

POLICE CIRCULAR ORDER No. 160

Copper wire
Theft

The alarming increase of copper-wire thefts in several districts has badly disrupted the vital lines of communication and has affected the timely running of trains. A number of preventive and detective measures were published in the Police Circular Order No. IV of 1953.

Meanwhile the Telegraph Wires Unlawful Possession Act, 1950 (Act LXXIV of 1950) has been amended by Amendment Acts No. 53 of 1953 and 15 of 1962. The two amendments provide a number of restrictions and also enhanced punishments.

Ordinarily after commission of the crime, the stolen copper-wires are melted and converted into bars, ingots, plates etc., the illegal possession of which is controlled and can be penalised under the provisions of the Non-Ferrous Metals Controlled Order of 1958 issued by the Central Government in exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The acquisition and possession of copper in any form or shape without a permit is punishable under section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act read with Rule 4 of the said Order. Therefore, if any such illegal possession is detected or brought to notice, the competent authority (Director of Industries, Orissa, Cuttack) can be moved to cancel the permit of the permit-holder who sold copper to the person from whom the same is seized or recovered. The permit-holder can also be liable under section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, read with Rule 4 of the order. Full advantages of the above provisions in law should be taken to detect and prevent this type of crime.

A copy of the Non-Ferrous Metals Control Order, 1958 has been sent to all districts separately.

(Previous Police Circular Order No. 2 of 1963)