

From

Additional Director General of Police (Prisons),  
Punjab, Chandigarh.

To

1. All District & Sessions Judges in Punjab.
2. All Deputy Commissioners of Districts in Punjab.
3. All CPs/SSPs of Punjab.
4. All CMOs in Punjab.
5. All Superintendents of Jails in Punjab.

No. GI/A-8/ 12405 - 12520

Date: 05-10-2021

Sub.: Minutes-of-meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of High Powered Committee held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Justice Mr. Ajay Tewari, Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh and Executive Chairman, Punjab State Legal Services Authority, Chandigarh, at 13:00 hrs on 04.10.2021.

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Memo:

Kindly refer to Minutes of nine (9) meetings circulated vide letters dated 26.03.2020, 02.05.2020, 07.08.2020, 20.11.2020, 27.11.2020, 10.02.2021, 27.04.2021, 11.05.2021 and 16.08.2021.

2. A meeting of the High Powered Committee constituted in pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in SMWP (c) no. 1/2020 (RE: Contagion of COVID-19), was held on 04.10.2021.

3. The minutes of the meeting are hereby forwarded to the all concerned for strict compliance of the recommendations contained therein.

Encls: As above.



(Surinder Singh, DIG, Prisons)

O/o Additional Director General of Police (Prisons),  
Punjab, Chandigarh.

Endst. No. GI/E-8/

Date:

A copy of the Minutes-of-Meeting is forwarded to the following for information:

1. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Punjab.
2. Addl. Chief Secretary, Home, Govt. of Punjab.
3. Principal Secretary, Jails, Govt. of Punjab.
4. Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Punjab.
5. Director General of Police, Punjab.
6. Registrar General, Punjab & Haryana, High Court, Chandigarh.
7. Member Secretary, PULSA for information of Hon'ble Executive Chairperson, PULSA.
8. DIG Prisons (Hqrs., Patiala, Amritsar, Ferozepur Circle), Punjab.
9. DSP, Prisons Hqrs., Punjab.
10. PA to Addl. Director General of Police, Prisons, Punjab.

(Surinder Singh, DIG, Prisons)

O/o Additional Director General of Police (Prisons),  
Punjab, Chandigarh.

**Minutes-of-meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of High Powered Committee held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Justice Mr. Ajay Tewari, Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh-cum-Executive Chairman, Punjab State Legal Services Authority, Chandigarh, at 1300 hrs on 04.10.2021.**

The meeting was attended by the following officers/members of the High Powered Committee:

1. Mr. D. K. Tiwari, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Jails, Punjab.
2. Mr. Praveen K. Sinha, IPS, Additional Director General of Police, Prisons, Punjab.
3. Mr. R. K. Arora, Inspector General of Prisons, Punjab.
4. Mr. Arun Gupta, Member Secretary, PULSA.

2. PS, Jails and ADGP, Prisons apprised the Chair regarding the actions taken in compliance of the recommendations of the High Powered Committee meetings held earlier, and also discussed the prevailing COVID situation in the State.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE HIGH POWERED COMMITTEE:**

3. The issue discussed in the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the HPC and the decisions taken are detailed in the following paras.

4. **ISSUE:** *Whether prisoners who have availed 90 days' special parole (as per 8<sup>th</sup> HPC decision in line with Apex Courts' directions) shall be eligible for regular parole for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2021 (i.e., in addition to the special parole availed).*

5. ADGP, Prisons briefed the HPC that 308 convicts were released from various jails as per criteria fixed by 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of HPC. In addition, parole of 612 convicts, who suffered from co-morbidities or were over 60 years of age and were already on parole on the day of 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of HPC, was extended by 90 days. As per decision taken in 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of HPC, all convicts released on special parole (total 920) were asked to surrender on completion of 90 days' of special parole.

6. ADGP, Prisons further apprised the HPC that COVID cases in prisons have decreased substantially and an average of 10-15 COVID prisoners are lodged at any point of time in the only COVID Care Jail (Special Jail Bathinda) for past two (2) months. The HPC was requested to examine the matter and decide how the regular parole of these 920 convict prisoners who have availed 90 days' special parole, needs to be administered for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

**Decision:**

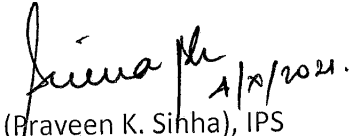
7. The HPC examined the matter in detail and also examined the practise being followed in other States. It was felt that a balance between equity qua other 6000 convicts in prisons, personal requirements of parole of convicts as well as administrative prudence of prison department needs to be maintained. It was felt that these 920 convicts have already availed prolonged periods of parole in comparison to other convicts, and allowing 8 weeks' additional parole in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 may not be an equitable step qua other convicts.


8. The following decisions were taken by the HPC regarding the issue under consideration:


- (i) Period of special parole availed by convicts (a total of 920 convicts as informed to the HPC) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 (i.e. after 01-07-2021) shall be counted as part of the parole that these convicts were eligible for in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021.
- (ii) As an one-time special measure, to facilitate such convicts to look after their personal matters, all the prisoners who have surrendered back after availing 90 days of special parole shall be allowed to avail additional regular parole for a period of **2 weeks** in the remaining period of calendar year 2021, irrespective of the total parole (including special parole) availed so far in 2021.
- (iii) The following category of convicts who were released on special parole of 90 days shall not be eligible for above mentioned 2 weeks' additional parole during the remaining part of calendar year 2021 -
  - (a) Convicts who absconded from parole;
  - (b) Convicts who have not surrendered on the date fixed in the return plan; and
  - (c) Convicts on whom new cases have been registered while on parole.

**(Action: All Superintendents of Jails)**

**The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.**

  
(Praveen K. Sinha), IPS  
Addl. Director General of Police,  
Prisons, Punjab, Chandigarh.

  
(D. K. Tiwari), IAS  
Principal Secretary,  
Jails, Punjab, Chandigarh.

  
(Justice Ajay Tewari)  
Chairperson,  
State legal Services Authority