

4/12/20

Minutes of the meeting of High Powered Committee, constituted as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP(C) No.1/2020, held on 05-12-2020 at 11 AM (VC).

PRESENT

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1. Hon'ble Mr. Justice C.T. Ravikumar.
2. Mr. T.K. Jose IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary (Home & Vigilance).
3. Mr. Rishiraj Singh IPS, Director General of Prisons & Correctional Services.

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The meeting was started at 11.a.m. Mr. Rishiraj Singh, DG Prisons has said that, as per the recommendation of the committee they have already released 1057 prisoners, either on parole or on interim bail, in view of the Covid-19 pandemic situation. The parole/interim bail period was extended two times because of the alarming Covid pandemic situation in the State. Now, the situation has improved and every arrangement/preparation were made in all the jails as per the Covid protocol. Now, these prisoners have to return to jail as on 01-12-2020. So far 237 prisoners out of 1057 had returned and the balance 820 are yet to return. But because of the interim direction in WPC No. 23595/2020 and the connected matters issued by the Hon'ble High Court they did not return. Total inmates of Jail in Kerala is about 7,500. Medical centres are arranged in all the jails. He has further said that, now there is no Covid case in any jail and so, all of them have to return to jail. There are instances of these released prisoners involving in crimes and also participating in election process, which they are not supposed to do, during in parole.

His Lordship Justice Ravikumar has said that, if that be the situation there is no need to implement the second recommendation made by the committee as per the decision dated 27-10-2020, if not already implemented. We made the recommendation by considering the then prevailing situation and now the situation is changed. The committee can recommend the Government, not to implement the second recommendation in view of the present situation. His lordship has also shared the concern expressed by DG prisons regarding involvement of prisoners in

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