

ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS IN RESPECT OF HOME (PRISONS) DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF MIZORAM DURING 2019 – 2023

PROFILE OF PRISONS DEPARTMENT

Prisons is under State Subject and Mizoram Prisons Administration, in the real sense of the term, has emerged only after Mizoram was elevated from the status of one of the Districts of Assam into a Union Territory. As such, Mizoram Jails in the initial stage of development were under Central Administration till Mizoram became a State. During this period, Prison administration was mainly concentrated in security custody and confinement of prisoners. Now, with the modern concept of imprisonment the Department is making effort to take up the security aspect and reformation of prisoners on equal footing.

Under Prison Department there is a Directorate headed by I.G Prisons and under him there are one D.I.G, one A.I.G and one Superintendent (OFFICE). There are 1 (one) Central Jail at Aizawl and eight District Jails located at Aizawl, Lunglei, Siaha, Champhai, Kolasib, Lawngtlai, Serchhip and Mamit and 1 (one) Central Women's Jail, Aizawl. The District Jails are looked after by Jail Superintendents and the Central Jail by a Special Superintendent. Under the Superintendent, there are Jailor, Assistant Jailor, Chief Head Warder, Head Warder and Jail warder. Besides, there are Clerical Staff like LDC, UDC in Jails and Assistant in Directorate Office. There is one Doctor (posted by Health & Family Welfare Department) to look after Central Jail and District Jail, Aizawl who is assisted by Medical Staff like Staff Nurses and Pharmacists. In other District Jails, Health Programmes were carried out by Staff Nurses.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVE

- (a) To provide for safe and secured custody of prisoners of all types committed to prison by the courts.
- (b) To provide for Basic Minimum facilities to prisoners to maintain human dignity and rights.

- (c) To provide for reformation of prisoners and safe rehabilitation to free society after release from the Jail.

Crime is an anti-social act that it is the task of the prison official to deal with the offender that he and others may be deterred from the commission of such acts in future. The Prison objective should be to effect a reformation in the character of the criminal as will fit him again to take place in society and to become a useful citizen after release from the jail. The Prison staff from the Jailer down to the Warder, should be recruited with care and maintain faithful service. The prisoners should be brought under such humanizing and improving influences as will not only deter them from committing further crimes but will also result in real reformation of their character.

ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS DURING 2019 - 2023

1. Central Women's Jail under the establishment of Central Jail, Aizawl was inaugurated on 19.7.2019 and existing female prisoners were shifted. The work was taken up by NECS in which the fund Rs. 1306 lakhs was received from NEC under NLCPR .
2. Prisons Reformation Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Home Department on June 2019. The Committees comprises of vital departments such as H & FW, LESDE, Horticulture, VETY, Industries, School Education, Art & Culture, UD & PA etc. Several meetings to discuss the available aspects for reformation of prisoners were held. On this basis, presently, Horticulture training and practical works including Poultry and Piggery is already underway at Central Jail, Aizawl under the handholding support of Horticulture and Animal Husbandry Departments. Besides LESDE, under PMKVY is also going to provide development training such as tailoring, mobile repairing, and electrical works for which trainer will be provided.

3. Smart Community Toilet was constructed in all jails funded by UD & PA Department, Govt. of Mizoram during 2019 – 2020.
4. Auditorium was constructed at Central Jail, Aizawl with the fund of Rs. 140 lakhs received from State Govt. during 2019 – 2020.
5. Separate Wards was constructed from the fund Rs. 14.71 lakhs received from State Government for detained of prisoners with having Communicable diseases during 2019 – 2020 at Central Jail, Aizawl.
6. Two Storey inmate wards was constructed by utilizing the fund of Rs. 29.01 lakhs received from State Government during 2019 – 2020 at DJ, Kolasib.
7. Approached Road of Central Jail, Aizawl was renovated using the fund Rs. 56.41 received from State Government during 2019 – 2020.
8. Security Wall of District Jail, Kolasib was stuck by strong weather during the monsoon season in the year 2020, fund amounting Rs. 31.75 lakhs was received from State Govt. to repair the security main wall during 2019 – 2020.
9. Repairing of Step inside Central Jail, Aizawl was done by Mizoram PWD with their own fund during 2020 – 2021.
10. The State Government setup a “Committee on Psychological and Social Guidance” to be responsible for counselling of mental patients affected by Covid19 during 2020 – 2021.
11. The Department received funds as mentioned below for detention of Covid19 affected prisoners and medical equipments related to Covid19 during 2020 – 2021.

