

**REPORT OF THE INSPECTION/ VISIT OF HON'BLE MEMBER JUSTICE  
SHRI PINAKI CHANDRA GHOSE TO BARRACKPORE SUB-  
CORRECTIONAL HOME FROM 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018 TO 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018**

1. On 05.3.2018 and 06.03.2018, the undersigned paid visit to the Barrackpore Sub-Correctional Home, Kolkata to inspect the infrastructural facilities, living conditions of prisoners and functioning of the Prison Administration. The inspection and review of activities of this correctional home was done with reference to adherence to human rights standards and the directions of the NHRC on the rights of prisoners in letter and spirit of Section 12 (c) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
2. Shri Biplab Das Gupta, Addl. IG (South) Kolkata, Shri V.K. Dutta, Superintendent & Chief Controller of Barrackpore Sub-Correctional Home, Shri Bhrubajit Chowdhury, Controller of Barrackpore Senior Medical Officer accompanied the undersigned on this visit. Shri V.K. Dutta, Superintendent of Correctional Home took the undersigned around the correctional home, the living barracks, kitchen, hospital and mulakat place with the visitors. During my visit to the Jail barracks, the UTPs interacted freely and submitted their grievances, if any. The prison authorities were sensitized about the need to take immediate steps to address the problems that had come to the notice during the visit.
3. The undersigned visited the Jail Hospital. Issues pertaining to medical treatment of the inmates, their referral system to other specialised medical institutions and also the health screening of prisoners at the time of admission in Jail with the Jail doctor were discussed. Interaction with the inmates admitted in the Jail Hospital was also done.

**4. Prisoner's Profile**

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The Barrackpore Sub-Correctional Home is built in an area of 0.55 Acres (approx.). There is a separate enclosure for female wards. The sanctioned capacity of the male inmates in Barrackpore Sub-Correctional Correctional

Home is 147 & female inmates are 25. - The actual strength of the male prisoners is 266 and a female prisoner is NIL which included 266 under-trials (Male) and no Convicts. Out of 266 UTPs, only 06 male prisoners are sentenced with simple imprisonment and no one was sentenced either for rigorous imprisonment or death sentence. There are no lifers, and detenues in the Correctional Home.

### 5. Accommodation

Barrackpore Sub-Correctional Correctional Home is situated in the district of 24, North Paraganas. Building of the Home is well maintained. There is no problem of seepage and leakage, etc. There are 10 number of wards, out of which there are two wards, namely, Ward No. 9A and Ward No. 9 B, which are called as special wards. One ward is determined as hospital ward.

There is a provision of separate accommodation for female prisoners but at present no female prisoners were lodged in the Home and the same is now closed.

There are no provisions of separation of under trial young prisoners, drug addict prisoners, mentally sick prisoners and prisoners suffering from infectious diseases in this Home. They are sent to Dum Dum Central Correctional Home. The sick UTPs Juvenile are sent to Ashrams, namely, Dhruvashram -after the decision/order of Juvenile Justice Board or Ld. Court.

### 6. Correctional Home Staff

A statement showing the sanctioned strength and in position personal with vacancy in Correctional Home is given below:-

S.No.	Designation	Sanctioned Strength	Existing Strength	Vacancy
1.	Head Warder	05	05	Nil
2.	Warder	30	19	11

3.	Female Warder	06	05	---	01
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From the above table, it is quite clear that there is bit under-staffing and some measures are required by the State Government to appoint the personal on the vacant positions. There is no vacancy/position of Medical Officer as well as Security officer in this Home. Steps should be taken to create the post of Medical officer as well as security officer in this Home, as these two posts are quite vital in this Home. Moreover, the number of Warders is grossly inadequate. Due to shortage of staff, the administration is facing problem in managing the Correctional Home efficiency effectively.

The human resource development of the Correctional Home is a subject under consideration of the Government and there is a provision of providing Institutional arrangements for training of officers and staff in various categories through Regional Institute of Correctional Administration & WTI. Probation & Aftercare officers are providing the institutional arrangements for training of officers and staff in various categories. There are provision of imparting training to officers, namely, 'Officers Basic Training' for duration of 03 months and 'Refresher Training' for duration of 07 days. Similarly, 06 months training for 'Warders and Head Warder Basic training' and 15 days for 'Refresher training' at Midnapore Training Institute. There is a need for further strengthening of Institutional arrangement for training of officers and staff of Correctional Home.

