

**IN THE SPECIAL COURT FOR THE TRIAL OF NIA CASES, ERNAKULAM**

**Present: Sri. P. K. Mohandas, Judge for NIA Cases**

Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025 /9<sup>th</sup> Jaishta, 1947.

**Cri.M.P. 225/2025**

**In**

**SC No.02/2021/NIA**

**Petitioner/Accused No.15** : Deepak @ Korsu Ramlu, S/o. Korsu Sannu,  
Mannikeli Village, Bijapur District,  
Chhattisgarh.

**By Adv. Sri. Thushar Nirmal Sarathy.**

**Respondent/ Complainant** : Union of India represented by National  
Investigation Agency, Kochi.

**By Sri. Arjun Ambalappatta  
(Senior Public Prosecutor, NIA) and  
Sri. Sreenath.S (Public Prosecutor, NIA).**

This Criminal M.P coming on for hearing before me on 30.05.2025 and the Court on the same day passed the following:

**ORDER**

This is an application filed by the 15<sup>th</sup> accused in SC No.02/2021/NIA seeking direction to the jail superintendent to provide basic wages for the work done by him in prison.

2. According to the petitioner, he has been undergoing detention in connection with this case in High Security Prison, Viyyur, since October 2021.

As per the direction of this Court, he was given work in the prison from 16.05.2024, initially as a sweeper, and now he is working as a gatekeeper. From May 2024 to this date, he has completed more than 330 working days and is being paid ₹63/- per day. It is stated that, generally, inmates working in the prison become eligible for an increase in basic wages within 90 to 180 working days from the date of joining, at Rs.127/- per day. However, despite completing more than 330 working days and even after making repeated requests, the petitioner's wage is not increased by the authorities. The Superintendent had agreed to increase the wages from Rs.63/- to Rs.127/- per day after the completion of 180 working days. The petitioner seeks a direction to the Superintendent of the prison to increase his basic wages to Rs.127/- per day, with effect from the 181<sup>st</sup> day of his work.

3. Heard the Special Public Prosecutor and the petitioner. The learned Public Prosecutor submitted that he has no objection in providing wages as per rules.

4. The Superintendent of High Security Prison, Viyyur filed a report stating that the wages of prisoners are paid in three categories ie, Apprentice – ₹63/-, Basic – ₹127/- and Skilled – ₹152/- per day. Though the Kerala Prisons and Correctional Services (Management) Rules do not mention a fixed period for wage revision, inmates who complete a minimum of 180 days of work are generally considered to the next wage category based on their performance. The petitioner has been working as a sweeper

and as a gatekeeper since May 2025. He has completed 180 working days but has not yet shown the required level of performance to qualify for a wage increase. His work is reviewed every month and his wages will be increased only after attaining the required standard. The petitioner has been informed about this procedure.

5. The grievance of the petitioner is that even after working for 330 days, he is not being paid the increased wages as per rules. It is admitted that the petitioner has been doing the work of gatekeeper from May, 2024. The report of the Superintendent shows that normally after 180 days the wages will be increased to ₹127/-. According to the Superintendent, since the petitioner has not reached the required level of expertise, he is not provided with the increased wages. The work of a gatekeeper does not require much expertise or experience. The report does not show the reason for arriving at a conclusion that the petitioner has not attained sufficient expertise required for the job. The Superintendent cannot deny the increased wages to the petitioner without giving any sufficient reason. At the same time, the petitioner cannot claim increased wages as a matter of right. The Superintendent has to take a decision for valid reason. In this case no such reason is seen stated in the report.

6. On going through the report of the Superintendent and hearing the petitioner, I am of the view that direction can be issued to the Superintendent to review the situation and take fresh decision.

Hence the Superintendent, High Security Prison is directed to reconsider the question of payment of increased wages to the petitioner and take a fresh decision at the earliest.

Dictated to the Confidential Asst., transcribed and typewritten by her, corrected and pronounced by me in open court on this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.

Sd/-  
P. K. Mohandas  
Judge, Special Court for NIA Cases

**Appendix: Nil**

Id /-  
Judge, Special Court for NIA Cases  
(By Order )

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Sd/-  
Sheristadar