

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No.96/Sec(Spl)/20/10

New Delhi, Dated: 24th Sept'99

The Chief Security Commissioners/RPF,
All Indian Railways.

The Chief Security Commissioner/RPSF,
Railway Board.

STANDING ORDER NO. / 60 /

Subject:- Safety measures against arms snatching.

It is observed that the members of different forces are regularly becoming victims of arms snatching by miscreants. The following detailed instructions are, therefore, issued for strict compliance by all concerned.

1. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS :

- i) The respective CSCs of Zonal Rlys. and the Commandants of RPSF BNs will ensure that the arms which are held on charge of their respective Railways/BNs, are correctly accounted for in the prescribed Stock Books.
- ii) As far as possible, individual allotment of weapons should be done and signature of the individual be obtained in the concerning register, in token of the same.
- iii) Once a weapon is issued to an individual from the Kote, its safety thereafter shall be the responsibility of the recipient, until such time he deposits the weapon back in the Kote.
- iv) The Kote Incharge will issue Arms only to the person who is having authority for the same. No arms will, however, be issued without an entry and signature of the recipient in the prescribed register. Securing chains etc. will invariably be issued alongwith each weapon.
- v) No one shall be allowed to retain Arms while not on duty. In no case, Arms will be allowed to be kept in Qtrs. or residences of any officer or other ranks.

- vi) Arms shall never be left unattended, whenever these are taken out of the kote, either for repairs and cleaning, or, for training and any other purpose.
- vii) While issuing the weapons from the Kote, the individual will be advised to check his weapon thoroughly in all respect, before receiving the same. Similarly, while depositing the weapon, the Kote In-charge will also do the same, so that the defects/damages or deficiency/ change of any component, etc. could be detected timely, thereby avoiding any controversial situation at a later stage.
- viii) The Arms should be kept properly secured in the Kote, by passing a securing chain through the 'Trigger Guard' of each weapon, and locking the other end of the chain with an iron ring etc., which should be embedded in the wall. Where racks with an in-built locking system are available, its proper locking should be ensured.
- ix) Physical checking of weapons, which are kept in the Kote, should invariably be done daily at the time of 'RETREAT' and 'REVEILLE', by the Officers Incharge of the respective Kotes.
- x) Shortcoming etc. relating to Arms, should invariably be reported to the higher authority without any loss of time. All required paper formalities be also completed immediately. Any lapse in this regard to be viewed seriously.

2. MEASURES TO BE TAKEN WHILE ON DIFFERENT DUTIES :

- A) RPF/RPSF personnel are normally required to perform the following type of duties, which involve Arms.
 - i) STATIC GUARD (QUARTER GUARD AND GUARDING OF VITAL INSTALLATIONS AND RAILWAY STATIONS ETC.)
 - ii) TRAIN/CASH ESCORTING (IN PASSENGER/GOODS TRAINS)
 - iii) PATROLLING (ON RAILWAY TRACKS OR IN RAILWAY YARDS)
 - iv) MISCELLANEOUS DUTIES (MELA DUTIES, ELECTION DUTIES ETC.)
- B) Following are basically the main causes which generally lead to snatching of Arms by the miscreants. These factors should, therefore, always be kept in mind while performing any of the above type of duty. All parties

should also be briefed accordingly by the Duty Officer, before they depart for duty.

- i) CARELESSNESS/SLACKNESS ON DUTY.
- ii) NON-OBSERVANCE OF RULES AND DIRECTIVES ON THE SUBJECT.
- iii) COWARDLINESS, DISLOYALTY, ANY SORT OF TEMPTATION AND LOOSE CHARACTER
- iv) DEMORALISATION AND LOSING FAITH IN THE FIRE POWER OF ONES OWN WEAPON.

(i) WHILE ON STATIC GUARD DUTY :

- (a) No sentry should be allowed to perform such duty for more than two hours at a stretch. Similarly, the Quarter Guard staff at an Armoury, should be replaced after every 24 hours. However, those on static guard duties at any vital installations etc. should, as far as possible, be changed after every fortnight.
- (b) Some *indication/code-word* should be fixed, so that the on duty sentry can give that indication or use that *code-word* to seek help from the other guard personnel at the time of need, especially during night.
- (c) Where more than one sentries are required to be mounted at a time, duties of all such sentries should not be changed at one and the same time. Instead, this should be done alternatively, after a considerable gap.
- (d) Besides the '*Sentry Beats*', proper and secured '*Morchas*' should also be provided for sentries to remain vigilant and to go in for tactical position, as and when required.
- (e) Compact and pre-fabricated steel weapon rack, with an in-built locking system, alongwith an attached lockable ammunition box, should be got placed at a suitable location in the Quarter Guard, for the guard personnel to keep their weapons secured. In case of wooden racks of ordinary type, the weapon may be secured therein by a chain, by passing it through the '*Trigger Guard*' of each weapon and locking its other end with an iron ring - which should be embedded in the wall.

