPs who were released earlier on interim bail as per recommendation of the High Powered Committee.
3. Misc. matters
  - (i) Proper Communication to MASLSA office in the matter of High Powered Committee
  - (ii) Regular updating of records at Prisoner Database Management Portal & other matters.

The following are present in the meeting:

1. Shri P. DOUNGEL, Additional Director of Police (Prisons) , Manipur
2. Smt. Golmei Gaiphulshillu, Member Secretary, MASLSA.
3. Shri H. Gyan Prakash, Special Secretary (Home), Govt. of Manipur
4. Dr. Th. Charanjeet Singh, Deputy Secretary (Home), Govt. of Manipur.
5. Shri Sorokhaibam Sadananda, Deputy Member Secretary, MASLSA.



The High Powered Committee in its 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting deferred the matter regarding release of 1 convict namely Shri Laishram Bijoy Singh on parole due to the requirements of certain details such as acceptance of the family members, reaction of the locality etc. The Jail Authorities were instructed to find out the required details so as to place the matter in the next meeting.

The Deputy Secretary (Home), Government of Manipur Vide letter No. H-602/33/2020-HD-HD dated 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2021 submitted the details of the 2(two) convicts namely (i) Shri Laishram Bijoy and (ii) Shri Huidrom Sanjoy Singh as furnished by the ADGP (Prisons), Manipur along with necessary documents such as willingness of family members to receive the convicts as well as consent/ No objection certificate of the local club/ Pradhan etc.

It is submitted that presently the physical condition of Laishram Bijoy Singh is deteriorating day by day due to his illness for which he is being treated in ICU of Advanced Specialty Hospital & Research Institute, Palace Compound. The necessary medical treatment is being given to him by the Jail Authority but no improvement is seen in his health condition despite treatment. The Jail Authority has collected an undertaking of his family members to receive him and to take care of his medical treatment after his released from prison on parole and the consent/ No objection certificate of the local club in the event of his released.

Further, it is submitted that the second convict namely Huidrom Sanjoy Singh is presently being hospitalized at JNIMS since 9/11/2020 for paralysis treatment. It is submitted that his treatment needs the support and care of the family members. The jail authority have collected the necessary documents for willingness of his family members to take care of him and the consent of the local Pradhan and Member Ward in the event of his release on parole.

The Committee further discussed the matter regarding UTPs who were released earlier on the recommendation of the High Powered Committee. The High Powered Committee (HPC) in its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on 08.04.2020, recommended for release of 69 UTPs on interim bail for a period of 3(three) months. As per the report from Jail



Authority, a total of 68 UTPs were released out of the 69 recommended UTPs. Further, the third Meeting 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.

Thus, a total of 177 UTPs were recommended for release by the High Powered Committee (HPC) in its second and third Meeting. Out of which, a total of 157 UTPs were released on interim bail as per the report furnished by the Jail Authority in the earlier Meeting dated 6.10.2020. However, the exact number of UTPs who were released by the Court upon the recommendation of the High Powered Committee could not be ascertained due to lack of data at MASLSA.

Further, the Committee also observed variation in the date of expiry of interim bail of the UTPs released as well as lack of data from the courts regarding the cases of UTPs whose interim bail has been made absolute by the Court. Regarding such general inconsistencies of data, the Hon'ble Executive Chairman highlighted the need to make optimum usage of the Prisoner Database Management Portal, and to make timely entries in the Portal.

The Committee also observed that there is also a possibility that the prisoners so released on interim basis may jump bail, and hence proper care needs to be taken to avoid such instances.

With respect to the COVID-19 situation in the Jail, the ADGP (Prisons) placed before the Committee that there are only 2(two) COVID19 positive prisoners presently kept in the Quarantine Prison. It is further submitted that COVID-19 positive prisoners are kept at JNIMS Hospital and at Covid Care Centre at Irilbung.

*After detailed deliberations and upon consideration of all aspects, the members of the Committee unanimously resolved the following-*




- (1) The Committee recommended for release of two convicts namely (i) Shri Laishram Bijoy and (ii) Shri Huidrom Sanjoy Singh on parole for a period of 4(four) months i.e. **upto 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2021**. The competent authority is directed to consider their cases expeditiously for releasing them on parole.
- (2) It is resolved that, as a special case and in order to avoid further complications, the interim bail period of the 177 UTPs who were recommended earlier by the HPC in its second and third meeting is extended upto **30<sup>th</sup> January, 2021** except for those whose bail has been made absolute.
- (3) The Committee also resolved to call the records from the Home Department/ Jail Authority as well as Courts with regard to the exact number of UTPs who were released as per the recommendation of the Committee as well as the details of the cases where interim bail has been made absolute by the Court. **The said reports are to be furnished to the HPC (through the office of MASLSA) one week prior to the next meeting.**
- (4) It is also resolved that any communication with respect to the High Powered Committee should be sent directly to the office of MASLSA in order to avoid any lapses/ communication gaps in the proceedings of the High Powered Committee.
- (5) It is also resolved that in order to avoid any probability of jumping bail by the prisoners so released on interim basis, proper care should be taken by the concerned courts and are directed to report such cases, if any, to HPC (through MASLSA).
- (6) It is also resolved by the High Powered Committee that the Jail Authority as well as all the Courts shall give strict instruction to the concerned staff to ensure regular, proper and prompt update of the data in the Prisoner Database Management Portal.

A copy of this Resolution be 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 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 information;
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 will be held tentatively on **22<sup>nd</sup> January, 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.



(P. Dounghel)  
ADGP (Prisons)



(H. Gyan Prakash)  
Special Secretary (Home)  
(Representing the Chief  
Secretary)



(Justice Kh. Nobin Singh)  
Executive Chairman  
MASLSA