

**POLICE ORDER No. 196**

Acquittal of cases.

It is observed that adequate steps are not being taken at present to ensure systematic review of the grounds of acquittal of session cases and to study the common defects in the investigation and prosecution as gleaned from the judgments of the Sessions Judges and the High Court, so that remedy against recurrence of such lacuna may be prescribed and standard and of investigation and prosecution of such cases be improved. In absence of any systematic study, such defects are unwittingly allowed to continue and the officers in general do not profit much out of the acquittal judgments.

2. In order to obtain maximum educative value out of the acquittal judgments for the ultimate benefit of the Investigating Officers and Prosecuting officers, it is absolutely necessary that some process has to be evolved, whereby the cases of acquittal might be periodically reviewed and studied in a systematic manner in order to devise ways and means of eradicating common defects contributing to the acquittal.

3. It is, therefore, ordered that an Acquittal Register, as per *pro forma* indicated below shall be maintained at the District Police Office by the A.P.P./P.I., as the cases may be, wherein the salient features of defects and lacuna in investigation and prosecution, abstracted from the judgment of Sessions Judges and the High Court shall be incorporated from time to time, in the appropriate columns. The remaining columns shall be simultaneously filled up with materials collected from the concerned case records/judgments. For this purpose, the relevant the relevant case records of Crime Section of the S.P.'s Office shall be passed on to the A.P.P./P.I. soon after receipt of acquittal judgments.

4. The A.P.P./P.I. shall make a thorough study of the cause of a acquittal once in every quarter prior to the Crime Meeting and shall prepare a review to that effect containing suggestions to eradicate the common defect in investigation and prosecution. The various common factors leading to the acquittal, with special reference to the defects and lapses investigation and prosecution together with the review prepared by the P.I. shall be discussed in the Quarterly Crime Meeting with the C.Is. After discussion on all possible aspects of the issue, suitable instructions shall be issued by the District Superintendents of police to all police posts with a view to eliminate the factors contributing to the acquittal, A note on the steps taken in this regard shall be made in the appropriate column of the Register.

The Range D.I.-G. shall ensure during their inspections that the above instructions are strictly followed:

*Pro Forma*

P.-S. case reference with section of law, name of I. O. and the Prosecuting Officer	Name of the Supervising Officer and date of supervision	Nature of defects/commissions in investigation and prosecution	Name of the Court detecting the defects and Cour's case reference	Whether charges were framed according to the charge-sheet or not and reasons for deviation, if any	Action, if any, taken on the adverse comments against the Officer	Suggestions for eradicating the defects	Observations of the S. P. and instructions, if issued	REMARKS
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)