

POLICE ORDER No. 209

Proper care
and mainte-
nance of
Police Arms.

Arms are an essential accompaniment of the Police Force in dealing with violent mobs, turbulent anti-social elements, hardened criminals, dacoits, etc. It will be unnecessary to reiterate the vital importance of the proper care and maintenance of arms.

2. The inspection remarks of the Assistant Inspector of Arms frequently reveals that maintenance of arms in the Police is generally not up to the mark as a result of which the arms become defective earlier than they normally should. The most common cause of deterioration of arms is corrosion due to neglect in cleaning the weapons after firing and non-rectification of the defects pointed by the A. I. A. On the basis of the recommendation of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Conference of Inspector-General of Police the posts of one Armourer Reserve Inspector, and one Armourer Sub-Inspector have been sanctioned for the office of the Inspectors-General of Police and of three Armourer Havildar-Major for the offices of the Range D. I.-Gs., Cuttack, Sambalpur and Berhampur. Posts of Armourer Havildars and Armourer Constables have been sanctioned for all districts and units which carry arms on the yardstick of one Armourer Havildar and one Armourer Constable up to 600 arms and an extra Armourer Constable for each additional 300 arms. As arms are in short supply due to the National Emergency, extra precautions are to be taken in maintaining the weapons held on charge to ensure their serviceability till replacements are made available.

3. With a view to ensure proper maintenance of arms, the duties and responsibilities of the Armourer staff will be as follows:—

- (i) The Armourer Constables will assist the Armour Havildars in proper maintenance of arms,
- (ii) The duties of the Armourer Havildars shall be the same as laid down for Armourer Constables in Part II of P. M. Appendix 75. They should maintain a history-sheet of each weapon and inspect periodically the arms kept at Police-Station.

4. The jurisdiction of the inspecting staff of Armourer Havildar-Majors at Range level shall be as follows:—

- (a) Armourer H. M., Central Range—Cuttack, Puri, Balasore, Mayurbhanj
- (b) Armourer H. M., Southern Range—Ganjam, Koraput, Kalahandi, Phulbani
- (c) Armourer H.M., Northern Range—Sambalpur, Balangir, Dhenkanal, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Rourkela.
- (d) M. P. and Trg. and P. T. C., Angul, O. M. I., II, III and Additional Battalion

The rules regulating their tours and inspection shall be the same as laid down in Part I of P. M. Appendix 75. Each Range Armourer Havildar-Major will maintain a register of all arms held on charge in each district unit of his jurisdiction which shall be kept always up-to-date and put up to the D. I.-G. concerned for check at regular intervals.

5. The headquarters inspecting staff of the Armourer R. I., and Armourer S.-I. duties shall be as follows:—

The Armourer R. I. shall inspect half the arms of each unit once every year to ensure the proper maintenance and upkeep. He shall fix up responsibility in case the arms are not properly maintained. He shall maintain the files, lists and returns dealing with arms and ammunitions. He will suggest ways and means for proper maintenance of arms of district establishment on the experience gained after annual inspections. He will maintain an up-to-date list of arms held on charge in each district.

He shall co-ordinate the activities of the Range Armourer Havildars-Major and ensure that on early sign of deterioration, the weapons are attended to by them. He will inspect their work in different district and bring any negligence or insincerity on their part to the notice of the Range D. I.-G. concerned for necessary action.

The Assistant Inspector of Arms of the Army does not find enough time to go round each district every year and moreover, he only inspects one-third of the arms held on charge each year. The remaining two-third of the arms will have to be inspected by him. He shall ensure that history sheet of arms are maintained very carefully and that the weapons are cleaned regularly and put on the rack.

He shall impart training and deliver lectures to Police Officers in the Advanced Training School and the P. T. C., Angul on maintenance of arms and ammunitions. He shall be under the disciplinary control of A. I.-G. in charges of Supply Section of the I.-G. Police Office.

He shall submit a copy of his Inspection Note to A. I.-G. and to District Superintendent of Police Heads of Establishment through A. I.-G.

While at headquarters, he shall attend office from 10-30 A. M. to 5 P. M. and scrutinise the personal diary of the Armourer S.-I.

The Armourer- S.-I. shall assist the Armourer-R. I. in his work and accompany him on inspection work whenever required. He shall see the last inspection note of the Armourer S.-I. has been complied with. He shall be under the disciplinary control of the R. I. and submit his personal diary which will be scrutinised by the R. I.

6. According to P. M. Rule 1103 the Superintendents of Police/Head of Establishments are primarily responsible for the arms in their District/Establishment Officers to whom arms are issued and also responsible for them until they are returned to stock.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police shall pay particular attention to the maintenance of arms during their inspection of the district unit headquarters by inspecting some percentage of history-sheets maintained for each arms.