# IPC Section 250: Delivery of coin, possessed with knowledge that it is altered.

Section 250 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) addresses the act of delivering a coin that has been altered, with the knowledge of its alteration. This section complements other provisions related to counterfeiting and coin manipulation by specifically targeting the act of putting such altered coins into circulation. The following explanation will delve into the details of Section 250, examining its key components, the prescribed punishment, and its relationship to other relevant sections of the IPC.  
  
\*\*Detailed Explanation of Section 250:\*\*  
  
The core elements of Section 250 can be broken down as follows:  
  
1. \*\*"Delivery of coin:"\*\* This refers to the act of transferring possession of a coin to another person. The method of delivery is not specified and could include handing the coin over directly, using it in a transaction, depositing it into an account, or sending it through an intermediary. The crucial aspect is the relinquishing of control over the coin to another party.  
  
2. \*\*"possessed with knowledge that it is altered:"\*\* This phrase establishes the \*mens rea\* (guilty mind) requirement. The prosecution must prove beyond reasonable doubt that the accused was fully aware that the coin they delivered had been altered. Mere suspicion or negligence is not sufficient; the knowledge of the alteration must be definite.  
  
3. \*\*"altered":\*\* This term refers to any modification made to the coin that changes its appearance, weight, composition, or other characteristics, typically with the intention of deceiving or defrauding. This includes:  
  
 \* \*\*Diminishing weight:\*\* Reducing the weight of the coin by clipping, filing, or other methods.  
 \* \*\*Altering composition:\*\* Changing the metallic makeup of the coin.  
 \* \*\*Altering appearance:\*\* Modifying the visual characteristics of the coin to misrepresent its value or type.  
  
The alteration does not need to be carried out by the accused themselves; the offense is committed by anyone knowingly delivering an altered coin, regardless of who performed the alteration.  
  
\*\*Punishment under Section 250:\*\*  
  
Section 250 prescribes imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. The punishment, while less severe than that for some other counterfeiting offenses, reflects the potential for economic harm and the deceptive nature of circulating altered coins. The option of imposing both imprisonment and a fine allows for flexibility in sentencing based on the specific circumstances of the offense.  
  
\*\*Difference from other related offenses:\*\*  
  
\* \*\*Sections related to counterfeiting (e.g., Sections 231-238):\*\* These sections generally focus on the creation of entirely counterfeit coins. Section 250 deals with the delivery of coins that were originally genuine but have been subsequently altered.  
  
\* \*\*Section 246 (Fraudulently or dishonestly diminishing weight or altering composition of coin):\*\* This section deals with the act of altering the coin itself, whereas Section 250 focuses on the subsequent delivery of the altered coin. A person could be charged under both sections if they alter a coin and then deliver it.  
  
\* \*\*Section 248 (Altering appearance of coin with intent that it shall pass as coin of different description):\*\* This section deals with altering the appearance of a coin, while Section 250 covers the delivery of any altered coin, regardless of the type of alteration.  
  
  
\*\*Illustrative Examples:\*\*  
  
\* A person receives an altered coin in change and, realizing its alteration, uses it to purchase goods from another vendor.  
  
\* An individual knowingly uses clipped coins in a vending machine.  
  
\* A person receives a batch of plated coins and knowingly distributes them for use in transactions.  
  
  
\*\*Evidentiary Considerations:\*\*  
  
Proving an offense under Section 250 requires demonstrating both the delivery of the altered coin and the accused's knowledge of its alteration. Evidence might include:  
  
\* \*\*Examination of the delivered coin:\*\* Confirming that the coin has been altered and establishing the nature of the alteration.  
\* \*\*Witness testimony:\*\* Testimony from the person who received the altered coin or from other witnesses who observed the delivery.  
\* \*\*Confessions or admissions:\*\* Statements by the accused acknowledging their knowledge of the coin's alteration.  
\* \*\*Circumstantial evidence:\*\* Possession of other altered coins, prior instances of delivering altered coins, or attempts to conceal the alteration.  
\* \*\*Expert testimony:\*\* Numismatic experts can provide evidence regarding the nature and extent of the coin's alteration.  
  
  
\*\*Why Section 250 is important:\*\*  
  
This section is crucial for several reasons:  
  
\* \*\*Protecting economic transactions:\*\* It safeguards against fraudulent transactions where altered coins are knowingly circulated.  
  
\* \*\*Maintaining public confidence in currency:\*\* It helps preserve the integrity of the currency system and prevents the erosion of public trust.  
  
\* \*\*Deterring the circulation of altered coins:\*\* The prescribed punishment serves as a deterrent against knowingly passing on altered coins.  
  
  
\*\*Conclusion:\*\*  
  
Section 250 of the IPC plays an important role in combating the circulation of altered coins. By specifically targeting the act of knowingly delivering an altered coin, it complements other counterfeiting provisions and reinforces the legal framework protecting the integrity of the currency system. The section's clarity, combined with the potential for both imprisonment and a fine, makes it an effective tool in deterring individuals from participating in the circulation of debased or altered coins. The provision helps maintain public trust in the currency and protects the fairness of economic transactions.