

POLICE CIRCULAR ORDER No. 46

1. A recent scrutiny of departmental proceeding in which officers and men were under suspension, sometimes for prolonged periods, revealed a large percentage of cases in which individuals had either been acquitted or had been awarded punishments of a minor nature. It would be apparent that in these cases proper discretion in the use of the power of suspension could hardly have been exercised.

2. P.M. Rule 840 clearly lays down that (1) suspension shall not be awarded as a specific punishment and (2) it is authorised only in cases in which the continuance on duty of an officer pending inquiry into his conduct is clearly prejudicial to the public interest.

3. The expression "cases prejudicial to public interest" no doubt covers a wide field, but it is obvious that due care and caution has to be exercised in the adoption of such an extreme measure.

4. Suspension shall not be made on the mere receipt of a complaint but can be ordered only when a preliminary enquiry is made and a *prima facie* case is made out.

5. These orders also apply to ministerial officers.

Manual Reference

Rule 840

(Previous Police Circular Order No.1 of 1951)