### **7. Food Supply**

Various categories of prisoners were provided diet as per the Government order. The daily diet is served to the inmates in three occasions, breakfast, lunch and evening meal. The food is prepared at General Kitchen and distributed to the wards. The menu and ration of food provided to the inmates includes, Rice-750gms, Wheat-250 gms, Vegetables - 300 gms, Potato- 100 gms, Dal-100 gms, Non-Veg, like, Meat/Fish- 75 gms. Fish,

egg and mutton are provided once in a week. Food is prepared by using two diesel oven.

There is one General Kitchen having diesel ovens for cooking food for the general prisoners, where food is cooked in a hygienic condition and is nutritious. Provision of modern chimney is not there but exhaust fan is there. There is sufficient number of taps inside the kitchen. Floors are made of an impermeable material. There is no provision for electric kneader for preparing dough for chapattis. Neither Chapatti making machine nor any mixer & grinders are provided in the Correctional home. There is neither any provision of stainless steel containers for keeping the cooked food prior to being served nor for any stainless steel for cooking as well as for serving utensils.

#### **8. Basic Facilities-**

*Water supply:* The Barrackpore Sub-Correctional Home is provided with sufficient, clean and purified drinking water by underground & Barrackpore Cantonment Board Supply which is available round the clock. Periodic cleaning of water storage tanks is done and sufficient water supply is provided in toilets and for bathing and cleaning of cloths purpose.

*Sanitation:* Each ward has sufficient number of WCs Urinals. Provision of day latrines/Inside latrines are there in the Home. Every latrine of sanitary type is equipped with flush system. All toilets are placed on impermeable floor, higher than the surroundings ground. The latrines are so designed that all excreta and wash materials get into receptacles without foiling the sites and inside walls of the latrine are fitted with glazed ceramic tiles upto a height on 01 meter from the floor level.

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*Personal Hygiene:* The prison provide the covered cubicles for bathing @ one for every 20 inmates to ensure privacy. There is also provision for one common bathroom at outside the wards. The Home administration

ensures that each prisoner washes his clothes once a week. Sweeper regularly cleans all the bathrooms. No foul smell was found. There is a provision of sufficient number of taps. No shower was found due to security reasons. There is no mechanized laundry to wash items of clothing and bedding at, the time of return of these items to the clothing store. Washing soaps are issued to all inmates and the frequency of taking bath is absolutely personal matter of the inmates. Over flow of sewerage was found. Drains were not so cleared.

Washing materials, like (soap, washing powder, detergent etc.) are issued to both male & female prisoners.

### **9. Health Facilities**

There is a Hospital inside the Home having facility of 15 beds for prisoners. The floors and walls of the hospital are made of impermeable material. The hospital accommodation is available on the scale of 5 % of the daily average of the inmate population. The hospital is not sufficiently away from the barracks. There is a provision of 24 hours supply of water and electricity in the hospital. There is no hospital kitchen with arrangement for proper upkeep and maintenance. Ailing prisoners who are admitted to the prison hospital are provided with the special diet according to the approved scales as per the Model Prison Manual. There is a provision of sending samples for tests to approved Laboratories. Neither any female doctor nor any Para-medical personnel is in the home. 02 posts of Medical Officers are lying vacant since long and therefore, 01 Medical Officers on Contract Basis is appointed to the post. Daily average of OPD is 10. An instruction about medical examination of every prisoner on admission is being followed in this Home. There is a provision of adequate availability of medicines in the Home. Specialists also visit frequently in the Home. Ambulance service was also provided in the Home. The prisoners suffering from infectious diseases and HIV/AIDS are transferred to Dum Dum Central Correctional Home. Neither any drug de-addiction centre nor any counselling services is

available in this Home. There is no mentally ill prisoner detailed in this Home.

#### 10. Institutional Treatment

Provisions of Cultural & Recreational activities like, meditation, yoga, play & drama, etc. is also there.

#### 11. Condition of Under Trails:

Detention period

Upto 3 months	13 male prisoners
3-6 months	95 male prisoners
6-12 months	72 male prisoners
01-02 years	80 male prisoners
02-03 years	05 male prisoners
03-05 years	01 male prisoners
Above 05 years	Nil

#### 12. Custodial Death

Annual statement of custodial deaths in the last three years is mentioned below in the tabular form:

Year	Custodial death cases
2016	01 cases
2017	01 cases
2018 till date	Nil till date

Judicial inquiry was conducted in each case of unnatural death.

No cases of escape of inmates is noticed in this Home from the last three years.

**13. Interviews of Prisoners**

Interviews of Prisoners occur in person face to face and through telephone on application. No complaints have received as yet and it is done as per JCR.

**14. Visits/Inspections**

Judicial authorities, like, Ld. ACJM, Barrackpore visited 12 times and Ld.CJM, Barasat Visited 03 times the Home.

