

## **POLICE CIRCULAR ORDER No. 159**

Inquest Over  
dead bodies

It is observed that Police Officers authorised to hold inquest over dead bodies often fail to describe fully the exact number and the nature and positions of injuries in the inquest report with the result that in subsequent autopsies many other marks and injuries, not mentioned in the inquest report are found by medical officers. The discrepancy between the inquest report and the post-mortem report prejudices the mind of the courts resulting in the acquittal of the offenders.

Attention of all Police Officers concerned is, therefore, drawn to the provisions of section 174, Cr.P.C. and Rules 199—204 of the Police Manual under which it is laid down that the officer holding inquest should describe clearly the wounds, fractures, bruises and all other marks of injury as may be found on the dead body and state in what manner or by what weapon or instrument such marks appear to have been inflicted.

It is impressed upon all Police Officers concerned that the above provisions in Law and Rules should be strictly followed, while holding inquest over dead bodies. The officers holding inquest should examine the dead body thoroughly and describe all injuries, marks etc. on it with full and accurate details in the inquest report (P.M. form 38) prepared by them. Any omission in this regard should be seriously viewed.

In addition, instructions published on the subject in the C.I.G. No. 3, dated the 1st February 1963 should be carefully studied followed.

The supervising officers should also see that the instructions are followed by the I.Os. correctly.

(Previous Police Circular Order No. 1 of 1963)