

**Report on Visit to, Central Jail Raipur by Dr Vinod Aggarwal Special Rapporteur on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2018.**

Format of Jail report is enclosed as annexure-1.

**Recommendation after the visit, Discussion with Director General of Prisons, DIG of Jails and Jail Superintendent, and inmates are as follows.**

1. The jail is very old and completed 130 years after establishment. Although by look, the jail is well maintained and can be used for another 50-60 years as new wards have been constructed for 500 prisoners. As such now the jail has come in almost in the city but the jail is well maintained and can be used despite of being old. The jail is central jail, for many years and it is the only jail which was the central jail in the Chhattisgarh.
2. The jail is meant to house only 1190 prisoners and at present almost triple the capacity, is the number of inmates. As such lot of over-crowding is seen because new construction of the barracks are yet to come up. Once the construction completes, the capacity will go beyond 1800. The women ward is also full up to brim and more than double the capacity the women inmates are also there. 50 seated ward for women is also being planned.
3. Jail campus is spread over 30.47 acres, and the new jail wards for 600 inmates is being built. There are 32 wards and 42 special cells. Large number of naxalites and their leaders are being kept for their safety in the cells.
4. The personal position is quite comfortable like Punjab and Haryana, and much better than UP, Rajasthan, MP, Jharkhand and Bihar. Among 26 head warders 25 are in place. Similarly against 194 warders 170 are in positions. Out of total positions of 316, 234 are in position. But there are large number of vacancies in the post of Jail superintendent, deputy jail superintendents and deputy jailors and assistant jailors. Out of 26 such positions only 5 are filled and 22 are vacant. The DG was aware of the situation and said that with in 6 months it will improve tremendously.
5. The medical doctors are also 4 Out of 5. Out of 4 pharmacists, all are in position. But most of positions of male nurse, nurse, lab technician and x-ray operator are vacant and only two are in position with medical

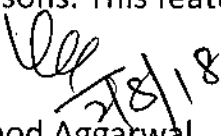
- specialist with ECG machine in this jail along with x-ray and ultra sound are required as patients from all other jails are also referred here.
6. There are 1808 inmates with rigorous imprisonment including 1099 with life sentence. There are 8 inmates who are going through death sentence. The young prisoners are kept separately in barrack no 14. The under-trials are 1307, including 93 women. The under-trials are in 8 barracks and overcrowding in jail is equally prevalent in all barracks.
  7. Not all inmates who are incarcerated as rigorous imprisonment could be employed in the industries, kitchen and cleaning. About 568 are employed in the industry, 82 in kitchen, 36 in cleaning. Out of 568 working in industries 122 are trained and 446 are untrained. A special washing machine for blankets has been installed in the jail. In this way about all the inmates can get their blanket washed one a month. This is a good facility which can be emulated in other jails, where the blankets, bed sheets and such other items could be mechanically washed and given to the inmates. I would go to the extent of providing washing facility to inmates by machines for all inmates. Thereby the wards don't look dirty because of hanging of dirty clothes all around the place and it can give work to more inmates along with more hygiene in the jail barracks. **Productivity is only about 23 million rupee in the year 17-18. The jail management is using less than 50% of convicted inmates. Among the convicted inmates there 61 inmates who are ill and 26 are old. It is for the Jail administration to increase the industry as there are enough orders with the Jail for increasing the productivity and not letting the inmates without work. The wages given by the Jail department are also low as compared to BPRD norms and what is being paid by the other states.**
  8. The jail should have a 150 bed hospital, but in actual it has 45(40 male + 5 women) bed hospital. As the number of doctors are sufficient and if one or 2-3 specialists are posted with some additional equipments, it can be earmarked as state jail hospital, as inmates from other jails, come here at state head-quarters. For higher standard of medical treatment is available in the state capital. Because of this reason, they have to have a better medical facilities in this jail. It is recommended that the barracks near the hospital is located, although not part of hospital, but the jail administration with the help of medical officer convert them as ward for older persons,

persons with diabetes and hyper-tension. This will help in better management that the persons who require more attention are in nearby locations of the medical in charge.

