

POLICE ORDER No. 148

Security of Court Malkhanas. Investigation into burglaries committed in three Court Malkhanas of this State revealed the following defects and omissions which facilitated the omission of the offence—

- (1) Constables were not deputed to keep watch at night.
- (2) There was no lighting arrangement in front of the Malkhana.
- (3) Officers checking night rounds were not directed to check the duties of the guards at Court Malkhana.
- (4) Vulnerable points in the strong room itself were not properly repaired or altered where necessary to ensure safety.
- (5) Provision of P. M. Rule 307 (f) is not being followed in that the valuable articles were being kept in Malkhana in insecure containers instead of depositing them in the treasury.

Superintendents of Police and other supervising officers should bear the above points in mind at the time of their inspection of court offices and check up the security of the Court Malkhanas and take immediate steps to improve security arrangements wherever necessary. The following instructions should be followed in future in addition to the provision in the Police Manual in this regard.

(1) Where Malkhanas are in close proximity of the Treasury/Sub-treasury they can be included in the beat of the guard on duty at the Treasury/Sub-treasury. Where this is not possible the court staff will be detailed for watch duty and they may be supplemented by men from ordinary reserve where necessary.

(2) A guard book shall be maintained in the court office where the malkhana is not included in the beat of the sentries for Treasury/Sub-treasury. At the close of the court office the C. S. I. shall secure the lock and put a seal thereon in presence of the sentry detailed for watch right from the hour of closure of the office. This fact shall be entered in the guard book in which the details of sentry duty shall be shown and signature of the Constables detailed for the sentry duty obtained. Lane discs shall be fixed at a convenient place so that the patrolling Constable may keep an eye on the strong room. The round officer shall be directed to check this post daily along with others. During holidays sentries shall be detailed for watch during the day also.

(3) Light should be provided in front of the Malkhanas.

(4) All doors and windows shall be provided with strong iron bars and iron nettings. Where sky-lights are considered indispensable for the strong room they should be properly secured with iron railings, etc., in order to prevent access through them.

(Previous Police Order Reference No. 7 of 1958)