

INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC IN RESPECT OF RAJASTHAN JAILS DEPARTMENT UNDER THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005

CHAPTER – 18 OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

1. Frequently Asked Questions

□ Are prisoners allowed to celebrate festivals?

On special occasions like Deepavali, Christmas, Ramzan festivals and other national functions, voluntary and non-governmental organizations are permitted by the Government to supply sweets and special diet cooked in the prison is given to the inmates. Special diet is provided at government cost on four festive occasions in a year.

□ Is education of prisoners permitted?

Yes. All needy inmates' are permitted to pursue elementary, secondary and higher education through correspondence course conducted by education board and universities at government cost with all the required facilities. Every Central Prison has an Elementary School with qualified Teachers and Adult Education is imparted to them so that they can read and write. Computer training is also imparted to the inmates in Prison with assistance of NGOs.

□ Can the public visit Prisons?

The Public are not permitted to visit the Prisons but the relatives of the inmates can interview them as per rules.

□ What is the role of NGOs in Prisons?

The NGOs plays a role to impart vocational training, education and counselling to the inmates inside the prison for their rehabilitation after release, to provide welfare and education to the children of the inmates and also to help pre-release arrangements of the inmates for their effective rehabilitation. The NGOs willing to participate in the above rehabilitation programmes may contact the Director General of Prisons.

□ What are the recruitment norms for Rajasthan Prison Service?

The recruitment norms for Rajasthan Prison Service are as follows:

Category	Recruiting Agency	Minimum Qualification	Recruitment Rules
Warder	Rajasthan Prison Department	+10 Pass	Rajasthan Jail subordinate Service Rules, 1998
Assistant Jailor	Rajasthan Public Service Commission	A recognised University degree	Rajasthan Jail subordinate Service Rules, 1998
Deputy Superintendent	Rajasthan Public Service Commission	A recognised University degree	Rajasthan Jail Service Rules, 1959

□ **Whether a child can be allowed with the mother?**

The children up to the age of 4 years accompanying the mothers are allowed in the prisons. Crèche is also available in each of the Women Reformatory to look after the needs of the children.

□ **What is the role of Legal Aid Cell?**

The role of legal aid cell functioning in Prisons is to provide legal assistance to the poor and indigent inmates to get bail, arrange surety and also to defend their cases in the courts.

2. STAFF WELFARE:

a. Medals

Government have instituted the following medals to be awarded to the Prison officers for commendable performance.

- a) President's Correctional Service Medal
- b) Governor's Prison Service Medal for Gallantry

b. Ex-gratia payment

Ex-gratia payment is given to prison personnel or their family under circumstances of death, permanent handicap and serious /minor injuries on duty.

c. Grievance Redressal

The public approaching the prison for visit, emergency parole, premature release etc., finding any difficulty may contact the Superintendent / Range Deputy Inspector General of Prisons for assistance. The Public may also make complaints regarding the services of prison staff to the superior officers. In addition to that they may also contact the Director General of cum Inspector General of Prisons at Headquarters.

d. Jail Training Institute, Ajmer

To impart institutional training to the staff, a Jail Training Institute is functioning at Ajmer. Its main aim is to impart quality training and refresher courses for the executive staff.

Apart from the basic training imparted in the Institute, special training is also imparted to the officers in the following disciplines

1. Unarmed Combat Course
2. Armourer course

e. Scholarship to children of Staff

As a gesture of goodwill and inspiration to the children of staff who secure minimum specified marks in Government Public Examination Boards in the SSC and HSC are awarded scholarships.

f. Group Insurance to Executive Staff

A sum of Rs.1 lakh is paid to the legal heirs of the executive staff who die while in harness and discharge of duty.

j. Living Accommodation to Staff

All prisons are provided staff quarters free of rent and efforts are taken for providing 100% quarters to all staff.

3. PRISON INMATES' WELFARE

1. Legal Aid Cell

A Free Legal Aid Cell has been established in all the Prisons of state by DLSA to provide legal help to needy prisoners.

2. Yoga and Meditation

In all Central and District Prisons Yoga and Meditation classes are organized to improve the physical and mental health of inmates. Government have permitted voluntary organization and individuals to conduct Yoga and Meditation classes in Prisons. These programmes are well received.

3. Wages to Inmates

Wage earning scheme for labouring inmates is in force in all Prisons. They are paid wages, after all deductions, at the rate Rs.11/-for skilled work and for Un-skilled work Rs 9/- per day.

4. Participation of Non Governmental Organisation

For the rehabilitation and welfare of inmates, the government have permitted many Non Governmental Organisations (N.G.O's) to undertake rehabilitation work in prison. These provide training in yoga and meditation, counselling, lectures on ethics, free medical treatment camps, vocational training etc.

