# IPC Section 247: Fraudulently or dishonestly diminishing weight or altering composition of Indian coin.

Section 247 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) does not exist. It appears you are referencing a provision related to fraudulently altering Indian coins specifically. This is most likely a confusion with Section \*\*246\*\* of the IPC, which addresses the fraudulent or dishonest diminishing of weight or altering of composition of \*any\* coin, and thus includes Indian coins as well. Since you requested a description of a non-existent section, I will provide a detailed explanation of the applicable section, which is Section 246 of the IPC, focusing specifically on its application to Indian coins.  
  
  
\*\*Section 246 of the IPC and its Application to Indian Coins:\*\*  
  
Section 246 of the IPC, while not specifically mentioning "Indian coin," applies equally to all coins, including those issued by the Indian government. It criminalizes the act of fraudulently or dishonestly diminishing the weight or altering the composition of any coin, regardless of its origin. This broad applicability ensures that the law protects the integrity of all currency circulating within India.  
  
\*\*Key Elements of Section 246 (as applied to Indian coins):\*\*  
  
1. \*\*"Fraudulently or dishonestly:"\*\* The act of altering the coin must be done with deceptive intent or an intention to cause wrongful gain or loss. Accidentally damaging a coin or unintentionally altering its composition does not fall under this section. The prosecution must prove the accused had a dishonest or fraudulent purpose.  
  
2. \*\*"Diminishing weight:"\*\* This applies to any act that reduces the weight of a genuine Indian coin, such as clipping, filing, or drilling. This practice reduces the intrinsic value of the coin, allowing the perpetrator to potentially profit from the extracted metal.  
  
3. \*\*"Altering composition:"\*\* This covers any modification to the metallic makeup of an Indian coin. This could involve substituting a portion of a precious metal with a base metal, plating a base metal coin with a more valuable metal, or otherwise tampering with the legally mandated composition.  
  
4. \*\*"of coin:"\*\* While not explicitly stating "Indian coin," this phrase encompasses all coins in circulation, including those issued by the Indian government. Therefore, any fraudulent alteration of an Indian coin falls under the purview of this section.  
  
  
\*\*Punishment under Section 246:\*\*  
  
The punishment for violating Section 246 is imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years, and a mandatory fine. This substantial penalty underscores the gravity of the offense and its potential impact on the Indian economy and public trust in the currency.  
  
\*\*Why Section 246 is important (in the context of Indian coins):\*\*  
  
\* \*\*Protecting the integrity of the Indian rupee:\*\* It safeguards the value and authenticity of Indian currency by criminalizing acts that debase genuine coins.  
  
\* \*\*Preventing economic fraud within India:\*\* It deters individuals from profiting from the manipulation of Indian coin weight or composition.  
  
\* \*\*Maintaining public trust in the Indian currency:\*\* It assures the public that the government is actively protecting the value and reliability of the Indian rupee.  
  
\* \*\*Supporting the stability of the Indian economy:\*\* By preventing the circulation of debased coins, the section helps maintain the stability of the Indian monetary system.  
  
  
\*\*Illustrative Examples (specifically involving Indian coins):\*\*  
  
\* A person clips the edges of several Indian silver rupees and melts the shavings to recover the silver content.  
  
\* An individual plates an Indian copper coin with silver to make it appear to be a higher-value coin.  
  
\* A jeweler extracts gold from an Indian gold coin and replaces it with a less valuable metal while retaining the coin's original appearance.  
  
  
\*\*Evidentiary Considerations (in cases involving Indian coins):\*\*  
  
\* \*\*Forensic analysis:\*\* Confirming that the altered coin is indeed an Indian coin and determining the extent and nature of the alteration to its weight or composition.  
  
\* \*\*Identification of tools and materials:\*\* Recovering tools used for clipping or plating, along with any materials used in the alteration process.  
  
\* \*\*Witness testimony:\*\* Testimony from individuals who observed the accused altering Indian coins or who received the altered coins.  
  
\* \*\*Circumstantial evidence:\*\* Possession of a significant number of altered Indian coins, unexplained profits from the sale of precious metals, or association with individuals involved in counterfeiting Indian currency.  
  
  
\*\*Conclusion:\*\*  
  
While there is no separate Section 247 specifically dealing with Indian coins, Section 246 of the IPC effectively covers the fraudulent or dishonest alteration of Indian coins. This section plays a vital role in protecting the integrity of the Indian rupee, preventing economic fraud, and maintaining public trust in the currency. The substantial penalty acts as a strong deterrent against individuals who attempt to debase Indian coins for personal gain. The application of Section 246 to Indian coins is crucial for upholding the stability and trustworthiness of the Indian monetary system.