

DEMAND NO.24
PRISONS
(HOME, PROHIBITION AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT)

TAMIL NADU PRISON DEPARTMENT
POLICY NOTE 2009-2010

I. Introduction

Prison is a vital arm of the Criminal Administration System. The Penal system in the modern times has undergone several changes and the focus is now on reformation and rehabilitation and not retribution and punishment.

2. Human rights are inalienable and every inmate of the prison has a right to be treated with dignity. The inmates in prison are being provided with skills so that their labour will be usefully utilized and also afford an opportunity for them to earn during the period of incarceration. These skills will also be useful to them to pursue gainful occupation when they are finally released from the prisons. Government has taken conscious efforts under the scheme of modernization of prisons to improve the infrastructure of prisons, living condition of prisoners and also to provide housing facility for the prison personnel.

II. Prisons

3. There are 133 prisons under the control of prison department of which 9 are Central Prisons, 3 are Special Prisons for women, 4 are District Jails 90 are Sub Jails for men and 9 are Sub Jails for women, 2 are Special Sub Jails for men and 3 are Special Sub Jails for women and 11 Borstal Schools, 2 Open air prisons. The Department is headed by a senior IPS Officer in the rank of Additional Director General of Police. He is assisted by one Deputy Inspector General of Prisons (women prisoners) at head quarters and four Deputy Inspectors 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. The cadre strength of staff of Prison Department is 4880. The total authorized accommodation of all Prisons is 20368. There is no overcrowding in the prisons.

III. Probation branch

4. 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 enquiries 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 make visit to Police lockups in order to ensure that there is no violation of human rights.

IV. Modernization of prison administration

5. 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 living condition, security and for providing other amenities in the prisons. Importance is given to provision of modern technologies like communication equipments, closed circuit televisions with recording system, mobile phone detector, live wire fencing, lighting arrangements, bomb detection equipments, metal detectors, night vision binoculars, watch towers, deep search metal detector, small arms stimulator etc. to the various prisons. For the first time

holistic foundational training has been provided to prison personnel to take care of the safety and security of the Prisons. Currently 320 freshly recruited Warders are undergoing training from Decemeber 2008 at police training school, Coimbatore. High Security enclosures have been built in five Central Prisons at Tiruchirappalli, Salem, Coimbatore, Vellore and Puzhal.

V. Human resources development

Warders Training

6. 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 and at the Police Training School, Coimbatore. Emphasis is given on human rights of prisoners. They are also taught handling of Modern weapons and also hands on training of these weapons. Besides, periodical refresher courses are given to Grade I warders and Chief Head Warders.

7. The Warders' Training Centre at Vellore functions with a capacity to train 111 male and 25 female Grade II warders. The warders are also sent to various training courses in the Police Commando School at Marutham Building, Chennai in unarmed combat, Bomb detection and disposal etc. Commando training and refresher courses.

Recruitment of grade II warders

8. The Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board finalized the selection of 354 candidates. Out of 354 candidates, 320 eligible candidates were appointed to the post of Grade II Warder in the existing vacancies. Government have also approved the estimate of 97 vacancies for the year 2007-2008, and 58 vacancies for the year 2008-2009 for the post of Grade II Warders. Further, Government have approved the estimate of 21 vacancies for the year 2008-2009 for the post of Grade II Warder (Female). Action is being taken to fill up the posts through Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board.

Regional institute of correctional administration, Vellore (RICA)

9. This Institution is imparting training since 1979 to the Prison officers of four southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, & Tamil Nadu in the field of correctional methods and Prison Management. The expenditure of this Institution is equally shared by the four participating Southern States and the average annual share for each State is Rs.16.65 lakhs.

Training

10. Officers are also deputed for National level courses in Human Rights, Prison Management etc. which are conducted by the Bureau of Police Research and Development, New Delhi and National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi and National Institute of Forensic Science, New Delhi, National Institute of Social Defence, New Delhi and National Crime Records Bureau, New Delhi. In 2008 five officers underwent various training programmes. Senior officers are also being sent abroad for specialized training courses.

