

CHAPTER-30

Investigation of other Specific Offences

(A) Robbery and Dacoity

Legal Provisions

504. Robbery is an aggravated form of theft or extortion, accompanied by violence or fear of instant hurt or wrongful restraint. Robbery, if committed by five or more persons is dacoity. Sections 390 and 391 of IPC give definition and ingredients of robbery and dacoity respectively. According to the definition,

- A. Theft is “robbery”, if, in order to the committing of the theft, or in committing the theft, or in carrying away or attempting to carry away property obtained by the theft, the offender, for that end, voluntarily causes or attempts to cause to any person death or hurt or wrongful restraint, or fear of instant death or instant hurt or instant wrongful restraint.
- B. Extortion is “robbery”, if the offender, at the time of committing the extortion, is in the presence of the person put in fear, and commits the extortion by putting that person in fear of instant death, instant hurt or instant wrongful restraint to that person or some other person, and, by so putting in fear, induces the person so put in fear then and there to deliver up the thing extorted.
- C. When five or more persons conjointly commit or attempt to commit a robbery and persons present and aiding such commission or attempt number five or more, every person so committing, attempting or aiding, is said to commit “dacoity”.

Classification and Modus Operandi

- 505-1.** On the basis of place of commission of the offence (a) fields, (b) houses and (c) highways.
- 2. From the point of view of offenders they can be classified as (a) Isolated; (b) Organized; (c) Inter-District gang; (d) Inter-State gang; (e) Armed hold up.
 - 3. On the basis of weapons used (a) Fire arms, (b) Explosives, (c) Sharp edged

weapons like knives, khukuri, bamphok, spears and swords. (d) Blunt weapons like rods, sticks, (e) Missiles like stones, (f) Hands and feet.

4. It should be noted that in nearly all such cases, criminals are armed and, when victims protest or resist, violence is used, sometimes to the extent of causing death or serious injuries. Individuals or organized groups resort to use of firearms, explosives or other lethal weapons.
5. The description of the *modus operandi* or technique used by the robbers or dacoits or particularly those gangs addicted to these crimes is best expressed by concentrating on the major items such as (a) Description; (b) scene of offence; (c) mode of transport used; (d) accompanied by other crimes such as molestation, rape, murder; (e) weapons used such as fire arms either rods or fake knives, swords, bamphok, khukuri, sticks, lathies, clubs, stones, hand fists and feet; (f) associates and accomplices.
6. Robberies without use of arms by single person or two are quite few and far between. Victims some times over power the offenders in such cases by using their hands and feet with resulting injuries. Snatching is also common. Operations by groups of two or more are common who do a quick job often causing serious injuries. Such cases occur in darkness and by surprise. The victims are sometimes drunken persons or women in isolated places who are suddenly attacked. These factors make identification difficult. Therefore, accurate and minute details should be ascertained from the victims by patient and thorough examination.
7. The targets of armed robberies and dacoities are persons, shops, wayside petrol and diesel filling stations, stores, banks, residences etc. The classification depends on factors narrated in this and preceding order. Isolated places like houses in far-flunged suburbs, vehicles on highways and persons returning lonely from banks and shops are usually chosen by the criminals.

Action on receipt of Information

- 506-1. The SHO shall take action initially to guard the scene, apprehend offenders and prevent more such offences in or around.
2. When an oral complaint of robbery or dacoity is made at the Police station, the

Officer-in-charge while recording the complaint, should incorporate in detail the place of occurrence; number and names of offenders if known to victims, if not known, descriptive particulars, apparel put on, language spoken with accent; properties stolen, witnesses, arms used, injuries caused and other relevant details useful for further investigation. If a written complaint is given with incomplete details the case should be registered on that complaint and the details should be ascertained by examining him and/or other witnesses as early as possible. After registering FIR express reports should be sent to the magistrate and other officers.

Action after Information or Complaint

2. The SHO should rush to the spot with required strength and take steps to preserve the scene, and initiate action along with experts attached, inspect it and take action to process the scene of occurrence. If, during the observation of scene of crime, physical evidence such as finger, foot prints, blood and other stains, spent cartridges, bullets, fibers or any other materials and any articles are found left by the offenders, they should be collected and forwarded in the manner prescribed to concerned experts forthwith for their opinion. The opinion, apart from its evidentiary value, will provide useful clues in locating the offenders. The services of sniffer dogs should be utilized and till their arrival, the scene of crime and articles left by offenders should be protected.

Action by Neighboring Police Stations

3. On receiving information of the occurrence, police officers of the neighboring stations will take immediate steps to check known criminals of similar modus operandi in their area, interrogate suspicious strangers in their respective jurisdictions, maintain watch on roads, bus stands, public resorts and all hiding places. Any useful information obtained should be promptly communicated to the investigating officer.
5. It is observed in cases of house dacoities that even if inmates surrender without resistance, the criminals, in order to create panic and fear amongst inmates and others, resort to assault and misbehavior with them. They may spend sufficient time at the place of offence and resort to peculiar acts like eating food available, cooking and then eating food, easing at the scene or even sexual assault against the women folk.

6. When the IO visits the scene, he should carry the following material besides the equipment for processing the scene of crime.
 - Complete photo album of criminal gangs available with the DCRB/SCRB.
 - The videocassettes of the criminals' typical peculiarities, if any. The photo albums and cassettes should be shown to the inmates, neighbors extensively to enable them to identify the criminals by face or by their style of standing, gestures, gait, etc.
7. In addition to the thorough search of the place of offence, the surroundings of the scene at least to a distance of 3-4 km should be combed for search of left over materials, hidden booty etc. with the help of the sniffer dog squad.

Identification of Persons and Property

- 507-1.** The Investigating Officer should question the victims of the robbery about the identity of the criminal. All the people of the neighborhood should also be questioned. It should be ascertained from the victims whether they used any force and caused any injuries.
2. If it is established that the criminals are not locals, the IO should search bus stand, hotels, lodges and abandoned Gumpas, and the surrounding areas inclusive of all hiding places. The neighboring Station House Officers should be requested by the quickest means possible to make similar searches for the criminals in their station limits. The available details of crime and description of offenders should be furnished to all those who are requested to conduct searches on their behalf. Enquiries also should be made at bus stations about the movement of strangers.
 1. Persons on whom there is reasonable basis for suspicion should be questioned, and if the involvement of any such person is confirmed, he can be arrested and further enquiries relating to him pursued without delay.
 4. Information of the occurrence along with description of accused or photographs if available should also be circulated to all Block Administrative Centres of the surrounding villages with the details of stolen property.
 5. The enquiries to apprehend the criminals and recover the property lost should be well directed and carried out continuously till the objective is accomplished.
 6. Information, with details and descriptive particulars of the property lost, should

also be sent immediately to the police of nearby towns where the property is likely to be disposed of.

