POLICE CIRCULAR ORDER NO. 289/98

To
All dist. Ss.P. including Berhampur & Rourkela/ Ss.R.P., Cuttack and Rourkela.

Sub:- Emphasis on prevention and investigation of cases of rape, particularly sexual exploitation of girls under false promise of marriage.

While expressing concern about growing incidence in cases of rape, and particularly sexual exploitation of girls under false promise to marry, the Chair-person of the State Commission for Women, Orissa has intimated that enquiry reports prepared by the State Commission for Women on cases of such nature, are not being entertained by the Police Stations. She has requested that such enquiry reports of the Commission should be accepted as evidence by the investigating officers. The Chairperson also felt that Police Stations are not paying due and adequate attention to offences against women. She has, therefore, emphasized on the need for sensitisation of Police Officers so that, problems concerning women may be sorted out for immediate effective solution. She has also expressed concern about incidence of offences against women in the districts of Sundargarh, Bolangir, Nayagarh, Keonjhar, Cuttack, Khurda and Jajpur.

As regards entertaining the enquiry reports of the Commission as evidence in investigation of offences against women, it is clarified that the guidelines for writing the C.Ds., laid down in P.M.R. 164, presuppose that during investigation the I.O. is required to examine the witnesses, interrogate the accused persons and collect material evidence, himself. Therefore, enquiry reports received from other agencies should not, peruse be incorporated in the investigation as evidence. However, it is necessary that the enquiry reports so received should be perused and all witnesses cited therein, whose evidence is relevant to the investigation should be separately examined by the I.O. and their statements incorporated in the C.Ds. Similarly, information relating to documentary and other material evidence relevant to the investigation, should also be evaluated by the I.O. himself and result thereof be incorporated in the C.Ds.

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While emphasis is being laid from time to time by the State Police Hqrs. on due attention to be paid by the staff of Police Stations to offences against women, it is the responsibility of the Dist. Ss.P. to take firm action against Officers who are found to have defaulted in paying due and adequate attention to offences against women. The Dist. Ss.P. should pay special attention to sensitising the officers and men under their charge regarding problems concerning women and the need for promptitude in sorting out the same.

As regards incidence of crime against women, particularly rape and sexual exploitation of girls under false promise, Ss.P. of such districts, where incidence is noticed, are called upon to ensure that such cases should be registered promptly, and investigation conducted thoroughly and expeditiously, so that all available evidence is collected and the Final Form submitted without delay. Dist. Ss.P. shall abide by the standing instructions issued by the State Police Hqrs. to promptly supervise the cases of rape and monitor the progress of investigation regularly to ensure prompt and proper investigation as well as submission of Final Form. It is hereby cautioned that, whenever cases of rape ended in acquittal, both the I.O. as well as S.O. shall be held responsible for latches in investigation, if any.

It is expected that all the Dist. Ss.P. will carry out the instruction in the Circular, both in letter as well as spirit.

Director General & Inspector General of Police, Orissa: Cuttack.

Memo No. 30687/ CB-LAW

Date: 20.11.98

Copy forwarded to Smt. Lopamudra, Chair-person, State Commission for Women, Orissa, Bhubaneswar, for information with reference to her D.O. letter No. 11754 dt. 16.10.98.

Copy to Guard File.