

POLICE ORDER No. 248

SUBJECT—Procedure to be adopted for proper collection, packing and transport of exhibit for examination in Forensic Science Laboratory.

A reference is invited to Police Order No. 174 (former P. O. No. 4/62) where in the detailed procedure to be adopted in looking for, collecting, preserving, packing and transportation of exhibits for examination in Forensic Science Laboratory was laid down. Subsequently, Police Order No. 243 has been issued highlighting the important points for guidance of the I. Os. Besides this a booklet entitled 'Scientific

Aids to Investigating' published by the Government of India has been made available to Police Stations in order to enable them adopt the right procedure. In spite of all these it has come to notice that exhibit are not sent to Forensic Science Laboratory in accordance with these instructions. The general defects and defects found in respect of some particular types of exhibits sent by the I. Os. over the past several years are given below for information—

1. The forwarding report is not prepared in the prescribed form. Instead, only a few lines are written on a plain paper which give a vague idea of the nature of the types of examinations required. It should be ensured that the forwarding note should be in the prescribed form clearly giving the particulars.

2. The exhibits should be forwarded through competent authority who will sign the prescribed certificate authorising the Director, Forensic Science Laboratory to take up to the authorising the examination of exhibits to avoid legal complications in court. In many cases, the designation of the forwarding authority is not mentioned nor court seal is affixed when exhibits are forwarded through court. Such omissions should be carefully watched.

3. The exhibits are not properly packed and sealed in many cases and a specimen seal impression is not given on the forwarding report. It should be born in mind that such omissions defeat the very purpose for which exhibits are sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory.

4. The nature of examination required is often not clearly indicated. The words necessary examination may be conducted and opinion furnished are often in forwarding reports.

5. Very often sealed packets are sent through railway parcel without giving the case reference. In such cases, it is difficult to link the exhibits with the forwarding report which is received separately by registered post. All such sealed packets should, therefore, contain the case reference on the outer cover.

6. Garments containing wet stains of blood are often packed and sent for examination. Due to this unstained areas get contaminated and no control sample is available for examination. All wet stains should be dried in room temperature before packing. Similarly all stained areas should be covered by white paper on both sides of the garment and stitched on the periphery of each stain before folding

It is further seen that samples are sometimes sent to the Laboratory for examination after a lapse of considerable time. Examinations are normally undertaken according to the order in which they are received and it takes nearly 1 to 2 months to get the Serological reports after the preliminary examinations have been conducted in the State Forensic Science Laboratory and forwarded to the Serologist at Calcutta. To obviate the inconvenience thus caused, the exhibits should be sent to the Laboratory immediately after the preliminary formalities are completed. A gap of nearly 2 to 3 months should be given before a reminder is issued.

7. In telegraphic wire theft cases, huge bundles of wire are sent for examination. In such cases only cut pieces containing the ends to be examined should be sent specifying the end piece from the suspected property and the end piece taken from the pole at the spot. The end to be examined should be left straight and the other end should be bent. All such cut pieces should be properly sealed and marked.

8. It is often noticed that after recovering a firearm, its muzzle is corked or plugged. This should not be done. The muzzle should be invariably capped.

9. When Ballistics Expert's opinion regarding range of firing is required, a copy of *post-mortem* or injury report should be invariably sent. This is not done in many cases, resulting in avoidable delay in the examination of exhibits.

This order should be widely circulated among the I. Os. so that all errors and omissions can be avoided in sending exhibits to the Forensic Science Laboratory for examination. The Inspector and Gazetted Officers should explain the order to the S. Is. during their visit/inspection of Police posts.