

**TAMIL NADU PRISON DEPARTMENT**  
**POLICY NOTE 2011-2012**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Prison is an age old institution closely inter-linked in the chain of administration of criminal justice. Thus Prisons are an essential part of the Criminal Administration System.

Four major institutions involved in the administration of justice are POLICE, PROSECUTING MACHINERY, COURTS AND PRISONS. In the process, the police force is assigned the task of preventing the crime and taking punitive measures by registering offences and laying charge sheet against the accused after due investigation; the prosecuting machinery prosecutes the accused charged before the Court of Law; the courts adjudicate the case by punishing the guilty and thus protecting the innocents; the prison or jails lodge the offenders during the period of incarceration. The Personnel of the Prison Department have the onerous task of protecting the society from those incarcerated by due process of law. As such the prison is the last link in the process of rendering criminal justice.

2. In earlier days, Criminals and unsocial elements were looked upon with contempt and were penalized heavily. During nineteen twenties a major shift was made

from the deterrent approach to correctional approach for the first time when the Indian Jails committee was constituted. In conformity to a correctional approach, over a period of time the main objective of the prison department has become not only to confine prisoners and deter them from committing offences but also to REFORM, REHABILITATE, and RESOCIALISE them so that they can freely mix and mingle with the society after their release and become useful citizens.

3. A human being even while under any form of detention or imprisonment continues to have his dignity and self respect, which are undeniable rights. The twin objectives of the prison department are Reformation and Rehabilitation and not Retribution and Punishment. With this end in view, several reformatory measures have been taken and many improvements introduced for the benefit of prisoners. In view of this, the inmates in prison are being trained in a number of job oriented vocational skills, which will help them to pursue gainful occupation and join the main stream of the society after their release. Government is continuing to take conscious efforts to improve the infrastructure facilities in prisons.

## **II. PRISONS**

4. There are 134 prisons under the control of Prison Department of which 9 are Central Prisons, 3 are Special Prisons for women, 9 are District Jails, 86 are Sub Jails for men, 8 are Sub Jails for women, 2 are Special Sub Jails for men, 3 are Special Sub Jails for women, 12 Borstal Schools and 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 four Deputy Inspectors General of Prisons one each at Chennai, Coimbatore, Trichy and Madurai Ranges and one Deputy Inspector General of Prison (Women Prisoners) at headquarters. 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 5,147. The total authorized accommodation of all Prisons is 21,911.

## **III. PROBATION WING**

5. 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 visits to Police lockups in order to ensure that there is no violation of human rights.

#### **IV. CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDING**

6. The main office building of Central Prison, Madurai was constructed during the year 1865 and has been in use for more than 140 years. A portion of the Madras terrace roof of this building is in dilapidated condition due to damage caused to the wood supporting the roof by termites. The General Section, Accounts Section and Remission sections, which are functioning in a separate building situated inside the prison, were constructed during the year 1865. Earlier, this building was utilized for storing dietary articles and later converted into office building about 10 years ago as there was no alternate building available inside the prison for the routine functioning of the General section, Accounts section and Remission sections. The roof of this building was thatched with Mangalore tiles. This tiled roof is in dilapidated condition as most of the tiles were broken due to efflux of time and the wooden planks eroded by termites. The Public Works Department authorities have

advised the prison authorities not to use this place any more for safety reasons. Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.117.52 lakhs vide G.O.Ms. No.1026, Home (Prison-IV) Department, dated 10.12.2010 to construct the new buildings for office and the work is under progress.

#### **Sewage Treatment Plant**

7. As per present sewage system laid in Central Prison, Madurai, the sewages are being drained by the underground sewage pipelines of the Madurai Corporation. The drainage system mounted near Madurai Central Prison is in higher level than the prison drainage that prevent the free flow of sewage from Central Prison and causing stagnation of sewage inside the Central Prison which results in stinky odour and health hazards to the prisoners. To find a suitable solution to this problem the Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation has come up with the solution of Installation of Sewage Treatment Plant at a cost of Rs.45.72 lakhs. Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs.45.72 lakhs vide G.O (Ms) No.7, Home (Prison-IV) Department, dated 04.01.2011 and the work is under progress.

## **V. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

### **Recruitment and Training of Warders**

8. The Grade II warders are recruited by the Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board and imparted training in drill, discipline, management and correctional methods for six months at Warders' Training Centre, Vellore and at the Temporary Warders Training Centre, Trichy. 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 the Chief Head Warders/Assistant Jailors / Deputy Jailors.

9. At present, 409 Grade II Warders (men) and 27 Grade II Warders (female) are undergoing training at Temporary Warders Training Centre, Trichy. The warders are also sent to various training courses, in the Police Commando School at Marutham Building, Chennai, such as unarmed combat, Bomb detection and disposal etc., Commando training and refresher courses.

### **Academy of Prisons and Correctional Administration (APCA), Vellore**

10. Officers of the Prison Department in the four southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala & Tamil Nadu are imparted training by APCA.

