

REPORT OF THE INSPECTION/ VISIT OF HON'BLE MEMBER JUSTICE SHRI PINAKI CHANDRA GHOSE TO DUM DUM CENTRAL CORRECTIONAL HOME FROM 28TH FEBRUARY, 2018 TO 1ST MARCH, 2018

1. On 28.2.2018 and 01.03.2018, the undersigned paid visit to the Dum Dum Central 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 Arindam Sarkar, DIG, Dum Dum Central Correctional Home, Shri Debashish Chakraborty, Superintendent of Dum Dum Central Correctional Home, Senior Medical Officer accompanied the undersigned on this visit. Shri Debashish Chakraborty 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 prisoners 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 including the isolation cell of the patients suffering from infectious diseases, like HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis. Issues pertaining to medical treatment of the prisoners, 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 prisoners admitted in the Jail Hospital was also done.

4. Prisoner's Profile

The Dum Dum Central Correctional Home is built in an area of 96500 Sq. M (approx.). The sanctioned capacity of the male inmates in Dum Dum Central Correctional Home is 2509 & female inmates are 100. The actual strength of the male prisoners is 2999 and female prisoners is 366 which included 915 convict (Male-822; Female-93); 2071 under-trials (Male-1895; Female- 176); 370 Release Prisoner (RP) (Male-273; Female-97) and 09 Opponent Party (OP) (Male). Out of 915 convicts, 498 are sentenced with life imprisonment (Male-478; Female-20); 15 are sentenced for death; 208 are sentenced for rigorous imprisonment (Male-192; Female-16) and 194 are sentenced with simple imprisonment (Male-137; Female-57).

5. Accommodation

Dum Dum Central Correctional Home is situated at RBC Rd, Mahendra Colony, Cantonment, Rajbari. The age of the building of Dum Dum Central Correctional Home is near about 100 years. Building of the Home is well maintained. There is no problem of seepage and leakage, etc. There are 48 wards and 366 cells in this Home.

There is provision of separate accommodation for female prisoners. 69 male children and 63 female children are living with their mothers in the Correctional Home. Facilities for special care, education and recreation of young children staying with women prisoners are being provided in the Home. As per norms each of these children are allowed to go out of correctional home premises for playing and mixing with general population

There are 02 separate wards for mentally sick prisoners and 04 wards for prisoners suffering from infectious diseases, like Tuberculosis, etc. Prisoners are provided with adequate cubic contents of air, floor space, lighting, heating/cooling (with due regard to climatic conditions) and ventilation. There is a provision of separation of under trial prisoners, convict prisoners, young prisoners, woman prisoners, drug addict prisoners, mentally sick prisoners and prisoners suffering from infectious diseases in this Home.

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.	Superintendent	01	01	Nil
2.	Dy. Superintendent	01	01	Nil
3.	Medical Officer	05	Nil	05
4.	Chief Controller	03	03	00
5.	Security Officer	01	Nil	01
6.	Welfare Officer	01	01	Nil
7.	Controller & Asst. Controller	10	Controller-07 Asst. Controller-00	03
8.	C.D.O.	01	01	00
9.	D.O.	03	03	Nil
10.	Head Clerk	01	01	Nil
11.	Cashier	01	00	01
12.	U.D.C.	04	04	Nil
13.	L.D.C.	04	01	03
14.	Radiographer	01	01	00
15.	Pharmacist	02	Nil	02
16.	Task Taker	01	Nil	01
17.	Teacher	02	Nil	02
18.	Jr.Accountant	01	Nil	01
19.	Chief Head Warder	04	03	01
20.	Head Warder	21	19	02
21.	Warder	287	183	104
22.	Female Warder	13	12	01
23.	Group-D	Sweeper-23	Sweeper-11	Sweeper-13

		Others-2	Others-01	Others-01
24.	Extra-Temp. Sweeper	03	01	02

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 Medical Officer as well as Security officer in this Home. Moreover, the number of Warders is grossly inadequate. Sweepers are half of the sanctioned strength and in such circumstances; it is difficult to reach the desirable level of cleanliness. Due to the shortage of staff on different ranks, 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. Probation & Aftercare officers are providing the institutional arrangements for training of officers and staff in various categories. 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 menu of food provided to the inmates includes, Muri, Chira, Bread, Rice, Roti, Vegetable, Dal, Soyabean, etc. Fish, egg and mutton are provided once in a week. Food is prepared by using LPG Gas.

