

POLICE CIRCULAR ORDER No. 26

The Inspector-General has noticed with grave concern the shortage of 124 rounds of .303 ammunition in a sealed box received at Koraput from the Arsenal in July 1947. The Committee appointed to hold the enquiry into the matter under Police Manual Rule 1107 found that a sealed box of 1,000 rounds of ammunition was taken to the rifle range for musketry practice on the 31st October 1948 by the Sergeant-Major. When the seals were broken and the inside tin opened, it was discovered that there were lose rounds inside the box. The ammunition was then counted and the shortage discovered. Examination of the inside tin showed marks of shouldering quite different to the tin covering in other new boxes of ammunition and it was apparent that this had been done at the source of issue. The Arsenal, however, refused to accept any responsibility since 15 months had elapsed from the date of issue.

Prevention of loss or shortage of ammunition in sealed boxes received from Arsenals.

The fact is that sealed boxes of ammunitions have never been opened in the past in view of Police Manual Rule, 1,112, Hitherto, there has been implicity faith in the reliability of Military Arsenals. The experience gained in Koraput in 1948, shows that scaled boxes of ammunitions received from Arsenals must be very carefully examined and if there is the slightest suspicion, the boxes will be opened up and the contents checked. Any shortages must be reported immediately so that Arsenals cannot evade responsibility in future.

Manual Reference

Rule 1112

(Previous Police Circular Order No. 3 of 1949)