

Chapter 20

Intelligence Department/State Special Branch

1. Intelligence (& Security) Department

- i. The Intelligence Department or the State Special Branch is an integral part of the Police Headquarters. It is primarily responsible for collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence on various aspects, issues and subjects. Collection of intelligence on various subjects is done through its own units and agencies and through the district police. For this purpose a special unit is established in each district. This unit is known as the District Special Branch (DSB). The personnel posted in the DSB, under the overall supervision of a DySP or Inspector, are assigned specific subjects on which they are required to collect intelligence. The intelligence so collected is received at the SSB headquarters where on the basis of the nature, contents and the trends of the information a critical scrutiny is done, and thereafter intelligence appraisal is sent to the State Government and the DGP. Likewise, the police field formations and field formations of the SSB are also advised to take suitable action, with regard to various issues on the basis of the intelligence appraisal report. For the purpose the head of the DSB shall keep in close regular touch with the district SP and keep him informed of all matters having bearing on police work.
- ii. SSB prepares periodical report on matters falling within its purview and forward copies to those specified. It makes secret enquiries into sensitive matters or those affecting national and State interests. It also helps in the investigation of those crimes, which have a political purpose or motive and in which political suspects are involved. It communicates to central agencies, important information concerning them as and when available.

- iii. The central role of the Special Branch is to collect intelligence. The charter of the Special Branch does not envisage a focus on routine crime, but given the nexus of organized crime with terrorism, intelligence on organized crime is gradually becoming part of the work of the Special Branch. Extremism and terrorism, which are special types of crime, would be in the charter of the Special Branch.
- iv. The intelligence provided by the Special Branch can be used to prevent crime, and also to aid detection of crimes that have already taken place. The Special Branch should gradually build up competence in electronic eavesdropping, which is exceptionally useful in aiding recoveries.
- v. With the emergence of religious fundamentalism, organized criminal mafia, left wing extremism, communal tensions and activities of anti-national and anti-social groups, the role of Special Branch has become very important. It should be able to provide precise, sharp and swift intelligence so that chance & randomness in police can be minimized and operational endeavor can be focused for optimum result. A strong intelligence apparatus will save time, energy, manpower, casualties and other resources.

2. Functions of SSB

Following functions are assigned to the State Special Branch:

- (a) Collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence
- (b) Border security and border intelligence
- (c) VIP security including periodical review and assessment of threat perception of the VIPs and other protected persons of the State, draw their security category and provide necessary protection as per the guidelines issued by Government of India from time to time.
- (d) Internal security
- (e) Training of SSB personal
- (f) Coordination with various intelligence and security units
- (g) Matters relating to foreigners and passports

- (h) Maintenance of various records pertaining to security and intelligence matters.
- (i) Conduct discreet enquiries into delicate and sensitive matters either on its own or as asked by the State Government or the DGP and submit report thereto.
- (j) Monitor the activities of the NGOs working in various areas with particular focus on receipt and utilization of foreign funds and activities directed towards causing dissatisfaction among the people or creating communal, regional, linguistic, ethnic and other sectarian tension.
- (k) Monitor the existence of any strong and widespread public feeling on political, social, economic, religious or other issues of importance.
- (l) Monitor circulation of rumours, news, letters, posters, leaflets or other publication likely to disturb peace or create disaffection, communal strife or disturbance.
- (m) Verify applications for passports and collect and share intelligence relating to any violation of existing rules in this regard.
- (n) Ensure enforcement of the Foreigners Acts and Rules and strict adherence of visa rules and conditions by foreigners visiting the State. Monitor the movement and activities of foreigners and share with other related agencies, intelligence relating to suspicious activities of the foreigners.
- (o) Make periodical review of threat assessment of iconic religious places, critical national assets, vital installations etc and put in place appropriate security scheme based on the recommendations of the State Security Review Committee
- (p) Maintain close liaison with the neighboring state organizations and the MHA. The reports to MHA and other places shall be governed by instructions of the Government and DGP from time to time.
- (q) In view of the sensitive nature of its functions the State Special Branch shall have its separate manual periodically updated prescribing detailed guidelines of working for the SB staff.

3. Structure of SSB

(i) SSB is primarily a centralized unit of the State police organization. An officer of the rank of Addl. DGP/IGP heads the SSB including its security wing, and is assisted by a number of officers of the rank of DIG, SP, Addl. SP, DySP and subordinate police officers along with requisite ministerial and other support staff. For discharging its various functions the SSB is divided into various wings like operations wing, intelligence wing, security and counter intelligence wing, technical wing, FRRO etc. These wings in turn are divided into various sections. Some of the important sections of the SSB are following:

- Religious/Communal Section
- Political Section – parties, Students/Teachers Fronts, Elections Section
- Labour Section
- Foreigners Section
- Security Section
- Services and Press Section
- Confidential Section
- DSI Section
- Verification & Special Enquiry Section
- NGO Section
- Administration & Accounts Section
- Control Room

(ii) SSB is a specialized wing of police organization and the performance and execution of its various functions and duties require that the personnel posted in this wing from the State Police are specially trained. In view of the expertise required for SSB work the staff posted in the SB may not be subjected to regular transfers as in the general police branches.

(iii) State of the art surveillance and security equipments like the GSM/CDMA monitors, powerful electronic bugs, digitized 3-D map of the area, electronic circuit detectors and jammers, frequency jammers, low radiation human scanners and grounds penetration radars must be utilized for its effective functioning.

4. Security

- 1) The security wing of the SSB will be headed by an officer of the rank of an IG/DIGP. The functions of the security branch are connected mainly with proximate security of VIPs and VVIPs and also to plan, coordinate and direct security measures for the protection of those persons who face threat to their personal security. Though the security wing provides proximate security to the VIPs/VVIPs, the responsibility for their protection rests with the District police. The branch also assesses threat perception of various protected persons, issues guidelines to the various Units in the State for ensuring their security. The other important function is to monitor the programmes and tours of the protected persons, assess information gathered and issue suitable and timely instructions to the concerned, from time to time.
- 2) The security wing has specially trained personnel drawn by deputation from other branches of police and trained for the purpose of providing proximate security to VIPs in the State or those who visit the State. A special group in the various reserve police Units of the State is formed for providing guards as well as uniformed gunmen.
- 3) The State security wing draws up the training programmes specifically in respect of personal security of the VIPs. These programmes are carried out either in the Armed Police Unit or in the other training institutions. The specialist support units like the bomb disposal squads and sniffer dogs' squads are also attached to the wing. The detailed instructions and guidelines to be followed by the various personnel providing security are drawn up and circulated by the security wing.
- 4) The responsibility of the wing as detailed above is carried out through its own personnel as well as through the district police. They are responsible for coordination of all security arrangements in the State. This wing shall issue the instructions and training for L&O police personnel and their role in making security arrangements from time to time. The Unit officers are responsible to carry out all the instructions issued and to keep the personnel fully trained and alert in carrying out the security duties.

- 5) The Addl. DGP (Intelligence & Security) is responsible for the effective functioning and supervision of the security wing at the State headquarters.