

POLICE CIRCULAR ORDER NO. 273/1991

SUBJECT :—Procedure for disposal of petitions, containing allegations of Atrocities, offences under the P.C. R. Act and dowry offences.

The procedure so far adopted in disposal of the petition containing allegations of atrocities on the S.C./S.T. offences under the P.C.R. Act as well as dowry offences, received in the office of the D.I.G. of Police, H.A. & D.D., as well as in the offices of District Ss.P. has been time consuming and, therefore, needs to be streamlined with a view to reducing the response time of police and providing satisfaction to the aggrieved sections of the society.

(a) Petitions received in H.A. & D.D. Establishment

As soon as such petitions are entrusted to the officers of HADD establishment. They should at once verify from the S.R. section of their office if any case has been registered in this regard. If not the petitions should be taken up for enquiry. In case of petitions relating to Atrocities on S.C./S.T. or P.C.R. Act offences the E.Os. should proceed at once to the spot and enquire locally from both parties as well as local dignitaries. In case of petitions relating to dowry offences, the enquiring Officers should proceed first to the petitioner to examine him/her and other witnesses regarding the allegations and then proceeded to the village/place of the in-laws and verify about the allegations. The enquiry should be brief and to the point to ascertain if any offence is revealed *prime facie*. If so, the E.O. should proceed to the concerned Police-station and direct the O.I.C. of the P.S. to register a case under the appropriate sections of law either on the basis of the petition or on a fresh complaint of the petitioner. On such requisition, the O.I.C. of the P.S. shall register a case and proceed with the investigation. The O.I.C. of the P.S. should send a message to the D.I.G., H.A. & D.D. and to District S.P. that a case has been registered indicating case reference. After ensuring this the E.O. of H.A. & D.D. Establishment shall return back to office and submit a brief enquiry report. However if the allegation is proved baseless or does not merit any action, a detailed report should be submitted by the E.O. on return. If and when investigation of such a case is to be taken over by an officer of H.A. & D.D. Establishment, the D.I.G., H.A. & D.D. will issued Range Order and also send a signal, on receipt of which the District S.P. will forthwith issue corresponding D.O. authorising the concerned officer of H.A. & D.D. Estt. to take up the investigation. Such Officer shall immediately intimate the former I.O. (of the district police) about the date on which he will take over investigation, and the I.O. shall take steps to hand over the up-to-date case records to him on that day without fail.

(b) Petitions received by the District Ss. P.

A part from such petitions received directly by the District Ss. P. a number of petitions are endorsed to them for enquiry by the D.i.G. of Police, H.A. & D.D. range D.Is.G. Police Headquarters and Government. In respect of all such petitions, the district Ss. P. should get the enquiries conducted promptly and ensure that follow up actions, particularly registration of case where necessary are taken without any delay. They should also send the enquiry reports called for by the Headquarters.

Where the petition contain allegations of police inaction, such as non-registration of case failure to visit the spot etc. the same should be looked into specifically and commented upon by the District Ss.P. in the enquiry reports furnished by them. Considerable emphasis is laid by Government on prompt action on offences against the S.C./S.T. and on the issue of dowry. Hence there should be no negligence in dealing with the petitions and cases relating to the same. The District Ss. P. should circulate copies of the circular to the Police Stations Circle Inspector/S.D.P.O. and the P.C.R. Cell for strict compliance.

The above instructions should be strictly followed with immediate effect.

Inspector-General of Police, CID, Crime,
Orissa, Cuttack