

The Meeting of the High Powered Committee was convened on 20.05.2022

at 2 P.M. by virtual mode.

List of Participants:

1. **Justice T. S. Sivagnanam**, Judge, High Court at Calcutta and Executive Chairman, State Legal Services Authority, West Bengal.
2. **Dr. Ravi Inder Singh**, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, Department of Correctional Administration, Government of West Bengal.
3. **Mr. Imran Wahab**, IPS, Inspector General of Correctional Services, Government of West Bengal.

The Committee took note of the inputs given by the Additional Director General and Inspector General of Correctional Services, West Bengal vide a letter dated 16.05.2022 addressed to the Member Secretary, WBSLSA. In the said communication it has been mentioned that there are 1952 convicts including 1625 Life Convicts and 32 Term Convicts at large on parole who were recommended by High Powered Committee.

The Hon'ble Division Bench in the **Sudarsan Mandal and Anr., CRA 203 of 2015** dated 05.05.2020, taking note of the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Dolphy Versus State of Kerala and Another, WP (Civil) No. 1067/2021** dated 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 issued the following directions.

*Under such circumstances, we direct the Member Secretary to place the matter before the Hon'ble High Powered Committee to take appropriate decision with regard to continuance of parole of the prisoners in the State under changed circumstances and in the light of the observations of the Apex Court in **Dolphy** (supra).*

The Committee also took note of the order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Suo Moto Petition (C) No. 1 of 2020 dated 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2021. In fact, the Hon'ble Division Bench had taken note of this order and pointed out

that the embargo from surrender will not extend to persons who have been recommended for release on parole by the appropriate Government as per the recommendations of the High Powered Committee. The learned Inspector General, Correctional Services, West Bengal has pointed out that a proposal has been drawn to direct the convicts to surrender in phases and the classification proposed is based on age. The Committee considered the proposal and found the same to be reasonable and acceptable. Before the committee recommends to direct the Life Convicts and Term Convicts to surrender, the Committee would be required to get appropriate information about the convicts who are on parole. This is to ensure that there are no exceptional circumstances in any of those convicts or there is any adverse information against such convicts during the period of parole.

Therefore, the Committee resolves to request the ADG and IG, Correctional Services, West Bengal to issue appropriate directions to the jurisdictional police to furnish relevant information against all the convicts who are on parole and such information be placed before the Committee for consideration in the next meeting.

Member Secretary, West Bengal, State Legal Service Authority is directed to communicate the above decision/s for implementation.

Sd./-  
(T.S. SIVAGNANAM, J.)