

POLICE CIRCULAR ORDER NO. 245/82

SUBJECT : Disputes involving Harijans and Adibasis

Many cases of tension between Harijan and non-Harijans and Adibasis and non-Adibasis arise from disputes over land, particularly during settlement and mutation processes at different places. In many cases persons in physical possession of land over a period of time fear sudden forcible eviction leading to anticipatory/retaliatory action by them. From the police point of view, it is necessary that we should keep in record all information relating to all existing disputes as well as potential disputes.

Police Manual Rule 366 provides for maintenance of Crime Directory part-III in which among other matters, information regarding village party factions and chronic land disputes and caste and religious disputes is recorded. In crime Branch letter No. 3615/PCR dt. 15-2-80 duties for the district P.C.R. Cells have been prescribed. It has been enjoined therein at para. XVI that each district P.C.R. Cell will maintain a register on the same lines as Crime Directory Part-III to record among other matters, P.-S. wise information regarding village factions and chronic land disputes and caste and religious disputes relating to Adibasis and Harijans.

In order that, the Police stations are in a position to effectively deal with the problem and also to furnish the required information to the District P.C.R. Cell, it is ordered that each Police Station should maintain a separate "Disputes Register" village-wise indicating not only disputes over land but all disputes relating to Harijans and Adibasis, irrespective of the caste or community or the tribe of the other parties involved. This register should be maintained on the same lines as Crime Directory part-III.

In order that police officers may become aware of all land and other disputes, it is necessary that they should maintain close liason with Officers of Revenue, Settlement and other concerned departments. It should be pur endeavour to elicit information from all concerned from time to time so that it is possible to anticipate well in advance, the development of a potential trouble right from its very origin.

Though fire-arms have been used very rarely in disputes relating to Harijans and Adibasis in our State, there is no room for complacency in this regard. It is, therefore, necessary to make all-out efforts to ensure that use of fire-arms does not become a regular feature in such disputes. Therefore, it is imperative that the police-station staff and the P.C.R. Cells of the districts should identify arms licences in trouble-prone areas and in specific situations where trouble is anticipated, advance action should be taken by them to dispossess the licencees of their fire-arms.

This order comes into force with immediate effect and should be strictly followed . Any deviation will be seriously viewed.

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