

Guneet Singh Sidhu

Advocate

By email / Speed Post / Courier

21st May, 2025

1. The Superintendent of Prisons
Central Jail Faridkot
NH-15, Zila Sudhar Ghar,
Faridkot,
Punjab – 151 203
e.: c.prisons.fdk@punjab.gov.in
m.: +91 9914210004

Kind Attn.: Sh. Rajiv Kumar Arora

2. Chairperson, District Legal Services Authority ["DLSA"]
Judicial Court Complex, Faridkot,
Punjab – 151 203
e: dlsa.fdk@punjab.gov.in
Kind Attn.: Smt. Navjot Kaur

Dear Sir,

**Sub.: Request for Information Regarding Implementation of the
'Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme' in Faridkot District**

1. I am writing to you in my capacity as representative of JanNyay [Faridkot Chapter], an independent civic and legal initiative working to facilitate access to justice for economically vulnerable prisoners.
2. It is with deep concern that I note the absence of any publicly available information regarding the implementation of the 'Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme' in Central Jail, Faridkot ["Scheme"], and its associated disbursements through the District Legal Services Authority ["DLSA"] or the Empowered Committee mandated under the Scheme.
3. As you are aware, the Scheme was introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India ["MHA"], with clear SOPs and directions issued by and under letters dated 19th May 2023, 9th February 2024, and 16th October 2024, mandating States and Districts to release eligible prisoners who continue to be incarcerated solely due to their inability to furnish bail bonds or pay fines.
4. Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case titled *Satender Kumar Antil v. CBI [SLP (Crl) No. 5191/2021]* has repeatedly directed all States to operationalize this scheme effectively and identify all such undertrial prisoners. Most recently, by and under the

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order dated 21st January, 2025, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Satender Kumar Antil [supra.]* directed that even Aadhaar-based personal bond release may be facilitated for eligible prisoners.

5. Pertinently, the Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court, in its order dated 9th August 2024 in *Sunpreet Singh v. Union of India & Ors. [CWP-PIL No. 150 of 2024]*, has held that this scheme must be '*implemented to the hilt*' [emphasis supplied] by all District Authorities and Jail Administrations across the State.
6. In the above conspectus, I request that you provide the following details at the earliest:-
 - (i) Whether an Empowered Committee has been constituted for Faridkot District, as mandated under the Scheme and the MHA SOP;
 - (ii) The total number of undertrial prisoners in Central Jail, Faridkot, who have been identified as eligible beneficiaries under the Scheme;
 - (iii) The amount of financial aid disbursed under the Scheme in Faridkot till date; and
 - (iv) Any forthcoming plans or timelines to implement the Scheme or release prisoners under the current orders and advisories.
7. I urge your good office to treat this matter with urgency, considering that the continued incarceration of poor prisoners who are otherwise entitled to release is a violation of Article 21 of the Constitution of India.
8. I remain available to assist with awareness, documentation, and any outreach efforts to ensure timely implementation.

Yours truly,

For JanNyay

[Guneet Singh Sidhu, Advocate]