

**POLICY NOTE**  
**ON**  
**DEMAND NO. 24**  
**PRISONS**  
**(HOME, PROHIBITION AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT)**

**2007-2008**

## INDEX

Sl. No.	Subject
I	<a href="#">Introduction</a>
II.	<a href="#">Prisons</a>
III.	<a href="#">Probation branch</a>
IV.	<a href="#">Modernization of prison administration</a>
V.	<a href="#">Human resources development</a>
VI.	<a href="#">Prison discipline</a>
VII.	<a href="#">Prisoners welfare</a>
VIII.	<a href="#">Rehabilitation of prisoners</a>
IX.	<a href="#">Staff welfare</a>
X.	<a href="#">New Initiatives</a>
XI.	<a href="#">Part II schemes</a>
XII	<a href="#">Conclusion</a>

## **TAMIL NADU PRISON DEPARTMENT**

### **POLICY NOTE 2007-2008**

#### **I. Introduction**

Prisons are an essential part of the criminal justice system. The twin objectives of the prison department are reformation and rehabilitation of the prisoners to reintegrate them with the society after their release and control recidivism. Accordingly the state has been adding to the infrastructure in prisons and latest in the list is the opening of the modern prison complex at Puzhal on 26.11.2006 which is the biggest prison complex in South Asia.

#### **II. Prisons**

2. There are 135 prisons under the control of prison department of which 9 are central prisons, 3 are special prisons for women and 103 are sub jails for men, 10 are sub jails for women, 4 are special sub jails for men, and 3 are special sub jails for women apart from a borstal school, an open air prison and a farm jail. The department is headed by an officer in the rank of Additional Director General of Police. He is assisted by a Deputy Inspector General of Prisons at head quarters and four Deputy Inspector General of Prisons one each at Chennai, Coimbatore, Trichy and Madurai Ranges. The Superintendents of Prisons control the administration of central prisons and sub jails under their jurisdiction and the women prisons are entirely managed by the female prison staff. The total authorized accommodation of all prisons is 19,749.

### **III. Probation branch**

3. The probation wing of prison department consists of 96 probation officers and 12 regional probation officers headed by a Chief Probation Superintendent. The probation officers make enquires for court regarding the behaviour pattern of the offenders and their living conditions. They also supervise the offenders released on probation and attend to their rehabilitation. Their main function is to secure the first offenders on probation subject to certain conditions instead of committing them in prisons. Government have also ordered the probation officers to visit police lockups in order to ensure that there is no violation of human rights.

### **IV. Modernization of prison administration**

4. A number of schemes under modernization of prison administration funded by Government of India with a grant from State Government in the ratio of 75:25 have been implemented for improving security arrangements. The main thrust is given to provision of modern equipments like communication equipments, closed circuit televisions with recording system, cell phone de-activators, live wire fencing, lighting arrangements, bomb detection equipments, metal detectors, night vision binoculars, watch tower, deep search metal detector, small arms stimulator etc. Modern training has been provided to prison personnel to take care of the safety and security of the prisoners and the staff. High security enclosures have been built in five Central Prisons at Tiruchirappalli, Salem, Coimbatore, Vellore and Puzhal.

### **V. Human resources development**

#### **Warders training**

5. The Grade II warders are recruited by the Tamil Nadu uniformed services recruitment board and given training in drill, discipline, management and correctional methods for six months at Warders' Training Centre, Vellore. Emphasis is given on need to be aware of the human rights of prisoners. They are also taught handling of modern weapons and also given hands on training of these weapons. Besides, periodical refresher courses are also given to grade I warders and chief head warders.

6. The Warders' Training Centre at Vellore can train 111 male grade II warders and 25 female grade II warders at a time. Besides this regular training centre, temporary warders training centres are also functioning at central prison Trichy and Coimbatore. The warders are also sent to various training courses in the police commando school in Chennai in unarmed combat, bomb detection and disposal etc.

#### **Regional institute of correctional administration, Vellore (RICA)**

7. This institution has been imparting training to the prison officers of four southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the field of correctional aspects and prison management, since 1979. The expenditure of this Institution is equally shared by the four participating Southern States.

