

Report in connection with visit of West Bengal Human Rights Commission to Dum Dum Central Correctional Home, West Bengal on 6th January, 2023.

1. Justice Shri Jyotirmay Bhattacharya, Hon'ble Chairperson, Justice Smt. Madhumati Mitra, Hon'ble Member and Shri Naparajit Mukherjee, IPS (Retd.), Hon'ble Member paid visit to Dum Dum Central Correctional Home on 06/1/2023 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
2. Dum Dum Central Correctional Home has total staff strength of Superintendent – 1 (no vacancy), Dy. Supdt. - nil (vacant 1), Medical Officer – 5 (vacant 2), Chief Controller – 3 (no vacancy), Welfare Officer – 1 (no vacancy), Controller and Assistant Controller – 8 (vacancy 2), Chief Discipline Officer – 1 (no vacancy), Discipline Officer – 2 (vacancy 1). Radiographer – 1 (no vacancy), Pharmacist – 2 (no vacancy), Teacher – 2 (no vacancy), Chief Head Warder – 4 (no vacancy), Head Warder – 21 (no vacancy), Female Warder – 14 (no vacancy). Apart from it for the manufacturing unit of the Correctional Home 1 Foreman, 1 Factory Overseer, 2 Task Taker, Junior Accountant 1, Tailor Master 1, Mill Mechanic 1, Cart Man 1 have been sanctioned but vacancies exist in all the ranks. One Dentist on contract basis and one male nurse on deputation are being posted to the Correctional Home. Overall, the sanctioned strength of working staff is satisfactory but the vacancies need to be filled

up on an urgent basis. Further, since there is a huge manufacturing unit in which items like rugs, food items are being manufactured, there is need for filling up the vacancies of adequate staff as mentioned above.

3. On 6th January, 2023 the morning report of the Correctional Home was as follows :

Type of inmates	Male	Female	Total
Condemned (Death Sentence)	3	1	4
Under Trial Prisoner	2741	288	3029
Convicted	515	47	562
Released prisoners (Bangladeshis, waiting for deportation)	68	29	97
Safe Custody	2	0	2
Transgender	2	3	5
Total	3331	368	3699
Children	31	24	55
Capacity of Correctional Home	2509	160	2669

The actual capacity of the Correctional Home is 2509 male and 160 female making the total to 2669. However, there is considerable over crowding as total prison population on 06/1/2023 was 3331 male and 368 female making the total to 3699, exactly 1000 more than the actual capacity of the Correctional Home. This issue of over crowding needs to be addressed, specially the UTPs either be released or shifted elsewhere in order to make space and keep the prison population down to its actual capacity.

4. The Correctional Home has hospital which is being managed by 3 doctors on 24 hours duty but on contractual basis. The doctors were interviewed by the Commission and the medical unit was also visited by the Commission. Over all, it was found to be satisfactory. There was some problem of supply of medicines to the inmates but this issue has been presently over come according to the statement of the Superintendent. However, the Medical Officers reported that there was a minimum need for a digital X Ray Machine along with technician as well as an Auto Analyzer (for analysis of blood samples of the inmates) along with technician. Such pathological tests facilities were absolutely essential for proper health check up of the inmates since on emergency such facilities are not readily available. The Commission, therefore, recommends that an analyzer for blood as well as technician and digital X-Ray Machine as well as technician be provided to the Correctional Home Hospital for meeting the medical facilities of the Correctional Home.
5. The Commission interviewed the inmates about their diets. There was apparently no complaint from their side. Commission also checked up the quality of food being served on that day for lunch to the inmates and found that the same was satisfactory. The Superintendent informed the Commission per head per day following diet pattern was provided to each inmate :

Rice	250 gm.
Atta	250 gm.
Masur, Moong, Arhar, Matar Gram and kalai dal	100 gm, each
Muri	100 gm.
Chira	100 gm.
Bread	100 gm.
Milk	25 gm.
Tea	05 gm.
Mustard Oil	20 gm.
Fish / Meat	75 gm.
Gur	25 gm.

The separate medical diet was also provided to the inmates admitted in the hospital. The Commission observed that during morning breakfast gur and chira/muri were being provided to the inmates but no protein diet was given. The Commission, therefore, recommends that at least one egg per day per inmate or a piece of banana per day per inmate, alternatively be provided to female / male inmates on a regular basis for meeting their nutritional needs.

