

**Visit of West Bengal Human Rights Commission to Calcutta Police Directorate, Central Lockup at Lalbazar, Kolkata.**

1. The West Bengal Human Rights Commission consisting of Justice Jyotirmay Bhattacharya, Chairperson, Justice Madhumati Mitra, Member and Shri Naporajit Mukherjee, IPS (Retd.), Member visited the Central Lockup situated at Calcutta Police Directorate (Calcutta Police Headquarters at Lalbazar on 14/3/2023).
2. Sergeant, Hossain in-charge of the Central Lockup briefed the Commission by way of a power point presentation in presence of Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) and Dy. Commissioner of Police, Detective Department (Special). The total strength of police personnel for manning the lockup is as follows :

Inspector - 1	
Sub Inspector /Sergeant - 5	Vacancy - 3
Asstt. Sub Inspector - 9	Vacancy - 7
Lady ASI - 0	Vacancy - 0
Constable - 30	Vacancy - 5
Lady Constable - 5	Vacancy - 1
Sweeper - 6	Vacancy - 2

Since there are several female inmates being detained in the Central Lockup essentially 05 Lady ASI's and 05 lady Constables should be posted for proper performance.

The total capacity, as informed by Officer-in-Charge, Central Lockup is as follows :

Demonstrators/political prisoners - 120

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Assistant Secretary

W.B. Human Rights Commission

Male - 150 ( in 5 cells ), Female - 30 and Transgender - 20.

3. This capacity for the time being is adequate but pressure on the Central Lockup frequently increased when large number of demonstrators are arrested and cannot be detained in the cells. They are often kept in the courtyard of the Lalbazar Police Headquarters. In view of above it is recommended that Government/Kolkata Police should consider setting up separate lockup (centrally) for demonstrators / political prisoners in order to meet the above mentioned situation.

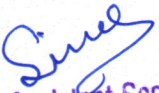
4. The lockup is covered by CCTV which is adequate. The toilets could be watched through small peep holes in order to avoid any untoward incident. All the toilets are attached to cells but these are all Indian style. It is recommended that at least one toilet should be converted into western style (W.C.) in order to meet requirement of old, aged and infirm detainees.

5. The male prisoners are provided with uniform during their detention in Central Lockup which is removed when they move out for production in Courts. No uniform is provided to female detainees which should be provided at par with the male prisoners for improved performance.

6. All female prisoners arrested through out Kolkata Police jurisdiction are sent to Central Lockup since the Thanas do not have lady police support to guard the female prisoners. This was creating unnecessary pressure on the Central Lockup which could be reduced by posting adequate number of female constables in Police Station for guarding the female Hazat.

7. The space in the cells were quite adequate and as per the standard norms. Diet of 04 meals is provided to each detainee during the entire period of detention in the Central Lockup. These consist of

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W.B. Human Rights Commission

tea with biscuits, lunch, tea and dinner. When the prisoners are sent for production in various Courts early lunch is served to them. However, it was ascertained that Rs.47/- per day per prisoner is provided by the Government as dietary expenditure. This was highly inadequate and it is recommended that at least Rs.100/- should be earmarked for each prisoner per day on dietary expenses. Officer-in-Charge informed the Commission that the detainees are not allowed food from outside.

8. It was informed by the Lockup Sergeant that adequate fire fighting equipments are available in the lockup but no fire lift or fire escape arrangements were available in view of the fact that the lockup building is three storied. Therefore, it is suggested that adequate fire escape plans and routes be made keeping in view the security needs of the Central Lockup.

9. One Resident Medical Officer is stationed in the Central Lockup on 24x7 basis having his quarters situated adjacent to the Central Lockup. However, there is no trained medical staff like pharmacist, nurse, (male / female) and support staff. Only one Aya was available and the rest of the support staff were being provided in house by taking the services of constable/Home Guard trained as paramedics. However, this situation was not adequate to meet emergency and it is recommended that at least two nurses, one pharmacist should be available / posted in the Central Lockup to assist the Resident Medical Officer besides increasing the strength of the R.M.O. to two doctors. There was a shortage of medicine and it was informed that life saving drugs were not readily available. Further, the R.M.O. has to requisition medicines which are supplied from SSKM Hospital through Kolkata Police Hospital which is very cumbersome. There is delay of at least three weeks from the date of requisition to actual supply of medicine to the lockup dispensary. This situation could be improved if the

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Assistant Secretary  
W.B. Human Rights Commission

Commissioner of Police is given powers to purchase medicine directly on requisition from RMO of Central Lockup.

10. It was ascertained that detainees on police remand by Courts are taken out by the I.O.s from Central Lockup on requisition for interrogation purposes. Adequate paper work is done and when they are returned to the Central Lockup the process is repeated along with thorough medical checkup by the Resident Medical Officer. Dedicated ambulance was not available with Central Lockup but it was informed that the Transport Section of Kolkata Police Headquarters, Lalbazar provided the ambulance immediately on requisition by the lockup authorities.

11. In view of above the West Bengal Human Rights Commission makes following recommendations :

(a) At present, there is only one R.M.O. which is inadequate since he is working on 24x7 basis. Then strength should be raised to two RMOs along with two nurses, one pharmacist and two Gr.D staff.

(b) The vacancies of police personnel should be filled up for better performance. Further, there is no lady ASI for the Central Lockup which is absolutely essential. At least five lady ASIs should be posted to the Central Lockup.

(c) The dietary expenditure should be increased from Rs.47/- per day per person to Rs.100/- per day per personal.

(d) Commissioner of Police be given the powers to purchase medicines for Central Lockup directly instead of requisition from SSKM Hospital.

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Assistant Secretary

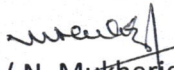
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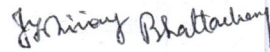
- (e) Only Indian style toilets are available. It is recommended that at least one western style toilet be made available to cater to needs of old and infirm persons.
- (f) As the Central Lockup is a three storied building for which fire escape and fire lift be considered to meet with any fire emergency. Also fire drill be organized to meet with any fire emergency.
- (g) There is a shortage of space for housing prisoners specially political demonstrators and political prisoners. In view of this, it is recommended that another Central Lockup complex should be constructed at a suitable place to meet with the demands and also considering the requirement of the future.
- (h) Uniform to the female detainees should be provided at par with male prisoners for improved performance.
- (i) To reduce unnecessary pressure on Central Lockup, adequate number of female Constables should be posted in all Police Stations for guarding female Hazat.

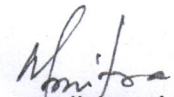
Special Secretary & CEO, West Bengal Human Rights Commission is directed to send authenticated copies of this recommendation to Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal with copy to Commissioner of Police, Kolkata Police with the request to send an action taken report to the West Bengal Human Rights Commission within two months.

Ld. Registrar, West Bengal Human Rights Commission is directed to upload recommendation in the website of West Bengal Human Rights Commission.

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( N. Mukherjee )  
Member  
20/03/2023

  
( Justice Jyotirmay Bhattacharya )  
Chairman  
20.03.2023

  
(Justice Madhumati Mitra )  
Member  
20.03.2023

Assistant Secretary  
W.B. Human Rights Commission