

# Govt to HC: Guidelines as per NHRC circular

**Kochi:** The state government has informed the high court that it has framed a nine-point guideline for medical examination of accused persons on the basis of a circular issued by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

## **MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF ACCUSED PERSONS**

The submission by state attorney KV Sohan was in response to a contempt of court petition by doctor Prathibha K through advocate R Gopan.

In the contempt plea against chief secretary Vishwas Mehta, she had alleged non-implementation of the high court's directive of May 28, 2019 to decide on framing guidelines for conducting the mandatory medical examination of accused. The doctor moved the court seeking guidelines after sub inspector Sreejith Koderi threatened her for examining the accused produced by him for any marks of injury. NHRC's circular of July 2010, issued regarding medical exami-

nation of prisoners on admission to jails, was intended to curb the death of prisoners due to spread of contagious diseases like tuberculosis.

The guidelines state that the mandatory medical examination should be conducted without delay and that police should request for such examination as per the proforma prescribed by NHRC.

The remanded person should be taken before the medical officer as far as possible to take blood and sputum samples. If such facilities are not available, he should be referred to another hospital. Prison officers should not insist for a complete report, as test results take time, and prisoners should be admitted with mandatory medical report under Section 54 CrPC and NHRC health checkup report with basic details, the guidelines said.

Those suspected of HIV or hepatitis should be referred to testing centre after admission to prison. Prison authority should try to keep a remanded person separate until complete test results are available, it is directed. **TNN**