9. The Kitchen definitely requires up-gradation, by provision of Chimney, Automatic door closure and chapatti making machines, along with modern platform are the immediate need. The kitchen was comparatively clean but not automated. But flies were seen because of no wire mesh in windows and doors. One redeeming feature is use of biomass gassi-fire, instead of LPG.
10. Water is sufficiently provided, no complaint of shortage of water. There are no RO in the jail but the jail authorities are mentioning that water quality is tested and no water cleanliness issue is there. A water treatment plant is on the way which will reduce the wastage of water and treated water will be used for certain prescribed purposes in the jail.
11. The no. of cage latrines are insufficient, seeing the number in inmates in each ward or barrack, each barrack/ward should have at least 2 cage latrines and it is possible. Sufficient toilets blocks have been built in the jail. The bathrooms are for bath are open near the water points. It is recommended that whatever are the short comings could also be requested to take use of facility of Swatch Bharat Abhiyaan, to overcome shortage and cage latrines may also added under this scheme.
12. Out of 1307 prisoners who are under-trials, only 4 who are imprisoned more than 5 years. There are other 5 inmates who are there for more than 3 years. Their cases should be reviewed by the visitors and these cases should be decided fast by the judiciary, as it is said justice delayed is justice denied.
13. **There is one un-natural custodial death in 2016. The record file of the case was not shown. Details of this case may be sought from the jail authorities.**
14. In the State of Chhattisgarh, the powers to the District collector and the appellate powers to IG prisons are quite sufficient in granting parole and such complaints are much lesser of not release as compared to other states. The SSRB has been constituted but its meetings are not conducted regularly. It is recommended the meetings must be done at a regular interval.

15. The Jail doesn't have a component of an open or semi-open jail. The State of CG is yet to work on open, semi-open or model jail concept. It is suggested that each divisional HQ should also have an open jail for well behaved convicts who have completed 10 years or more, as this will reduce the expenditure on jail. DG jails said they are setting up open jail in near future. He agreed for creation for such jails and half way home for assimilation of convicts in the society, once they are released. It was further discussed that to reduce the load on central jails, the district jails would be allowed prisoners with punishment up to 7 years and the jails at lesser level would have convicts up to 3 years punishment. This change would reduce the load on central jails and vacant district and sub-jails would be filled up and convicts would be nearer to their families. This is a good reform which also may be suggested to other states if their district and sub-jails are lying vacant.
16. The few of inmates are being trained in the skill development since 2015. Large no inmates have completed training success-fully in 11 trades and as per the jail administration; the trained man power is being used as the labour in Jail industries. The rate given to the inmates is quite low as compared to NHRC guidelines. This matter may be taken up with the jail authorities directly by the commission and wages be given as per norms of BPRD .
17. 84 Inmates are studying in the through Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for graduation and post graduation. 90 inmates are under graduate and post graduate program of local university. Under NIOS syllabus, 64 inmates are getting trained for vocational programs. There are 11 type of professional training which is being imparted to the inmates. The jail has been given the status of recognised place for vocational institute. 71 inmates have been made literate and 294 are studying from class 1-10 under education program. The education program of the jail is an excellently run program and may be emulated by other jails in the state and other states.
18. The posts of Sociologist, social worker, Psychologist are the need of hour in the jails. It is required that the vacancies of deputy superintendent industries, trainers for weaving, carpentry need to be filled up fast to improve the efficiency and number of persons gainfully employed.

19. DG of jails also agreed for need such positions for the assimilation of such convicts who successfully complete the jail term and after remission are available for going back to the society. Besides the creation of positions of the supervisors in the production of various items they will impart training to the inmates.
20. One redeeming feature seen in the jails was that the Director general is visiting these important jails, once in 3 months. There is a hands-on DG prisons. This feature can be informed to other states.

  
28/18  
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