Daily inspection is being made by the Medical officer about quality of food and food is examined before distribution to the prisoners.

There is one General Kitchen having Gas ovens for cooking food for the general prisoners and one Medical Kitchen with gas ovens for cooking medical diet for sick prisoners, where food is cooked in a hygienic condition and is nutritious. Provision of modern chimney is there. There is sufficient number of taps inside the kitchen. Floors are not made of an impermeable material. There is no provision for electric kneader for preparing dough for chapattis. No Chapatti making machine, mixer and grinders are provided in the Correctional home.

8. Basic Facilities-

Water supply: The Dum Dum Central Correctional Home is provided with sufficient, clean and purified drinking water by self owned deep tube-wall and Municipality Supplied water which is available round the clock. Periodic cleaning of water storage tanks is done.

Sanitation: Each ward has sufficient number of WCs Urinals and the ratio is 1:15. Provision of day latrines/Inside latrines are there in the Home. Every latrine is not equipped with flush system. All toilets are placed on impermeable floor, higher than the surroundings ground.

The prison provide for covered cubicles for bathing @ one for every 10 prisoners. 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. No over flow of sewerage was found. Drains were cleared.

Washing/toilet soaps and Manjan are issued to all inmates.

9. Health Facilities

There is a Hospital inside the Home having facility of 100 beds for male prisoners and a hospital with facility of 50 beds for female prisoners. The floors and walls of the hospital are made of impermeable material. There is a provision of 24 hours supply of water and electricity in the hospital. There are 01 male doctors and 01 female doctor in the hospital. There is 01 Male nurse/para-medical personnel in the home. 02 posts of Medical Officers are lying vacant since long and therefore, 02 Medical Officers on Contract Basis are appointed to the post. Daily average of OPD is 70.

01 dentist; 01 Psychiatrist pay visit to the Home thrice in a week, 01 Orthopaedic, 01 Eye Specialist and 01 Homeopathy doctor pay visit to the Home twice in a week. 06 male prisoners are suffering from Tuberculosis and 3 male prisoners & 01 female prisoner are suffering from HIV/AIDS. They are treated by Medical Officer. There are 02 male prisoners who are suffering from cancer and they are under medication. There are 45-50 female prisoners who are mentally ill detained in the jail for about 02 years who are referred and treated at Pavlov hospital as and when required by the medical officer of the correctional home. Routine Medical check-up of all the prisoners are done in the Hospital of Correctional Home and emergency cases are referred to outside Government Hospitals. There is a provision for consulting for Drug de-addiction by Psychologist (NGO).

10. Institutional Treatment

There are provisions of imparting various vocational trainings by the Probation and Aftercare officers, like, Tailoring, Handloom- expertise in weaving of carpets, bedsheets, bordered dusters, Gamchha, Raw Cloths (Raw materials for clothings), handicrafts – by missionaries of charity, Manufacturing – expertise in manufacturing utensils (Tin), detergent, phenyl, soap, etc, Carpentry – by regular training and production unit, beautician course, bread making. Provisions of Cultural & Recreational activities like, meditation, Gym, play & drama, etc. is also there.

11. Wages given to the Prisoners

This Correctional Home has spice grinding machine, carpentry, jute section, tailoring and painting as an opportunity to work and earn for the prisoners who have to undergo rigorous imprisonment. As a welfare measure, Correctional Home administration has fixed rates Daily wages for such prisoners, who work, according to the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court. Prescribed wages are being paid/deposit in the account of the convict prisoners, who have been awarded rigorous imprisonment.