- a) Setting up of Covid Care Centre (3C) , Central Jail, Aizawl- Rs. 22.51 lakhs
 - b) Medicine and Medical Equipment - Rs. 3.78 lakhs
 - c) Repairing of Wards for detention of Covid19 affected inmates - Rs. 8.05 lakhs.
12. Free Clinic was organised by Ayush Department, H&FW Department, Govt. of Mizoram especially for old age inmates. Immunity Booster and various Vitamins were given to old age during Covid19 (2020 – 2021).
13. To upgrade as well as economise the Cooking System in all the jails, Steam Cooking System was installed in all Jails with the Fund of Rs. 52 lakhs received from State Govt. under SEDP during 2020 – 2021.
14. The Department proposed allocation of fund for construction of Rain Water Harvest Tank @ Central Jail, Aizawl. The Jail accommodate around 500 – 600 during the proposed period which results scarcity of Water. State Govt. approved the proposal and allocate Fund amounting to Rs. 20.75 lakhs to the Department under SEDP, and Rain Water Harvesting Tank was well-constructed during 2020 – 2021.
15. Under the Chairmanship of Home Secretary, Govt. of Mizoram, Vocational & Skill Development Committee was setup. Further under the Chairmanship of Dy. Commissioner of every District in Mizoram, the said Committee was also setup. The Committee was responsible for imparting skills during their incarceration and to be a good citizen after release from Jails during 2020 – 2021.
16. Vocational Training was carried out at as below (**Since 2019**):
- 1) **Poultry** : Around 3500 chickens were sold outside the Jails which raised fund for Govt. Revenue.

- 2) **Piggery & Bee keeping** : Piggery and Bee keeping was already underway under the handholding support of Animal Husbandry Department and Horticulture Department.
- 3) **Carpentry Workshop** was established at Central Jail, Aizawl in which various furniture items were made by Prisoners and sold outside the Jail which raised fund for Govt. revenue. One Jail Staff is deployed to look after Carpentry Workshop.
- 4) **Weaving machine / Handloom machine** was installed at Central Jail, Aizawl and District Jail, Serchhip. Women Prisoners were trained for weaving of clothes etc.

It may be pertinent to mentioned that the above ongoing skills have generated income not only for the prisoners but also paved a way for the Prisons department to contribute towards Government Revenue. Though presently the amount is not as desired being the initial stage but with time and effort it will hopefully increase.

17. For recreational items, Inmates were provided indoor items materials like Carrom Board, Checker, Guitar, Drough Board etc. on need basis.
18. ePrisons Portal was implemented in Mizoram Jails which was launched by Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India and designed by Central NIC. Necessary materials were procured with the fund provided by Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India. The purpose of the Portal is digitization of Prisoners Data of all Prisoners across the country in a common platform. The project was implemented in Mizoram during 2018 – 2019.
19. Blacktopping of District Jail, Serchhip @ Chhiahtlang approach road by utilizing Dept. Budget amounting to Rs. 2,00,000 during 2021 – 2022.
20. As most of the buildings and quarters in various Jails are deteriorating conditions, fund amounting to Rs. 8,00,000 were utilized for repairing of Jail buildings and Quarters in various Jails during 2021 – 2022 and 2022 – 23.

21. The Department received fund amounting to Rs. 300 lakh for implementation of Modernization of Prisons project from Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India. Govt. of Mizoram already allotted the said fund to the Dept's Head of Account on the recommendation of State Level Committee. The following works are taken up during 2022 – 23 and 2023 - 2024:-

- a) Construction of New Ward Building @ CJ, Aizawl (transfer to PWD) - **Rs. 100 lakh**
 - b) Construction of Security Wall @ DJ, Siaha (transferred to PWD) **Rs. 100 lakh**
 - c) Installation of CCTV for CJ, Aizawl, DJ, Aizawl, Lunglei, Champhai & Kolasib (Completed) - **Rs. 78.62 lakh**
 - d) Procurement of Solar Street Lights for all jails (Completed)- **11.00 lakh**
 - e) Procurement of Machineries for Correctional Measurers (Completed) - **Rs. 10.38 lakh**
- TOTAL - Rs. 300 lakh**

22. The Department obtained approval for engagement of 5nos of Jail Warder (Provisional Employee) and recruitment process was already done during 2023 – 2024.

23. Upgradation of existing Sub-Jail, Saitual to District Jail, Saitual on 1.5.2023.

24. Establishment of District Jail in the new Districts of Khawzawl and Hnahthial on 1.5.2023.

25. **ePRISONS** : The Scope of this project is to computerize and integrate all the activities related to prison and prisoner management in the jail. This application suite will provide the vital information about the inmates, lodged in the prisons, in real time environment to the prison officials and other entities, involved in Criminal Justice System. It will also facilitate online visit request and grievance redressed.

ePrisons application suite, developed by NIC, is cloud based product designed with easy to use GUI and embedded with a comprehensive security features. It can be easily adopted by any state prisons department and Mizoram Prisons had already adopted and implemented since its implemented by MHA and Central NIC . Necessary materials to set up ePrisons had been procured with the funds provided by MHA, Govt. of India.

