

POLICE ORDER No. 22

Iranis
Nomads

Iranis (who sometimes call themselves Shirazis) are frequenting this province in small detachments and committing crime. They travel rapidly by rail in the guise of 'bona fide' traders, a most invariably without paying fare. Their common 'modus operandi' is to visit shops at or near railway stations on some pretext and to remove money by sleight of hand. They also pick-pockets and assault people who dare to oppose them. Unfortunately such act of lawlessness committed in Orissa by Iranis have on several occasions gone unpunished owing to slackness on the part of the police, amounting at times to cowardice.

2. It is essential that all detachments of Iranis should be kept under strict surveillance and the security sections of the Criminal Procedure Code should be freely used to deal with instances of bad behaviour, if evidence is insufficient to charge delinquents for specific offences. They should be no hesitation to arrest under section 54, Criminal Procedure Code, as it becomes difficult to obtain evidence of identification once the suspected criminals are allowed to escape to a place far away from where they have committed crime. It is only by showing that their predatory methods of livelihood will not be tolerated that they can be convinced that this province is not a happy hunting ground for them and for others of their type who will certainly follow their example if they are not kept in check.

3. The attention of all officers is particularly drawn to rules 386—402 and Appendix 18 (III) of the Police Manual.

4. In view of the dangerous character of some Iranis, the police force deputed for surveillance must always be adequate and placed in charge of a responsible officer, at least one constable or Chaukidar should be deputed for each adult member of the gang. On no account shall the police force deputed for surveillance leave a gang until formally relieved.

5. Gang books and wandering gang registers should be maintained much more carefully than at present as these records are likely to be of great use when it becomes necessary to take action against the gangs. When a gang leaves the province, the gang book must invariably be forwarded to the Criminal Investigation Department for record.

6. The departure of a gang should be intimated quickly (by telegram, wherever possible) to the officer in charge of the police-station of destination so that he may arrange to relieve the surveillance force.

7. Surveillance must never be made over to the railway police who have no rural police at their disposal to provide an adequate escort. The sole responsibility of the railway police is to assist the escort party within railway jurisdiction and to send advance telegraphic intimation about the destination of the gang to the district police concerned. The railway police will also be responsible, until relieved, for arranging as adequate a surveillance as possible for any gang found travelling by train without any escort.

8. Police Manual rule 402 which prohibits the grant of certificates, etc. to these wanderers by Government officials should be observed more strictly. Such certificates, etc. when found, should be forfeited and the officers who granted them should be reported to the proper authorities.

Manual reference

.. Rules 386—402 and Appendix 18

(Previous Police Order Reference No. 10 of 1940)