Anil Pradhan, IPS (Retd.) Special Rapporteur, North-East Zone National Human Rights Commission New Delhi



'Ratnalaya', Upland Road Laitumkhrah, Shillong Meghalaya-793003 +91-9436104755, +91-9863023748 +91-364-2226143 (R)

Dear Shi Shinastova,

Enclosed, please find a report on my visit to the Central Jail, Jully, Itanagar on 30th of September, 2013. I was accompanied by Shri. Michi Paku, Arunachal Pradesh Police Service (APPS), DySP, Jail Deptt.

With book wishes,

Yours surely,

(Anil Pradhan)

A828/3

Shri. Alok Shrivastava, IAS

Solution Secretary (P&A)

Manav Adhikar Bhawan

Block 'C', GPO Complex
Behind INA Market

New Delhi 110023

DSA

6/34 (GF), Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar-IV, N. Delhi-110024

+91-11-46552269 (R) • +91-9863023748 • Email: anilpradhanshillong@gmail.com

1. Date of Visit: I began my visit to Central Jail, Jully, Itanagar today the 30th of September, 2013 at 10:00 am. I was accompanied by Shrik like I.K. Muivah; IPS, Sr. SP, Jail Deptt., Shri. Michi Paku, Arunachal Pradesh Police Service (APPS), DySP, Jail Deptt. Shri. J.K. Sharma, IPS, IGP, Prisons was on leave. Earlier visits by other officials are as follows:



- a. 27/07/13-Shri. Pritam Taffo.
- b. No date- Shri. P.B. Dutta, Joint Registrar.
- c. 28/06/13-Smt. S. Ngem Lego, Secy. General of Awo Women Organisation
- d. 27/06/13-Smt. G. Rengu, Legal Aid Camp.
- 2. Introduction: This jail is located at Jully village, about 10 kms from Itanagar. It was started on November 3, 2009. The male and female wards are separated by a thick, tall wall. Earlier, in the absence of this Central Jail, inmates of the various districts of Arunachal Pradesh were housed in different jails of Assam. The districts of Lower Subansari (Ziro), Kurung Kumey (Koloriang), Upper Subansari (Daparijo), kept their inmates in Lakhimpur (Assam) district. Those from the districts of Tawang (Tawang), East Kameng (Seppa), West Kameng (Bomdila), were housed in Tezpur (Assam). Those inmates of the districts of Tirap (Khonsa), Changlang (Changlang), Lohit (Tezu), Dibang Valley (Roing), were kept in Dibrugarh (Assam).

There is plenty of land available here. This has been put to good use by the inmates who have planted vegetables as well as flowers.

There are 8 Watch Towers surrounding the entire jail complex. Of these only one is manned by the India Reserve Battalion (IRBn) personnel. I was informed that the prison population did not warrant posting of extra police personnel in the other watch towers, especially the two neat the Female wards.

- 3. Prison Population: Today, there are 82 inmates (F-3; M-79). Of them, 10 (all Males) are convicts, and 72 (F-3; M-69) are UPTs. The details are in **Annexure 'A'**. This included police remand cases.
- 4. Staff Strength: As the jail at Tezu is yet to be made operational, the manpower is mixed along with the manpower sanctioned to this jail. Details are in Annexure 'B'.
- 5. Land & Building: The total area of this jail is about 6.5 acres. The capacity for the Male wards is 50, while that for the Female wards is 12, making a total of 62. As the number of inmates today is 82, this jail is over-crowded. However, work is going on for a 100-capacity Male dormitory in one corner of the jail. Once this is completed within the

12/36/07/2

next 3-4 months, the over-crowding will cease. Also, next to the main office, another construction for the office of the IGP, Prisons, is going on. This construction also may be over in the next 6 months.