## **National level training**

8. Officers of prison department are deputed for national level courses in human rights, prison management etc., which are conducted by the Bureau of Police Research and Development, New Delhi, National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, National Institute of Forensic Science, New Delhi, National Institute of Social Defence, New Delhi and National Crime Records Bureau, New Delhi.

## **Recruitment**

9. Tamil Nadu uniformed services recruitment board is the agency for the selection of male grade II warders and female grade II warders to this department.

## **VI. Prison discipline**

### **Handling of high security prisoners**

10. Following a policy directive from the government, high security blocks were constructed initially at Coimbatore, Salem and Trichy for confining hardcore prisoners. Later, to deal with the increased population of hardcore prisoners, and for the purpose of their segregation, the high security block concept was extended to other prisons also. All fundamentalist and hardcore prisoners confined in high security enclosures of various prisons, are internally guarded by the prison staff and externally by police. All such prisoners are subjected to daily search and also inspected periodically by higher authorities. They are segregated from other prisoners as per prison rules.

11. Visitors to these prisons are thoroughly searched by the police and prison authorities before and after interview. Regular anti-sabotage checks are also being carried out to prevent any escape or untoward incidents in prisons. Proper lighting, installation of closed circuit television cameras, metal detectors and live wire fencing over the walls are installed in all central prisons as a security measure. All prisoners are treated with proper human dignity with respect for all human rights.

## **VII. Prisoners welfare**

### **Food and clothing**

12. Nutritious food prepared under hygienic conditions is supplied to the prisoners as per the scale prescribed in the Tamil Nadu Prisons Manual. Items like milk, bread, egg etc., are given to the sick prisoners as medical diet on the recommendation of the medical officer. As announced by this government last year all the non-vegetarian prisoners are supplied with chicken once in a week and vegetarian prisoners are supplied with potato curry, kesari and one banana once in a week. Stainless steel plates and mugs are provided to prisoners besides stainless steel cooking vessels and trolleys are used in prisons to ensure better health and hygienic conditions. The diet issued to the female prisoners are the same, but the nursing women prisoners are supplied extra milk. The children accompanying them are supplied with milk, biscuit, banana and baby food. Clothing and bedding are provided to the prisoners as per the norms laid down.

13. Terry cotton shorts, shirts and blanket of larger size are issued to the prisoners. Remand prisoners who do not have adequate clothes are also provided with sufficient clothing.

### **Health care**

14. Prisoners are provided adequate medical facilities. Health camps are also conducted regularly. Prisoners suffering from leprosy are given specialised treatment. Mentally retarded prisoners are also adequately treated by admitting them in the Government Institute of Mental Health, Chennai. Smoking in prisons has been banned by the government as a health care measure. Ambulances have been provided to all central prisons. Clinical laboratories, electro cardiogram, auto-blood analyzer and portable X-ray equipments have been provided in central prisons to carry out diagnostic tests. Tooth powder and toilet soap are also issued to the prisoners for better health care and sanitary napkins are issued to all female prisoners based on needs.

### **Interview and recreation**

15. Facilities are provided to the prisoners to interview relatives and friends. The interview application is supplied free of cost and it can also be down loaded from the department website. Newspapers and periodicals are also supplied at Government cost. Books of educative and literary value are kept in prison libraries and books are also borrowed from the district libraries for the use of prisoners. Facilities are provided to the prisoners to play indoor and out door games.

### **Education**

16. Distance educational facilities are given to the prisoners at government cost. Elementary schools are functioning with qualified teachers for adult education. The Indira Gandhi National Open University is conducting the following courses:

1. Certificate course in food and nutrition
2. Bachelor's preparatory programme
3. Certificate course in computers
4. Master of Business Administration
5. Master of Computer Application

17. The Manonmaniam Sundaranar University is offering undergraduate and post graduate courses exclusively for the prisoners in the central prison itself. Under this programme which is the first of its kind in the country, the courses will adopt the syllabus prescribed under the Open University system. So far 53 convict prisoners pursued various studies while undergoing imprisonment in the prisons during the year 2006-2007.

### **Prisoners' legal aid**

18. Free legal aid facilities are available to the prisoners. Legal Aid Cell has been established in all central prisons and special prisons for women by the Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority, Chennai.

