
7 General services

Law and Order

District Police administration is controlled by State police and the force in the District is headed by Superintendent of Police who oversees the law and order situation. To improve operational efficiency of the police, infrastructure such as housing, mobility, weaponry communication etc. for the police force was to be augmented in accordance with the BPR&D⁷ through “Modernization of Police Force (MOPF)” scheme launched by the GOI.

Planning

Under MOPF, it is the Police Headquarters which is responsible for procurement and allotment of vehicles, weaponry, equipment, etc., for the District police administration. The construction activities for providing accommodation to the force are executed through Police Housing Corporation and Police Construction Division. The District Administration is only a receiving agency and has no role except to assess and intimate to Police Headquarters the requirements on the basis of annual indents.

Infrastructure

To humanize police and to make the organization an efficient one, police personnel are to be provided better facilities like police stations, police posts, barracks and housing quarters (Upper and lower subordinate quarters) as per BPR&D norms. The requirement of housing quarters as per BPR&D norms and availability thereagainst is given in the table.

Table 61

Nomenclature	Requirement	Availability	Shortfall
Lower subordinate quarters(Police stations)	200	5	195
Upper subordinate quarters –do-	36	13	23
Lower subordinate quarters (lines)	1050	108	942
Upper Subordinate quarters (lines)	72	24	48
Barracks	22	22	0
Police stations	11	11	0
Police posts	6	6	0
Reception room (police stations)	11	3	8
Interrogation room –do-	11	2	9
Rest room for personnel	11	4	7
Lock up room	11	11	0
Wireless room	11	9	2
Guard room	11	8	3

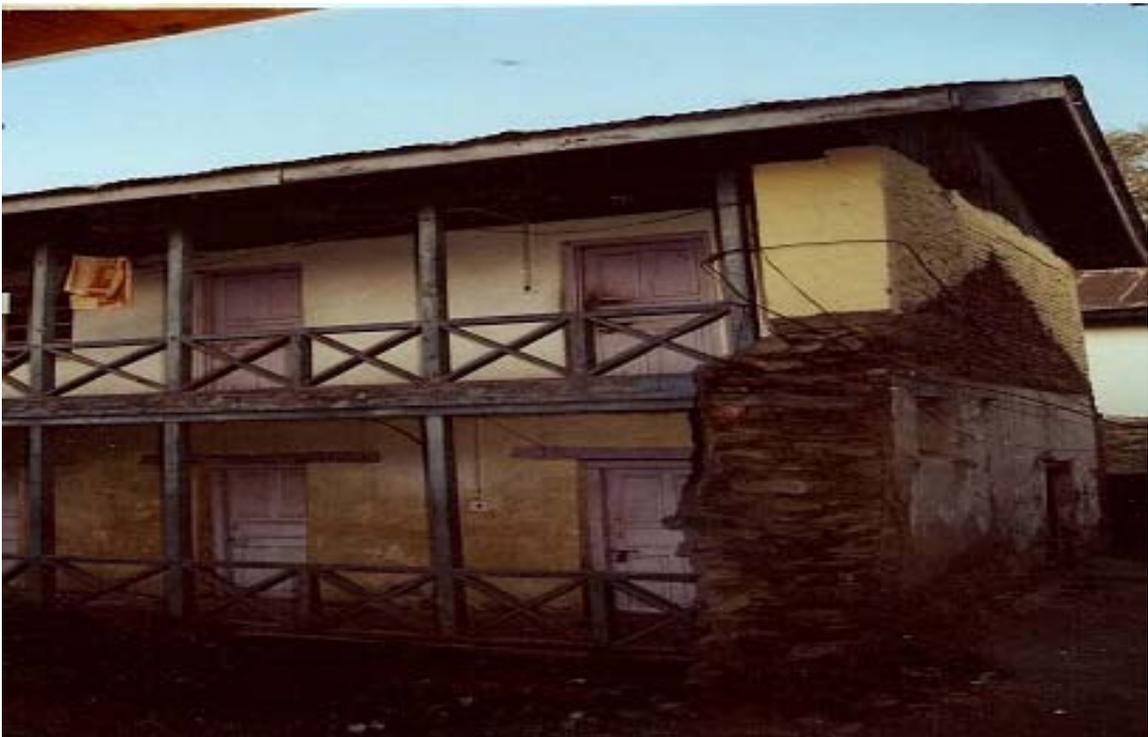
(Source: Departmental figures)

⁷ Bureau of Police Research and Development

It can be seen that against the minimum requirement of 236 LSQs/USQs required in police stations, only 18 LSQs/USQs (Eight *per cent*) were available in the Force.



Background of Model Police Station in Baramulla



Damaged view of LSQ Baramulla

Similarly, against the requirement of 1,122 LSQs/USQs in the District police lines, only 132 LSQs/USQs quarters to accommodate 1,050 lower subordinates and 72 upper

subordinates existed. Besides, out of the nine barracks available only four barracks were occupied by the District police while the rest were occupied by paramilitary forces. Physical survey of five of the 10 police stations showed that there were no housing quarters at Police stations Sheri, Chandoosa and Pattan and police personnel were accommodated in existing buildings. Even the police station Baramulla which had been designated a Model Police Station lacked these facilities. The buildings used as barracks/residential quarters were old and dilapidated lacking basic amenities like cooking place, bathrooms, fans, proper water facility, etc. Besides, in 11 police stations, reception room, interrogation room, restrooms, wireless room, guardrooms were not available. On being pointed out it was stated that matter would be taken up with the higher authorities.

This aspect may not be highlighted in view of the security scenario in the State, which would provide input for anti-social elements.