- Sanitation: The campus of the jail is neat and clean. The rooms and dormitories, however, need urgent repairs and a fresh coat of paint.
- 7. **Food & Kitchen**: Rations are as per scale. The food is prepared by the sanctioned jail staff cooks within the jail campus for the inmates of both the Male and Female wards.
- 8. **Clothing & Bedding**: These are being provided according to the jail manual and as per scale. The items differ according to the winter and summer seasons.
- 9. **Education**: There is no provision for a teacher here. Perhaps, some distant education, like that provided by IGNOU, may be thought of. A Library is being built for the inmates.
- 10. **Prison Industries**: Though there no prison industries here but a few sewing machines are available for the Female inmates. Vocational Training may be thought of. There is a Work shed here but there are no tools. However, the inmates do make some brooms and 'mooras'.
- 11. **Interviews**: Interview facility is allowed to the inmates according to the directions of the Court. At times, the Superintendent makes an exception if the relative is too illiterate or too poor to engage a Counsel to approach the Court. Twenty minutes time is allotted to each inmate for the interview with their visitors.
- 12. **Correctional Programmes**: There is no Counsellor available for the inmates. Some NGOs do visit the jail but these visits are infrequent.
- 13. **Recreational Activity**: A colour TV is provided in each dormitory for the viewing pleasure of the inmates. Also, adequate number of indoor and outdoor games is available.
- 14. **Health & Hospital**: There is a doctor (Dr. Potom) available in this jail. Also, a full-fledged and adequately-stocked Infirmary is located within the jail campus. Serious cases are referred at once to the Ram Krishan Mission, Itanagar or to the State Hospital, Naharlagun.
- 15. **Remission**: This is being granted as per the Arunachal Pradesh Jail Manual, Directorate of Prison, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar (2008).

- 16. **Leave & Parole**: This is being granted as per the Arunachal Pradesh Jail Manual, Directorate of Prison, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar (2008).
- 17. Premature Release: None.
- 18. Status of Investigation & Trail pending against UTPs: The majority of the inmates have been lodged here recently (2013). There are no glaring inconsistencies as far as their incarceration here is concerned.
- 19. Appeals: None pending.
- 20..**Legal Aid to inmates**: Free legal aid is provided to the inmates when asked for. However, perhaps, they may be informed about their rights regarding the Legal Aid Cell.
- 21. **Board of Visitors**: The last notification regarding Board of Visitors was published on November 12, 2012 (**Annexure 'C'**). This was as per Rule 285 of the Arunachal Pradesh Jail Manual, Directorate of Prison, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar (2008) (**Annexure 'D'**). Unfortunately, it appears that the Board has not met as yet. However, a number of Lok Adalats have been held here as well as Legal Awareness Camps.
- 22. **Departmental Inspections**: The officials could not show me the Inspection Register as mentioned in Rule 56 of the 'Arunachal Pradesh Jail Manual, Directorate of Prison, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar (2008)' regarding Inspections of jails by the Inspector-General (**Annexure 'E'**).
- 23. **Interaction with Inmates**: As none of the inmates evinced any interest, no interaction was possible with them.

24. Summary & Recommendations:

- a. Once the 100-capacity wing dormitory is built within the premises of this jail, the inmates from the various district jails of Assam may be brought to this Central Jail.
- b. At least one more Watch Tower may be manned by the personnel of the IRBn. This will definitely be required once the 100-capacity wing dormitory is completed and the inmates shifted there.
- c. The Tezu Jail may be made operational as soon as possible.

 Thereafter, the staff meant for the Tezu Jail may be shifted there.

- d. A teacher may be appointed for the education of the inmates. Also, IGNOU may be contacted for their expertise.
- e. The Work shed may be provided with permissible tools. This would engage the minds of the inmates in a positive way.
- f. The Library may be stocked with fresh books and magazines.
- g. A Counsellor is deemed essential here as the inmates need to be counselled and to be heard by a qualified practitioner.
- h. The Board of Visitors may meet.
- i. A regular Inspection Register for departmental inspections may be opened. The present Visitor's Book may be kept exclusively for the visitors.

(Shri. A. Pradhari) IPS (Retd.)
Special Rapporteur, NE Zone
National Human Rights Commission