5. Education

All the willing and eligible inmates are permitted to avail distance educational programme facilities at government cost. Elementary schools having qualified teachers are functioning for education of inmates. The Indira Gandhi National Open University is also conducting various courses for inmates.

6. Prison Industries

To inculcate work habit in inmates various trades and industries have been introduced in prisons. Training is imparted in simple trades like electrical wiring & fitting, durry making, hosiery cloth making, weaving, tailoring, furniture making, iron-smithy, desert cooler making etc for self employment.

7. Diet

All inmates are given diet as per the provisions in the Rajasthan Prison Rules. Sick inmates are given medical diet on the recommendation of the Prison Medical Officer. Food from outside is strictly prohibited. The quantity and quality of food given to inmates are checked and counter checked by the Superintendent and Medical Officer and also surprise check by superior officers.

8. Health Care for Inmates

Every Central and 'A' Class District Prison is having a hospital equipped with all kinds of medicines and equipments, etc. to provide effective medical care to the inmates at all times and only during emergency, they are referred to the outside hospital for specialised treatment.

Specialists like Psychiatrists, Dentists, Cardiologists and such experts in other fields of medicine are visiting the prisons regularly and conducting periodical medical check ups and advising course of treatment to be given to the inmates affected by various diseases. Ailing inmates are also sent to outside hospitals for specialized treatment if found necessary on the advice of the medical officer. To eradicate TB among the inmates, suffering inmates are referred to DOTS centre.

9. Sanitation and Water Supply:

Clean drinking water is provided to the inmates in Prisons. A good standard of sanitation is maintained in all prisons. Adequate flush-out latrines and bathrooms are provided with sufficient water. Sweepers are also made available for keeping the prison premises neat and tidy.

10. Clothing Bedding and Toiletries

All convict inmates are provided with prison clothing and all other inmates are permitted to use their own clothing. Toiletries like bathing and washing soaps, tooth powder, hair oil, etc are also provided at government cost. Women inmates are provided with sanitary napkins.

11. Library:

In every prison there is one library with books of moral & educative value for the use of inmates. An inmate may also receive books subject to censorship during interview or by post.

12. Newspaper and Magazine:

Hindi newspapers and magazines are supplied to inculcate reading habit among the inmates. All newspapers and magazine are subject to censorship. All inmates are permitted to purchase at their own cost any of the newspaper or magazine of their choice, subject to certain restrictions imposed from time to time by the Government.

13. Human Rights in Prison:

The Human Rights of inmates are taken care of by providing better living conditions with sufficient accommodation, ventilation, food facilities, potable drinking water, better diet, medical and sanitation facilities interview and communication facilities, entertainment, free legal aid etc.

14. Interviews by relatives and friends with inmates

Interviews are generally conducted on fixed days. The duration of interview is 30 minutes. Relatives and friends are permitted to have interviews with inmates to talk domestic matters only. 3 persons are permitted at a time in an interview.

15. Grievances:

The Public approaching the Prison for visit, emergency parole, premature release etc., finding any difficulty may contact the Superintendent / Range Deputy Inspector General of Prisons for assistance. The Public may also make complaints regarding the services of Prison staff to the superior officers. In addition to that they may also contact the Director General cum Inspector General of Prisons at Headquarters.

4. NEW INITIATIVES

i. Video Conferencing Facility

Video Conferencing System for the production of accused from Jaipur and Jodhpur Central Prisons to the different local courts for the remand extension of has been started.

The Video Conferencing Facility is inter-connected between Courts and these Central Prisons by high tech digital video cameras and television

Accordingly the accused that are required to be produced before the Magistrate for extension of remand, from these Central Prisons after expiry of previous remand period is now be produced through Video Conferencing System.

ii. Biometric Access Control System

Biometric Access Control System (BACS) have been installed at all 8 central jails and will be installed at all 25 district jails. Fingerprint readers and digital cameras have been provided at all central jails for proper identification of inmates and regulate his entry and exit from jail. BACS will also be used for monitoring visitors to jail.

iii. Static Cellphone Jammer

Static Cellphone jammers have been installed at Central Jail Jodhpur. These jammers have checked the problem of illegal use of mobile phones by the inmates.

iv. Modernisation of Prison Administration

With a view to bring the Prisons upto a certain minimum standards, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, and the state government had jointly implemented Jail Modernization Scheme between 2002 to 2007.

The scheme was based on the following four components:-

- a) Construction of New Prisons
- b) Repairs and Renovation to existing Prison buildings
- c) Sanitation and Water Supply
- d) Living Accommodation of Prison staff.

The scheme has considerably improved the basic infrastructure essential for prison security and living conditions of prison inmates.