7. A list of stolen properties should be circulated to bullion merchants and other shop owners dealing with old articles. Enquiries should be made about known receivers and watch kept on them.
8. The informants should be activated.
9. If photographs of criminals are available either in the Police stations or in the DCRB, they should be shown to the victims to identify the possible suspects. Identification of offenders by means of photographs shall not prevent Police Officers from getting a Test Identification parade conducted by a Magistrate.
10. Movements of strangers around the scene of crime in the immediate past before the commission of offence should be probed to verify the movement of dacoits and their proxies.
11. Strangers/new tenants or owners of houses in the locality should be examined. It is seen that organized criminal gangs take houses on rent and on that pretext survey the area during day time and commit offences in the night.
12. The MO approach to tracing of criminals is very useful, and those criminal groups involved in this form of crime should be checked.
13. Information should be passed on to all police officers and neighboring police stations and to the DCRB. The DCRB should analyze the information and should provide specific lead to the IO.
14. If the criminals are unknown, the IO should take the help of his crime records.

Action on arrest

- 508-1.** After arrest of offenders, efforts must be made to recover the property through their confessional statement as well as from the search of places. Thorough interrogation should be under taken to find out their involvement in the past offences and in the present ones. Information about associates, whereabouts of other accused, and also information about the receivers of stolen property etc should be secured. Wherever necessary, police remand must be obtained to

interrogate elaborately to elicit more such details.

4. The properties seized should be got identified by the owners through witnesses.
5. If the names of the accused are not known, the IO must arrange for an identification parade of the suspects (accused) for identification by the owners through a magistrate.

Preventive Measures

509-1. As a preventive measure, in case of information of a criminal group operating or serious outbreak of crimes of this nature, suitable armed patrols should be detailed, taking into consideration the areas in which such offences have occurred. The beat constables may be suitably armed and armed patrols by beat officers along with the SI organized to prevent robbery or dacoity.

2. The highways should be patrolled by Beat Constables. The beat officers should take the lead and be present in the beat area and organize voluntary effort and also perform night patrol duty.
3. It is advisable to provide mobile radio sets to patrolling parties. To nab offenders travelling by buses as passengers and committing dacoities at isolated places, watch should be maintained at important bus stands to locate suspicious characters and their belongings may be searched. In no circumstances genuine passengers should be put to any inconvenience, but they should be requested to cooperate. For prevention of dacoities or robberies and for apprehension of the offenders, the officers engaged in this duty should be thoroughly briefed of the provisions of right of private defense enumerated in Sections 96 to 103 of IPC and provision of Sec. 46 CrPC.
4. The night patrols should be effectively supervised in the field by SDPO/Addl. SP and SP.
5. Bus/truck drivers and others should be advised to defend themselves with the use of necessary force and not to submit meekly when attacked or robbed. They should exercise their right of private defense. Whenever the need arises proper briefing, education and publicity be given to ensure awareness and alertness in the people.
6. Each beat patrol should concentrate on a specific affected area within its beat and

arrange to take position at given places and times at intervals with reference to possible lurking points. The beat in charge and the Constable should have a plan of patrolling prepared by them in advance for each type of problem or the area.

7. The help of local residents, voluntary agencies, community liaison group and village defense party must also be obtained for continuous patrols during night. Use of alarm systems may also be encouraged.
8. Surprise check and searches for suspicious robbers/dacoits in the buses should also be organized but without inconvenience to genuine passengers.

Pursuit of other accused and properties

- 510-1. Information gathered at the scene including the clues obtained there from, the details given by the arrested accused if any in the course of his interrogation, the exact description of the properties stolen and the information gathered from sources as well as criminal records should be made the basis for a plan of action to trace the remaining accused and properties. After the plan is drawn up, the supervisory officer at the level of SP should organize a well-directed drive for their arrest and recovery of properties. Communication with other police organizations inside and outside the State, deputation of staff to make enquiries at places about which clues are available should be the method of tracing the accused.
2. Known receivers of stolen property should be kept under surveillance and on information searches may be conducted.

Charge sheet and Court Trial

- 511-1. The charge sheet should describe the part played by each accused, and the overt acts made by each one of them, the weapons which each carried, the recoveries of

the stolen properties, the evidence available against each accused and the various sections of law for which each accused is liable for the offences committed. The evidence of identification of the accused and the place of arrest of each accused should be mentioned in the charge sheet.

2. During the course of the trial, the witnesses should be produced promptly and the trial personally monitored by the IO and his superiors. The prosecutor should be briefed for every adjournment and the case tried on a regular basis as far as possible without any lapse on the part of police.
3. The IO should ensure that all entries in the connected records are made as and when the information is available so that the records are built up along with the investigation and progress of trial.

(B) House Breaking or Burglary

- 512-1.** Sections 441 to 459 IPC relate to criminal trespass, lurking house trespass and house breaking by day or night. It may be noted that house breaking is constituted by the six methods of entry and exit described in section 445 IPC. House breaking by night accompanied by theft are the most common conventional crime.
2. The manner of entry and exit, the premises attacked and the nature of property stolen will determine the modus operandi in these cases.
 3. The investigating officer should ascertain from the complainant (a) the time of occurrence and marks of identification, if noticed (b) the method of entry in the premises (c) the nature of the property stolen and details of each item; (d) the number of offenders, their description, and names if known; (e) any marks or signs left at the scene.
 4. In case the person who makes the complaint is not in a position to furnish the correct details, the IO should ascertain the same from other witnesses at the earliest opportunity. Entries in the crime records of the PS should be made.
 5. The IO should, before proceeding to the scene take the following steps:

- A. Quickly, study the Station Crime Records including the crime chart, obtain as much information as possible with a view to ascertain the criminals likely to have committed the offence or clues about the suspects and to plan the line of investigation.
 - B. Alert the patrol team or depute any experienced personnel to apprehend the criminals if known or to obtain clues.
 - C. Mark the scene on the map, and with its aid study the past crimes in that area and also crimes of the same modus operandi within the jurisdiction of the station and neighbouring stations.
6. The inspection of the scene should be carried out thoroughly and diligently. Fingerprints and foot prints are most vital and all the efforts should be directed to ensure their identification, lifting and comparison at a fast pace.
7. Accurate list of all properties stolen with detailed description of each item, identifiable features, numbered properties if any, should be prepared after a thorough examination of victims if the same was not possible at the stage of FIR. The Case Diary should contain this list at the earliest point of time i.e., the very first day. All evidence at the scene including traces, marks or stains should be collected.
- 513-1.** The following are some of the points to be noted while investigating a case of burglary.
- A. special circumstances, if any, concerning the time and date of occurrence (i.e., fair, festival, or any special occasion or function at house)
 - B. nature of locality, i.e., dwelling house, office, temple, gumpa, church, shop, hospital or school and its relation to the rest of the village or town;
 - C. class of property removed; and
 - D. place of entry and exit
 - E. the particulars of the rooms entered by the accused and whether or not the rooms were occupied at the time;

