

Sub: Identification of Dead Bodies in Unnatural Death Cases and its Investigation and Working of the Missing Persons Squad.

There have been instances of lack of co-ordination between the officers making enquiries / investigation in U.D. cases concerning unidentified dead bodies and the officers enquiring into the where-abouts of the missing persons, particularly when these officers belong to different Police stations in the same district as well as two different districts. The delay involved in identification of dead bodies, in suspicious cases is due to failure on the part of the police officers to follow the existing instructions at very stage, details of which are given in the appendix. The lack of coordination between the officers of different districts on the one hand and the lack of close co-operation between the district officers and the Missing persons Bureau of the C.I.I. West Bengal on the other, are often noticed. This results in a lot of confusing evidence, oral, circumstantial, and in the shape of expert's opinion, supporting as well as contradicting the story of suicide, homicide or accidental death.

2. The salient points with regard to identification of dead bodies in unnatural death cases should be borne in mind by the police officer, so as to link up the missing person in one area to the find of unidentified dead body in suspicious circumstances, in the other area. The Missing Persons' Squad of the districts and the Missing Persons Bureau of the C.I.D. west Bengal, must co-ordinate their activities in an effective manner to achieve the best possible results in minimum time. so that the police officer, who finds an unidentified dead body, may not grope in the dark regarding the cause of death and especially about the identification of the dead body. For this purpose, instead of waiting for six weeks for sending the first report to the MPB of the CID, West Bengal, the MPS's or the districts should immediately send the necessary details in Proforma 'A1' regarding missing persons in Proforma 'A2' regarding persons recovered but who cannot be identified /connected. The Officers-in charge of Police Station should also report directly to MP13, CID, west Bengal in Proforma 'A3' regarding unidentified dead bodies (as prescribed in Part XVII of the Rules of Business of CID, West Bengal), besides giving a copy of the proforma 'A3' to DC, DD, Calcutta, and to MPS'S of their own districts. As soon as the dead body is identified, similar reports will have to be sent immediately to all concerned to whom earlier information were sent.'

3. The Surathal Report should be prepared by the Police officer immediately after the find of the dead body, in suspicious circumstances immediately, if necessary in strong artificial light, even patromax, without waiting for the day light. The thumb impression at least if not finger prints should be taken for supplying to the Finger-print Bureau of the CID, who maintain the record of thumb impressions or the missing persons for purposes of identification. Needless to say the physical evidence near about the place where the dead body is found, should be collected carefully and sent to the experts for their opinion. The dead body will have to be photographed and for the PM examination without delay.

4. For proper identification in the MPB of the CID the detailed descriptive roll (vide Appendix X of the PRB Vol.II) particularly the physical peculiarities and identification marks wearing apparel, age, sex and religion, should be taken by the police officers with the utmost care and sent to through the MPS of the district; to MPB,CID, West Bengal and to DC,DD, Calcutta. The police officers ensuring into the UD cases

will to submit case diaries if the enquiries/ investigation last for more than 24 hours as laid down in Rule 299(c) of PRB Vol I. These case diaries should be submitted regularly and timely and should be checked up by the CI thoroughly, with a view to getting the enquiries made in the right direction. Superior officers supervising the UD cases should go deep into the matters and make sure that the investigation is carried on with as much importance and thoroughness as in a case of murder. The contradictions, if any, in the reports of the experts, for example, in the chemical examination of the viscera, the report of the P.M. examination, the oral evidence as well as the evidence collected from other physical evidence like handwriting, blood, stains, hair, weapons of offence etc, may be analyzed so as to come to a plausible conclusion about the cause of death.

5. To help the investigation, the MPS's of the districts and the MPB of the CID: West Bengal should make their enquiries within the least possible time by comparing the photographs of the dead body with the photos of the missing persons, by comparing the fingerprint of the dead body with those of the missing person, by tallying the missing person's physical characteristics with those of the unidentified dead bodies, so also the other physical peculiarities, sex, age group religion etc, should be compared, the alphabetical index cards of missing persons and index cards relating to physical and special peculiarities of the missing persons and of the unidentified dead bodies should be maintained by the district MPS and the MPB of CID, West Bengal, for facility of checking up with the information of unidentified dead bodies and missing persons received.

(6). The I.O.'s should immediately convey any information on clue relating to identification of the dead body to the officer-in-charge or the concerned police station directly as well as to MPB, of the CID, West Bengal without loss of time, to make investigation purposeful. Similarly whatever extra information, through press, radio, photos in the CIG and through interrogation of the person or examination of the physical objects is made available by the I.O.s, it should be passed on the M.P.S's, of the districts, D.C., D.D. Calcutta, and the M.P.B. of the C.I.D. West Bengal. This give and take method of exchanging information expeditiously will widen the possibility of quicker identification and more purposeful investigation.

7. The superior officers should ensure compliance of these instructions and also those issued from time to time. These instructions have been summarized in the appendix for the guidance of the officers. It should be understood by all the tracing of such missing person and identification of dead bodies will go to long way in better police public relation and will currently improve the image of the police before the public and the administration.

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