HIGH COURT OF MADHYA PRADESH: JABALPUR

<u>// MEMO//</u>

Endt. No. (14129 (Jai))
II-3-225/57

Jabalpur, dt. 04.../09/2018

The copy of the order passed by Hon'ble the Supreme Court of India, New dated 03-08-2018 in Writ Petition(Civi) No. 406/2013 in Re-Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prison Vs. State of Assam is forwarded to :-

(i) The District & Sessions Judge, with a request to bring the same into the knowledge of all the Judicial Officers under their kind control for information and necessary action.

(ii) The District & Sessions Judge (Inspection Vigilance), Jabalpur / Indore / Gwalior;

(iii) The Director MPSJA for doing the needful in connection with imparting training to the judicial Officers dealing with MACT Cases.

(iv) The Principal Registrar, Bench at Indore/Gwalior High Court of M.P., Jabalpur.

(v) P.S. to Hon'ble the Chief Justice ,High Court of Madhya Pradesh Jabalpur for placing the matter before His Lordships,

(vi) P.S. to Registrar General/ Principal Registrar(Judl)/ Principal Registrar (Inspection & Vigilance),/ Principal Registrar (Examination) / Principal Registrar (ILR) High court of Madhya Pradesh Jabalpur,

(vii) P.A. to Director/Additional Director/JOTRI, High Court of Madhya Pradesh Jabalpur,

(viii) Registrar(J.)/(D.E.)/(A)/ (Vig.)/ (VI.)/ (A.W.), High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur.

(ix) The Registrar(IT) for uploading the same in NIC.

for information & appropriate action.

(SANAT KUMAR KASHYAP) REGISTRAR(DE)

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) No. 406 OF 2013

RE-INHUMAN CONDITIONS IN 1382 PRISONS VS

VERSUS

Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s)

STATE OF ASSAM

... Respondent(s)

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith for your information, compliance and necessary action a certified copy of Record of Proceedings dated 02nd August, 2018 of this Court passed in the matter above mentioned.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

TEM NO.1

COURT NO.3

SECTION PIL-W

Supreme Court of India

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

673583

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s).406/2013

RE-INHUMAN CONDITIONS IN 1382 PRISONS

Date: 02-08-2018 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

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Mr. P. Venkat Reddy, Adv.

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Mr. Prashant Kr. Tyagi, Adv. for M/s. Venkat Palwai Law Associates

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following O R D E R

We have heard learned amicus curiae and have gone through the Note of Hearing prepared by him. We have also heard Mr. Surinder S. Rathi, Director, NALSA.

The office report is to the effect that all the High Courts have initiated *suo motu* petitions or are already dealing with the petitions relating to overcrowding in prisons.

We trust that the High Courts are looking into the matter seriously.

Under Trial Review Committee

The Under Trial Review Committees have been set up in every district of the country or are at least expected to be set up in every district of the country pursuant to our orders.

We would request the High Courts to consider the functioning of the Under Trial Review Committees along with the suo motu petitions since they are dealing with overcrowding and the release of under trial prisoners is also one of the concerns relating to overcrowding in prisons.

NALSA has prepared an SOP with regard to the functioning of the Under Trial Review Committee. In our opinion, the document will need to be redrafted and we

have requested Mr. Rathi to take assistance and to have the document redrafted so that it can be used by the Under Trial Review Committees as well as by the High Courts who will be dealing with the functioning of the Under Trial Review Committees.

Women prisoners and their children

The issue of children of women prisoners is an extremely serious issue. It has been pointed out by learned amicus curiae that he has visited a prison in Faridabad, Haryana where he learnt that children of women prisoners who are below six years of age are not allowed to leave the prisons. This is hardly conducive to their well-being and health.

There is another category of such children who have crossed the age of six years and they are released from prison, but there is nothing to indicate how such children are looked after. Surely, these children cannot be left to fend for themselves just because they are six years of age when their mother is in prison.

The third category of children are minors above six years of age and whose mother is in custody. Such children also need to be looked after since their father or any next of kin, etc. may not be there to look after them.

In view of this, we have suggested to learned amicus curiae that it might be appropriate if a Committee is appointed to look into this issue in great depth with the

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assistance of psychologists, social scientists and experts in different fields so that some pragmatic policy is framed for looking after such children.

Learned amicus curiae says that he would like to think about it and get back to us on the next date of hearing.

Board of Visitors

It is stated by learned amicus curiae in his Note for Hearing that there are several States where the Board of Visitors have not been appointed. We have been informed that even in Tihar Jail, Delhi, the appointment of Board of Visitors has not been notified. In any case, non-official members are not included in Board of Visitors. It is for this reason that perhaps the conditions in prisons are pathetic and prompted a former Chief Justice of India to write to this Court to look into this issue.

The appointment of Board of Visitors that regularly visits jails is an absolute necessity and it is also provided for in the Model Prison Manual prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. We do not see why an acceptable document prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs should not be followed by the Prison Departments. We are informed that the Ministry of Home Affairs has also issued advisories on appointment of visitors, but obviously they are not being followed.

List the matter on 8th August, 2018.

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Training Manuals and Open Prisons

The issue of training manuals and open prisons will also be taken up on 8^{th} August, 2018.

IA No.112556/2017 & 67234/2018

No orders are required to be passed in these two applications which are disposed of accordingly.

(SANJAY KUMAR-I)

AR-CUM-PS

AR YER WILLIAMS

(KAILASH CHANDER)
COURT MASTER

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