### **Grievance redressal**

19. Sealed complaint boxes have been installed in prisons to enable the prisoners to ventilate their grievances. The district and sessions judge opens the complaint boxes on the first working day of every month and sends the complaints to the appropriate authorities for action. Sessions judges and chief judicial magistrates also make surprise visits to prisons, check food and other facilities provided to prisoners and enquire into their grievances once a month.

### **Official and non-official visitors**

20. Official visitors make periodical visits to the prisons to ensure better administration and treatment of the prisoners. The members of Human Rights Commission, Hon'ble judges and other dignitaries also make visits to prisons to ensure the provision of basic requirements and proper treatment of prisoners.

21. Members of public who are interested in prisons and have good background of social work are appointed as non-official visitors by the head of the department. They are allowed to meet the prisoners. They also visit all premises of the prison to satisfy themselves that there is prompt implementation of rules and regulations. The term of the non-official visitors is three years.

### **Human rights**

22. Basic amenities and requirements are provided in all prisons to ensure better living conditions of prisoners. Prison officials are sensitized adequately to be receptive to the basic requirements and genuine grievances of the prisoners.

23. Members of national and state human rights commission and Hon'ble judges visited the prisons in Tamil Nadu and have commended the administration of jails. The National Human Rights Commission has often expressed its concern in regard to general overcrowding in prisons. At present 3 district jails at Srivaikundam, Nagercoil and Dindigul are functioning. The construction work in two district jails at Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram is nearing completion. These district jails would ease the pressure on central prisons. Provision of more facilities at district level would also help to avoid unnecessary transit of prisoners. Apart from this, government have declared sub jail, Nanguneri to be a Special sub jail. Structural modifications have been carried out at a cost of Rs.15 lakhs to accommodate more prisoners in this jail.

## **VIII. Rehabilitation of prisoners**

### **Participation of non governmental organisations**

24. Yoga and meditation classes are organized to improve the physical and mental health of prisoners. Government have permitted voluntary organizations and individuals to conduct yoga and meditation, counselling, lectures on ethics, free medical treatment camps, vocational training etc in prisons.

### **Prison industries and vocational trades**

25. To inculcate work habit to prisoners various trades and industries have been introduced in prisons. Training is imparted in simple trades like brick making, plumbing,

sign board writing, electrical wiring, weaving, book binding, tailoring, tags making, wax, shoes, phenyl, tapes, soaps, cumbly, flat file making etc. to enable them to take up self employment after their release. On completion of the training, certificates are issued by the state council for vocational education and training.

26. Prison department has been declared as "Service Department". The Prison Department manufactures and supplies articles to various Government Departments free of cost. The average production of the prison industrial units for the last 4 years works out to about Rs.4 crores per annum.

27. Wage earning scheme for prisoners is in force in all central prisons, borstal school and special prisons for women in this state. They are paid wages at the rate of Rs.60/- for skilled work, Rs.50/- for semi skilled work and Rs.45/- for unskilled work per day.

## **IX. Staff welfare**

### **Medals**

28. Government have instituted the following medals to be awarded to the prison officers for their brave and commendable performance in the discharge of their duties.

#### **(i) Chief Minister's Medal**

##### **a) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Prison Service Medal for Gallantry**

It carries an allowance of Rs.100/- per month.

##### **b) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Prison Service Medal for Outstanding Devotion to Duty**

It carries a one time lump sum amount as follows:

- Rs. 5000/- - Jailor to Superintendent of Prisons.
- Rs.3000/- - Assistant Jailor and Deputy Jailor
- Rs.2000/- - Warders up to Chief Head Warder.

##### **c) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Prison Service Medal for Good Service**

It is awarded to only for Grade I and Grade II Warders.

It carries an allowance as follows:

- Rs.50/- per month for Grade I Warders
- Rs.40/- per month for Grade II Warders

#### **(ii) President's Correctional Service Medal**

##### **a) Gallantry Medal**

It carries an allowance of Rs.60/- per month

##### **b) Meritorious Service Medal**

Medal only.

### **c) Distinguished Service Medal**

Medal only.

### **Ex-gratia payment**

29. Ex-gratia payment is given to prison personnel or their family members under specified circumstances. The legal heirs of the deceased prison personnel, who die in heroic action are paid the last pay drawn by the deceased person as family pension till his / her normal date of retirement. After that, the eligible family pension is paid.

