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INSPECTION REPORT OF SRI A.B. TRIPATHY, I.P.S. (RETD)
SPECIAL REPPORTEUR, N.H.R.C. ON DISTRICT JAIL, KORAPUT

I inspected the Dist. Jail, Koraput on 13.1.2005.
The Superintendent, Dist. Jail, Koraput was present along with
Medical Officer and other staff.

Prison Population:-

On the day of my visit the prison population
was 610, out of which the number of convicts was 487 including
6 female, number of Under Trials 201 including 10 females and
2 civil prisoners. The classification of the convicts is
indicated below:-

(i)	<u>Below 1 year</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
	37	-	
(ii)	<u>Upto 3 years</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
	24	-	
(iii)	<u>Upto 3 years</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
	114	1	
(iv)	<u>Upto 10 years</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
	16	1	
(v)	<u>Above 10 years</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
	291	5	
(vi)	<u>Capital Punishment</u>		
		Nil	

Area & Buildings:-

The total area of the Jail is 8.29 acres, out of
which the constructed area is about 6.00 acres. About Ac. 2.00
of land is available for agricultural activities. The Superinten-
dent of the jail also has developed another site adjacent to
P.T.O.

the Jail and raised a beautiful garden. Most of the garden produce is consumed by the Jail inmates.

Consumption of vegetables of the Jail garden should reduce the cost of the prisoners diet. If the vegetables are sold to the Jail kitchen the proceeds can be utilised for the welfare of the prisoners. This is a scheme that deserves examination in the Hd. Qrs. Wherever the Jail gardens are doing well proceeds of the vegetables can form a Corpus fund for the welfare of the prisoners.

While the living barracks are not overcrowded, there is still inadequacy in accommodation as the scheduled capacity of the Jail 552 including 15 females. There is no specific proposal for construction of additional ward in the Jail. The prison Hd. Qrs. may consider construction of an additional ward out of the upgradation grant. Most of the buildings which are very old (constructed in 1908) are badly in need of repairs. The buildings look dilapidated and I was told that annual repairs and maintenance are rarely taken up by the P.W.D. This being one of the oldest Jails, that too located in a far away place, repairs and maintenance of the buildings should not go by default.

While Lavatories are by and large available there is need for construction of at least 2 additional Lavatories for the prisoners.

There is generally no shortage of drinking water which is supplied through taps and tube wells. There is a separate female ward to accommodate 15 female prisoners. The ward is in good shape.

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Kitchen & Food:-

The kitchen building which is very old is in need of repair. It is also necessary to construct a dining platform for the prisoners. The kitchen is managed by a Panchayat System from amongst the convicts. I visited the kitchen and enquired about the quality of food. There was no complaint regarding shortage of the diet as per the scale but some prisoners complained of the quality of dal. The scale of diet for the prisoners in Orissa is quite adequate. The per day cost on food per prisoner is about Rs.19/- .

Clothing:

While convicts are supplied with clothes as per the scale, the U.T.Ps. are given clothes as and when they need. I noticed a shortage of shirts and many prisoners complained about this. This may be looked into by the Prisons Directorate.

Detergent powder and washing soaps are given to the prisoners for washing their clothes.

Health and Medical Facilities:

There is one Medical Officer who is helped by a Pharmacist. The post is lying vacant. The C.D.M.O., has temporarily deputed a Medical Officer from Dist. Hqrs. Hospital to the Jail. Posting of a regular Medical Officer is to be expedited. There is one indoor ward with 20 Beds. The overall cleanliness of the Hospital is satisfactory.

The need of Pathological Examination in some hospitals in Orissa, particularly the Circle Jails and Dist. Jails is being highlighted from time to time without any concrete result. Now that the Jail Deptt. is getting Grants from Govt. of India under Modernisation Scheme, purchase of equipments should not be a problem for basic pathological test of blood and urine.

mat, is, however, needed in a post of Laboratory Assistant in each Circle Jail and old Dist. Jail.

There are as many as 15 Psychiatric patients in the Jail. The Psychiatrist located at Berhampur Circle Jail is required to look after the patients, Koraput being far away from Berhampur, It is very much necessary to post a Psychiatrist at Koraput, who can attend to the Jails in the old Koraput and Kalahandi Districts.

The Medical sheets of the prisoners in the N.H.R.C. Proforma are not being maintained in Koraput Jail. I have advised the Medical Officer to start maintaining the same in respect of convicts only. The Medical Officer informed me that generally no shortage of medicines. The common ailments of the prisoners are, Malaria, Skin disease and Diarrhoea.

