

POLICE ORDER No. 185

The question of adoption of stringent measures to eradicate corruption has been engaging my attention for some time past and my experience in the Vigilance Department which brought me closer to the picture of corruption in the police has disclosed the following types of corruption commonly prevalent amongst police men.

Corruption
on Police

(1) A person going to a police-station is made to pay for routine steps to be taken by police according to law or departmental instructions and a common man does not get any attention unless he pays.

(2) Non-cognizable cases and civil disputes are given colour of non-cognizable case on payment whereas true cognizable cases reported by common man, who is unable to make payments are suppressed or minimised to make non-cognizable cases.

(3) Greater interest in the investigation of cases is taken only when payments in cash or kind is made.

(4) Persons are arrested on false and insufficient ground and released on bail on payment.

(5) Law breakers are allowed to escape on monetary considerations and others are who cannot make payments are sent up.

(6) Anti-social activities like gambling in public, illicit sale of liquor, hoarding and profiteering in essential commodities etc. are suppressed or allowed to continue on payment.

(7) Violation of Motor Vehicle Act, Rules and M.V. Taxation Act are overlooked on payment.

(8) Traffic offences and Offences under Public Nuisance Act are detected and dropped on consideration of money.

(9) Free lifts in public vehicles, rickshaws and free entrance to public entertainment are secured on fear of harassment.

(10) Proceedings under sections 107, 144, 145, Cr. P. C., are submitted without justification for consideration of money according to wishes of persons making payment.

(11) Recommendations for gun licences are made for monetary considerations.

(12) Warrants of arrests or distress, warrants are not executed or suppressed or execution delayed by receiving payment.

(13) In the Police Court Office money is accepted for releasing accused on bail and for taking interest in conducting cases.

(14) Malkhana articles are misappropriated or changed and vital exhibits are tampered with or suppressed on monetary considerations.

(15) In the Railway Police side the corrupt Railway officials and criminals to share their booties including goods stolen or misappropriated from the Railways.

(16) False tours are shown to earn T. A.

(17) In unnatural death cases, disposal of dead bodies is ordered or withheld on monetary considerations.

(18) Subordinate officers are made to bear camp expenses of superior officers and submit no claim or a nominal claim.

(19) Supplies are received from subordinate officers without payment or inadequate payment

(20) Police officers get free drinks, supplies, entertainments, free transport etc., from private industries and firms for showing favours to them particularly in labour disputes.

(21) Money is accepted in giving clear verification reports for appointment in Government service.

(22) In the appointment of constables payment is accepted to enter names in the appointment register.

(23) Ministerial officers and other subordinate officers demand payment to expedite the papers on which orders of superior officers are to be obtained especially in case of M. V. papers

2. Most of the above forms of corruption can be checked, if not eradicated, by prompt discharge of routine duties, through inspections of Police Posts and effective supervision of various police functions.

3. Corruption can be brought down to 50 per cent overnight if all police officers take steps to eliminate delays in their routine work and consequent harassment to the public as money is offered in a large number of cases to save delay and harassment.

4. Superior officers, to be effective to deal with corruption, will have to set a high standard of moral character and integrity for himself, before he can expect the same from his subordinates. He has to be particularly careful to guard against the corrupt practices mentioned in serial Nos. 16 to 19.

5. To an efficient Police Officer, it does not take much time to find out the honest and dishonest police officers working under him and he has to keep to dishonest officers under close watch. Recourse may be taken to methods like surprise visits to Police Posts, check of complaints of harassment on the spot, verification of investigation/enquiries made in suspicious cases and cases ending in M. F., M. L., Non-Cog. and local verification of a few proceedings under sections 107, 144 and 145, Cr. P. C. It is the attitude of the Gazetted Officers which guides the action of the subordinates to a large extent and once it is made clear that corruption in no form will be tolerated, the results are bound to be rewarding.

6. Public contacts by Gazetted Officers in the outlying places in their jurisdiction is becoming less resulting in police officer of the interior police-stations developing complacency against corrupt practices indulged by them. It is, therefore, necessary for the Gazetted Officers to do night halts in the outlying places in connection with inspections and supervision, however inconvenient that may be, to ascertain from the people of the locality the general reputation of the police staff of the area. The general reputation ascertained in this manner gives a correct index of the integrity of the officer. Black sheep can easily be found out in this way and marked for elimination from the force.

7. The superior officers of the police on whom Government impose greater trust and responsibility will have to launch a crusade against corruption in all its forms and whenever a corrupt practice comes to notice, in any rank, the next higher rank should be made liable to explain how the scope of corruption was allowed to exist and what steps were taken by him to remove the conditions which encourage corruption.

8. Though most of the officers of Orissa Police are working with a spirit of dedication to duty, due to a few corrupt officers the police has suffered in reputation. All efforts should, therefore, be directed towards spotting out the weaklings in the force and weed them out mercilessly as fast as possible. On no occasion we should be prepared to compromise with any corrupt practice, however, petty and innocuous it may appear to be.

(Previous Police Order Reference No. 4 of 1964)