Non-Judicial authorities, like, AIGs, CS, WB & DIGs, CS, WB visited regularly to the Home.

**15. Observations:**

- (i) Daily average OPD patients is 10 in this Home.
- (ii) No R.O. system is installed in the correctional home.
- (iii) No kneading and chapatti making machine is available in the Home.
- (iv) No exhaust fan was available/installed in the kitchen of Home.
- (v) No separate wards for the prisoners who are suffering from contagious diseases, like, TB, HIV/AIDS, etc. is available in this correctional home, as being the District Home, all such prisoners are sent to Dum Dum Correctional Home.
- (vi) It was observed that most of the allegations made by the inmates are that due to political vengeance, they have been sent to the prison under Narcotics Act. Most of the UTPs who are there are charged under the said Act. The inmates also expressed that they are pressuring to join one specific party and then they will be discharged from those charges. It is also alleged that all the charges are fake, malafide and only for the purpose to give in mileage in political activities.
- (vii) No Specialized doctors from the higher hospital visits the correctional home.
- (viii) Medical diet is supplied for sick inmates according to Govt. rules and Medical officer's advice.

(ix) There is no drug de-addiction centre in the Home. No Counselling services are available in the de-addiction centre.

(x) Inmates are allowed to meet their family members, relatives, friends and outsiders once in a week. 20 minutes meeting time is allowed. There is no provision of telephone booth for inmates to speak to their family members is available in the Home.

(xi) There is a provision of Television in every ward enabling inmates to watch national news on DD National, watch movies and to read newspapers, periodicals or other publications.

(xii) Legal Awareness teams visits this correctional home as per directions of State Legal Service Authority, West Bengal. Legal aid is being provided to the eligible inmates. From the last 02 years, 50 inmates have been given legal aid.

(xiii) It was observed that sufficient numbers of good condition of bedding, mats, bed-sheets, blanket were available in the Home.

(xiv) No Video-conferencing facility is available in this Home.

(xv) No CCTV cameras have been installed at strategic locations in and outside the premises of the Home to monitor security system. Proposal has been made for installation of at least two CCTV cameras in the Correctional Home in the month of January, 2018.

(xvi) It was observed that Judicial Magistrate is informed immediately after occurrence of unnatural death inside the correctional home.

(xvii) No cases of escape of any inmates was noticed in the years 2015 and 2016. Only 01 case of escape of inmate was noticed last year, i.e, in the year 2017.

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(xviii) Chief Judicial Magistrate visits once in a month to the Home.

(xix) No Board of visitors was constituted in this Home



(xx) Ld. CJM, Ld. Distt. & Sessions judge, DLSA Secretary made their visits on weekly basis and higher officials of DCS/DCA made their visits time to time.

(xxi) Food is cooked in a hygienic manner.

(xxii) Lighting and ventilations was sufficient in the wards.

(xxiii) No seepage or leakage was found in the washrooms.

(xxiv) Situation of cleanliness & hygiene needs to be looked after.

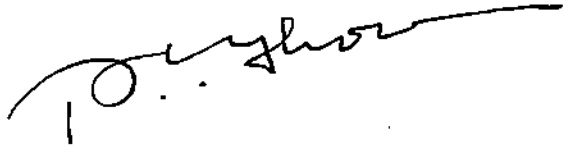
**Recommendations:**

**The DG (Prisons) West Bengal is directed to make compliance for the following:-**

- i. Insufficient infrastructure needs to be taken care of and proper arrangements should be made (arrangement for the use of the staff as well as officers who are attached to this Correctional Home). The sitting arrangements of the officers and other staff should be done properly. There is paucity of space in the Correctional Home which should be taken care of by the authorities immediately.
  - ii. Vacant posts of the Home staff be filled immediately for smooth functioning of Home. Appointment to the post of regular Medical officer and security guard should be done as early as possible.
  - iii. Provision for visiting of specialized doctors to this Home should be made at least twice a month.
  - iv. Board of visitors should be constituted.
  - v. Installation of CCTV cameras should be made at least at the crucial places of the Home.
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- vi. Compliance of the inspection/visits conducted during last one year by the Judicial and Non-judicial authorities be made and compliance report alongwith the Inspection report be submitted to

the concerned authorities who conducted inspection under intimation to the NHRC.

- vii. RO system, kneading and chappati making machine, exhaust fan in the kitchen be arranged in the Home.
- viii. Initial health check up of the accused who enters the jail be thoroughly conducted as per the direction and Performa sent by the Commission.



(Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose)  
Member, NHRC

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