

TAMIL NADU

Suggestions on rehabilitation of prisoners' wards sought

STAFF REPORTER

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A report has also been sought for an effective implementation of such measures

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Monday, while hearing a case on the vulnerability of those children whose one parent had killed the other, suo motu impleaded the Home Department, Department of Social Welfare and the Department of Social Defence in the case.

Appointed

The Division Bench hearing the case through video conference with Justice S.Vimala, sitting at the principal seat in Chennai and Justice T.Krishnavalli, at the High Court Bench in Madurai also appointed Advocates Lajapathi Roy, Palanivel Rajan, Henri Tiphagne and Dilip Kumar as amicus curiae in the case.

A common report has been sought from them seeking suggestions on rehabilitation of such children and for an effective implementation of such measures.

The case has been posted for further hearing to October 22.

The court had earlier observed that in cases where one spouse killed the other, the children of the couple faced mental agony and the psychological imbalance was incalculable.

Children, particularly those below the age of 18 years required moral, physical, financial, emotional and psychological support from the society.

In order to look into the rehabilitation measures taken up for such children, the court had earlier constituted a committee in each of the Central and Special Prisons to look into the issue and file a report.

Some of the common issues in the findings pointed to unfriendly interaction areas.

The committees have recommended better interactive halls which are child-friendly and also scholarship for such children.

The court has passed the directions while hearing the case of Subbiah of Thoothukudi, who had appealed against the life sentence imposed by the Mahila Fast Track Court, Thoothukudi, which had found him guilty of murdering his wife.

The court partly allowed the appellant's plea by setting aside the sentence imposed under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code and found him guilty under Section 498A (cruelty) of IPC.

The court had praised the Mahila Fast Track Court for being sensitive enough to refer the children of the appellant and the deceased to the Child Welfare Committee.