11. Executive staff and Ministerial staff are deputed for various short-term and long term course/training being conducted by the Regional Institute of Correctional Administration, Vellore and the Anna Institute of Management, Chennai-28 which includes the Computer Training in

various software, Office Administration, Stress Management etc. In 2008-2009 138 personnel underwent such training.

VI. Prison discipline

Handling of high security prisoners

12. 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

segregation, the high security blocks have been provided in other prisons also. All hardcore prisoners and those concerned in sensitive cases are confined in high security enclosures of various prisons, are internally guarded by the Prison staff and the outer periphery guarded by Police. All such prisoners are subjected to proper search daily and periodically by higher authorities. They are segregated from other inmates as per prison rules.

13. Visitors to these prisons are frisked by the police and prison authorities before and after the interview. Regular anti-sabotage checks are also being carried out to prevent any escape or untoward incidents in Prison. All prisoners are treated with proper human dignity with respect for all human rights. During frisking of personnel contraband articles, if any seized, suitable disciplinary action against the erring personnel is being taken.

VII. Prisoners welfare

Food and clothing

14. Good food prepared under hygienic conditions is supplied to the prisoners as per the prescribed scale. Items like milk, bread, egg etc., are given to the prisoners as medical diet to the sick prisoners on the recommendation of the Medical officer. All the non-vegetarian prisoners are supplied with 115 grams of chicken once in a week and vegetarian prisoners are supplied with potato curry, kesari and one banana once a week. Stainless steel plates and mugs are provided to prisoners besides Stainless steel cooking vessels and Trolleys to ensure better health and hygienic condition. The diet issued to the female inmates are the same, but the nursing women inmates are issued extra milk. The children accompanying them are issued milk, biscuits, banana and baby food. Clothing and bedding are provided to the inmates as per norms.

15. Terry cotton shorts, shirts and large blanket are issued to the convict inmates. Remand prisoners who do not have adequate clothes are also provided with sufficient clothing at Government cost. Basic amenities and sanitation are provided to ensure good living condition in the Central Prisons and Sub Jails.

Supply of morning tea

16. Morning tea is supplied to the prisoners confined in all prisons of the State with effect from July 2007 onwards.

Health care of prisoners

17. Prisoners are provided adequate medical facilities. Health camps are also conducted regularly. Prisoners suffering from communicable diseases are given specialized treatment. Mentally retarded prisoners are also adequately treated by admitting them in the Government Mental Health Institute, Chennai. Smoking in prisons has been banned by the Government as a health care measure. Ambulances have been provided to all Central Prisons, Special Prisons for Women and all Women Sub Jails and Special Sub Jails. 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 female prisoners.

18. With the assistance of the Health Department, a testing Centre for checking prevalence of HIV among inmates has been established in all Central Prisons in July/August 2008. All inmates

in the prisons after due counselling are subjected to test for AIDS. This is first of its kind to be established in the prisons anywhere in the country.

Fans

19. Government have sanctioned 6307 fans for the use of Prisoners in all Prisons in the year 2007-08 and installed in all Prisons by the Public Works Department.

Interview and recreation of prisoners

20. Interview facilities are provided to the prisoners to meet relatives and friends. The interview application is supplied free of cost and it can be down loaded from the Prison 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 the prisoners. Facilities are provided to the inmates to play Indoor & Outdoor games.

Education

21. Education has been given primacy in the overall activities of the inmates. Education requirement is categorized on the level of individual attainment. (i) Primary level (ii) Elementary School level (iii) Higher Secondary level (iv) Graduation and Post graduation through Open universities (v) Vocational Training to impart useful job oriented skills to the inmates. Teachers under "Valar Kalvi Thittam", Sarva Siksha Abhyan (SSA) are deputed by the District administration to instruct the inmates. Some of the inmates who are themselves qualified teachers also take classes. A programme to implement 100% literacy amongst inmates has been launched in coordination with Human Resource Development Ministry, Government of India, Education Department of Tamil Nadu. The Indira Gandhi Open University is conducting 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

