

VISIT NOTE OF ALIPURDUAR DISTRICT CORRECTIONAL HOME ON
OCTOBER 4, 2022.

1. Visited Alipurduar Correctional Home on October 4, 2022. The Superintendent is M/s. S. Sen. Posts of Chief Controller & Dy. Controller are vacant. There are one (1) Welfare Officer, 1. Assistant Controller; 2. Clerks; 3. Data Entry Operators; 4. Head Warder, 33- Male Warder, 6 Female Warders, Total capacity of the prison is 350. On the day of visit a total of 274 inmates were present. The breakup was 266, UTPs including 2 Lifers & one O.P.(Civil Prisoner?) Thus, the prison population was well within limits though the number of UTPs far exceeded convicts.

2. Following deficiencies were noted against which recommendations are given:-

a. Though a Welfare officer has been posted very recently this District level Correctional Home is lacking in Welfare activities very badly. No skill development efforts are being made so far. No NGO is associated with the C.H. for skill development or other physical/mental activities like Yoga, games etc. I was informed that such basic games like volleyball and foot-ball are played in the prison courtyard but that is quite insufficient. It is recommended that a library be set-up, regular supply of newspapers to prisoners be ensured. Further skill development

efforts be made with assistance of NGOs. TVs should be provided in each ward. Regular games, both indoors/outdoors should be played. Indoor games like Carrom, Ludo, Chess, Cards should be encouraged among the inmates.

- b. There is no Doctor or Prison Hospital. For medical care, the prisoners are dependent on Pharmacist, who is not a trained medical expert. In absence of a M.O. new prisoners, at the time of entry into the Correctional Home are not been medically screened or checked for disease/injuries sustained outside. Further, in case an inmate falls sick it is very difficult to provide first-aid or even diagnose for better facility. Thus a M.O. should immediately be arranged. If a Government doctor for some reason is not available, doctors on call/contractual basis should be organized.
- c. There is no complaint regarding diet, cleanliness, toilets, etc. On my visit I found these aspects to be satisfactory. In the kitchen, I found LPG, Stoves being used for cooking, but there was lack of Chimneys for which these was difficulty in exhaust of smoke. It is recommended that EXHAUST FANS/ or electric Chimney be installed to prevent smoke accumulation and improve health of prisoners who are involved in cooking.

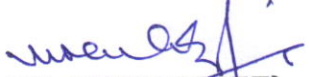
- d. It is recommended that convicts/ prisoners should periodically (once in 6 months) should undergo medical examination relating to T.B.; Chest disease, Liver disease and Stomach disease as such diseases are very common among them.
- e. There was an incident (Suresh Oaran) of suicidal death in 2020 among the prisoners by hanging inside the prison. NHRC has already taken cognizance of the matter. In order to avoid recurrence it is recommended that CCTV be installed within the Correctional Home campus at strategic location for proper monitoring of prisoner's activities.
- f. Most of the prison populations are UTPs. It is as high as 266 on any day. It was ascertained that longest standing UTP in the CH is for last 10 years. On further research following data were revealed - Binoy Roy - last 4 years, Nilkamal - 4 years, R. Dubey 4 years, Sunil Chettri - 5 years, Sarathi Das- 7 years, Sitaram - 10 years, (Efforts should be made to take up with District Judge / Ld. C.J.M. and DLSA so that the UTPs are released on bail thereby reducing person population Also prayers u/s 436(A) Cr.P.C. should be moved for release on bail. In case any UTP is unable to pay bail-bond prayers should be made to Ld. CJM for taking adequate legal steps (including release of P.R.)

- g. A complaint box is functional inside the prison. Welfare Officer should encourage the inmates to utilize it & then forward complaints meticulously to concerned authorities. Efforts should be made to install a PAY-PHONE for utilization of prisoners so that they could talk to their near & dear ones. If possible, a post office (branch) be set-up for better communication as well as to utilize the banking facility available with Postmaster.
- h. During visit, I found 11 female UTPs; one of them had a 3 year old child. However, in this Correctional Home, no facilities are being provided for education, entertainment and physical/mental growth of the child. It is strongly recommended that CRECHE facilities be opened in this C.H.; if possible with NGOs.
- i. Prisoners were all sleeping on floor. During coming winter season, in order to cope up with cold weather, at least three(3) blankets be supplied to each prisoners. For improving hygiene, proper washing of blankets/ personal wearing apparels of prisoners are required which should be done meticulously.
- Special Secretary & CEO, West Bengal Human Rights Commission is directed to send authenticated copies of this report to Principal Secretary Department of Correctional Administration.

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I.G. Directorate of Correctional Services, D.M. Alipurduars and Superintendent, Alipurduar Correctional Home, Principal Secretary C.S. is directed to submit ATR within 3 months to WBHRC.

Ld. Registrar will please upload this visit note in WBHRC website.


(N. MUKHERJEE)
Member, WBHRC.
13/10/2022