### **Grievance day**

30. Senior officers of the prison department are conducting grievance day meetings as follows.

1.	The Additional Director General of Prisons	Once in a quarter
2.	The Range Deputy Inspector General of Prisons	Once in a month
3.	The Superintendent of Prisons	Once in a week.

Grievances are heard and disposal given at the earliest.

### **Extra time remuneration**

31. As announced by this government last year, the prison staff are paid extra time remuneration at the rate of Rs.150/-per day as per the government orders.

### **Other allowances**

32. Feeding charges are paid to the executive staff employed in security duties in central prison during emergencies and during occasions of mass arrest of prisoners, at the rate of Rs.35/- for grade II warders, Rs.40/- for grade I warders and chief head warders and Rs.50/- for others up to deputy jailor in mofussil areas and at Rs.80/- for all in Chennai city. Apart from this, the warders who are on night duty in central prisons are provided night meals and morning tea. The warders are paid a sum of Rs.200/- per head per year towards stitching charges for two sets of uniforms. As announced by this government last year the monthly washing allowance of grade I and grade II warders of sub jails, open air prison, special sub jails, district jails and special prisons for women has been enhanced from Rs.30/- to Rs.100/-.

### **Promotional opportunities**

33. In order to give promotional opportunities to grade II warders, 300 grade II warders were upgraded as grade I warders during the year 2006-07 and another 300 grade II warders will be upgraded as grade I warders during the year 2007-2008.

## **X. New initiatives**

### **Information technology**

34. All the central prisons have been provided with computers. A software "Prisoners Information System", first of its kind in the country has been developed with the help of National Informatics Centre (NIC). The National Informatics Centre is also developing software, for computerization of prison records. A computer centre has been started in each central prison and special prison for women to provide computer training to the prisoners.

35. With a view to have transparency in administration and to enable the public to know the activities of this department, a website designed and hosted by National Informatics Centre was launched by the prison department. The following are the website addresses:

[www.tn.nic.in/prisons](http://www.tn.nic.in/prisons)

[www.tn.gov.in/prisons](http://www.tn.gov.in/prisons)

### **Intelligence cum vigilance wing**

36. An intelligence-cum-vigilance wing consisting of one inspector, two sub inspectors of police, one head constable and one grade II police constable is functioning in this department.

### **Perspective plan**

37. With a view to maintain prisons with certain minimum standards, Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi have formulated a Perspective Plan on Prison Reforms and Annual Action Plan. Under this plan, they have tentatively allocated a sum of Rs.95.34 crores (which includes 25 % state contribution) for the five year period 2002-2007 for the implementation of schemes on the following four components:-

- a) Construction of new jails
- b) Repairs and renovation to existing prison buildings
- c) Sanitation and water supply
- d) Living accommodation of prison staff.

38. In the perspective plan 7 sub jails are proposed to be upgraded as district jails. Two prisons for women are to be constructed at Trichy and Cuddalore. The objective of the perspective plan is to reduce congestion in the prisons by expanding and improving the facilities in the prisons and enhance facilities such as water supply, sanitation and accommodation for staff. All the works sanctioned for the years 2002-03; 2003-04; 2004-05 have been completed. Government have accorded necessary administrative and financial sanction for a sum of Rs.18.231 crores towards annual action plan 2005 – 2006 in October 2006. The works have commenced and will be completed shortly. Government in G.O.Ms.No.61, Home (Prison.IV) Department, Dated 12.01.2007 have sanctioned a sum of Rs.913 lakhs towards balance works in Annual Action Plan 2004 – 2005. Further

Government have also accorded necessary administrative and financial sanction for a sum of Rs.1906.30 lakhs towards the following works under Annual Action Plan 2006 – 2007.

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the work</b>	<b>Total estimated cost (Rupees in lakhs)</b>
1	Repairs and renovation to prison buildings	263.24
2	Construction of staff quarters	1360.00
3	Sanitation and water supply	92.06
4	Purchase of modern gadgets – door frame metal detector, x-ray scanner and cell phone detectors	93.76
5	Building infrastructure for correctional programmes to prisoners – Purchase and installation of additional looms and other accessories to central prison, Coimbatore	97.24
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1906.30</b>