26. In pursuance of Mizoram Prisons Manual, 2017 and National Human Rights Commission proceedings, the Govt. of Mizoram had issued Notification for payment of Compensation to the victim/families of prisoners who met with accidents resulting in physical or mental disability, serious injury, death or loss of health due to occupational diseases as certified by the Chief Medical Officer at the following cases as per decision of the Council of Ministers taking in the meeting.

1. The Compensation will not be admissible in cases of natural deaths including illness.
2. The Compensation will also not be admissible in the following cases of unnatural deaths
 - a) If the death occurs during escape from jails or from lawful custody outside the jails.
 - b) If the death occurs due to any natural disaster/calamity.
3. Compensation will be paid to the next of kin or legal heirs of prisoners/prisoners on account of unnatural deaths and accidents in the following categories with the amount indicated below :
 - a) Death due to fight among prisoners - ₹. 7.50 lakh
 - b) Death due to torture/beating by prison staff - ₹. 7.50 lakh
 - c) Death due to negligence in duty by Prisons/Medical Staff - ₹. 5.00 lakh
 - d) Accidents/serious injury (not self inflicted) resulting in physical or mental disability upto – 81% to 100% - ₹. 3.00 lakh
 - i. Disability from accident not self inflicted upto 51%-80% - ₹. 2.00 lakh
 - ii. Disability from accident not self-inflicted upto 21% to 50% - ₹. 1.00 lakh
4. Loss of health due to recognized occupational diseases - ₹. .50 lakh

27. Video Conferencing facilities had been implemented in all Jails of Mizoram except Central Women's Jail. VC materials were provided by Gauhati High Court under eCourt Project conceptualized under the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary-2005" implemented by eCommittee, Hon'ble Supreme Court.

28. REMISSION

- a) **State Remission** : On the occasion of India's Republic Day and Independence Day, State Remission had been granted to **3458** Prisoners across the state during 2019 – 2023.
- b) **Special Remission** : As per the Mizoram Prisons Manual Chapter 18.10, Special Remission had been granted to 1005 Prisoners across the state during 2019 – 2023. Special Remission is given to Prisoners with good behavior inside the Jails.
- c) **Remission under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** : As part of celebrations of 75yrs of Independence (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav), Special Remission had been granted to 61 Prisoners across the state during 2022 – 2023 in three phases.

29. Mizoram Prison Manual, 2017 was amended and published in the Mizoram Gazette on 6.2.2023 as the Mizoram Prison Manual (Amendment), 2023 in which the following were amended / inserted.

1. Amendment of Ration Scales
2. Insertion of Faster and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records (FASTER) system for faster release of prisoners after receiving orders passed by Courts/Tribunals.
3. Annual Good Conduct Remission is inserted in the types of Remission by Prison authorities in which Jail Superintendent is authorized to grant Annual Good Conduct Remission 30days in a year in addition to other remission.
4. Authority to grant Special Remission by the Head of Prisons Department is substituted by
 - a) Head of Department – 60days in a year
 - b) Jail Superintendent – 30days in a year.
5. Scale of Remission is inserted as "Scale of remission by Head of State" in which quantum to grant remission is classified.

30. Recruitment Rules for Dy. Inspector General of Prisons, Asst. Inspector General of Prisons/Spl. Superintendent (*Group 'A' posts under Prisons Department*) was club together and The Mizoram Home (Prisons) Department (Group 'A' posts) Recruitment Rules, 2023 was published in the Mizoram Gazette on 13.6.2023 with partial amendment.

31. FINANCIAL UPGRADATION

During the reported year, 149 nos. of staff were granted financial up-gradation under MACPS, 2010 & 2020.

32. REGULARIZATION

- a) 3 nos. of LDC (MR) were regularized on 2019.
- b) 29nos. of Jail Warder (MR) were regularized on 2020

33. PROMOTION

- 1) 1 (one) AIG Prisons to DIG Prisons.
- 2) 2 (two) Jail Superintendent to Spl. Superintendent
- 3) 3 (three) Jailor to Jail Superintendent
- 4) 7 (seven) Asst. Jailor to Jailor.
- 5) 10 (ten) H/Warder to Chief Head Warder
- 6) 34 (thirty four) Jail Warder to Head Warder
- 7) 2 (two) UDC to Assistant Grade
- 8) 2 (two) LDC to UDC