

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE
MEGHALAYA::::SHILLONG**

C I R C U L A R N O . 8 / 2 0 1 3

There were three instances of death in police custody in the month of August, 2013 in two different Districts of the State, which is a cause of serious concern. While two accused persons committed suicide in the Police lock up on a particular night at Jowai PS, one accused killed himself in the toilet of Tura Police station lock up in the day time. Needless to say, these cases reflect the gross negligence not only on the part of sentries deployed at that time, but also indicates lack of supervision on the part of senior officers, including the Officer-in-Charge of the concerned Police Stations. While detailed guidelines have been issued by National Human Rights Commission in connection with post-event procedure to be followed with regard to Magisterial Inquest, Videography of the Post Mortems, Forensic Tests etc. in the case of custodial deaths and these are being followed scrupulously, no effective steps are being taken by the PS's O/Cs staff to avoid occurrence of such custodial deaths. OC/IC of the PS/OP etc are therefore, directed to take the following action in this respect without fail:-

- 1) There should be proper Medical checkup of the accused persons (as per standard guidelines) before confining them in the lock up. The examining Doctor must be requested to assess whether the individual is a drug addict and is likely to have withdrawal symptoms, if not kept on medication.
- 2) There should be a thorough physical handing over/taking over of the accused in custody by the sentry/duty constable/duty officer at the time of change of duty.
- 3) Sentry must remain fully alert all the time when an accused is in custody. He should keep an eye on the activities of the persons in the custody. He should not be detailed by the OC/IC for miscellaneous duties.
- 4) The accused must seek permission from sentry before using the toilet and if he spends an inordinate period of time in the toilet, it should be duly enquired into by the sentry/duty officer.
- 5) The lock up/toilets should be kept clean and these should be checked everyday to ensure that there are no blades/scissors/knives or any sharp-edged objects concealed inside. It should also be ensured that no medicines are concealed inside.

- 6) In case some structural charges are required for improving the visibility of the activities of the accused person inside the lock up, the same should be undertaken on priority. It must be ensured that there is proper lighting in the lock up. It should be examined whether CCTVs can be installed in the lock ups of different Police Stations and proposal be submitted accordingly.
- 7) In some instances, it has been found that 'Lungis' have been used by the accused for committing suicide. In case an accused taken in custody is wearing 'Lungi', he can be provided a 'Pyjama'/'track suit' so as to avoid misuse of 'Lungi'.
- 8) During visit to PS/OPs, SP and other Gazetted officers must invariably look into the conditions in the lock ups and advise the OC/IC appropriately.
- 9) Officers incharge of Police Stations, Outposts and Beat Houses are directed to closely study and scrupulously adhere to provisions of Rule 210 of Assam Police Manual (Part V), which stipulates their role and responsibility when prisoners are detained at their Police Stations, Outposts and Beat Houses.

Sd/-
(P. J. P. Hanaman, IPS)
Director General of Police,
Meghalaya, Shillong.

Memo No. ADG/L&O/F-15/2010/282

Dated Shillong, the 29th Aug/2013

Copy to: ✓

- 1) ✓ The Addl. Director General of Police (CID/HQ), Meghalaya, Shillong for favour of kind information.
- 2) The Addl. Director General of Police (TAP), Meghalaya, Shillong for information and necessary action.
- 3) The Inspector General of Police (CID), Meghalaya, Shillong for information and necessary action.
- 4) The Inspector General of Police (TAP), Meghalaya, Shillong for information and necessary action.
- 5) The Inspector General of Police (WR), Meghalaya, Tura for information and necessary action.
- 6) The Dy. Inspector General of Police (ER), Meghalaya, Shillong for information and necessary action.
- 7) The Dy. Inspector General of Police (CID), Meghalaya, Shillong for information and necessary action.
- 8) The Asstt. Inspector General of Police (A), Meghalaya, Shillong for information and necessary action.

- 9) The Superintendent of Police, West Jaintia Hills, Jowai for information and necessary action.
- 10) The Superintendent of Police, East Jaintia Hills, Khliehriat for information and necessary action.
- 11) The Superintendent of Police, South West Khasi Hills, Mawkyrwat for information and necessary action.
- 12) The Superintendent of Police, West Garo Hills, Tura for information and necessary action.
- 13) The Superintendent of Police, East Khasi Hills, Shillong for information and necessary action.
- 14) The Superintendent of Police, Ri-Bhoi, Nongpoh for information and necessary action.
- 15) The Superintendent of Police, West Khasi Hills, Nongstoin for information and necessary action.
- 16) The Superintendent of Police, East Garo Hills, Williamnagar for information and necessary action.
- 17) The Superintendent of Police, South Garo Hills, Baghmara for information and necessary action.
- 18) The Superintendent of Police, North Garo Hills, Resubelpara for information and necessary action.
- 19) The Superintendent of Police, South West Garo Hills, Ampati for information and necessary action.


(Y. C. Mea) (PS)
Addl. Director General of Police (L&O),
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