

POLICE ORDER No. 246

SUBJECT—Village visiting by Thana Staff

Police Order No. 143 was issued in 1958 in the context of the introduction of the Grama Panchayat system to regulate village visiting by Thana Staff and Police Order No. 187 was issued in 1964 on the working of village beats with the assistance of the Beat Constables system then in vogue. After the introduction of the Grama Rakhi Scheme as laid down in Grama Rakhi Act and Rules, Police Order Nos. 143 and 187 have become superfluous and are hereby cancelled.

The system of village visiting by Police-Station Officers was based on the instructions contained in P. M. Appendix 74, applicable to the Southern Districts of Ganjam and Koraput. But the principles mentioned therein could be equally applicable to other areas also with some modifications.

Under the Grama Rakhi Act and Rules, the Grama Rakhis are required to give immediate information at the Police-Station in respect of matters as specified in Section 6(a) and (j) of the Act, Rules 16, 18 and 19. Rule 23 of the Grama Rakhi Rules 1969 also lays down that the Grama Rakhi shall attend the Police-Station at such intervals not less than once a week as may be laid down by Executive instructions of Government. The Grama Rakhi is accordingly to be treated as the village Police.

In the present system of working of the Grama Rakhis, it is extremely important that Thana Officers should visit the villages as often as possible for collecting intelligence for crime and criminals independently and also to satisfy themselves that the Grama Rakhis are punctilious in discharge of their duties of reporting matters of importance without suppression. The Police Order No. 143 had laid down that the S.-I. should visit each village in his jurisdiction at least once a quarter. In recognition of the practical difficulties, it is hereby ordered that at least 50 per cent of the villages within their jurisdiction should be visited by Officers and men of the P. S. in a quarter. During their visit they should contact with members of the Grama Panchayat for collection of information and statistics relating to crime and criminals etc. and to verify proper working of the Grama Rakhis in their respective units.

Village visiting register should be maintained showing the names of the villages and the periodicity of visit without trying to classify the villages name 'A' 'B' 'C' as was specified in Police Order No. 187.

The Circle Inspectors should ensure that S. -Is. under them are carrying out this order strictly and now that the number of villages to be visited has been appreciably reduced the order should be fully complied and all instances of omissions should be taken note of for disciplinary action. Each time a Gazetted Officer visits the P.-S. he should see that the orders are complied and the Circle Inspectors are mindful of enforcing the order and are reporting against the defaulters.