- F. any clue left to indicate whether the accused worked in the dark or by means of a light;
 - G. any clue, or fact which may indicate that the accused had prior knowledge of or familiarity with the premises.
 - H. the services of sniffer dogs should be utilized to trace any belongings, marks, traces, materials of the accused left by him at the scene and if there are any such, should be preserved for scientific analysis later.
 - I. any boxes, safes, almirahs or receptacle containing valuables overlooked by the accused and, if so, their location;
 - J. precautions, if any, adopted by the accused during the commission of the offence, such as chaining or locking of doors;
 - K. the time or date when the property removed was last seen at the place from which it was stolen;
 - L. the exact position of finger prints, and steps taken for their preservation. The finger prints should be lifted and immediately sent to Finger Print Bureau after eliminating the finger prints of inmates and Policemen who first visited the scene with the help of FP expert to compare the chance prints with those on record. The Scientific Team should lift FPs, and photograph them. Chance prints should be sent after quick comparison locally to the State FPB.
 - M. it should be observed from the scene of the crime as to the number of foot prints found leading to and from the spot or on the spot, and deductions drawn there from as to the number of culprits involved, direction from which the accused came and left, and place, if any, where they waited before committing the offence and steps taken to preserve the prints and take their traces or casts.
 - N. means of transport, if any, employed by the accused for the removal of stolen property; and
 - O. any other clues or matters of importance requiring attention.
1. If access to the house was obtained by means of a hole in the wall, the following

additional points should be noted;

- A. whether the wall is built of mud, bricks, ekra or stone;
 - B. exact location of the hole and its relative position with regard to door, windows, ventilators, or other such openings;
 - C. shape of the hole, to be illustrated by a diagram,
 - D. height of the hole from the ground, outside and inside;
 - E. exact measurements of the hole, outside and inside;
 - F. thickness of the wall where hole was made;
 - G. side to which rubble at earth was thrown
 - H. details of marks left by the instrument used and inference drawn there from as to the nature of the instrument; and
 - I. whether the room in which the hole was made was occupied or not at the time.
3. If access was obtained by lock breaking or lock opening, the following points should be noted:
- A. type of lock broken
 - B. if opened by key, any indication as to whether the key used was the original or false and, if the original, how the accused obtained possession of it;
 - C. if lock was broken, (i) particulars of marks on it and inference drawn there from as to the instrument used and (ii) state if lock is still in working order; and
 - D. if lock is intact and chain wrenched out, the type of instrument that appears to have been used.
4. If access was obtained by means of a hole in the roof, the following points should be noted:

- A. whether the house is terraced one or has a tiled or thatched roof;
 - B. any indication as to how the accused ascended the roof;
 - C. position of the hole, e.g., whether adjoining a beam or in one corner or by breaking glass etc.
 - D. whether the room beneath was occupied or not;
 - E. whether property was removed from the room above which hole was made;
 - F. means employed by the accused to descend into the room below;
 - G. how tiles, thatch and such other materials removed were disposed of and precautions adopted by the accused from falling into room below; and
 - H. any other matters of importance requiring special attention
- 5-A. In shop and godown burglaries entry is made by (1) lock breaking; (2) by bending the shutter using a jack (normally carried in light motor vehicles) placed in the centre; (3) by bending the shutter by applying manual pressure by two individuals.
- B. Some of the illustrative examples are stated herein. In the second and third methods as mentioned above a young or a lean person is made to enter the shop in the gap created at the bent portion of the shutter. They visit towns, spot out jewellery shops, or shops with valuables, watch the shop study the shutter properties and plan their operations. The offenders having entered the shop, force open the Iron Safes or steel cabinets by boring holes with electric or mechanical drill machine. This method is also used to open strong room doors in banks by criminals. In these offences the police should not lose any time in inspecting the scene and make an aggressive drive on the basis of clues to apprehend the criminals.
5. Laboratories and engineering workshops having high walls may be accessed through ventilators or by removing the zinc or asbestos sheets of the roof. By means of rope or rope made ladder the culprits may climb down and precious engineering instruments may be stolen. The roof sheets may be replaced to give

an impression that no offence occurred or the offence has been committed by the employees. A careful study of the scene including roof is required. While making efforts to trace the culprits, in this type of cases, discreet enquiries should be made to know the antecedents of the employees working there.

6. If access was obtained by any other method than those mentioned above the following point should be noted:
 - A. how access was gained;
 - B. if the entry was gained through windows or ventilators give particulars to indicate how bars were forced or glasses broken and means adopted by the accused for preventing noise.
 - C. if the offender scaled the wall, (i) state the means employed, e.g., ladder, bamboo, or drain pipe, or rope and (ii) give particulars of marks, if any, left on the wall; or any remnants of the means used
 - D. if admittance was gained through eaves, gives measurements, height from the ground and means employed to ascend;
 - E. if entry was gained through a threshold hole give the height of the basement, its relation to the door and furnish details as in sub-order (2) above; and
 - F. in cases of entry by deceit, threat or force, give details as ascertained during investigation.

8. In the case of house-breakings by day, the following points should also be noted:
 - A. state the whereabouts of the occupants at the time the offence was committed; and
 - B. precautions, if any, taken by the accused or his associates to avoid or divert the attention of neighbors away from the house attacked.