Under Trails:

The classification of 201 Under Trials is indicated below:-

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1.	Less than 6 months:	127	5
2.	6 months to 1 year:	28	1
3.	1 year to 18 months:-	19	-
4.	18 months to 2 years :	8	-
5.	2 years to 3 years:	8	4
6.	3 years to 5 years:	1	-
Total:		<u>191</u>	<u>10</u>

It is seen that most of the Under Trial Prisoners are in the Jail for less than a year. There are 10 Courts before which the U.T.Ps. are produced for their trial. There is generally no escort problem.

Education & Welfare:-

There is sanctioned post of one teacher, who imparts informal education to the prisoners. Since the Jail has a large number of convicts, the possibility of starting some formal literacy programme in the Jail to enable the prisoners to pass

H.S.C. Examination or even Higher should be examined. Apart from literacy programme, religious and moral teaching are given through Non-Govt. sources.

All the Barracks have T.V. Sets and indoor games like Ludu, Chess and Carrom Board and outdoor game like Volley Ball.

There are also some vocational activities like Durry making, Door mats, Phinyle, Tailoring and Manufacturing of prisoners clothes. In view of large number of convicts there is a lot of scope to increase the vocational activities and keep the prisoners fruitfully utilised. I was told that only 63 prisoners are employed as workers. This number is very small with as many as 487 convicts in the Jail.

A common grievance of the labouring prisoners in all the Jails in Orissa including Koraput is non-receipt of the incentive allowances. Huge arrears have piled up in all the Jails. The Govt., have not provided adequate amount of funds. The position has marginally improved as I was told that in Koraput Jail arrears upto end of 2003 have been cleared. However, expansion of vocational activities in Koraput Jail should receive the attention of the I.G. of Prisons.

Custodial Death:-

There were 2 custodial deaths in 2001, 3 deaths in 2002 and Nil in 2003. All the prisoners died due to medical reasons in Hospital.

Staff position :-

The staff position of the Jail is given below :-

Sl.No.	Designation of staff	Sanctioned strength	Staff in position	Vacant position
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Superintendent	1	1	-
2.	Jailor	1	1	-
3.	Asst.Jailor	3	3	-
4.	Asst.Surgeon	1	-	-
5.	Sub-Asst.Jailor	3	3	-
6.	Clerk-cum-Typist	1	-	1
7.	Chief Head Warder	1	-	1
8.	Teacher	1	1	-
9.	Weaving Instructor	1	1	-
10.	Weaving Dyeing Mistry	1	1	-
11.	Pharmacist	1	1	-
12.	Head Warder	5	5	-
13.	Male Warder	45	39	6
14.	Female Warder	1	1	-
15.	Peon	1	1	-
16.	Sweeper	8	7	1

Welfare Section ;

1. Prison Welfare Officer
2. Clerk-cum-Typist

1 1
1 1

There are one vacancy in the rank of Asst. Surgeon, one Clerk-cum-Typist, one Chief Hd. Warder and 6 Male Warder and one Sweeper. Prison Hd. Qrs. may take steps to fill up the vacancies.

Prisoners Grievances :-

One common grievance of the prisoners was their inability to go on leave while the appeal is pending. In view of the fact that the convict population is very large, this was a common grievance. Experience shows that appeal lie in Court for years . It will be unfair to reject a prisoner's leave application on the ground that appeal is pending . But if there is a rule and also High Court ruling as mentioned by the

Appeal

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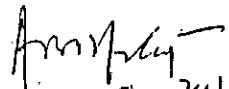
Superintendent of the Jail, it is necessary to examine this issue and take steps for review of such decision.

Yet another complaint related to premature release of the prisoners. As many as 6 cases are lying with Govt. for release of Prisoners while 7 cases are pending either with the S.P. or Dist. Magistrate of the concerned districts. The I.G. of Prisons may initiate steps in the State Level Review Committee for consideration of premature release of the prisoners.

One Samara Sisa, a prisoner has been languishing in the Jail for the last 29 years, It seems he came to the Jail in 1976 and his case is pending with Govt. It is surprising to note that no expeditious steps have been taken either level of Prisons Directorate or Government.

Prisoners, Mata Naik, Manoranjan Digal, Pramod Ku. Sahu, Ganeswar Rout, Sarat Ku. Naik, Jagannath Meher, Purna Ch. Sahoo, Kamala Huika and Budu Harijan prayed for transfer to other Jails. Their transfer petitions should be sent to the I.G. of Prisons for consideration.

General:- The overall functioning of the Jail is satisfactory.


(A. B. Tripathy) 24/11/10

Special Rapporteur,
National Human Rights Commission.