

POLICE CIRCULAR ORDER No. 193

In addition to the instructions laid down in Police Circular Order No. 70, followings are issued, for the guidance of all concerned for the preventive detections of Copper Wire Thefts.

Preventive
measures
against theft
of Copper
Wire

1. It has come to notice that Copper Wire Criminals are having their bases at central places like Cuttack and other district Headquarters and operating there from at distant places covering two to three Districts. List of such criminals should be maintained at respective police-stations for necessary check up and since Ghantimunda has notoriety for disposing off most of the stolen property, it would be useful if details of theft are sent in hue and cry notice form to Tangi P.S. of Puri District without loss of time. This of course applies to Puri, Cuttack and parts of Balasore District on the border of Cuttack.

2. Instances of Copper Wire thefts are on the increase with marked decrease in the percentage of detection, mostly due to the fact that motor cars, jeeps and taxis are being used by the criminals in committing crimes at distant places within shortest possible time to evade easy detection. List of such motor vehicles with description, name of the owners and drivers should be maintained at the Police-stations for proper questioning whenever such motor vehicles come to notice.

In case vehicles have been used in the commission of offences action to confiscate will be taken under section 517 Cr. P. C.

3. In co-operation with the P. & T. Department it may be ensured that the I.O. visits the place of occurrence alongwith the line man who goes for repairs so that latent finger prints and foot prints may discovered for taking necessary action. In case where needed services of the Finger Print Experts may be requisitioned. It may be noted that, with the help of "Fault finder" machines the P. & T. Staff forthwith locate the place and time of occurrence. Consequently, these facts should be ascertained from the outset and the affected areas, where such and instruments is not located, should be reported to the S.P. to take up matter with the higher officers of P. & T. Department. Prompt visit to the spot and inspection thereof with special emphasis on detecting wheel marks of automobile, tell-tale evidence by the culprits and possible places for concealing the stolen wire cannot be over emphasised.

4. Services of the dog Squad should be immediately requisitioned specially when clothing, sticks or shoes, etc. are found left behind by the culprits at or near about the place of occurrence. Whenever "Trackers" are available they may be utilised to follow the foot or any other trail marks left behind by the Culprits.

5. List of discharged and dismissed lines men of the P. & T. Department of the locality should be maintained at each Police-station with the descriptive rolls for verification of their movements during the investigation.

6. When identification of the suspected Copper Wire cannot be established by the aid of gauge measurement, those may be sent to F.S.L, Orissa, Bhubaneswar for comparative microscopic and chemical examination for the suspicious Copper Wire with the seized cut-ends from the place of occurrence.

7. It has come to notice that where a Copper Wire thief admits while in custody of commission of offences at different places, normally the I.O.'s reaction is to get his confessional statement recorded under section 164 Cr. P.C. and thereafter to proceed to make a probe into the incidents admitted by him. Usually such culprits resile in the court and double cross the I.O. as a result he cannot be taken into police custody and much of the matters of Police interest remain uninvestigated. No sooner, such an accused tends to co-operate for supplying clues of different incidents, those should be verified and then prayer may be made for his confessional statement.

8. Watching the prosecution of these cases in court is equally important. A number of cases have failed for the following reasons. So care should be taken to guard against these omissions :

- (a) To prove the identity of the where in quality, linear measurement, thickness & composition and weight. It may be noted that wire used by Posts & Telegraphs is of three varieties e.g. 100 lbs., 200 lbs. or 300 lbs. per mile.
- (b) Cut ends should tally with the ends of Wire stolen.
- (c) Tool marks on the Wire at the pole tally with tools if recovered.
- (d) Density and striation of the Wire left at the spot and the recovered wire, as established by microscopic examination should be the same.

9. Mere unlawful possession is punishable under section 5 of the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful possession) Act, 1950 and a G.O./ Inspector is authorised to file a complaint. Recoveries of stolen property are also liable under section 110 Cr. P.C. Not a single case of this nature has been started.

10. If suitable preventive measures coupled with careful investigation & prosecution are done, bearing in the mind the above instructions, the incidence of the crime is bound to decrease.

B. B. Mishra, I. P.S.
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