### **New prison complex at Puzhal**

39. The new prison complex at Puzhal consisting of two central prisons with a capacity of 1250 prisoners each for remand and convict prisoners and also a special prison for women with a capacity of 500 women prisoners was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 26.11.2006. These prisons have started functioning with effect from 18.12.2006 for male prisoners and from 18.01.2007 for female prisoners. The prisoners convicted by the courts in Chennai, Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram districts are lodged here. In these prisons various rehabilitation facilities such as meditation hall, rehabilitation centre, open air theatre, industrial workshops, gymnasium, computer training centre and school and library are available to prisoners. All rooms, blocks and hospitals are provided with ceiling fans. In order to provide hygienic food to prisoners a modern kitchen has been constructed. In the women prison a crèche and nursery has been established to take care of the children of the prisoners who are below the age of 6 years.

### **XI. Part II schemes**

40. Eight new schemes to the tune of Rs.90.24 lakhs have been sanctioned during the year 2006-2007 including the following important schemes.

<b>Sl.No.</b>	<b>Description of the scheme</b>	<b>Total cost (Rupees in Lakhs)</b>
1.	Providing additional computers for office automation of Office of the Additional Director General of Prisons, Chennai and peripherals to central prisons, Chennai, Vellore, Cuddalore, Trichy, Salem, Coimbatore, Madurai and Palayamkottai.	10.00
2.	Provision of digital photocopier with stabilizer, consumables,	10.80

	toners and other accessories to central prison, Chennai, Vellore, Cuddalore, Trichy, Madurai, Palayamkottai, Salem, Coimbatore and office of the regional probation officer, Chennai city.	
3.	Provision of additional handheld walkie talkie sets with spare battery packs to central prison, Vellore, Cuddalore, Trichy, Salem, Coimbatore, Palayamkottai, Madurai, borstal school, Pudukkottai, special prison for women, Vellore and Trichy, district jail, Nagercoil, Dindigul, Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram and Srivaikundam.	39.00
4.	Provision of portable modern fire extinguisher to 7 central prisons, 2 special prison for women, 1 open air prison, a farm jail, 7 special sub jails and 113 sub jails.	13.34
5.	Purchase of staff car to central prison, Chennai and Palayamkottai. Purchase of 4 numbers of motorcycles to central prison, Trichy, Coimbatore, Madurai and Palayamkottai. One ambulance to central prison, Trichy.	15.00

41. For the year 2007-2008, 12 new schemes at an estimate cost of Rs.137.84 lakhs including the following important schemes have been approved.

Sl. No.	Description of the scheme	Total cost (Rupees in Lakhs)
1	Construction of 20 bedded prisoners ward for prisoners in Government Vellore medical college hospital at Adukkamparai in Vellore district	30.87
2	Purchase of cots, mattress, pillows, bed sheets etc. for the use of prisoners in prison hospital in central prison 1 and 2 and special prison for women at Puzhal.	10.62
3	Providing adequate infrastructural facilities such as civil stores, furniture, medical equipments, ambulance, cooking equipments etc. to district jails at Dindigul and Nagercoil	30.26
4	Provision of computers, printers and UPS systems to 6 district Jails, 6 special sub jails.	5.40
5	Replacing the existing old and condemned ambulance van with accessories to special	6.50

	ambulance van with accessories to special prison for women, Vellore	
6	Replacement of worn out and condemned tractor in central prison, Coimbatore	5.05
7	Replacement of worn out and condemned lorry in the manufacturing section of central prison, Madurai	8.25
8	Purchase of two jeeps, two ambulances and one tipper lorry to central prison I, II and special prison for women, Puzhal	30.10
9	Provision of Mahindra Bolero Jeep to Chief Probation Superintendent, Chennai.	5.00

## **XII. Conclusion**

42. The administration of prisons has been accorded utmost priority by the government and concerted efforts have been taken by the government to improve the welfare of prisoners, staff, infrastructural facilities, safety and security of prisons, health care and observance of human rights . The requirements of prisoners are looked into at all times. The recommendations of various committees on prison reforms have been implemented. The concept of district jail is being implemented for the first time in this State. Ten sub jails and three special sub jails have been created exclusively for women prisoners. This is a pioneering effort in the country. The department is taking all possible steps to ensure that prisons in Tamil Nadu become correctional institutions in letter and spirit with proper enforcement of human rights of the prisoners with strong and consistent support from the government.

**I. PERIASAMY  
MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND PRISONS**