

## **SCHEME FOR GRANT / ASSISTANCE TO THE RELEASED PRISONERS**

### **1) The Scheme for the Welfare of Prisoners will aim at:**

#### **Objectives:**

- I) Identifying cases of institutionalized offenders who would need prolong protection and assistance in the community after their released.
- II) Providing a linkage between prison treatment and community placement as an important aspect of the correctional process;
- III) Mobilizing resources for the reintegration of ex-prisoners with the community as self-reliant and dignified individuals.
- IV) Rendering shelter, care and guidance to such ex-prisoners as totally devoid of family support, economic security or personal resources to lead a law abiding life
- V) Facilitating the treatment of special categories of offenders such as drug, addicts and mentally sick socially and economically exploited prisoners within the community;
- VI) Generating and supporting voluntary action and public participation in the care treatment and rehabilitation of ex-prisoners.

2) **Approach:** In keeping with the overall objective of bridging the gap between institutional treatment and reintegration of the offender within the community, the proposed scheme will be taken over from here the prison administration ceases, to assist the offender in the correctional cycle. The scheme will offer follow-up and after care services to ex-prisoners selected on the basis of their thorough study and screening at the pre-release stage. Only such prisoners as are still vulnerable to criminogenic culture or are likely to be abused and exploited by anti-social element will be brought within the ambit of the scheme. The process will surely involve a highly individualized, humane and developmental approach. Besides providing for an extended care within the community, the scheme will include a provision for counseling and guidance and referral to welfare agencies in consonance with the specific needs in each case. A priority

attention will be given to the weaker and the disadvantaged, especially among youth, Women and the aged. The scheme will serve as a filter in identifying cases that could well be treated in the community without subverting public safety and, thus be saved from the labeling and settlement as normal citizens after they are released.

**3) Coverage:** The grant / assistance will be given to those prisoners who are just released from the prison but have not complete one year after the release from the prison.

**4) i)** The prisoner who is just released from the prison and whose possible total income is not above Rs.12,000/+ (Rupees Twelve Thousand Only) from all sources per annum will be entitled to avail benefit under this Scheme.

ii) Preferential Treatment will be given to those prisoners who have successfully learnt any trade/vocation during their confinement in prison or those who have a special skill for any trade/vocation Job.

**5)** All the scheme of Rural Development Agency will be applicable in addition to the mentioned scheme to the prisoners below poverty line and the Directorate of Social Welfare will take the responsibility for obtaining their loans-cum-subsidy.

**6)** For those above poverty line the Directorate of Social Welfare will take the responsibility of subsidy portion and loan will have to be arranged from the Bank on the same procedure and pattern as Rural Development Agency Scheme.

**7) Educational:** Provided that; if a bread winner of the family is imprisoned for a term of year or more and if there is no any other source of income for the family and if there are school going school children in the family and if their education is likely to suffer on account of an imprisonment of the bread winner, then maximum Rs. 50/- per annum per school going dependent child will be given to cover the expense for purchase of books, note books, stationary, stitching of uniform etc. based

on the certificate recommending the case, attested by the Head Master/Principal of the Institution.

**8) Illness/ Accidents/Maternity cases:** Provided that if the bread winner is imprisoned for a term of one year or more if there is no any other sources of income for the family, then maximum Rs.500/- will be released to cover the expenses against medicines. Based on the certificate of the Medical Officer in charge in the maternity cases, serious illness and accident of the dependents of imprisoned. As far as possible, however, the dependents of the imprisoned are expected to avail the benefits of the Government Hospital.

**9) Small Industries/trade/vocation/business:** The benefits which are open to all the people in general, under the welfare scheme of various Departments such as R.D.A. or Industries, are also open to all released prisoners. However under this scheme, it is envisaged to give a special assistance to released prisoner by way of providing a loan through Banks to maximum Rs.15,000/- for construction of a room/ shed if the prisoner does not have any room/shed available with him starting his small Industries/trade/vocation or business and up to maximum Rs.5,000/- for purchasing tools/equipments etc. 25% of the total amount will be subsidy arranged by the Social Welfare Department and 75% will be arranged through commercial Bank.

This loan is to be utilized (1) to purchased tools/equipments/raw materials necessary to start his own small Industrial unit/ trade/vocational/business, subject to the condition that the prisoner must have the necessary skill/knowledge/tanning in that trade. The prisoners who have obtained the training/skill during their imprisonment will be given preferential treatment.

This scheme is obviously aimed at making the released prisoners self-supporting so as to avoid recidivism.