- 514-1. The investigating officer must —
- A. acquaint with the method followed by burglars for forcing, or attempting to force, entry into the house attacked;
 - B. draw a rough plan of the house burgled with its surroundings;
 - C. make or arrange to make a close search for foot prints or finger prints or other clues with help of experts attached which may eventually be of use as evidence against the culprits when captured;
 - D. enquire regarding recent visitors to the village, or to the house burgled; and
 - E. compile a complete list of property lost.
2. Should such enquiries lead to promising clues as to the identity of the burglars, the IO should, speedily follow it up immediately and work it out to its logical conclusion.
 3. Close study of the scene and questioning the inmates is important. Some criminals take all precautions to leave no traces of offence and the Police Officers are likely to draw wrong conclusions that the offence did not occur and a false complaint was made. Such conclusions should not be drawn in haste unless there are incontrovertible facts in support. A thorough enquiry of every aspect should be gone into before reaching such conclusions.
 4. There is possibility of false complaints to avoid taxes or claim insurance amounts. The investigations should therefore be well directed and prompt. These instructions should also be followed while investigating theft cases.
 5. Receivers of stolen property are an indispensable part of criminal activity of professional burglars. A sound information system and thorough enquiries by detective staff about receivers would yield useful clues in the investigation of burglaries.
 6. Accurate entries should be made in all criminal records and forms by the IO.

(C) Theft

515. Theft is defined in section 378 IPC. The ordinary thefts are punishable u/s 379 IPC house thefts, u/s 380 and thefts by servant's u/s 381. There is a large variety of thefts and it is the most common conventional crime.

Snatchings

1. Women are the targets in most cases. Gold chains from the women walking along the roads or lanes or parks, cinema houses may be snatched by culprits riding Motor cycles or by walking along and running away after snatching. By the time she realizes, the culprit escapes. Women carry their jewelry in their handbags apprehending snatching. Darkness and deserted areas afford cover to the culprits. If the culprit finds the woman not wearing jewelry and carrying a bag he may snatch the handbag. In these offences local criminals can be suspected. In cases of snatching of jewelry from the neck, the woman might be injured and she should be sent to hospital and injury certificate obtained.
 - A. The other type of snatching is of cash bags. The culprits observe persons proceeding to banks to deposit or withdraw cash and may snatch the cash bags. When the shop keepers keep their cash bags on the steps while opening or closing their shops the criminals divert their attention in many ways and escape with cash bags. Even if the culprit who diverted attention is caught, he pleads ignorance or by the time he admits that he is a member of criminal gang, the other criminal escapes with stolen cash. In case where a suspect is apprehended, he should be interrogated immediately to trace the absconding criminals.
 - B. In banks the attention of the employees or the customer is diverted by putting them in conversation or dropping by a currency note as if it is dropped by the customer unnoticed and when the customer attempts to pick it they escape with their cash bags.
 - C. The most valuable aid to successful investigation, detection and prevention of such offences is the up-dated criminal records system at State, District and Station levels. Entries in Village Crime Notebook (Part I) should be made giving - minute details of modus operandi and photographs kept on record of those who have earlier come to notice. The DCRB, the SCRIB and FPB should have the data on their systems. Since many of the criminals addicted to above offences (except

those snatching jewelry from women) move and operate in groups, the gang history should be prepared and maintained in the DCRB for rendering timely advice to the IOs whenever required and necessary. All methods that have come to notice should be recorded in these Bureaux by study and analysis of the information.

1. Cases of theft from letters, parcels and insured covers may also occur. A knowledge of how such offences are committed is essential for their successful investigation. Some of the methods usually employed for opening a letter are given below:
 - A. The envelope is held in the left hand with its face down. An ordinary knitting needle held in the right hand is inserted gently under the least gummed portion of one of the flaps, and rolled with a gentle pressure moving it simultaneously away or towards the palm of the left hand till the flap is opened out.
 - B. The envelope with its face down is placed on a clean white sheet of paper on a table. The flaps are dampened with a wet piece of linen or clean rag. When the flaps have been sufficiently moistened, the envelope is lifted up and held with the left hand and the flaps opened out as described in sub order A above.
 - C. The flap side of the envelope is held against a jet of steam issuing out of a steam kettle. As the adhesive under the flaps gets moistened the flap begins to curl up and finally gets unfastened.
 - D. In the case of sealed letters, plaster moulds of the seals are first made and then after removing the seals the cover is opened by either of the methods described above.
 - E. Ordinarily, valuable clues to the investigation of cases of tampering with letters, inland covers and parcels are destroyed by careless handling first by the receiver, then by the public and finally by an unskilled Police Officer dealing with them. These are a handicap to the expert to whom the article is sent for examination.

Theft of Copper wire

- 516-1.** Generally, copper wire is used for telegraph and telephone lines. Telegraph wires used in this country are manufactured in three standards viz. 300 lb, 200 lb or 150 lb weight per mile. This specification is exclusively for the telegraph and

telephone department and not available locally. Therefore the mere unlawful possession of this specification is itself an offence under Telegraph wires (Unlawful possession) Act 1950.

2. In these cases the identity of the wire is established from the recovered wire with the wire found missing at the spot.
3. In order to establish the identity, the cut end found on the poles should be sent along with the wire recovered to the laboratory and prosecution launched on the report of the laboratory. Under the above Act the burden of proving the lawful possession is on the accused.

Automobile Thefts

518-1. Automobile thefts are mostly committed in towns. The methods employed generally are (A) engaging a light motor vehicle on hire, dislodge the driver on some pretext like have his food or tea in a hotel and to drive away; (B) take the hired vehicle to a long distance, kill the driver and commit theft of the vehicle ; (C) theft of light or heavy vehicles when parked on the roads or near the residential houses, or places of work or places of entertainment; (D) theft of two wheelers from shopping or other busy areas or when parked near residential houses or from the compound of the houses; (E) theft of valuable parts from the vehicle and abandon the vehicle at an isolated place; and (F) taking away a vehicle to commit another crime using it to reach the scene or as a get-away vehicle or both: Cases of theft of trucks carrying cargo and disposal of both the truck and goods are also occurring in many parts of the country. This is generally done by professional gangs.

2. The offenders usually drive fast to some distance change the number plates to avoid immediate apprehension.
3. The stolen vehicle is taken to a mechanic to erase the Chassis and Engine numbers and to emboss fresh numbers and sometimes to change the colour. A forged registration certificate is prepared with the help of agents or brokers having access to RTO offices and then the vehicles are sold.
4. The moment a complaint of loss (the victim does not understand the difference between missing, loss and theft) or theft is made in the Police Station a case of theft should be registered and investigation taken up. Particulars of vehicle should be ascertained fast and information communicated immediately by

quickest possible means to all Police Stations in the town and also to the Police Stations on the Highways. The information should indicate the type of vehicle, its colour, registration number, model, chassis & engine numbers. In towns having exclusive Traffic Police the information should be promptly passed on wireless or telephone to the Traffic Police. The police stations receiving the information should immediately act and depute men to check the vehicles of the type mentioned in the message in their jurisdiction. The beat area Constables and Head Constables should also be given the same information.