This institution has been imparting training in the field of correctional methods and Prison management, since 1979. The expenditure of this institution is equally shared by the four participating southern states and the average annual share for 2010-2011 for each state is Rs.25.00 lakhs.

### **Training**

11. Officers 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. 197 officers underwent various training programmes in 2010-2011.

## **VI. PRISON DISCIPLINE**

### **Handling of High Security prisoners**

12. High security blocks had been constructed in Central Prisons and all hardcore prisoners and those concerned in sensitive cases are confined in high security enclosures of various prisons. The High Security Blocks 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. Special care is being taken to frisk visitors to these prisoners 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. If contraband articles are seized, during frisking of personnel, suitable disciplinary action is being taken against the erring personnel.

## **VII. PRISONERS' WELFARE**

### **Food and clothing**

14. Healthy food prepared under hygienic conditions is supplied to the prisoners as per the scale prescribed in Chapter XXII of Tamil Nadu Prisons Manual Volume-II. Items such as milk, bread, egg etc., are given to the sick prisoners as medical diet 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. Morning tea is also being supplied to all prisoners. 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 given extra milk.

The children accompanying them are issued milk, biscuit, banana and baby food at Government cost. Clothing and bedding are provided to the inmates as per the norms laid down in the Tamil Nadu Prison Manual.

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

### **Health care of Prisoners**

16. All efforts are taken to provide good medical care to the prisoners. Conduct of health camps and provision of specialized treatment to prisoners are being done in all prisons. Prisoners requiring psychiatric treatments are also treated by admitting them in the Government Mental Health Institute, Chennai. Smoking in prisons has been banned 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 and find out the nature of illness. Sanitary napkins are issued to female prisoners.

17. A testing Centre for checking prevalence of HIV among inmates has been established in all Central Prisons in the State. 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.

### **Interview and Recreation of Prisoners**

18. The application for seeking interview with prisoners is supplied free of cost and it can also be downloaded from the Prison website. Facilities are available to play indoor games and out door games. Prisoners are allowed to borrow books from the prison and district libraries.

### **Education**

19. Education has been given primary importance in the overall activities of the inmates. Education requirement is categorized based 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 for teaching 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 Government of Tamil Nadu. The Indira Gandhi Open University is also conducting certain courses in which the prisoners make use of.

20. A total of 2528 convict prisoners have pursued various studies during the year 2010-2011 as detailed below:-

Foundation course	1533
M.C.A.	8
M.A	31
B.A.	180
B.Sc.,	33
B.B.A.	7
B.C.A.	9
Diploma Courses	289
8 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> & +2	137
Community College	301
<b>Total</b>	<b>2528</b>

### **Mahatma Gandhi Community College with Multiple Campuses**

21. Mahatma Gandhi Community College approved by Tamil Nadu Open University is established in Tamil Nadu Prison Department with Multiple Campuses. It was started on 30.12.2010 at first in Central Prison-I, Puzhal and it has

been extended to eight Central Prisons, Special Prison for Women and Borstal School, Pudukkottai. 9 kinds of vocational training course are imparted to the prisoners to ensure maximum opportunity in learning work skills and life scoping skills for main streaming them in the society after their release. At present, 339 prisoners are enrolled in Community Colleges and they were benefited by this college.

### **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.

### **Grievance redressal**

23. 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, to 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 Police/Inspector General of Prisons and Range

Deputy Inspectors General of Prisons, the grievance of each and every prisoner is enquired and action taken to redress their genuine grievances.

### **Official and Non-official visitors**

24. 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. Apart from this, members of the public are also appointed as non official visitors.

### **Human Rights**

25. 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.

26. Members of National and State Human rights commissions and Hon'ble Judges visited the prisons in Tamil Nadu and have appreciated the administration of Jails.

## VIII. REHABILITATION OF PRISONERS

### Participation of Non Governmental Organisation

27. 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, counseling, lectures on ethics, free medical treatment camps, vocational training etc., in Prisons.

### Prison Industries & Vocational trades

28. 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.

29. Prison Department has been declared as "Service Department". The Prison department produces articles like file wrappers, file covers, khaki uniform cloth, bandage cloth etc. and supply them 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.

30. Under the wage earning scheme the prisoners are paid Rs.60/- per day for skilled work and Rs.50/- for semi-skilled work and Rs.45/- for unskilled work. 20% of the wages is set apart towards victim compensation fund.

## IX. STAFF WELFARE

### Medals

31. 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 2010-2011
(i) Hon'ble Chief Minister's Medal	
a) <b>Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Prison Service Medal for Gallantry</b> It carries an allowance of Rs. 300/- per month.	Nil
b) <b>Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Prison Service Medal for Outstanding Devotion to Duty</b> It carries one time lump sum amount as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Rs. 5000/- -Jailor to Superintendent of Prisons.</li> <li>❖ Rs.3000/- - Assistant Jailor and Deputy Jailor.</li> <li>❖ Rs.2000/- - Warders up to Chief Head Warder.</li> </ul>	10

<p>c) <b>Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Medal for Prison Good Service</b></p> <p>It is awarded to Grade I and Grade II Warders only. It carries an allowance as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Rs.50/- per month for Grade I Warders</li> <li>❖ Rs.40/- per month for Grade II Warders</li> </ul>	<b>60</b>
<b>(ii) President's Correctional Service Medal</b>	
<p>a) <b>Gallantry Medal</b></p> <p>It carries an allowance of Rs.60/- per month</p>	<b>Nil</b>
<p>b) <b>Meritorious Medal</b></p> <p>Medal only.</p>	<b>9</b>
<p>c) <b>Distinguished Service Medal</b></p> <p>Medal only.</p>	<b>Nil</b>

### Ex-gratia payment

32. 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

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

1. The Additional Director General of Police/Inspector 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

34. The Prison staff are paid Extra time remuneration at the rate of Rs.200/- per day if they work on the day of their weekly off.