- I Unskilled /Trainee @ Rs.80/- per day
- II Semi-skilled @ Rs.90/- per day
- III Skilled @ Rs.100/- per day

12. Condition of Under Trails:

Detention period

Upto 3 months	1139 prisoners
3-6 months	104 prisoners
6-12 months	114 prisoners
01-02 years	162 prisoners
02-03 years	136 prisoners
03-05 years	155 prisoners
Above 05 years	215 prisoners

13. Custodial Death

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

Year	Custodial death cases
2015	16 cases
2016	13 cases
2017	15 cases
2018 till date	10 cases

Judicial inquiry was conducted in each case of unnatural death.

14. Interviews of Prisoners

Interviews of Prisoners occur in person face to face and through telephone on application. There is a provision of 02 types of complaint boxes in every block, one for Superintendent and other for higher authorities, for redressal of complaints.

15. Visits/Inspections

Judicial authorities, like, Ld.CJM, Ld. District & Sessions Judge & DLSA Secretary, North 24 Parganas, visited this Home on monthly basis and other Higher officials of DCS/DCA also visited this Home time to time.

16. Observations:

- (i) Daily average OPD patients are 70 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) There are separate wards in the correctional home for the prisoners who are suffering from contagious diseases, like, TB, HIV/AIDS, etc.
- (vi) Specialist doctors from the higher hospital visits the correctional home from time to time as per requirement.
- (vii) Medical diet is supplied for sick inmates and hard labour inmates according to Govt. rules and Medical officer's advice.
- (viii) There is drug de-addiction centre in the Home. Counselling services are available in the de-addiction centre.
- (ix) It is observed that as per verbal statement of the UTPs the PR Bond petitions sent to the various Ld. Courts for disposal their prayers. Prayer for early disposal of the case and petition for Bail sent to the Ld. Courts also. There was also provision of reviewing of prisoners who are unable to furnish bonds etc.

- (x) 20 minutes meeting time is allowed to family members and outsiders to meet with the prisoner. Prisoners are also allowed to speak to their family members, relatives, friends and lawyers on telephone.
- (xi) Prisoners can watch national news on DD National 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.
- (xiii) 44 applications regarding pre-mature release/parole/remission are pending in the Home. It was noticed that 15-20 days time is taken to dispose of parole application normally.
- (xiv) 13 petitions (appeal) of the prisoners are pending in the High Court for more than one year. It was observed that CRA-609/2005 of Hemanta Biswas is still pending before the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta.
- (xv) Various educational activities are provided to the inmates in the Home, like, literacy programme, elementary education, primary school, secondary education, school for children and adults and drawing classes at Female ward School. Inmates are allowed to appear before Board Examination and other examinations and facilities are also available to the prisoners who desire to continue their further study through correspondence course.
- (xvi) 'Muktaveri' a group of 08 (eight) convicted inmates started cultivating the folk songs of West Bengal and Bangladesh in various Govt. programmes throughout the state of West Bengal. Their songs had also been recorded at HMV (Sa Re Ga Ma Studio) and their CD is now available in the market.
- (xvii) It was observed that an Inter-Central Correctional Home Cricket Tournament and Football Tournament were organized at this Home.
- (xviii) It was observed that a State Level Football team has been formed for participation in different tournaments.

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

(xx) Video-conferencing facility is also available in this Home. The accused whose charge sheets have not been filed in the court are being produced via V.C. system only as per the order of the Court.

(xxi) 200 CCTV cameras have been installed at strategic locations in and outside the premises of the Home to monitor security system. The defunct ones are under process of repair/replacement.

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

(xxiii) Chief Judicial Magistrate visits once/twice to the Home.

(xxiv) No case of escape of any prisoners was there in the year 2015 from the Home. 02 prisoners escaped in the year 2016 and only 01 case of escape was noticed last year, i., 2017.

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

(xxvi) The Board of visitors was constituted vide DCA Order No. 1908-DCA/0/4M-184/2011 dated 07.02.2018.