5. Detection largely depends on the promptness with which information is passed on, the speed and alacrity with which the recipients of information on the CIS (Crime, Criminal Information System) react. As in the case of other property crime, the crime and criminal information system including MO criminals should be kept up to date in Local Crime Records, District Crime Records Bureau and SCRB to analyze, advise action that facilitates early recovery of the stolen vehicle and the offender.
6. From time to time the vehicle owners should be advised (A) not to leave the original registration books in the vehicle and to keep photocopies; (B) to have extra locks or alarm as available in the market fixed to the vehicle and (C) to use paid parking areas which have a watchman.
7. Since detection of automobile theft is difficult, preventive steps would be of much help. A close study of these thefts is necessary. The type of vehicle, the places from which they are stolen, the interval between each theft have to be considered and watch maintained by plain clothes men of Police at the places where thefts are likely to occur. Watch may be kept on suspected mechanics. The garages known for dismantling stolen vehicles for selling it part by part too may be kept under watch. Informants can be set up to know their activities. A watch on the known M.O. criminals i.e., those already on record should be made. Frequent enquiries should also be made about the agents or brokers attending the R.T.O. offices, who indulge in shady dealings.

Pocket-picking

- 519-1. Of all crimes, pocket picking is the easiest to commit. It involves far less labour and time than any other type of crime. Detection is difficult except where offenders are caught red-handed as the property involved is mostly cash. Pocket

picking is generally committed in fairs, festivals, buses and bus stops, banks, post offices, places of entertainment and other places where crowds gather. Pickpockets may work singly or with associates. They are generally dressed like others who gather or visit the above places to escape suspicion.

2. The devices adopted by different pickpockets to divert the attention of their victims vary. In crowded centres, like a bus stop, pickpockets may operate in a bunch. After marking a victim, they close upon him like intending passengers. One of them dashes against the victim and while the latter turns his face towards him another from the gang instantly removes his purse and passes it on to a third, who decamps with the loot. Sometimes, one of them in trying to board a bus causes temporary obstruction to other passengers who are in a desperate hurry to get in and secure a seat, and his associates who are mixed up in the crowd do their job with such dexterity that the victim never suspects their design. The article picked is passed on immediately from one to the other and the last person who receives it disappears from the scene all in a moment. They later meet at predetermined place and share the booty. Some pickpockets use knives, razor blades, or scissors to cut the pockets.
3. The following are a few among other points to be noted in a case of pocket picking:
 - A. means employed by the culprit, i.e., scissors, knife, or a razor blade or merely by hand;
 - B. the type of the garment, and the position of the pocket, e.g., kurta, shirt, coat, waistcoat, side, upper or lower inner or outer pocket;
 - C. position of other pockets and their contents which were not touched;
 - D. means adopted to divert the victim's attention;
 - E. reasons, if any, for believing that the culprit operated singly or with associates.
 - F. In larger towns the pickpockets have their areas and bus routes demarcated. They do not allow criminals of one area to operate in other's area. If a non-local criminal operates they try to locate him. It will be very useful if the Police Officers study the pattern of this type of crime and question the criminals when

apprehended on their and others' activities. The information furnished should be crosschecked and verified

(D) Riots and Cases involving Fire Arms

Riots

520-1. Riots takes place due to variety of reasons. The nature of riots, the causes and the method of dealing with them have been detailed in the Chapter dealing with Maintenance of law & order. The investigation of rioting cases has certain special features, which need IO's attention. The guidelines for processing of the scene of offence, identification, collection, seizure, forwarding etc. of clues, objects, stains, materials are contained in Chapter dealing with scientific aids as also in other Chapters on investigation. The general principles and the details of action to be taken meant for other cases equally apply to the cases of rioting. The special features which require attention are indicated below:

2. Section Sec. 129 – 132 & 141 to 149 IPC deal with rioting. Ordinarily, rioting is followed by bodily offences ranging from hurt to murder. The weapons used may vary from ordinary weapons to fire arms or explosives. The aspects like motive, identity of the accused, overt acts by each of them, the common object of the unlawful assembly, right of private defense, if any, should be investigated impartially.
 - A. **Five or more persons:** Five or more persons assembling with a common object to commit an offence is an unlawful assembly. It is not necessary that the identity of all persons has to be established to bring home the guilt against the others. The important point to prove is that there were 5 or more persons involved at the time of rioting.
 - B. **Identity:** The identity of persons and their presence can be established by oral evidence, test identification parade, video or photographs if any taken, evidence of eye witness, or from material evidence available on the spot or from the injuries sustained by them. The material could be in the form of a weapon left on the scene, spare cartridges, finger prints, foot prints or other materials belonging to the accused. The comparison of the nature of injury on the accused to the circumstances in which he could have sustained it, in the course of the offence can yield valuable corroboration. The proof of the community of the accused and

victims, association with any communal organization or its activities, knowledge of the community of the victim from the latter's dress or language are the points on which evidence has to be gathered. In some cases the accused may know the victim. In such an event evidence of that fact should be gathered. The presence, identity and role of the accused are important facts to be established.

- C. **Part played by each:** The part played by each accused, the nature of weapon if any carried by him and evidence of such weapon having been carried by him and the nature of injuries caused to the victims, whether the injury attributed to him could have been caused by the weapon which he is known to have carried at that time are to be brought out in the investigation.
- D. **Common object:** The common object of the unlawful assembly is important ingredient in a rioting case. The mere presence of a member of the unlawful assembly makes him liable for offences committed by others even though he did not take part.
- E. **Evidence of motive and the immediate cause of the riot:** Motives like land disputes or factions or previous incidents will help in gathering evidence for immediate cause of the riot.
- F. **Matrix of Accused and evidence** The Investigating Officer should prepare a chart in all rioting cases so as to illustrate the name of each accused and the evidence, oral, material and documentary that is available against him including his covert acts and sections of law under which he is liable. A close scrutiny of such a chart from time to time would bring out the adequacy or otherwise of the evidence and contradictions if any. It will facilitate the IO to concentrate on missing links and enable the Prosecutor to present the case properly to the trial judge.
- G. **Alibi :** The principal accused in factious rioting with murder have a habit of bringing an alibi, either by admitting himself in a hospital or making false/forged record of having been present elsewhere. The alibi should be thoroughly investigated and the details brought out clearly whether the alibi is true or false. If it is true he cannot naturally be prosecuted unless there is evidence of his abetment or conspiracy. If it is false, the case against him becomes stronger. The accused that takes alibi should be thoroughly examined to ascertain the truth of such alibi and also to know the line of defense that he may take in support of his

alibi in the Court during trial. (Sec.11 of IEA).

