



Report on visit to District Jail, Gumla, Jharkhand on 15-8-2015

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Jail Profile and History

With a high concentration of population of tribes, Gumla district with a low crime profile was one of the most peaceful districts in erstwhile Bihar. Today extremism has emerged as a big challenge to peace and development in the district. Crimes like murder, kidnapping, dowry deaths, rape, human trafficking etc are being reported in this tribal district. The present state of criminal justice system in the district is represented nowhere else better than in District Jail, Gumla. The century old jail located in the heart of Gumla town sadly reflects the plight of Scheduled castes and Tribes in the state as a whole.

District profile

Gumla district is situated in the southwest corner of Jharkhand State. The District was carved out of Ranchi District on 18th May 1983. As per 2011 Census Gumla had a population of 10.25 lakhs of which male and female were 5.14 lakhs and 5.10 lakhs respectively. District- wise distribution of ST population shows that Gumla district has the second highest proportion of STs (68.9 per cent) in the state of Jharkhand. Literacy rate stood at 65.73%, with male literacy at 75.55% and female at 55.90 %.

Jail Profile

Set up in 1907 as Sub Jail during the British period, the jail in Gumla is one of the oldest jails in Jharkhand. It was upgraded as District Jail in 2006, after the formation of the district.

Land and infrastructure

The jail has a total extent of approximately 02 acres of land; the buildings occupy about an acre of land. Vestiges of the old jail are still visible, with the old part of the jail in a dilapidated condition. Women's ward and kitchen are located in the old part of the jail.

There are two blocks in the new building with each block having 04 wards each with a sanctioned capacity for accommodating 25 prisoners. Thus there are 08 wards for male prisoners in the jail.

Manpower

The jail has total sanctioned staff strength of 63, *out of which 47 posts are vacant.* Shri Kishore Lakda, is presently the Superintendent of the jail. No Assistant Superintendent is posted. Two posts of Asst. Jailor are vacant. There is no regular Medical Officer posted in the jail; a doctor is on deputation. No medical staff like Pharmacist and Dresser is posted either. Against 40 posts, 38 posts of Warders are vacant. Only 02 are posted. Similarly only 02 Female Warders are posted; 04 post are vacant. In the absence of adequate staff the jail authorities have a tendency to utilize the services of prisoners for a variety of functions within the jail which results in undesirable power hierarchies among prisoners.

The state government, therefore, ought to take urgent steps to fill up the vacant posts so that daily management of the jail is not adversely affected.

Jail capacity and occupancy

~~Against a sanctioned capacity of 215 (200 male, 15 female), 776 (733 male, 43 women) prisoners~~ are accommodated in the jail. 07 children (04 boys; 03 girls) below the age of 06 are staying with their mothers.

Category-wise details of prisoners

As per the data provided by the jail administration, 05 prisoners have been sentenced to Life Imprisonment (LI), out of which two are convicted by the Orissa High Court. 08 cases of Simple Imprisonment (SI) and 09 cases of Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) have also been reported. *All convicts are male.* No case of death penalty is reported.

Out of 776 prisoners 477 (469 male 08 female) are under trials. 281 (246 male and 35 female) session committed prisoners are also lodged in the jail. There are no civil prisoners; there is one CCA prisoner.

42 juvenile prisoners in the age group of 18-21 are kept in a separate ward.

Out of 776 prisoners lodged in the jail, 376 belong to Scheduled Tribes (ST) and 113 to Scheduled castes (SC).

Mentally ill

11 mentally ill prisoners are lodged in the jail out of which 01 is a female. Doctors from Sadar Hospital visit them and provide treatment. I was told that a mentally ill woman prisoner named Sisilia Mundarin *has spent 10 years in jail*. I was told that she was treated at RINPAS and discharged.

Extremist prisoners

It was stated that all blocks of Gumla district are badly affected by extremism. Naxalite prisoners *numbering 85 (all male)* are accommodated in the jail. They are stated to be from Gumla, Lohardagga and Simdega districts.

I interviewed two of the alleged extremists separately. Raju Oraon, 18 is from village Jangai, Raidih P.S. He is admittedly a member of People's Liberation Front (PLF). He stated that one Mangal Nagesia of Jan Kranti Parishad threatened to kill him and some others. So he joined the rival group. He stated that he is not involved in any crime. His parents are doing farming. They have four children. Only he has joined PLF. He also said that he does not have a lawyer to appear in his case. He needs to be given legal aid without any delay.

