

No.V-17013/17/2006-PR
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA/BHARAT SARKAR
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS/GRINH MANTRALAYA

Dated the 14th August, 2006

To

The Principal Secretary/Secretary Home(In-charge of Prisons)
All States and Union Territories.

Subject : Tightening of security measures in jails

Sir/Madam,

As you are aware the Central Govt. has from time to time, been advising the State Governments on strengthening the security arrangements in jails. In this connection, attention is invited to this Ministry's letter No.V-17013/4/98-GPA-IV dated 21.9.1998 on the above mentioned subject, a copy of which is enclosed for ready reference.

2. Some instances in the recent past have come to the notice of the Central Government in which the prisoners were found in possession of prohibited items like weapons, explosives, cellular phones, narcotics etc. Further there were reports of some criminals and terrorists meeting their associates inside the jails. This shows that there is certain degree of laxity in the security arrangements in jails. You would appreciate that carrying/possession of prohibited items like mobile phones, weapons, drugs etc. is a potential security hazard.

3. It is, therefore, requested that the State Governments may take immediate adequate measures for tightening security and to ensure that prisoners are not in possession of prohibited items like mobile phones, weapons etc. The State Governments while evolving a fool proof mechanism for tightening security may consider including the following matters:-

- (i) Relatives and friends visiting inmates may be frisked carefully outside the mulaqat/visitors' room ;
- (ii) If the food and other items are permitted in jails for any specified categories of prisoners they should be allowed to be carried only in transparent packs. Subsequently, surprise checks may also be carried out in the jail premises;
- (iii) Regular checks may be conducted of all inmates after their return from courts/hospitals;
- (iv) The setting up of video conferencing facilities with courts could to a great extent help in this endeavour;

- (v) Surprise checks of staff members including guards on duty outside the jail may be made by concerned prison officials at odd hours;
- (vi) Senior officers should also be instructed to visit jails once or twice a week during the night without prior intimation to avoid/detect any untoward incident;
- (vii) Strict departmental action may be taken against those prison personnel, who are found to be involved in the supply of drugs, mobile phones or any other item which is banned in the jail premises: and
- (viii) Visits of Press/Media persons in jails to meet/interview criminals may be tactfully restrained.

5. The aforesaid measures are only indicative in nature and not exhaustive. The State Governments are requested to indicate by 31.8.2006 the measures taken by them for tightening security in jails.

Encl : As above.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(A.K.Srivastava)
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India