



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

NCW conducts inspection of Thane Central Jail

PRESS NOTE

Mumbai, 25th July, 2018: A two-member team from the National Commission for Women (NCW), led by Member Shri Alok Rawat, conducted an inspection of Thane Central Jail on 25.07.2018.

The NCW team was accompanied by representatives of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women and the District Legal Services Authority (Thane).

The inspection was carried out for assessing and looking into various aspects including overcrowding, availability of legal help, rehabilitation plans including skill development and training, legal awareness and legal help for women inmates, proper facilities for the children of these inmates among others.

The team carried out the inspection using the prescribed Proforma developed by the NCW and also took into account the report of the NHRC team which came out on 07.07.2018.

Giving details of the visit, Shri Alok Rawat said that the NHRC team had flagged issues of overcrowding, hygiene, toilets and long pendency of bail applications in respect of the women in Thane Central Jail. He said that the team noted that while those issues raised by the NHRC report remained, however the jail authorities have started to send fresh cases to Byculla Jail and only keep under-trials in both the men and women sections of the jail.

Shri Rawat also said that despite these measures as against authorized capacity of 1105, as a whole, the occupancy was of the order of 3400. In the women's wing of Thane Jail, against sanctioned strength of 25, it was observed that there were 87 women with 8 small children, Shri Rawat elaborated.

It was also noted that to cater for over-crowding, a proposal for construction of a new women jail was under consideration.

The suggestions offered by the NCW team included usage of CSR funds for using solar coolers, eco-friendly incinerators for disposal of used sanitary napkins and regular fire alarm training for the staff and fire safety grills. The DLSA representative was advised to consider taking up of NHRC-flagged issues about delay in bail applications.

The inspection carried out today is a part of the Commission's ongoing project to visit all jails in the country in order to formulate a manual for comprehensive prison reforms for women inmates in India. The Proforma has been shared with the Director Generals of Prisons and State Commissions for Women across the country. The State Commissions for Women are also conducting the prison inspections as per the guidelines of NCW and sharing the reports with the Commission.

A number of other jail inspections have been planned by the Commission for the coming months.