Gabriel Tutu 17 is from Alarkera village in Palkote P.S. He stated that Pahali Cheeta, his uncle, was killed by extremists. He, therefore, volunteered to be a member of PLF. According to him he has not committed any crime. He came to the jail on 17-6-2014. His case is pending before the District and Sessions

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Judge. He does have a lawyer. He stated that arguments are over in his case.

Ordinarily tribes are peace loving people. It would appear from the above statements made by two of the alleged extremists, that most of the extremists might have joined one group or the other for their own safety protection, especially when rival groups are operating in the same area. It is necessary for the administration to build confidence in them and wean them away from the influence of extremist groups. Incarceration of innocent villagers can only strengthen the movement. Cases relating to 85 alleged *naxalites*, therefore, ought to be reviewed carefully to find out how many have actually committed crimes or has joined one group or the other due to fear or coercion.

Under-trial Prisoners

~~Under-trial prisoners number 727 (668 male and 59 females)~~ As per data provided by the jail administration 117 prisoners (112 male; 05 female) have spent up to **three months** in jail; 172 (164 male and 08 female) **3-6 months**. 194 prisoners (185 male and 09 female) **06 months to one year**; 124 prisoners (112 male; 12 female) **for 1-2 years**; 74 prisoners (53 male; 21 female) **for 2-3 years**; 37 prisoners (35 male; 02 females) **for 3-5 years** and 09 prisoners (07 male; 02 females) **for more than 05 years**. This data is a reflection of the poor handling of cases by administration. A special drive ought to be conducted to reduce the under trial population in the jail. Cases of women, especially with children, ought to get priority.

Video-conferencing system should be set right. Petty cases need to be placed before the CJM for disposal. Wherever possible bail ought to be procured for those involved in simple crimes.

Condition of prisoners.

It was reported that an extension of jail was made in 2002 and 08 new wards were constructed. As already stated male prisoners are accommodated in 08 wards in two blocks. It was learned that the sanctioned capacity of each ward is only 25 *against which usually 90-95 prisoners are accommodated.*

It was observed that there was no segregation between under trials and convicts. Convicts are only 13 while the rest are all under trials. The Superintendent stated that there is no dominance of one group over the others like in some other prisons of Jharkhand.

Ward No.06 has a capacity of 25 *but 75 prisoners are staying here.* The ward is extremely congested with no space to move about. The quality of life of prisoners is adversely affected due to over-crowding. *It is difficult to imagine how 75 prisoners can remain within the confined space of the ward and lead a normal life.*

Fans and lights in the ward were found to be working. A cage latrine is available. The drains in the ward premises badly need renovation.

I spoke to some of the prisoners. Phul Dev Oraon is in jail for 08 months in connection with a theft case; he was arrested along

with his friends. His case needs to be placed before the CJM on priority. Pitranth Minz 17 is in jail since February, 2015. He is allegedly involved in a murder case. He stated that his name was included at the instance of his friend. Oscar Topo 16 is illiterate. Sono Tirki 16 is allegedly involved in a theft case. Umesh is stated to be only 14 and is allegedly caught in a rape case. **According to juvenile prisoners, most of them are under age.** This may be looked into by the authorities. If their contention is correct they may be shifted to a Boy's Observation Home/Protection Home as the case may be. Petty cases ought to be got disposed of quickly.

Ward Number 5 also has a capacity of 25, but *96 prisoners are accommodated in it. The condition inside the ward is oppressive due to overcrowding.* Fans in the ward were not working. The ward has no ventilators either. Inner toilet was in bad condition. Drains around the wards were dilapidated and are urgently in need of repairs/renovation. *The jail administration ought to take immediate action to shift some of the prisoners to other jails. Petty cases ought to be got disposed of. Under trial population ought to be drastically reduced, as already pointed out.*

It was stated that the prisoners are provided with essential items of daily use. Prisoners stated they are supplied soaps-not oil.

Women Prisoners

~~43~~ women prisoners are accommodated in the female ward of the block located in the old part of jail. The female ward is

divided into two parts one big and one small. Women with children are accommodated in the smaller room. Their total sanctioned capacity is only 15 as against which 43 women are accommodated. 07 children are also staying with them. Therefore, there is considerable over-crowding in the women's ward as well. It was mentioned that no of pregnant women are present.

