

Chapter - 10

Jail inspections and visits

The State Governments have framed rules regarding appointments and visits by official and non official visitors in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section 25 of section 59 of the Prisons Act 1894. The officers working as ex-officio visitors and other non official visitors and their term etc. varies as per jail manuals of different States/UTs, but following common features have been found in jail manuals of all States/UTs.

The official and non official visitors of a jail shall constitute a board of which the District Magistrate shall be ex-officio chairman. The functions of the board of visitors shall be:-

- i) To visit the prison periodically;
- ii) To attend to request of inmates pertaining to their care and welfare;
- iii) To help the administration in correctional matters;
- iv) To enter any observations in the visitor's book about their visit to the prison.

Ex-officio visitors : The following officers shall be ex-officio visitors of the prisons in their respective jurisdiction namely, District Magistrate, District and Sessions Judge, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Director of Health Services, Director of Industries, Director of Agriculture, Director of Textile, Executive Engineer, District Education Officer and the District Health Officer.

Non-Official visitors: The State Governments shall appoint non-official visitors for every jail and such appointments made by the Government shall be notified in the State Government gazette. The members of the legislative assembly representing concerned constituency, social workers and those interested in correctional works, psychiatrists, psychologists etc. are appointed as non-official visitors.

Inspection of jail by the visitors and their remarks in the visitor's minute books are aimed at improving the condition of jails and toning up the efficiency and management of jails. The information regarding inspections carried out in jails have been compiled under three categories:

Medical, Executive and Judicial. The details of such information received from the States and UTs are presented below:

Inspections

The total numbers of inspections by the medical authorities were observed as the highest (18,111 out of 35,044 inspections) followed by **judicial** (8,543) and **executive** (3,559) inspections.

Andhra Pradesh has reported relatively large number of inspections (5,484) by medical authorities during the calendar year 2012. Haryana (1,858), Rajasthan (1,563), Punjab (1,345), West Bengal (1,292) have also reported considerable number of inspections by the medical authorities. No inspection by medical authorities was reported from Manipur, A & N Islands and Lakshadweep.

West Bengal has reported the highest number of routine inspections (550) by executive officers followed by Madhya Pradesh (347), Punjab (297), Uttar Pradesh (268) and Tripura (239). Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim and D&N Haveli reported no such inspections.

Andhra Pradesh has also reported the highest number of judicial inspections (1,101) followed by West Bengal (959), Uttar Pradesh (815), Gujarat (739), Punjab (637), Maharashtra (590), Haryana (499) and Assam (490). The details are presented in **Table 10.1**.

