

POLICE ORDER No. 175

Proper registration of crime.

A perusal of the crime figures in the State shows a decline from year to year. When compared with the crime figures of 1951 the position is as follows:—

	1951	1961
Total offences (I. P. C.)	20,898	19,929
Total true cases (I. P. C.)	15,671	15,481
Burglary	5,280	4,244
Theft	9,590	8,174

During these 10 years, several changes have taken place in the social structure. Population has increased by 20 per cent, the State has been industrialised, there has been greater mobility due to the transport facilities., etc. These factors should contribute to the increase in Crime. It therefore, appears that all the crimes are not being registered.

2. The reasons for non-registration of crimes may be—

- (i) Extraordinary emphasis is being placed on the crime figures. Control of crime is judged by the crime figures of corresponding period, T.A., etc. Officers have tendency to keep the registered crimes near about their average.
- (ii) Unmanageable large area of the police-station which force the police officers to keep the number of registered crimes down to workable limits.
- (iii) Reluctance of the people to travel long distance for reporting crime at police-station

3. Whatever be the reasons for non-registration of crime, the result has been (1) building of a vicious circle in that proper and justified case for increased staff cannot be made out because the crime figures are low and all crimes are not registered and investigated because the staff is inadequate. (2) Lack of public confidence:—by registering all/cases reported by the people, the police are likely to win the confidence and the co-operation of the people.

4. The legal position and the instructions given in the Police Manual are very clear about the registration of cognizable cases reported. According to Section 154 of Cr. P. C. F.I.R. shall be drawn, according to P.M. Rule 4 it is the duty of every officer to see that all cognizable crime is reported and registered, according to P.M. Rule 144, the F.I.R. shall be drawn up in respect of every cognizable complaint preferred before the Police, except under certain Acts. According to Police Order 2/58 it is obligatory on the police officers to find out suppressed cases during their visits to the villages.

5. In spite of such clear instructions, improper registration of crime has come to notice. It is, therefore, enjoined on all officers in-charge of police-stations to register all cognizable cases reported to them or found by them. While issuing such orders it is fully realised that the crime figures will show an upward trend or that detection may not be as good as at present. Increase in crime may be slow and it may take some time before the objective viz., proper registration of crime; is achieved. It is also quite likely that exaggerated and false reports may be made to the police-station, but this should not discourage proper registration of crime.

6. During their tours in the interior, the Circle Inspectors and other senior officers should make it a point to find out if crime is being properly registered.

7. Wherever it is found that an officer-in-charge of a police-station has failed to register a crime or has minimised the crime reported to him or found by him, he should be severely dealt with. Suitable entries should be made in the C.C. Roll noting whether the officer has followed the instructions given in this Police Order faithfully or not.

(Previous Police Order Reference No. 5 of 1962)