

CJ / BVNJ:

W.P. No.6690/2020

16.04.2020

ORDER

An application filed by Shri Prabhu, learned advocate appearing in person be registered as an interlocutory application in this petition.

2. We direct the State to place on record the data regarding overcrowding of prisons. We are informed by the officials of Karnataka State Legal Services Authority ("KSLSA" for short) that, so far, 707 under-trial prisoners have been released on bail from the date of lockdown. The learned High Court Government Pleader states that so far, 405 prisoners who had been granted parole have been released from the jails.

3. Our attention is invited to the order of the Apex Court on 23rd March, 2020 in (*Suo Motu*) Writ Petition No.1 of 2020. There is a specific direction issued by the Apex Court that a monitoring team must be set up at the State level to ensure that the directives issued with regard to prisons and remand homes are being complied with scrupulously. The State will clarify on the next date whether such a monitoring team has been set up

at the State level and if so, the details of the functions discharged by the monitoring team should be placed on record.

4. The State Government will also place on record the measure taken to ensure that COVID-19 does not spread in the prisons in the State. The response of the State shall be placed on record by 20th April, 2020 so that this issue can be considered on 21st April, 2020.

5. We also direct the State Government to report compliance with the directions issued by the Apex Court concerning remand homes and children's homes in the State in the context of measures to be taken for arresting the spread of COVID-19. This issue will also be taken up on the next date.

6. Let the matter be listed on 21st April, 2020.

**(Sd/-)
CHIEF JUSTICE**

**(Sd/-)
JUDGE**

vgh*