- H. **Fire arms:** In cases where the fire arms are used the procedure laid down in this Chapter and Chapter relating to scientific aids for the preservation and forwarding of the materials should be scrupulously followed. Best evidence in such cases can be secured if steps detailed herein and Chapter relating to scientific aids is followed.
- I. **False implication:** At the time of recording of the FIR the officer generally has no option but to record the information given. The fact that the names figure as accused in the FIR does not mean, that they should all be prosecuted.
- J. **Case and Counter:** Generally in rioting cases there is a case and a counter. In such cases the IO faces the problem of determining the aggressor. The oral evidence by both parties will be more or less identical. Genesis of the offence, evidence of independent witnesses, scientific clues available at the scene, the preparation for the offence, the place of offence and the subsequent conduct would provide help in determining the aggressors. Where it is difficult to determine as to who the aggressor is and where evidence shows that there is preparation on both sides, the right course of action is to prosecute both on the basis of free fight.
- K. **Collection of Video or Photographs:** In cases of rioting in political, communal, caste or factions, there is every possibility of videographs, photographs being taken by the media persons or other individuals. In some cases they are even published. Media persons also send telegraphic, fax or telephonic messages as and when a riot is taking place when they are present. Collecting this primary material by the IO from the media persons making them as witnesses, would be useful as a corroborative piece of evidence in the case.
- L. Riotings take place in the open and often in daylight and are generally in the presence of public at large and therefore require factual investigation.
- M. Where the riots are part of an organized crime activity, the offenders who plan them manage to stay away. The effort of the IO is to identify such offenders so that a case of conspiracy can be made out against them.

Cases involving Fire Arms

521-1. The cases of rioting where firearms are used, the IO should have a clear idea of the type of weapons commonly in use in that area. Instructions regarding investigation into fire arm cases and the material to be collected as evidence has been detailed in the chapter relating to scientific aids. Every IO should study and comply with the instructions therein as are applicable in each case. In addition, the following precautions should be taken.

- A. The weapon at the scene of crime should never be touched before its exact location has been recorded in detail, in writing, by a sketch, photograph and if possible by video graph.
- B. In developing the fingerprints on polished or other surfaces of the weapon, the FP expert attached or a team member who is specially trained in the Investigation alone should handle it. The IO should ensure that all finger prints are lifted.
- C. Detailed notes should be made immediately, of the condition of the weapon, such as the position of the safety-catch, the cartridge case and whether a cartridge is found in the weapon or a defective one is sticking up rendering the weapon inoperative. If a loaded cartridge is found, it should be removed carefully and the cartridge so removed should be separately marked with a label tied to the rim for future identification.
- D. After the loaded cartridge, if any, has been removed, the name, model number and other particulars of the weapon and any other identifying marks, which may appear on the surface, should be recorded.
- E. It is advisable to close the muzzle-end of the weapon immediately on reaching the scene, as it may later be necessary to take barrel washings to ascertain whether powder has been used or not.
- F. The IO should look for the presence of wads at and around the scene from where the weapon was fired or was found. Where a shot gun was used in a closed place, a room for instance, he should look for pellets in such places as the cushion of chairs, in the door frames and other places where they are likely to be embedded. In an open place with trees around, they are likely to be found embedded in the trunks. In case a weapon with a single projectile was used, search should be made in the places mentioned above for bullets which might have come out after

hitting the person or which might not have hit him if more than one shot was fired.

- G. Similar action where no weapon is found on the scene should be adopted. The recovery of any pellet, wad, or such other article may give a definite clue to the type of weapon used. If bullets with rifle marks are found, a clear opinion as to the exact nature of the weapon used is possible from the lands, grooves, twist and pitch of the rifling. The nature of weapon can also be determined if a fired cartridge case is recovered from the scene. If the suspected weapon is subsequently traced, it is possible to know if that particular weapon discharged the bullet. The bullet or the cartridge case should be preserved in a protective roll of cotton or similar soft material and placed in pillbox, each item separately. No additional markings or scratches should be caused on the bullet or cartridge case being sent for opinion. Handling of weapons where the accused pleads accidental discharge requires care. The weapon should be sent after packing it carefully to the expert for his detailed examination. The experts attached to Investigating Units should assist in locating, packing and forwarding the articles to the Ballistics experts and if possible give their views to the IO to enable pursuit of further investigation on right lines.

 - H. The nature of the weapon used, the distance from the victims from where it is fired, the evidence regarding the person who used it, the cartridges or bullets used, found at the scene, the materials seized from the suspect's premises used by him or where he lived, the places where the cartridges or gun powder or materials are procured or purchased, in case of country made weapons, those who manufactured them, are some of the important aspects in the investigation of such cases. The cases in which firearms are used provide a wealth of material evidence, traces, marks and stains which if noticed by an observant eye and properly used can be invaluable in the detection.
2. While investigating cases involving firearms the Investigating Officers should go through the following check list so that none of the important points for investigation are left out.
- A. Firearms
 - (i). Was any weapon found and if so where?

 - (ii). Is the weapon smooth bore/rifled?

(iii). Whether full description including serial number etc., and location of weapon on a sketch and in notes, photograph of the weapons included in Letter of Advice (LOA)?

(iv). Was the weapon in loaded condition?

(v). In the case of revolver, whether the sketch of the position of the empty and live cartridges in the cylinder is drawn?

B. Cartridges and their Components

(i). Were any cartridge/cartridge cases recovered from the scene of crime.

(ii). locate them in the sketch; in notes and photograph

(iii). Note the caliber and head stamp markings.

(iv). Were any wads/bullets/pellets recovered in the crime scene?

(v). Were there any affected items by fire arm projectiles (such as furniture, vehicles, walls, etc.)?.

(vi). In the case of any casualty, were any wads/bullets/pellets recovered in the body by the medical officer?

C. Holes on the garments and wounds on the body

(i). Powder and/or flame burns on clothing and body, photograph and description

(ii). Tattooing by powder on skin

(iii). Barrel impression on the skin; photograph and description

(iv). Number of fire arm injuries on the body and location of injuries on the body

(v). Collection of GSR on the hands of the deceased in the case of suicide, after photograph is taken.

Common Causes for Accidents with Firearms

- 3-A. Mismatching of firearm and ammunition
 - B. Defective ammunition (Excessive loading, over size projectiles, defective powder, etc.)
 - C. Fire arm may be old and rusted.
 - D. Improper alignment of cylinder and barrel in revolver.
 - E. Improper closing of breech end.
 - F. Defective trigger pull or defective catch.
 - G. Negligence about the safety devices.
 - H. Hasty or negligent handling of the weapon.