### Other allowances

35. 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. The night duty Warders in Jails other than Central Prisons

and Borstal School are paid night meal allowance of Rs.12/- per night. The Superintendent of Prisons down to Grade II warders are paid a sum of Rs.500/- per head per year towards stitching charges for two sets of uniforms. The Superintendent of Prisons down to Grade II Warders working in Central Prisons, Borstal School are sanctioned washing allowance of Rs.200/- per month.

## **X. NEW INITIATIVES**

### **Creation of Dog Squad**

36. In order to trace the presence of contraband articles like narcotics substances, cell phones, explosive materials in prisons, the Government in G.O.Ms.No.614, Home (Prison-IV) Department, Dated 31.07.2009 have sanctioned for starting of Sniffer Dog squad with 2 sniffer dogs in each Central Prison-1 and 2 at Puzhal, Vellore, Cuddalore, Trichy, Madurai, Palayamkottai, Salem and Coimbatore at a cost of Rs.18.72 lakhs. Accordingly 18 puppies were purchased and are being given 9 months training in the Police Dog Training Centre at Chennai and Coimbatore along with their handlers. The first batch of sniffer dog squad will commence their work during September 2011.

## **Information Technology**

37. 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) and the same is implemented in Prisons.

38. 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**

39. The Prison department has an intelligence wing consisting of a set of personnel on deputation from the Police department and another set of personnel on doing duty basis from the Police department. This wing monitors the activities of the prisoners and collects important and sensitive information for effective control in prison administration.

**XI. PART II SCHEMES**

40. The following new schemes to the tune of Rs.85.44 lakhs have been approved under Part-II Schemes for the year 2011-2012.

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Scheme</b>	<b>Amount (Rupees in lakhs )</b>
1.	Replacement of One Tipper Lorry (Condemned) for the use of manufacturing section in Central Prison at Trichy.	11.00
2.	Purchase of 3 Nos. of Motorcycles for providing each one to the Special Prison for Women at Puzhal, Trichy and Open Air Prison, at Singanallur.	1.50
3.	Provision of 71 Nos of new Computers with accessories and computer furnitures to 71 Sub Jails and District Jails under the control of Trichy and Madurai Ranges.	33.92
4.	Replacement of 4 Nos of digital multifunction copier machines for providing each one to Central Prison at Madurai, Trichy, Central Prison-1 & 2 at Puzhal.	4.40

5.	Provision of 55 Nos. of additional Hand held Walkie-Talkie sets with spare battery packs for the use of Central Prisons at Coimbatore, Central Prison-I, Puzhal and District Jail, Pudukkottai.	4.95
6.	Provision of 8 Nos. of 3 KVA UPS with SMF batteries, 2 each for Central Prison at Madurai, Coimbatore, Cuddalore and Vellore.	4.32
7.	Provision of 1 No. of multi zone Door frame Metal detector to Central Prison at Trichy.	5.00
8.	Purchase of 6 Nos of Fax machine for providing one each to the Office of the Deputy Inspector General of Prisons, Madurai, Trichy and Coimbatore and Office of the Superintendent, Central Prison-1, Puzhal, Special Prison for Women, Puzhal & Borstal School at Pudukottai.	0.60
9.	Purchase of 6 Nos of cell phone detectors for providing one each to Central Prison-2, Puzhal, Coimbatore, Trichy, Salem, Madurai and Palayamkottai.	9.90

10.	Provision of 1 No. of Tractor with Tipping Trailer to Central Prison-1, Puzhal to clear the garbage and transport the finished goods.	7.50
11.	Provision of 5 Nos of Hand Held Metal Detectors for the use in Central Prisons at Trichy and Salem.	0.25
12.	Replacement of 6 Nos video coverage cameras in Central Prison, Salem, Madurai Central Prison-II, Puzhal, Special Prison for Women, Puzhal, Vellore and Trichy.	2.10
<b>Total</b>		<b>85.44</b>

## **XII. CONCLUSION**

41. Every effort is being taken by Government to ensure the welfare of prisoners, they are given all assistance to start a new life after their release from the prisons. Overcrowding in prisons is totally avoided in the state. The prison personnel are also being constantly trained and sensitized regarding the nature of their duties. All these efforts will be continued in the years to come.

**G. Senthamizhan**  
**Minister for Information, Law,**  
**Courts and Prisons.**