

POLICE ORDER No. 218

1. Government of India have made it quite clear that in the event of any internal disturbance it will not be possible for them to aid the State Police force by deputation of their Reserve Battalions of Reserve police or the Army and that each State must keep its armed forces not only up to strength but fully trained and equipped to face any eventuality.

Stepping up
efficiency in
the Orissa
military
police
Battalions.

2. The first in this direction is the immediate filling of all the vacancies. After having filled up all the vacancies with the least possible delay, men must be put on specialised training. The training of the men must not be left to the J. C. Os. Unlike the districts where the Superintendent of Police has to discharge multifarious duties, such as supervision of cases, inspection of police posts etc. the Commandant of a Battalion has only to concentrate on the training and keep all ranks under him in a high pitch of efficiency. It is therefore absolutely essential that the Commandant must supervise the training of his officers and men himself. Unlike in the past, each Battalion has now got a large number of Gazetted Officers and therefore, it should be possible for the Commandant to make them work under his direct guidance. If at any time or at any place the O. M. P. contingents deputed for law and order duties fail to discharge their duties effectively and efficiently, the Commandant concerned will be taken to task.

3. All the men should be trained in the use of long lathies, tear smoke and arms and fire the musketry course immediately after training in arms. Action should be taken to train up office and men in Bren guns and C. M. T. where these weapons are available. Complacency in this regard will be seriously viewed. Stress should be laid on advanced course of training and tactical exercise for which instructions from the D. I.-G. of Police, M. P. & T. should be taken.

Training of any O. M. P. contingent on deputation outside the headquarters in normal times must be supervised by a Gazetted Officer of the O. M. P. frequently and the force should be changed over once in 3 months.

Whenever any O. M. P. contingent is on deputation to district, it shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Police concerned to supervise the training of the men in addition to the supervision by the Commandant either directly or through his Gazetted Officers. This is necessary to ensure that the training and discipline of the O. M. P. contingent do not suffer for want of supervision by the Commandant.

4. The motor transport of the O. M. P. Battalions should be kept in a high pitch of efficiency since breaks downs of vehicles at the time of force may result in serious consequences. Similarly the arms and ammunitions on charge of each Battalion should be properly maintained to be effective during commission. The radio sets held on charge in each Battalion should be taken due care of and the signalling staff sanctioned properly trained to work the sets.

The O. M. P. personnel should be fully equipped and in the event of any shortage of equipment, the Commandant will be held responsible.

5. The Commandant must ensure that whenever and wherever his men are on duty, their turn-out is above reproach. During normal times, at each Battalion headquarters, one platoon of O. M. P. should remain stand-by fully equipped with vehicles and the driving staff round the clock to move out at short notice. To ensure this the Commandant should call them out on duty by surprise which should form a part of their training programme. In case of any delay in movement action should be taken against the officer in command.

It should be borne in mind that in the event of any bad turn-out the Commandant will be held responsible.

6. As far as possible, the O. M. P. contingent must be deployed in platoons and companies and not in instructions. In no circumstance, O. M. P. contingent shall be deployed in normal and routine duties which are to be performed by the A. P. R. or O. R. In case of their deployment in normal and routine duties in unavoidable circumstances, permission of the A. I.-G. shall be taken.

It shall be the duty of the S. P. concerned to provide accommodation of the O. M. P. contingent when deputed to his district on duty. The Commandant must ascertain this from the S. P. concerned prior to deputation of the contingent. It shall also be the responsibility of the S. P. concerned to provide ration to the O. M. P. contingent on payment of cost by the Company or Platoon Commander, as the case may be.

7. If the O. M. P. force are to be kept in a high pitch of efficiency the question of promoting officers and men by virtue of seniority alone should not be weighed. Officers and men who can lead and have got the qualities of leadership, training, etc. should be picked up for promotion. Any inefficiency on the part of a Section Commander, or a platoon Commander or a Company Commander should be put fairly and squarely on them and here should be no delay in taking disciplinary action.

The Commandant and the Gazetted Officers under him must keep personal touch with his men and Alochana Sabhas should be held regularly. Discipline of the force is another important factor on which efficiency depends. The men when not detailed on duty in kept busy in their training programme as otherwise they are likely to deteriorate. It is necessary for the Commandants to meet all his Assistant Commandants Subedars, Jamadars as frequently as possible in meetings and discuss their day to day problems and try to find solution either by himself or by reference to the D. I.-G., M. P. & T.