15 inmates of Palayamcottai Prison obtained Master Degree from Manonmaniam Sundaranar University and a convocation was held in the Prison complex, a first initiative in the country. The university is also conducting Diploma courses in (i) Vehicle Maintenance (ii) Fashion Fabric Design (iii) Plumbing (iv) Electrical repair (v) Refrigeration and Airconditioning. A total of 1381 convict prisoners have pursued various studies during the year 2008-2009 as detailed below:-

Foundation course	1082
M.C.A.	3
M.A	1
B.A.	48
B.Sc.,	15
B.B.A.	2
B.C.A.	15
Certificate course in Food and Nutrition	28
Diploma Courses	187
Total	1381

Free legal aid to prisoners

22. 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.

Premature release of prisoners

23. This Government has been ordering premature release of prisoners on the occasion of birthday of Peraringnar Anna every year. Accordingly on the occasion of Birth centenary of Peraringnar Anna on 15th September 2008 the Government have ordered for the premature release of 1405 Life Convicts including 22 woman convict prisoners who have completed 7 years of actual imprisonment and who are above the age of 60 years and have completed 5 years of imprisonment as on 15.09.2008.

Grievance redressal

24. Sealed complaint boxes have been installed in prisons to enable the prisoners to ventilate their grievances. The District and Session Judge opens the complaint boxes on the first working day of every month and sends the complaints to the appropriate authorities for action. Session Judges and Chief Judicial Magistrates also make surprise visits to prisons, check food and other facilities to prisoners and enquire into their grievances once a month. During the annual inspection of the Additional Director General of Prisons and Range Deputy Inspectors General of Prisons each and every prisoner is enquired about their grievance and action taken to redress their genuine grievance.

Official and non-official visitors

25. 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 the prisons to ensure the provision of basic requirements and proper treatment of prisoners.

26. Members of Public who are interested in prisons and have good back ground with aptitude for social work are appointed as non-official visitors by the Additional Director General of Prisons. They are allowed to meet the prisoners subject to rules in force. 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

27. 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.

28. Members of National and State Human rights commissions and Hon'ble Judges visit the prisons and have commended the administration of Jails.

VIII. Rehabilitation of prisoners

Participation of non governmental organisation

29. 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 & vocational trades

30. 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, Tag making, Wax, Shoes, Phenyl, Tapes, Soaps, Cumbly, flat file making etc. to enable them to take self employment after their release. On completion of the training, Certificates are issued by the State Council for Employment and

Training. The average production of the prison Industrial units for the last 4 years works out to about Rs.4 crores per annum.

31. 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. Out of this wages 50% is recovered for upkeep and 20% for Victim Compensation Fund and the remaining 30% of wages is paid to the prisoners and added into their cash property account.

IX. Staff welfare

Medals

32. 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.

Name of medal	No. of medals awarded during 2008-2009
(i) Hon'ble Chief Minister's Medal	
a) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Prison Service Medal for Gallantry It carries an allowance of Rs.100/- per month.	20
b) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Prison Service Medal for Outstanding Devotion to Duty It carries one time lumpsum amount as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Rs. 5000/- - Jailor to Superintendent of Prisons. ❖ Rs.3000/- - Assistant Jailor and Deputy Jailor ❖ Rs.2000/- - Warders up to Chief Head Warder. 	10
c) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Service Medal for Good Service It is awarded to Grade I and Grade II Warders only. It carries an allowance as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Rs.50/- per month for Grade I Warders ❖ Rs.40/- per month for Grade II Warders 	20
(ii) President's Correctional Service Medal	
a) Gallantry Medal It carries an allowance of Rs.60/- per month	Nil
b) Meritorious Medal Medal only.	5
c) Distinguished Service Medal Medal only.	Nil

Ex-gratia payment

33. 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 redressal mechanism for personnel

34. Senior officers of the Prisons department are conducting Grievance Day Meetings as follows for subordinate officials and men.

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

35. The Prison staff are paid Extra time remuneration at the rate of Rs.150/-per day if they work on the day of their weekly off.

Feeding charges

36. Government have sanctioned the payment of feeding charges 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 upto 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.

