

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL (PRISONS), CENTRAL JAIL**  
TIHAR, NEAR LAJWANTI GARDEN CHOWK, NEW DELHI - 110 064

Incidents of suicide in Tihar Jail do not reflect well on our performance. While the causative factors leading to suicide are quite complex, usually, there are tell-tale and perceptible symptoms seen in persons who take this drastic step. Generally, such persons are in a state of depression where they are aloof, quiet and sleepless and talk of negative things. If our staff is aware, alert and vigilant, such incidents can be prevented.

At the center of all such efforts by us is the role to be performed by the Jail Superintendents. It is primarily their responsibility to involve the medical staff of his jail, Dy. Superintendents, Asstt. Superintendents, Head Warders and Warders in this regard. We should have an excellent system of intelligence gathering from the barracks/cells about such people who are in a state of depression. The Jail Superintendents, with the assistance of subordinate staff, should have informants (*Gumsum panja*) in each barrack, who should pass on this information either directly or through the subordinate staff to him about depressed mental condition of any inmate. Such persons need to be referred to the medical staff who should make thorough assessment with the help of visiting psychiatrist. If he requires medication or specialized treatment, he should be referred to the concerned hospital and regular monitoring should be maintained. It was decided in the meeting yesterday that the medical file of each inmate should be properly maintained and should comment on mental condition of each inmate. If the medical staff feels that a certain inmate requires constant monitoring, he should inform the Jail Superintendent who should, in turn, inform the subordinate ranks.


There is no substitute for regular visits by the Jail Superintendents to different barracks and cells. Such visits should also include proper interaction with the inmates. The inmates should get the feeling and confidence that they can share their inner feelings with the Jail Superintendents. Regular activities like sports, cultural, vocational, meditation, yoga etc. in the jails will keep

worthlessness. The initiative for such activities should come from the Jail Superintendents themselves rather than being thrust or imposed by the Prison Headquarter. These activities should not be conducted sporadically by way of tokenism but in a systematic and well-planned way. Such a plan should have a definite and time bound goal and should keep happening at regular intervals.

The Jail staff under the Jail Superintendents should be regularly briefed by the Jail Superintendents in this regard. Any one found indifferent or insensitive to these instructions, should be identified and suitable administrative action taken. However, the thrust should be not punitive but motivational.

A calendar of proposed activities may be drawn up by each Jail Superintendent and communicated to the Prison Headquarters within a week.

It has also been noticed that after an unfortunate incident of suicide takes place, our staff is not aware of how to deal with the scene of incident. In this regard, as is well known, every such incident is followed by a judicial enquiry. Efforts should be made to preserve the scene of crime till the visit of the Inquiry Officer. If it is felt that the person can still be saved, he should be immediately brought down and taken to the Dispensary. The RMO has been asked to prepare a set of guidelines in this regard, who may submit the same by Monday i.e. on 29.11.2010.

  
(NEERAJ KUMAR)

DIRECTOR GENERAL (PRISONS)

All SCJs

U.O. No PS/DG(P)/2010/810

Dated: 25.11.2010

Copy to

1. DIG (P)
2. Law Officer
3. R.M.O.

SCJ-819-810  
Distt Jail Kohima - 810  
R.M.O. - 810  
CCJ-4 - 810  
SCJ-5 - 810

J-1-810  
P X