6. The correctional Home has manufacturing unit which manufactures handloom items like prisoners' clothes, towels, bed sheet, and sari. Some of the items are supplied to different Correctional Homes in West Bengal and sold in the markets through Jail Depot and in fairs. A tailoring unit is functioning which produces uniform articles and also manufactured mask during Covid 19. Soap, phenyl and detergents are also manufactured in the

Correctional Home. In the carpentry workshop, wooden furniture is manufactured while jute bags are also manufactured herein. Utensils like buckets, rice tray, rice strainers are also manufactured which are sold outside. Light, fans, T.V. set etc. are repaired in the workshop of the Correctional Home. Payments are being made to the inmates for the work done through Bank Account maintained by them. As a welfare and entertainment measure of inmates, the Welfare Officer showcased to Commission recital of songs, music as well as comedy show and dance performance, by both male and female inmates of the Correctional Home. The overall performance was highly appreciated by the Commission and showed the quality and level of the performers. The Welfare Officer took adequate care and made good efforts to improve the performance of the inmates in such cultural activities. The Superintendent informed the Commission that the inmates performed outside in order to showcase their cultural activities. The Commission appreciated these efforts of the Correctional Home in such welfare activities as well as developing the skills of the inmates so that on release they become more productive to the society.

7. The Public Works Deptt., Govt. of West Bengal has undertaken a number of projects for enhancing capacity of the Correctional Home which includes construction of G+3 storey ward for inmates, repairing works of latrine,

intercom facilities for inmates in interview room, installation of manhole lids, construction of covered solid waste transfer station. Other projects are under various stages of construction. The Commission took stock about the mechanism of production of prisoners from the Correctional Home to the Courts. Presently, there were two methods (a) physical production and (b) virtual Court production. While the physical production is done through custody/production warrant of Ld. Courts by the police authorities, the virtual production is through video conference. Overall, the process was found to be satisfactory and no complaint from the prisoners for non-production was received.

8. The Commission examined facilities provided to inmates for communication with their family members and relatives. Every inmate was being given this facility once a week with permission to provide dry fruit, clothing and other daily needs. For long distance and specially foreign nationals video conference facility was being provided. One female prisoner of Bolivian origin another of Nigerian origin complained about frequent disruption of video links during such interview. The Commission drew attention of the Superintendent to this problem and the latter promised to look into the matter. Convicts were granted parole by the I.G., Correctional Services on regular basis. Incident of custodial death do occur B but some of them related to deaths due to medical reasons. Ailments

relates to IHD, COPD, generalized weakness, T2DM, Osteoarthritis and T.B. The Medical Officer informed that T.B. was a common disease in Correctional Homes arising out of confined spaces and overcrowding. According to the data supplied by the Correctional Home in the year 2020 – 22, 43 custodial deaths took place out of which 02 died on parole while deaths occurred during treatment in Medical Colleges and Hospitals. Out of these 43 incidents, 7 cases have been closed by NHRC.

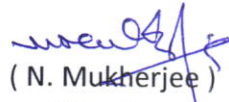
9. Following are the recommendations of the Commission :-

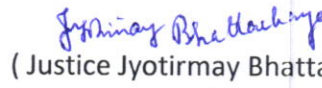
- i. A digital X-Ray machine and auto analysis facility be immediately provided to the hospital of the Correctional Home for administering better medical facilities to the inmates. A technician for blood analysis be also provided. At present there are 03 medical officers working on contractual basis whereas the sanctioned strength is 05. Since the present population is excessively high the two other posts of medical officers be filled up on an emergency basis.
- ii. Since there is a considerable overcrowding in the Correctional Home, it is suggested that the UTP and convicted prisoners be kept in separate wards in such a way that there is no inter mixing. The Commission found that there is considerable space available inside the Correctional Home premises which could be utilized for construction of such separate wards.

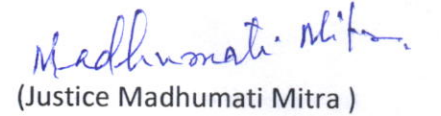
- iii. It was reported that in 2020 there was a massive prison riots for which the library and computer rooms were damaged. The Commission recommends that restoration of library should be done on a war footing basis. Also computer facilities be provided for make the inmates computer literate so that on release they can found good job and be rehabilitated in society.
- iv. There is need for providing paid telephone and better video links for interview between inmates and the family members specially foreign inmates and those from long distances.
- v. A manufacturing unit may be set up for production of Bakery Items by the prisoners. Sale of such product on regular basis may be an additional source of income of the prisoners.
- vi. Immediate positive step should be taken to push back/repatriate the foreign nationals who are detained in large number in the correctional home to their own countries, after completion of the sentence period in order to reduce the overcrowding problem in the correctional home.
- vii. In course of inspection, it was detected that the dress code prescribed for the convicts was not followed and / or implemented by the Correctional Home Authorities. Prescription of dress code for the convict should be implemented by the Correctional Home

Authority strictly to identify the convicts and also to differentiate them from the Under Trial Prisoners, promptly.

Special Secretary & C.E.O., West Bengal Human Rights Commission is requested to send authenticated copy of this report to Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal with copies to Principal Secretary, Department of Correctional Administration, Govt. of West Bengal, I.G., Correctional Services and Superintendent, Dum Dum Central Correctional Home with the request to send Action Taken Report to West Bengal Human Rights Commission with 03 (three) months.


(N. Mukherjee)
Member
19/1/2023


(Justice Jyotirmay Bhattacharya)
Chairman
19.01.23


(Justice Madhumati Mitra)
Member 19.01.2023