

ITEM 3: MEASURES TO ENSURE SPEEDY CLEARANCE OF RADIOGRAMS BETWEEN BORDER STATIONS WHERE AT PRESENT DELAYS ARE TAKING PLACE.

Action:- Govts. of U.P., M.P. and Rajasthan & M.H.A.

17. The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri V. Viswanathan) stated that so far as administrative and operational arrangements for ensuring speedy clearance of radiograms were concerned, the problem would not present any great difficulty; however, there would be difficulty in making available any additional frequencies for such wireless operations. It was, accordingly decided that the Police Wireless Officers of the three States should meet as quickly as possible and work out the arrangements required. If there was any difficulty, the Director of Coordination, Police Wireless of the Government of India, should be called in to assist.

ITEM 4: THE SCOPE OF SURVEY OF THE DACOITY PROBLEM PROPOSED TO BE CARRIED OUT BY A TEAM CONSISTING OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CRIMINOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF THE BANARAS UNIVERSITY, THE JAIL TRAINING SCHOOL, LUCKNOW AND THE LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY.

18. The Council were informed of certain surveys and other investigations already conducted on the question of reclamation and the schemes that had been prepared in the various States for this purpose under the Third Five Year Plan. It was felt that the line of action already chalked out in the Third Plan might be pursued vigorously and that for the present, no sociological or other survey of the dacoity problem was called for.

There was a general discussion on the dacoity problem of the Chambal area and the following decisions were taken:-

- (i) A co-ordinated plan of action should be drawn up by senior police officers of the three States concerned and finalised at a meeting of the three Inspectors General of Police within the next few days so as to have a vigorous programme of anti-dacoity operations in the forthcoming monsoon season when the movements of the dacoits would become somewhat more restricted. The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs might keep in touch with the three Inspectors-General of Police for this purpose.

In planning the operations, special attention should be paid to the need for isolating the Jagner Police Station area of Uttar Pradesh which projects into Rajasthan territory and which was reported to offer good opportunity to the dacoits to evade police pursuit.

- (ii) Experienced and vigorous police officers should be specially selected and placed in charge of the anti-dacoity operations.
- (iii) Vigorous action should be taken against harbourers of dacoits under the Preventive Detention Act and also the Defence of India Rules, if necessary. The Magistrate in charge of the District concerned should be associated closely in such action to ensure that the need for maintaining strict objectivity is not lost sight of.
- (iv) The Intelligence set-up in the dacoity areas should be strengthened so as to build up a very good source of information.
- (v) Within the over-all priorities necessitated by defence requirements, anti-dacoity operations should be given preferential treatment in the matter of supplies of arms and ammunition, vehicles and wireless equipment.

19. In a general discussion, the three Inspectors General of Police expressed the serious difficulties they were facing for want of sufficient allocation of firearms and ammunition for the anti-dacoity operations. They said that the vehicles and wireless equipment were also not being allotted. There was also some difficulty with regard to clothing. The Chairman assured that every possible endeavour would be made to meet the demands of the States, who were faced with dacoity problem and desired that this aspect might be specially looked into by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

ITEM 5: SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE FAMILIES OF DACOITS.

20. It was felt that the recommendations for special facilities for dacoits' children were based on the fallacy that dacoits' children tend to be dacoits. This had not been the general experience and only very few cases of this kind had been noticed. An enquiry by I.G.P., U.P., into the circumstances of the families of the dacoits who had surrendered to Acharya Vinoba Bhave, had shown that almost all of them were very well off and were educating their children well.

The families of the dacoits' victims did not get any relief from Government and even the families of policemen killed in anti-dacoity operations did not fare so well. In the circumstances, it was felt that offering facilities to dacoits families, whether the dacoits had surrendered voluntarily or not, would have very adverse psychological effect on the populace and police.

If it was considered necessary to give such assistance to families of those dacoits who had surrendered to Acharya Vinoba Bhave, the work might be left to the voluntary institutions and autonomous social welfare agencies, such as the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Sarva Sawa Sangh, Social Welfare Board, Association for Social and Moral Hygiene etc. Government should not appear to associate themselves directly with a scheme which ostensibly puts a premium on the profession of a dacoit. However, a suitable grant-in-aid could be given to a chosen agency.

ITEM 6: LODGING THE DACOITS WHO HAD SURRENDERED TO
ACHARYA VINOBA BHAVE IN THE OPEN AIR JAIL

21. The three Inspectors-General of Police reported that they had found it impossible to classify the dacoits who had already been convicted, into dangerous and non-dangerous categories: all of them were considered dangerous on the basis of their past. It was also pointed out by the Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh that according to the State's Probation Act, a dacoity prisoner could not be transferred to an open air jail. The Act and the Rules would need modification if this were to be made possible. It was also pointed out that the lodging of dacoits in these jails would be a risky experiment as the inmates at present had been quite amenable to discipline and were apt to be led astray by hardened criminals.

It was agreed that it may not be possible to transfer the dacoits to open air jails in the above circumstances. However, it was suggested by the Chairman that the States

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might consider giving some kind of special treatment and separate accommodation in jails to these dacoits who, having surrendered to the police, should naturally receive some concession.

22. In his concluding remarks, the Chairman referred to the tendency on the part of certain political parties to enlist small boys in their volunteer corps, as pointed out by Shri Ram Murti and stressed the importance of providing facilities for extra-curricular activities for school-going children, in addition to expanding scouts movement, in order to prevent them from indulging in anti-social activities.

The Council agreed that the Scouts organisation should be encouraged.

23. The Home Minister, Rajasthan stated that it was a matter of common knowledge that teachers in certain Government Schools were indulging in subversive activities and misleading the students by inculcating among them anti-social feelings voiced by organisations like Rashtriya Svak Sangh. The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri V. Viswanathan) pointed out that no Government servant could indulge in such activities. The rules in this connection provide that if any Government servant is a member of any subversive organisation or takes part in its activity then he could be removed from service. Instructions on this had already been sent to the States. The Chief Minister, Rajasthan pointed out that in such cases there was possibility of filing writ petitions and the cases might go against the Government. Shri Viswanathan pointed out that in such cases Government servant should be removed from service under article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution and the word 'dismiss' should not be used. In that event there was no possibility of the case going against the Government.

Action:-

Min. of
Home
Affairs.

The Chairman suggested that the Home Ministry should circulate a fresh detailed note to the State Governments on this subject so that the position could be made more clear.

P. S. Bhat
(R.S. Bhat)
JOINT SECRETARY
CENTRAL ZONAL COUNCIL.