As stated a lady doctor deputed to the jail by Civil Surgeon, Gumla visits the jail twice a week to take care of health issues of women prisoners and their children. *This arrangement is inadequate to meet the health needs of women prisoners and their children.* An ANM from the nearest health facility ought to be deputed to the prison on full time basis which could, ease the situation at least to some extent. A woman teacher is engaged by the DSE who teaches women prisoners and their children. But the utility if this arrangement has not been reviewed. It is essential to train one or two women prisoners as teacher volunteers so that their services are available round the clock. *The objective ought to be to make all women prisoners literate so as to empower them before they face the world outside the prison.*

According to authorities women are supplied soaps, clothes, oil, sanitary napkins etc. Children are given milk, fruits clothes shoes and sandals. 06 sets (02 bath rooms; 04 toilets) have been earmarked for use by women prisoners. No leakages were noticed. Toilets were clean.

I spoke to some of the women prisoners. Sumati Urain 30 is allegedly involved in a murder case. She stated that the incident happened in some other house but her name got included in the list of accused. She said that she has two children one 12 years old and another 06. The smaller one is staying with her in jail. Rubina Khatoon 26 has spent one year and 03 months in jail in a case involving murder of a child. She was pregnant when she came to jail and delivered in the Sadar Hospital. Now the baby is 06 months old. Katrina Minz is also allegedly involved in a murder case; she has two children with her. Sapheda Khatoon 66 and Phuda Devi 65 are booked under the Dowry Prohibition Act for alleged murder of their daughters-in-law. Julie 75 is booked in a murder case involving her family. Her son is also in jail. Karishma Devi 24 is booked in a human trafficking case. She has already spent one year and 09 months in jail as under trial. The most pathetic case is that of Sisilia Mundain. She has been mentally ill for the last 10 years although she was treated and discharged twice from RINPAS. She continues to be mentally ill. She was unable to reply coherently to any of the questions put to her. She lives in a world of her own. I was told that she was given legal aid. The jail authorities by this time ought to have found out whether she has any family and whether her family members are willing to take care of her. Her case ought to be taken up urgently with the court. *It needs to be ascertained whether the crime was allegedly committed when she was of unsound mind.* If she has no one to claim her, she ought to be

sent back to RINPAS where she could live in a comparatively free atmosphere.

Daso Ekka 40+ is another mentally ill prisoner. She is also undergoing treatment. *The mentally ill prisoners need to be shifted to RINPAS. Their cases need to be taken up with courts on priority. The DLSA ought to provide them necessary assistance.*

The general complaints raised by women prisoners were that *their cases are moving very slowly before courts.*

Seeing those women prisoners living in over-crowded barracks, the question of whether their detention is justified comes to mind. Many women are alleged to be co-accused in crimes like murder. Generally the names of wives are added to the list of accused husbands regardless of their involvement in crimes. In extremist affected areas women provide help to extremists many times under threat. *Keeping in view of the above facts incarceration of women ought to be only in exceptional cases. Their cases ought to be reviewed urgently.*

Custodial Deaths /rapes/ violence

As per report furnished by jail authorities 06 custodial deaths have occurred in the period between 2012 and 2015. In four cases out of five, the diseased belonged to ST category. It was stated that all of them died of natural causes and reports have already been sent to NHRC. Only one case of custodial death was reported in 2015. The prisoner suffering from TB died in

Ranchi Medical College while on treatment. No case of suicide came to light. No instance of custodial violence or rape was reported.

Escape of prisoners/jail break

There was one instance of escape from prison in 2013 wherein a prisoner escaped through a pipe in the latrine but was caught back.

Basic amenities

For water supply one deep tube well is available just outside the jail from which water is pumped and lifted. Four hand pumps are available in the old jail compound which are very old and hence water level is low. During summer water is not available from those hand pumps. Although two borings were made in 2014, both were unsuccessful. Besides, a dug well is also available in the old jail premises. Pipe water supply by PHED is limited only to morning hours. For safe drinking water two ROs were installed *but are not functional*. They ought to be repaired immediately. In the mean time the jail authorities ought to get the water quality of all sources checked without any delay.

As far as sanitation is concerned facilities for drainage of water are said to be adequate. A proposal for repair of the drains has already been sent to PWD. Septic tank on the eastern side of perimeter wall is under repair.

There are altogether 46 toilets in the jail, including those inside the wards. On inspection the toilets were found to be in good condition and appeared to be clean.

Power Supply

It was stated that power supply is limited to 7-8 hours only and is erratic. Normal supply is restored after 9pm. Two generators of 30-KV capacity are available as back up.