DO's and Dont's for IOs for Forwarding the Material Objects

DO's

- 522-1-A. Collect cartridge cases, bullets, pellets, wads, etc. after noting down their positions.
 - B. Collect unburnt/partially burnt grains of propellant.
 - C. If the bullet is lodged in furniture, wall, etc., first remove the material around the place of lodgment carefully so as to loosen the bullet which may then be taken out by hand.
 - D. Initials of IO may be marked on the inside of the cartridge case.
 - E. Bullet may be marked on its base.

- F. A firearm may be marked on its frame, barrel, etc.
- G. In case more than one bullet/cartridge case is recovered they may be packed separately to avoid one scratching the other during transit.
- H. The suspected firearm may be first examined for latent fingerprints, then wrapped in waste cloth and kept in a wooden box and forwarded to the lab.
- I. The muzzle of the firearm may be closed by capping instead of plugging. The breech should also be wrapped by cloth, paper, etc.
- J. Live cartridges similar to that used in crime, if recovered, may also be forwarded for test firing.
- K. If burning, blackening, pellet pattern are present on body or clothing, keep a scale near to it and take a photograph (preferably colour) and send it to laboratory for estimating the range of fire.
- L. Typed copy of P.M. report/Injury diagram/Injury certificate should be sent for estimating the range of fire.
- M. The clothing should not be cut, creased, or folded across the bullet hole. Cover the affected portion with cellophane paper for protection. Use different packings for different clothing's.
- N. In cases involving shooting through glass:
- Take scaled photograph of the damaged glassware from both sides.
 - Try to transport whole glass having bullet hole along with its frame. Care should be taken to avoid further damage.
 - If powder pattern is present, cover it with cellophane paper.
 - Note the distribution of glass pieces and collect them. Glass pieces on both sides should be packed separately.
 - Collect clothing of the suspect, which he was wearing during the incident.
- O. To identify the shooter, collect
- Washings of both the hands separately in different glass containers with distilled water.
 - Swabbing of hands with a cloth piece moistened with 0.1M Hydro Chloric Acid (HCl) / 0.05M Nitric Acid (H₂NO₃).

- P. In cases involving revolvers, the position of live cartridges and fired cartridge cases in a cylinder should be noted.
- Q. Photograph the ricochet area and then take scrapping/washings of the same. Also preserve ricochet traces (such as sand, earth, wood, fibre) on bullets.
- R. Dry the clothes, bullets, pellets, cartridge cases, fire arms etc., before packing.
- S. Use proper technical terms in the Letter of Advice along with detailed case history (accidental; negligent firing; etc.)
- T. Sample seal and seals on parcels should be legible.
- U. Packing must be intact and the description of parcel; PC name etc.; should tally with Letter of Advice (LOA).
- V. Scaled colour photographs of fire arm wounds should be sent.
- W. Packing should contain outer label.
- X. One parcel should contain case property of one crime only.

Dont's

- 2-A. Do not use probes to extract bullets/pellets from holes.
- B. Do not send the loaded fire arm. In case, due to some reasons, it becomes necessary to send a loaded firearm, the box containing the firearm may be labeled as "Loaded firearm, handle with care". The safety catch may also be put in the safe position.
- C. Do not meddle with the inside of the barrel.
- D. Do not wash barrels/bullets/cartridge cases.
- E. Do not pack when the articles are wet.
- F. Do not cut the affected portion or its immediate surroundings while removing the

clothing.

G. Don't use coins or any common items as seals.

H. Don't send fire arms without packing.

(E) Poisons and Poisoning

529-1. A poison is a substance which when administered by mouth, by intravenous, intra-muscular or subcutaneous injection or by any other means proves injurious to health or life.

2. Poisons are classified into Corrosives, Irritants, and Neurotics. They are used for homicides and suicides. Accidental deaths also occur due to poison. The Corrosives (strong acids and alkalies) are sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, cyanides etc. The symptoms of these Corrosives are burning sensation, acute pain in mouth, larynx, esophagus and stomach, vomiting of shreddy bloodstain material etc.

3. The Irritants are organic, inorganic and metallic substances like phosphorous, chlorine, arsenic, mercury, lead, etc. The symptoms of such poisoning are inflammation of gastro intestinal canal, severe pain over the abdomen associated with or followed by painful vomiting and diarrhea.

4. The neurotics are dhatura, cyanide, methyl alcohol, strychnine, etc. These affect the brain, spinal cord or lungs and peripheral nerves. They are asphyxiants and peripheral depending on the action they produce on various organs.

5. Poisoning may be acute or chronic. In acute poisoning, symptoms at variance with the normal state of the individual appear suddenly, whereas in chronic poisoning, they do so gradually because of the administration of small doses of the poison on each occasion.

530. Instructions as well as the precautions in preserving, packing and forwarding samples in Chapter Scientific Aids to Investigation should be read.

1. The Investigating Officer should collect the following information and material in poisoning cases.

- (i) Fact and factors that led to administration or consumption of poison - by force, voluntarily or accidentally.
- (ii) State of the victim / mental / family / profession / activity / enmity / ailments / availability of medicine
- (iii) Chronic disease
- (iv) Indebtedness
- (v) Sexual jealousy
- (vi) Dejection in life/failure in examination
- (vii) Suicidal tendency
- (viii) Possibility of being victimized/accused
- (ix) Symptoms from time to time
- (x) Examination of neighbors, friends and servants
- (xi) Addiction
- (xii) Possession/purchase/borrowing of poison consumed

2. Look for and collect:

- (i) Leaves, juices, flowers, weeds, seeds, fruits, barks, roots, twigs of suspected vegetable poison from the scene
- (ii) Remnants of food
- (iii) Un-dissolved material
- (iv) Containers, spoons, cups, saucers, tumblers, vessels, bottles
- (v) Papers, covers, wrappers of poison
- (vi) Clothes, bed sheets, towels
- (vii) Mortar & Pestle
- (viii) Medical chest in bathroom and kitchen, time barred medicines
- (ix) Vomiting, purging
- (x) Urine in 24 hours
- (xi) Blood
- (xii) Pet animals or birds suspected to have consumed the foodstuff. Other inmates suspected to have consumed poison - stomach wash

3. In Fatal cases:

- (i) History of patient
- (ii) Stomach wash and its contents
- (iii) A loop of intestine
- (iv) Liver
- (v) Kidney ½ each
- (vi) All the Urine present in bladder
- (vii) Blood 50 cc
- (viii) Lungs in case of gas poisoning
- (ix) Brain
- (x) Bones
- (xi) Hairs
- (xii) Finger nail clippings
- (xiii) Soil beneath the dead body
- (xiv) Any other unexpected material at the scene of occurrence, especially disowned by inmates of the house.

