



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
STATE CENTRAL PRISONS**

No. 189/Prisons/2006

Dated 07.01.2006

STANDING ORDER

The past experience of escape of prisoners from the State Prison and the impact thereof had been very painful. The prison administration, as such, felt the need to study the failures leading to escape, prevalent system of planning, supervision and management, improve upon the existing infrastructures, if any, proper utility of observation towers, transparency in the working system and evolve a system to fix up the accountability or responsibility for the lapses with the primary objective of preventing escape in future.

Hence, in order to streamline and strengthen the effective functioning at night, which is vulnerable, the prison administration has reached an unanimous decision after through deliberations, inspections of observatory towers and other structures of the prison by all the officers involved in functioning and administration of the prison. The observatory Towers No. 2 & 3 were found to be of extreme utility in the backdrop of clear vision of whole of prison complex including all prison blocks, external security wall and all other structures. Manning of these towers for observation especially at night or at all times would serve the purpose and prove beneficial in minimizing the threat of escape to zero if watch is maintained honestly and efficiently.

Now, therefore, the prison administration, in accordance to the unanimous decisions is pleased to issue the following guidelines in the form of standing order to be strictly followed in letter and spirit.

1. The Watch Towers No. 2 above lower prison block or under trial block and No. 3 in between female ward and convicts wards, henceforth to be known as Observatory Towers shall be required to be manned for watch and ward or observation at night to prevent escape or any untoward incident keeping in view the hilly terrain landscape of the prison complex.
2. Observatory Tower No. 3 already being used for the said purpose by posting duty personnel of Convicts wards at all times is providing beneficial till date and manning the Tower No. 2 would bear added bonus.
3. To bring into utility the Observatory Tower No. 2 with the existing manpower, the Night Duty Officer shall deploy guards from the Night Patrol Unit at this tower from 2130 Hrs. to 0500 Hrs. or as per the demanding situation on rotation basis.
4. The guards shall keep watch on the occupied prison blocks, outer perimeter security wall and all visible prison complex and inform the duty officer of any suspicious movements by any means.
5. The guards posted on these two observatory towers shall be held responsible or accountable for any lapses with regard to escape or any other law and order problem as they are the one on whom the entire prison administration depends at night.

The duty officers shall ensure that this standing order is strictly adhered to and that frequent checks are maintained to ensure alertness of the guards. Frequent briefings be done for effective performance. The concerned duty officers shall also be held responsible for lack of supervision and dereliction of stipulated duty deemed to facilitate the escape.

This order shall supercede all previous orders with regard to this particular subject.

**Sd/-
(Yap Tshering Bhutia) IPS
Sr. Supdt. Of Police/Prisons
State Jail: Rongyek**