Food Supply

The kitchen is located in the old jail. An old ward is converted into a kitchen but is in a dilapidated condition. There is no exhaust pipe in the kitchen and the floor is in a broken condition. The area around the kitchen is very filthy and unhygienic. The kitchen smelled too. A tube well is located in the area from which water is drawn for cooking. Cooking is done in the veranda with the aid of LPG stoves. A new building for kitchen has been proposed.

I was told that food supply is made through open tenders. Rs.75 is the rate per head per day expenditure approved on food provided to the inmates. Meat is supplied once a week. Diet charts are prepared and exhibited. Tea is served twice daily. For breakfast gram and *jaggery* (gur) are served. For lunch Rice, *dal* and a vegetable are provided. For dinner Roti, *dal* and vegetable is served. The dal appeared to be watery and the quality of vegetables cooked also appeared to be of poor quality. *It would be better if prisoners themselves are involved in cooking.* This

will ensure their participation in work; it may also help them to earn some money as daily wages. Cost of food can also be reduced.

It was stated that a new building has been proposed for the kitchen. This needs to be taken on priority basis.

Education

Two teachers are deputed by the DSE, a male and female each. The latter takes classes for female prisoners and their children. No IGNOU Center is functional in the jail. *To make the entire prison population literate ought to be the mission of the jail authorities.* Those who desire to go in for higher education ought to be encouraged to do so regardless of their being under trial prisoners. Women also need to be encouraged to study further.

Jail Hospital-

The Jail, at present, has no hospital facility. Two doctors visit the jail one male and a female. The male doctor visits the jail for two hours daily. The Lady Doctor comes for two days a week for 02 hours only. *For a jail with a prison population of 800 this arrangement is totally unacceptable.* A regular medical Officer ought to be posted full time. In case gynecologists are not available, as pointed out, an ANM ought to be tagged from the nearest health facility to take care of the health of women prisoners and their children. In the absence of a jail hospital for emergency services the jail has to depend on the services at the

Sadar Hospital Gumla. Every time a prisoner is to be taken out, escort needs to be provided. *What happens to children who are in need of emergency care? What about isolation of prisoners with contagious diseases? Jail authorities ought to make make-shift arrangement inside the jail for a provisional hospital with essential equipment and medicines. Absence of medical facilities for prisoners is a serious violation of human rights.*

A new block comprising of a three-bedded prisoner barrack, kitchen and hospital is proposed to be constructed shortly. It was learned that PWD is preparing a lay-out and estimate for the construction of a new hospital. Medical instruments/equipments are presently not available as a hospital is yet to be set up.

Video-conferencing

Although the facility is available, *there is no connectivity at present with local courts.* The facility, however, is connected to courts outside the state like Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal. *There is need to have Annual maintain ace contract for all equipment and machines in the jail.* Local connectivity ought to be restored immediately so that prisoners can be produced before courts through the medium of the system.

Lok Adalats/ Legal Aid

Lok Adalats are held once a month by the CJM. It was stated that District Legal Services Authority is active. Legal Aid Clinic comprising of four lawyers, including a woman lawyer provide legal advice to the inmates twice a week. A prisoner was

released on the day of my visit. It was also mentioned that at the behest of the courts in Gumla *Lok-Adalats* and Legal Awareness Camps were organized on eight occasions in the jail.

It was learned that up to now 26 prisoners were sanctioned legal aid; Sisilia who is mentally ill is also one of them. Two prisoners were given training to be Para Legal Volunteers (PLV). There is need for the DLSA *to look into the quality of legal assistance rendered* and also the outcomes of the action taken.

Appeals /legal assistance/surety

Details were not provided by the jail authorities in this regard.

Parole

Paroles are granted only with the permission of IG (Prisons). Under trials are allowed parole only by courts and are not allowed parole by jail authorities. It is not known why the system of parole is so strict in the jail. In other states sanction of parole to both convicts and under trials is liberal.

Superintendent of the jail as well as the DC/DM are delegated powers to grant paroles. Himachal Pradesh has made some innovations in this regard.

Remission

No case of remission is recommended by the jail authorities.

PCOs/Telephone facility/waiting room/visitors

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A PCO was set up only a month ago but *is not functional*. A new waiting room is available for meetings with visitors.

Board of visitors

No information is available. It is essential to have Board of visitors for every jail with NGO representation to periodically visit the jail and inquire into the conditions of jails.

Recreation

TV sets have been installed in wards for entertainment of the prisoners. 17 news papers are subscribed. Canteen facilities are not available in the jail.