Night meal allowance

37. The night duty Warders working in Central Prisons and Borstal School are provided with Night Meals and Morning Tea. These facilities were not available to the night duty Warders working in District Jails, Special Sub Jails, Sub Jails and Open Air Prisons. To eliminate the discrimination among night duty Warders in Central Prisons and Night duty Warders in other Jails, Government have sanctioned Night Meal Allowance at the rate of Rs.12/- per day for the Night duty Warders of all Jails in the State.

Uniform stitching charges

38. The warders are paid a sum of Rs.200/- per head per year towards stitching charges for two sets of uniforms.

Washing allowance

39. The First Grade and Second Grade Warders working in Central Prisons, Borstal School are sanctioned Washing Allowance of Rs.100/- per month as sanctioned to the Sub Jail Warders.

X. New initiatives

Information technology

40. All the Central Prisons have been provided with computers. A software "Prisoners Information System" 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. The computers available in Prisons are provided with Broad-Band facilities.

41. 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

www.tn.gov.in/prisons

Intelligence-cum-vigilance wing

42. 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 on regular basis.

43. Further, in order to meet any emergent situation and to keep a close watch over the activities of the prisoners and prison staff and convey important information to the Head of the Department in time, the Intelligence -cum-Vigilance Wing has been strengthened by posting (on doing duty basis from Police Department) one Deputy Superintendent of Police at Head Quarters for overall supervision. An intelligence wing of one Sub Inspector of Police, One Head Constable, one Police Constable each to 9 Central Prisons have also been constituted.

Perspective plan

44. 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.
- e) Purchase of modern gadgets and conduct of Correctional programme.

45. Sanction for construction of 1001 quarters for the prison staff at a total cost of Rs.4166.92 lakhs has been sanctioned under the Modernization programme. With these new quarters, total availability of quarters for the staff is 2016 which works out to a housing satisfaction of 41.49 %.

XI. Part II schemes

46. The following new schemes to the tune of Rs.98.90 lakhs have been approved under Part II Schemes for the year 2009-2010.

SI No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount Rs. In lakhs
1.	Starting of Sniffer dog squad in Central Prison-I, II at Puzhal, Vellore, Cuddalore, Trichy, Madurai, Palayamcottai, Salem and Coimbatore for better access control.	18.72
2.	Provision of CCTV Surveillance with accessories to Central Prison-II at Puzhal.	17.11
3.	Replacement of old and worn out cooking vessels to Central Prison at Vellore, Cuddalore, Trichy, Madurai, Palayamcottai, Salem and Coimbatore and Special Prisons for Women at Vellore.	36.86
4.	Replacement of existing worn out Motorcycle and Ambulance with all accessories to Borstal School and District Jail, Pudukkottai.	4.50
5.	Providing fibre glass partition with intercom arrangements in the interview room in Central Prison-II, Puzhal.	7.30

6.	Replacement of existing old and worn out tractor with trailer to Central Prison, Palayamcottai.	6.00
7.	Provision of electronic digital weighing scales (100 Kg capacity) to all the 18 Sub Jails under the control of Chennai Range covering Central Prison, Vellore and Central Prison-I, Puzhal.	1.71
8.	Provision of 12 Nos. of computers, printers UPS and furniture to the Offices of 12 Regional Probation Officers at Chennai city, Research Cell, Vellore, Salem, Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy, Sivagangai, Kumbakonam, Chenglepet.	6.00
9.	Provision of one digital photocopier with accessories and consumables to the Office of the Additional Director General of Prisons, Chennai – 8.	0.70
	Total	98.90

XII. Conclusion

47. 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. Nine Sub Jails and three Special Sub Jails have been created exclusively for women prisoners. Government also ordered for the opening of 10 Borstal Schools for pre-convicted adolescent inmates in the age group of 18 to 23 in August 2008. This is a pioneering effort in the country.

Mahatma Gandhi said "The prisoners are wards of the State and not Slaves". The prison personnel have been suitably sensitized on the nature of their duties through intensive basic and inservice training. 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. Prison Department sincerely dedicates itself for the cause of peace and tranquility in society.

**I.PERIASAMY,
MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND HOUSING.**