531. While investigating a case of suspected poisoning, the instructions in Chapter Scientific Aids to Investigation should be thoroughly studied. The following procedure should be followed.

1. A physician should be sent for, if the victim is still alive and first aid rendered if possible, pending his arrival. The IO should under no circumstances undertake the administration of first aid, if he is not well acquainted with the subject, but he should strive to obtain medical aid at the earliest opportunity rather than make the case more complicated by his interference and delay.
2. Enquiries about the appearance of the symptoms and their characters should be made with reference to: (A) how long after the taking of food, drink or medicine the symptoms appeared (B) whether the symptoms were intermittent or increased steadily, and (C) the previous state of health of the victim.
3. The search of premises of the victim and the suspect, to discover the poison likely to have been employed, should be undertaken without any loss of time, to preempt the culprit or his associates from removing it or other evidence of it, before the police could secure the same.
4. Examination of the vomiting, if any, paying particular attention to its colour. Coffee brown colour with garlic or onion-like odour is an indication of phosphorous poisoning. Black vomits may be due to sulphuric acid, greenish due to hydrochloric and yellow due to nitric or chromic acid. White vomit turning to black in daylight indicates the administration of silver nitrate. Sharp ammoniacal smell is due to ammonia and vinegar like odour, to acetic acid. Bluish green is characteristic of copper sulphate. Whenever vomited material is found in connection with a case of suspected poisoning, it should be seized, preserved and forwarded to the FSL for analysis.
5. Food, drink or medicine suspected to have any connection with the case and the Urine should also be collected and forwarded for analysis.
6. If food is suspected to have been poisoned, enquiries should be made to find out whether any person or persons, other than the one affected has or have been similarly affected more or less simultaneously.
7. Explanations or remarks made by the victim or other persons regarding the onset

of the symptoms should carefully be noted.

8. When the symptoms do not conform to ordinary illness and when, in spite of appropriate treatment, they persist; the surroundings of the place where the victim is placed and the conduct of his attendants should be carefully watched. Services of a reliable and dependable consultant should be utilized.
9. Should there exist reasonable grounds for suspicion, the patient should be removed to a hospital or a nursing home where he can be under close observation far removed from his usual surroundings.
10. **Mass poisoning:** Large number of people either dies or become ill due to drinking of contaminated water or eating food or due to drinking or liquor. The police have an important role to play.
11. In festivals, fairs where thousands of people gather, if proper care is not taken by the local authorities or organizers, the water gets polluted and the people drinking such water get the attack of gastro-enteritis or cholera. In order to save the people from a possible danger the Police have to be alert and in advance request the concerned officers of Medical and Health Department, Municipal or Village Panchayat authorities to take preventive steps, like chlorination of drinking water. Warning boards should be displayed indicating as to which water is for drinking purposes and which should not be used for drinking. People should be forewarned to get vaccinated, and the medical authorities should be requested to keep sufficient vaccine and other medicines readily available. Even the Chemist and Druggist shopkeepers should be advised to keep medicines to meet such emergencies.
12. Food gets contaminated when cooked in unclean vessels or brass or copper vessels not coated with tin. Food cooked if exposed to flies or unsold food kept for longer times and then sold, gets spoiled. Unscrupulous traders adulterate edible oils and flour. Eatables cooked with such oils or flour turn poisonous. People consuming such food will develop vomiting and purging that may lead to cholera. Before a festival starts the hotel or shopkeepers should be advised suitably and warned of drastic action for failure to comply with precautions. Though the primary responsibility of taking these steps rests with concerned departments, these steps by Police are advised to prevent loss of life and offences connected with health. There should be no hesitation while investigating cases of

mass deaths about the culpability of those responsible for administering these precautions.

13. The following are the offences affecting Public Health under the IPC:
 - A. Negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life. Section 269 - Cognizable;
 - B. Malignant Act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life. Section 270 - Cognizable;
 - C. Adulteration of food or drink intended for sale. Section 272 - Non-cognizable;
 - D. Sale of noxious food or drink. Section 273 - Non-cognizable;
 - E. Adulteration of drugs or sale of adulterated drugs is offences under Sections 274 and 275. Both are non-cognizable;
 - F. Fouling water of Public spring or reservoir. Section 277 - Cognizable;
 - G. Making atmosphere noxious to health. Section 278 – Non - cognizable;
 - H. Public nuisance in cases not otherwise provided for. Section 290 - Non-cognizable;
 - I. In cases concerning Public Health though some offences are Non-cognizable the police in appropriate cases should immediately approach a Judicial Magistrate and request for orders to grant permission to investigate. Otherwise the offenders will destroy the evidence and at a later stage no evidence would be available.
14. There may be leakage of injurious gases from industries manufacturing various chemicals or using chemicals in the manufacture, of their products, due to defective equipment or human error or negligence. Since the gases spread to large areas quickly, the police have to shoulder greater responsibility in their area. The officials of the industry should be asked to seal the leakage and to close the industry temporarily for inspection by concerned authorities or by experts having technical knowledge. The direction of the wind should be observed to know the travel of gases and concerned police should be alerted. The sick should be immediately shifted to hospital for treatment and the people evacuated from the

locality and surroundings.

16. If necessary, a case under Section 336 IPC can be registered and subsequently section 304A can be added if there is death. It has been observed by courts that to commence investigation issue of FIR is not a pre-condition. However, at the earliest the FIR should be sent to concerned court mentioning the incident and steps taken by the police till then.

17. In cases of mass poisoning, immediate information should be given to superior authorities, the District and Sub-divisional Magistrates and District Health and Medical Officer. Searches should be conducted and materials, which could be used in evidence, should be seized. The vomiting and purging should be seized and the doctors should be requested to preserve stomach wash for onward transmission to Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL). In case of death(s) separate inquests should be conducted on each body. The autopsy of each body can be dispensed with if large number of deaths occurs and the doctor is able to certify the cause of death by conducting postmortem of a few bodies. However, in every case of death the Government Medical Officer should certify the cause of death. This is necessary later on to claim compensation from Insurance Companies or other benefits from Governmental agencies. The doctor conducting the autopsy should be requested to forward blood, liver, heart, lungs, and intestines to the FSL for detecting the poison. The materials preserved by the doctors and seized by the Police Officers should be sent forthwith to the FSL with the request to take up the examination on priority basis and to give opinion since it would be of help to treat those who are under treatment.