Library

A library has been set up in the jail for the benefit of prisoners which has a collection of 523 books. It is accommodated in a separate building.

Cultural programs

Only important days of national importance like Independence Day and Republic day are observed. No cultural programs are organized in the jail.

Sports

It is learned that no sports activities are conducted in the jail

Religious activities

A temple and a place for worship for the ST prisoners (*sarana*) are available in the jail prisoners. It was stated that a priest and a Maulawi regularly visit the jail.

Yoga

Seven days training is provided by ART of Living Foundation.

Vocational Training

No vocational training programs are organized in jail at present. The jail is unable to run computer training program for want of space and a trainer.

Drug De-addiction program

It was learned that no drug de-Addiction program is presently run in the jail.

Role of NGO

Two NGOs engaged in women's issues are currently providing counseling to women prisoners.

Security

Out of 08 watch towers, only 05 are stated to be functional. There are altogether 16 sets of CCTVs installed in the jail out of which only 14 are functional. PMS/VMS systems are available. As far as mobile phones are concerned, only a 2G jammer has been installed with the result that no net works are getting jammed. CIL Hyderabad has been requested to repair the same. This point was raised in the meeting on jail security chaired by

the District and Sessions Judge Gumla. As already pointed out AMC needs to be executed in respect of all items installed in the jail.

Solar Lighting

It was stated that solar lanterns/ solar vapor lights have been installed, but no solar water heating facilities are available.

Pest control

Facilities for pest control are stated to be available. DDT is sprayed from time to time to kill mosquitoes.

Inspections

It was stated that the jail is being inspected 1-2 times per month by judicial officers. CJM, Gumla inspected the jail on 04-07-2014 and the District and Sessions Judge on 01-10-14. IG (Prisons) also inspected the jail on 25-06-15. Besides Child Protection Commission, Jharkhand (15-07-2015) and Women's Commission Jharkhand (21-07-2015) also visited the jail.

Budget

It is seen that the jail has received an allotment of Rs.1.81 crores under various heads for financial year 2014-15.

Modernisation

The PWD has taken up new items of work in the jail, including renovation of its Administrative building, women's ward, perimeter wall of the jail and grain godown at a cost of

Appx.5.30 lakhs. Other works include construction of a 16-bedded hospital (Rs.15.22 lakhs), renovation of the male ward (Rs.1.71 lakhs) raising the perimeter wall of the jail (Rs.15675/-), installation of lightening conductor (Rs.5.30 lakhs) and construction of A and C type housing units for staff (Rs.50/lakhs). Civil works taken up are to be monitored closely as with time and cost escalation the projects may remain incomplete.

Observations/ Recommendations:-

As stated the sub jail in Gumla set up over hundred years ago during the British period continue to have almost the same basic facilities which it had at that time, without much change. However, much has changed in the world outside the jail in the course of a century. Due to the passage of time, growth of population, changes in the socio-economic status of people and their consequent life style the number and nature of crimes have also changed. The concept of prison management too has changed from one based on punishment to that based on rehabilitation. Therefore, the need is not only for bringing about changes in infrastructure, resource management, filling up vacancies or acquiring modern gadgets but also for bringing about attitudinal changes towards the prisoners, fulfilling their rights.

The following recommendations are made:-

1. Up gradation of the jail

Although the jail was upgraded as District Jail, in effect it functions as a sub jail. The jail ought to be provided with necessary infrastructure, manpower, better equipment within a given time-frame.

2. Filling up of vacant posts should get high priority

3. Improving the quality of life of the prisoners

Improving the quality of life of prisoners should get the top most priority. Basic rights of prisoners to clean and adequate drinking water, sanitation and bathing facilities and day to day needs ought to be ensured.

4. Overcrowding

Keeping prisoners huddled together in confined space is indeed very inhuman. Overcrowding in the wards needs to be brought down quickly so that the inmates have enough space to move about and comfortably stay within the wards. *Commission may like to issue necessary direction to the jail authorities to ensure that the level of prison population is brought down to a manageable level, within a month.*

3. Under trials

Immediate steps may be taken to reduce under trial population in the jail. Accountability needs to be fixed on the DM/SP/Jail Superintendent. Video-conferencing facility should be made operational at once. A monitoring system should be started for

tracking under trials. *It is a pity that the prisoners while away their time* (eating, sleeping and having nothing to do). No activities especially cultural activities affect the mental health of prisoners. More pitiable is the case of juvenile prisoners who are forced to idle away their time in dark and over-crowded wards. Although they are under trials they need to be involved in some activity or the other. The jail authorities appear to be concerned with only the physical well being of prisoners. Their spiritual well being ought to be ensured by involving them in various activities, including educational, cultural, spiritual and religious activities.

