

Recent incidents like custodial death of father-son duo in Juiciosin or with stan swami/Navalabhi a medical negligence. by prison demand urgent prison reforms.

supreme court in Ramamurthy v/s state of KN highlighted various problems in Indian prisons like

(i) OVERCROWDING - with more than 114% occupancy (NCRB-2015), Indian prisons are among most crowded compared to USA etc.

a) of these 75% are undertrials & 70% of them belong to marginalised section. while there are only 11%, 20% undertrials in UK, USA respectively.

(ii) Forcure & ill treatment - which reflects into rising number of custodial deaths specially SC/ST & minorities

(iii) STAFF CRUNCH - nearly 33% posts are vacant and prison staff - population ratio lagger around 1:7.

In case of womens there are

only 9.6% women across all level of prison against sanctioned strength of 33%.

→ similarly lack of SC/ST and other marginal section in police staff creates negligence & communication gap.

(iv) Infrastructural faults - Being colonial construction most prison does not comply with UN-standard minimum rules like minimum floor space, lightening, heating, medical aid and food.

→ lack of communication facility keeps them isolated from world & families.

Hence, SC & various committees from time to time advocated for certain reforms like

(i) Justice AN Mulla recommended for All India prison service as a profession.

(ii) model prison manual 2016 should be

adhered by states as state prison is state subject to ensure

- Access to legal service
- computerisation & modernisation.
- Adequate & proportionate staff
- inspection.
- Right of prisoners sentenced for death

(iii) law commission recommended timeline to release undertrials of crime less than 7 years if they completed half of their sentence because of rising undertrials.

(iv) para legal volunteer scheme (PLV) recommended by NALSA to provide trained mediators between marginalised section & authorities to fill communication gap like NGOs.

(v) women specific measures like grievance redressal, separate care for mothers and watch recommended by MOW&C to reduce custodial death [Odisha case].

Thus prison reforms are urgent required 'it will also include judicial some legal reforms.