The Jail Department does not function in isolation. It is intimately related to other departments. It requires the co-operation of different departments in the management of jails. We shall now discuss the inter-departmental relationship.

**Police Department** - For a long time jails were kept under police guards. At present, prisoners are escorted on transfer by police personnel. It is also the duty of the police to escort prisoners to the Courts of law. Moreover, whenever there is any outbreak of violence in a jail, the Superintendent may requisition the services of the police. While releasing police registered prisoners, the Superintendent must inform the Superintendent of Police so that they may be shadowed.

**Medical Department** - The relationship between the Jail and the Medical Departments is very significant. The Jail Department was attached to the Directorate of Health Services and the Director of this department was also the Inspector General of Prisons for sometime. Apart from this fact, the Civil Surgeons were appointed part-time Superintendents in many jails. They were in charge of both medical and administrative matters of jails. At present, the Jail Department is not under the control of the Directorate of Health Services. When epidemic diseases break out in jails, the Director of Public Health must be informed. Prisoners, who are seriously ill, are sent to Civil Hospitals for treatment. Thus, for the maintenance of the

2. Ibid., Rule 584.
sound health of prisoners, the Jail Department is still dependent upon the Medical Department, because, the medical establishment of a jail is very poor.

**Education Department** - A few decades ago there was not much relationship between the Jail and the Education Departments. Now, it is an accepted principle all over the world that rehabilitation of prisoners is the primary object of prison administration. This can be achieved only by means of education. But if the convicts are to be educated, the jail authorities will require the assistance of the Education Department in the selection of teachers and supervision of jail schools. The Government of Assam is thinking of increasing educational facilities for prisoners which will require the assistance and guidance of the Education Department on a larger scale than ever before.

**Industries Department** - One of the objectives of prison administration is to train the prisoners in certain industries and vocations so that they can make use of them after release. In the organisation and development of the jail industries, the guidance of the Industries Department is of great importance. The Jail Manual of 1934 has laid down that jail authorities must seek the help of the officers of the Industries Department in industrial matters. Sometimes, these officers supervise jail industries and suggest measures for their improvement. They also help the jail authorities in training the prisoners. The Industries Department can help the jail industries with modern implements and tools for improving the quality of their products. The

assistance of this department is of great importance for the successful working of jail industries. It can help the trained prisoners after release. Thus, along with the growth of jail industries the dependence of jails upon the Industries Department will also increase.

**Agriculture Department** - In every jail there is a garden for growing vegetables. For the maintenance of the jail garden, the jailer needs the help of the Agriculture Department. It helps the jail authority by supplying manure and seeds. It also suggests measures for the improvement of the jail garden. Now, the condition of jail gardens is very poor and the jailer requires more assistance and guidance from the Agriculture Department for growing vegetables and make the jail self-sufficient.

An agricultural colony must seek the assistance of the Agriculture Department. The Open Air Agricultural-cum-Industrial Colony at Jorhat makes use of the valuable advice of the Agriculture Department very frequently. The Government is thinking of establishing such institutions in other suitable places. These colonies must depend upon the Agriculture Department for technical assistance. Without the guidance of the Agriculture Department it will be difficult for the Jail Department to manage the agricultural colonies.

**Finance Department** - Finance is the foundation of every organisation. Without finance nothing can be done. The expenditure of the Jail Department is subject to the control of the Finance Department. The 'Jail Budget', prepared by the Jail Department, is subject to the approval and scrutiny of the
Finance Department. For every extra-grant, jail authorities must approach the Finance Department. Without its approval no major activities in jails can be undertaken. It may be concluded that the Jail Department is greatly dependent upon the Finance Department in financial matters.

Social Welfare Department - The Government of Assam has pointed out that the Social Welfare Department will be of great help for the reformation of prisoners and prison administration. This department can help the prisoners in their rehabilitation in society. The Inspector General of Prisons is also the Director of the Social Welfare Department. The primary objective of Social Welfare Department is to promote social conditions by healing social diseases. The jails also aim at the reformation of prisoners and their resettlement in the society. Therefore, there is intimate relationship between the two departments. After the release of a prisoner it is the duty of the Social Welfare Department to help him to settle in a suitable place.

Local Self-governing institutions - Local self-governing institutions like Local Boards and Municipal Boards were helped a lot by the Jail Department about two decades back when prisoners were allowed to work outside the jail. Jails supplied convict labour to them for construction works and for the maintenance of roads and buildings. This was of great help for both these departments. Local authorities got the required labour and the

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Jails made use of prison man-power. Moreover, in many places, jail authorities depended upon Municipal Boards for the supply of water and electricity to the jails.

**Public Works Department** - Upto the first quarter of the present century, the P.W.D. employed convict labour for the construction of roads and buildings as it was very difficult to get labourers locally. Prisoners were engaged in many places in construction works. At present, this practice has been discontinued.

Jail Buildings are under the control of the P.W.D. The P.W.D. is responsible for their maintenance, improvement, reconstruction and demolition as directed by the Government. Moreover, major construction works of jails must be done by the P.W.D. or with its assistance. For the preparation of plans of buildings, prison officials require the expert advice of the P.W.D.

The relationship of Jail Department with the Home and Judicial Departments needs no mention. Jail Administration is simply a branch of the Home Department. For the revision of sentences of prisoners for their early release the sanction of the Judicial Department is necessary.

The Jail Department is also connected with other departments. For the success of jail industries, the administration is dependent on all departments as they are the principal customers of the jail products. As regards forest produce required for the Jail Department, the supply must be arranged through the Forest Department.

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10. Ibid., Rule 1044.
The Jail Department is directly connected with the Central Bureau of Correctional Services. This organisation holds conferences and seminars from time to time and gives instructions to jail officials regarding the reformation of the administration of jails. The Jail Department of the Government of Assam sends its officials to these seminars and symposia and keeps contact with the Central Bureau of Correctional Services. For correctional services, the Government is indebted to the Central Bureau of Correctional Services. It gets immense help from this organisation. Very often, All India Conferences are held to evaluate the achievements of prison administration in different States and policies are made to maintain uniformity in administration. These policies are of great help for the improvement of prison administration in a particular State.

Public Relations: The Jail Administration must listen attentively to people who may have something to say. Jail officials must be courteous to people. When public officials are careless about these matters they earn bad reputation of being discourteous, ill-behaved and unsocial. Public opinion plays a very important part in any administration. So, it cannot be ignored. Public opinion may make the administration alert and active. People may put forward constructive suggestions for the improvement of jail administration. Thus, the administration must keep relations with people and they should be informed about the activities in jails through the different means of publicity. In this connection, it may be suggested that the Jail Department may make use of the services of the Information

and Public Relations Department of the Government more freely. Again, it is a general grievance of the prisoners that their activities in jails are not published in newspapers. With due publicity of prison-activities the attention of the people may be drawn towards the prisoners. People may take interest in the matter and help the administration in the rehabilitation of prisoners. Thus, the success of prison administration ultimately depends upon its relationship with people. But so far no attempt has been made to keep the public informed about jail activities and make them interested in administration.

Apart from the general mass, there are various organisations which may put constant pressure on Government and administration to mould their policies and acts. The Jail Department may keep contact with them and seek their cooperation for the reformation of prisoners and the administration.

From the above discussion we may conclude that the Jail Department is intimately connected with several departments of the Government and with other organised institutions. They may assist, advise and influence the administration in achieving its goal.