4. Rights of women prisoners and their children are to be taken care of by fully implementing the guidelines issued by the Apex Court in this regard.

Scrutiny of cases

Cases relating to mentally ill prisoners, elderly prisoners, female prisoners with children and alleged naxalite prisoners need to be scrutinized quickly to find out the extent of their involvement, for taking remedial measures.

7. Monitoring of cases

A system for computerized monitoring of cases should be put in place quickly.

Functioning of Lok Adalat needs to be closely monitored and evaluated.

8. **Prisoner welfare measures** like liberal sanction of parole, telephone facility, facilities for meeting family members, canteen facilities need to be further strengthened. Cultural activities may be organized both for male and female prisoners.

8. **Remission**

Remissions should be allowed in eligible cases without any delay.

9. **Visitor's Board**

A Visitor's Board needs to be constituted quickly in the jail having NGO representatives also as members.

10. **Right to health**

Posting of doctors

At least two doctors (one MO and a LMO) should be posted full time in the jail immediately. In case no LMO is available on regular basis, at least a senior nurse should be posted in the jail to take care of the day-to-day health problems of female prisoners and their children.

Posting of regular staff

The posts of supporting staff ought to be sanctioned and filled up.

Make shift Jail Hospital

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A proper well-aired, hygienic make-shift hospital ought to be set up within the jail premises urgently, having a separate room for isolation of prisoners suffering from disease like TB/Malaria, along with essential instruments/equipment and medicines pending construction of a new hospital.

Regular Posts of doctors and staff

The posts of supporting medical staff also need to be posted. In the mean time one or two convicted prisoners could be given training as dressers and pharmacists..

Screening for diseases

A system needs to be put in place for regular screening for TB/Malaria/HIV/AIDS/and chronic diseases like diabetes cancer .Health status of each prisoner should be tracked on the basis of their health profile.

Mental illnesses

A system for regular screening for mental illnesses with the help of RINPAS needs to be put in place.

AYUSH medical facilities should be provided, especially to older patients.

Literacy

Literacy program should be strengthened, both for male as well as female prisoners, with the help of volunteers from among the prisoners. A comprehensive educational program both for male

and female prisoners needs to be chalked out. It should be implemented with NGO support. The Computer centre should start training programs for girls also.

Food supply

A well-aired, well-lighted modern kitchen with LPG facilities should be set up. A separate kitchen should be set up for women prisoners. The quality and quantity of food need to be improved/increased.

12. Vocational programs need to be introduced in the jail so that the prisoners are occupied and are able to earn their livelihood. I find that ordinarily such programs for under trials are not taken up by jails as their stay is mostly for limited periods. Vocational training in useful trades (the products ought to have ready markets) needs to be taken up with the help of reputed NGOs so that old prisoners could also be gainfully employed.

Training

Wherever possible convicts spending long time in the jail could be trained and their services utilized, especially in the jail hospital/ Yoga training/educational programs

Services of reputed NGOs should be utilized in the areas of health, education training, prisoner's welfare, counseling etc

Repair of equipment

All equipment, including the video-conferencing system, should be got repaired. AMCs should be signed with supply agencies.

Civil works

There is need to monitor progress of civil works undertaken by the PWD and other agencies. Expenditure on this account needs to be monitored closely.

Alternate energy needs to be harnessed to have lighting, heating cooking etc.

Audit

Budget expenditure under all items should be audited to find out if any misappropriation has taken place.

B. Long Term Measures

1. **A comprehensive modernization plan** (infrastructure, equipment, furniture, library, facilities for women etc) for the jail needs to be put in place.

2. Untied funds

An untied fund of Rs.10 lakhs may be provided to the jail for taking up emergency items of works for the welfare of prisoners. It should be sanctioned by a committee of DM/SP and the Jail Superintendent.

3. Delegation and decentralization

Items which can be delegated to Superintendents of jail should be identified and action taken.

4. Training

A sensitization program on human rights for prison officers and staff ought to be taken up.

5 Jail Manual

It is learned that Jharkhand state has no Jail manual of its own even after 14 years of its formation. It has adopted the Bihar Jail Manual. The State government ought to bring out its own Jail Manual, taking into consideration improvements over the other state jail manuals.