(xxvii) Legal Aid services are provided to the needy inmates of the Home for giving legal assistant to them so that they can be aware of their cases. There is a requirement for a lawyer for making and filing criminal appeal of the prisoners, who cannot afford an advocate.

(xxviii) It was observed that in the Home, there is a Jute Section where jute products are made. Around 10-12 male prisoners are working in this Section. All the jute products are sold worldwide at higher prices and at Government carnivals also. An NGO named 'Rakshak Foundation' has come forward & collaborated in producing Jute products and selling them outside the correctional Home and in Delhi at fashion designing stalls, etc.

(xxix) An NGO named Rakshak Foundation has applied for working in collaboration in the field of agriculture and growing vegetables, turnips, etc. in the Home.

(xxx) It was observed that an NGO named Rotary Club AVYANNA provided dance training to the female inmates.

(xxxi) It was observed that though there is no formal school but preparatory classes are run in collaboration of Jail authorities, Integrated Child Development Scheme Programme (ICDS) and NGO named Rotary Club of Kolkata called AVYANNA. Painting classes for women prisoners are also run by NGO called Rakshak Foundation.

(xxxii) It was observed that Homeopathy clinic and art classes are run successfully by an NGO named Rotary Club of Millennium and others.

(xxxiii) It was observed that convicted inmates are being granted parole to enable themselves to continue social contact and to rebuild relationship with their family members.

(xxxiv) It was also observed that a self help group canteen- DISHA run by a group of inmates.

(xxxv) One HIV+ female patient named Savitri Govindan aged 45 years who was of South African National runs Tailoring section and gave guidance to other women prisoners.

(xxxvi) Food is cooked in a hygienic manner.

(xxxvii) Lighting and ventilations was sufficient in the barracks.

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

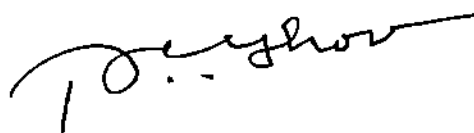
(xxxix) Situation of cleanliness & hygiene was satisfactory.

Recommendations:

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

- i. Prisoners who are lodged in this Home for more than 14 years, their case may be immediately scrutinized, whether they can be released as per the Jail Manual or they can be transferred to open jail.
- ii. The matter of the UTPs who are lodged in the correctional Home for more than three years, their cases may be taken up whether there is any provision for granting the bail / their release as per the provision of Jail manual.
- iii. The prisoners who have got bail from the concerned court but could not be able to produce the security/surety/cash security, their cases may be placed before the competent court accordingly either through their counsel or District Legal Service authority for their release.
- iv. Cases of premature release/parole may immediately be taken up on the merit basis.
- v. 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.
- vi. RO system, kneading and chappati making machine, exhaust fan in the kitchen be arranged in the Home.
- vii. Young prisoners who are below 21 years of age be shifted to separate ward/barrack. Habitual criminals be kept separate from the other prisoners.
- viii. Vacant posts of the Home staff be filled immediately for smooth functioning of Home.

- ix. Initial health check up of the accused who enters the jail be thoroughly conducted as per the direction and Performa sent by the Commission.
- x. Waste Management: Though Dum Dum Central Correctional Home is very neat & clean and there exists a well-managed huge amount of waste. This waste can be processed through modern technique of waste management and the reusable waste in that process will become useful for different purposes.
- xi. Solar Energy Project: In the female enclosure of this home a solar energy project can be implemented for supply of solar electricity for over all benefits of inmates.
- xii. Improvement of sewerage system: The sewerage system inside Home goes through a year old process of using drains inside which ends outsides. This system is not good enough as there seems to be a hint of water logging inside. The local Municipal authority may be asked to maintain the drainage system outside this correctional home, so that the sewerage inside can easily flow to outside for better hygiene of the correctional home.
- xiii. Improvement of Pathway with Mastic Asphalt: Some pathways of this correctional home needs a modern improvement through Mastic Asphalt. This can be executed through proper authority to maintained parity of the roads and for improvement of the correctional home.



(Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose)
Member, NHRC