- (f) Any member of the Guard, if found in an inebriated condition, should in no case be allowed to perform sentry duty, or to handle arms.
- (g) The Guard Commander should ensure that the sentry always remains alert and do not indulge in any unwanted act while on duty.
- (h) An approaching person should be challenged by the sentry from a considerable distance. He should be allowed to move further, only after his identity has been established.
- (i) The sentry should be well conversant with the surrounding area and should keep special watch on all the unlockable exit and entry points, as well as on the probable gaps of trespassing if any, within the vicinity of Quarter Guard.
- (j) All essential security measures within the vicinity, should be ensured, e.g. a proper fencing of suitable height be got erected, adequate lighting and clear view should be ensured, the area around to be cleared of tall wild grass and vegetation etc. if any, and nothing should be dumped or erected near the fencing so as to reduce its effective height.

(ii) WHILE ON TRAIN/CASH ESCORTING DUTIES :

- (a) As per earlier instructions of DG/RPF, automatic and handy weapons like Pistols and Carbine Machines should be used for such duties. The available rifles can, however, be used for escorting of goods train.
- (b) The weapons carried by an individual should invariably be secured with his body by means of a proper securing chain, that too in such a manner, that the weapon always remains free for use.
- (c) In no case weapon should be left unattended on the seats of a coach or in the Guard's Brake van of a goods train.
- (d) No member of the escort party should move alone with Arms. Moving in group of 2-3, is advisable.
- (e) No member of the escort party should either pick up quarrel on trivial issues, or act as a mediator in any quarrel and indulge in loose talks with any passenger/suspected criminal. One should always be

polite and firm in his behavior and dealing with public.

- (f) Every care should be taken for personal safety, as well as about the safety of Arms and Ammunition while boarding/un-boarding a train, especially during night.
- (g) Alluring offers of attractive and expensive gifts, eatables etc. made if any by an unknown passenger, should not be accepted by any member of the train escorting party.
- (h) No member of the escort party should indulge in unwanted acts like drinking, gambling or playing cards etc. with any passenger.
- (i) In an untoward situation, never try to take law in your own hand, but, act swiftly with a cool mind and take appropriate action as the situation warrants.
- (j) Duties should be performed in close co-ordination with the other forces if any, and the Railway employees on duty in the train. Never be misguided by rumours. Firing with a weapon should rather be the last resort.

(iii) WHILE PERFORMING PATROLLING DUTIES :

- (a) The strength of patrolling party should not be less than what is prescribed. (In cases where strength is not prescribed, it may now so be done by the respective CSCs, keeping in view all the necessary aspects).
- (b) "Beat" given to a patrolling party should not be too long. It should rather commensurate to the task and the area involved.
- (c) As far as possible, modern and automatic weapons should be carried by the patrolling party, preferably according to the requirement of the area to be patrolled.
- (d) Each member of the patrolling party will secure his weapon with his body by means of securing chain, in the manner that the weapon can easily be used at any time.

- (e) Besides the personal weapon, no extra item other than those essentially required, should be carried by the members of the patrolling party, so that they are not overburdened.
- (f) Prior knowledge of the topography of the area (to be patrolled) should be obtained so that the patrolling party could take special precautions at the black spots and suspected places of surprise attack by the miscreants.
- (g) No member of the party should single out himself, either by moving too far ahead, or by remaining far behind his colleagues.
- (h) Suspicious movement of any person in the 'Beat' should not be taken lightly. The party should neither be misguided nor it should accept offers of eatables etc. made if any, by an unknown person in the duty area.
- (i) The patrolling party should not visit nearby villages or colonies of the area, to witness any cultural show etc.
- (j) Each member of the party should always be vigilant and move by keeping his ears and eyes open. The party Comdr. should ensure tactical movement of the party at the time of need. He should also ensure that the arms are never kept aside and left unattended, especially, while taking meals.

(iv) WHILE ON MELA/ELECTION DUTIES ETC. :

Some extra precautions to avoid Arms snatching, are required to be taken while performing such duties, as direct public/mob dealing is involved in these duties. These may vary according to the location and task involved. However, few static guidelines are enumerated below:-

- (a) Each member of the party should keep his weapon secured with his body by means of a securing chain, in the manner that it can be easily used at any time.
- (b) No member of the party should either move alone with his arm in a crowded place, or should go near a place of quarrel unnecessarily.

- (c) The behavior and dealing of the party with the public should be polite and firm and it should never be tempted or misguided.
- (d) The party should neither pick up quarrel with the public on flimsy ground, nor should it threaten anyone with Arms.
- (e) If required to control a mob under exceptional circumstances, each member of the party should keep in mind his personal safety and the safety of his personal weapon as well.
- (f) The weapons should never be left unattended by the party, under any circumstances.
- (g) The party should handle an arising situation tactfully and with a cool mind, rather than loosing temper and pointing out weapons to frighten the public
- (h) At places where no static guard is provided, each member of the party should ensure safety of his personal weapon even while sleeping, by always keeping it secured with the body.
- (i) No member of the party will indulge in vices like drinking, gambling or playing cards with the public.
- (j) The party should always keep its morale high and restrain from doing any such act, which may make the public offensive. Remember that, use of fire arms should be the last resort.



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