Weaponry

At the District level, there was huge gap between the minimum requirement of weaponry and its availability, which was an issue of concern as they impeded the ability of the force in tackling subversive activities and other law and order situations. The District Police authorities stated that the requirement of the weaponry had been reported to higher authorities through annual indents.

Scrutiny of records in audit revealed that a large quantity of arms and ammunition issued (detailed in the table below) to Civilians/SPO's for security purposes between 1995 and 1999 had neither been returned nor any assessment ever conducted regarding utilization of the issued arms and ammunition. Continued retention of the arms and ammunition with the civilians was fraught with the risk of misuse/threat to the community.

Table 62

Sl .No	Type of arms and ammunition	Quantity	Period
1	Pistol	23	1/95 to 9/99
2	Magazines pistol	23	-do-
3	Ammunition pistol	224	-do-
4	AK-47	27	-do-
5	Magazines-AK-47	65	-do-
6	Ammunition AK-47	1791	-do-
7	Grenade thrower	01	-do-
8	Ammunition Rifle grenade	6	-do-
9	Grenade /Rifle grenade	18	-do-

(Source: Departmental figures)

Mobility

As per the BPR&D norms, one of the important components of police modernization was to increase the mobility of the District police to meet the present day challenges effectively and reduce response time to an insignificant level. The position of availability of vehicles with the District police administration was as under.

Table 63

Particulars	Position as on 31-3-2005					Position as on 31-3-2010				
	Heavy	Medium	Light	Motor Cycle	Total	Heavy	Medium	Light	Motor Cycle	Total
Requirement	10	26	21	10	67	8	21	16	8	53
Availability	10	19	39	1	69	12	24	21	1	58
Excess (+)/ Deficiency (-)	-	(-) 7	(+)18	(-) 9	(+) 2	+4	+3	(+)5	(-) 7	(+) 5

(Source: Departmental figures)

The overall availability of vehicles in the District was satisfactory except for availability of motor cycles.

Police stations which symbolize the presence of the administration and first line of action were also to be equipped with adequate mobility. Keeping in view the BPD&R norms and minimum requirement of mobility in police stations, huge shortage of mobility was noticed at police stations as shown below.

Table 64

Type of vehicle	Minimum requirement per police station	Total requirement (11 police stations)	Available	Shortage
Medium vehicle	-	-	5	-
Light vehicle	3	33	10	23
Motor cycle	3	33	0	33
Total		66	15	56

(Source: Departmental figures)

Inadequate availability of vehicles with the police stations affected the performance of the force as evidenced by response times discussed in the subsequent paragraph.

Response time and finalization of cases

Police personal posted in the police stations are required to react quickly to the cases coming to their notice. Response time between the receipt of information about an incident/registering first information report and sending police party to the site of incident has to be as low as possible. In five police stations, audit check of records pertaining to the months of July 2006 and July 2009 revealed the following.

Table 65

Police station	July 2006			July 2009		
	Cases registered	Response time (In hours)	Period of Challans (In days)	Cases registered	Response time (In hours)	Challans time (In days)
Sheri	NA	NA	NA	3	Up to 14.45 hr	45
Baramulla	32	Up to 6hr	28 to 235	29	Up to 4.45 hr	36 to 246
Chandoosa	7	Up to 30 min	11 to 50	1	0.00	34
Kerri	12	-do-	37 to 306	10	-do-	47 to 367
Pattan	24	0.00 hr	22 to 491	21	-do-	27 to 133

(Source: Departmental figures)

The response time in respect of above police stations was encouraging but needed improvement in respect of police stations Baramulla and Sheeri. Despite encouraging response time, the time taken for producing challans ranged between 11 to 491 days which was very high and needed to be reduced to the minimum possible. On being pointed out, it was stated that delay could be due to deficient staff and less mobility available in police stations. The contention about deficient staff is, however, not supported by fact as indicated in the subsequent paragraph.

Manpower management

The manpower requirement for the police was an extremely pressing need in view of steadily growing population. The BPD&R also emphasize the need for increase in police manpower in accordance with the percentage growth in the population. The position of sanctioned staff strength and men in position in the District was as under.

Table 66

Rank	Sanctioned strength	Men in position	Surplus (+)/Shortage (-)
SSP	1	1	0
SP	2	2	0
Dy SP(opr)	1	2	(+) 1
DY SP's	5	5	0
CPO's	1	2	(+) 1
SPO's	1	2	(+) 1
PO's	8	3	(-) 5
Inspectors	8	11	(+) 3
SI's	34	16	(-) 18
ASI's	53	45	(-) 8
HC's	161	167	(+) 6
SGCT's/CT	1157	1083	(-) 74
Followers	34	51	(+) 17
Total	1466	1390	

(Source: Departmental figures)

Though there was no shortage of officers supervising the police affairs of the District, there was a marginal deficiency of low rank/basic working police personnel in the District.

Crime rate and investigation

It was seen in audit that there were regular occurrence and incidence of crime in the District during the last few years as depicted by the crime statement of district for the last four years.

Table 67

Crime Head	2007	2008	2009	2010
Murder	47	18	20	10
Att. to murder	79	35	55	10
Rape	31	13	14	7
<i>Kid abduction</i>	102	63	86	57
<i>Kidnapping of women</i>	90	60	80	55
<i>Molestation</i>	94	80	130	68
Assault on public servants	30	20	21	20
<i>Burglary</i>	148	130	169	81
Forest thefts	112	86	128	37
<i>Road accidents</i>	344	267	266	165
<i>Riots</i>	84	141	138	176
Others	383	333	473	591
Total	1544	1246	1580	1277

(Source: Departmental figures)

While the number of crime cases in the District had registered an increase during the last three years (January to December each year), the number of cases relating to abduction of children, kidnapping/molestation of women, burglary, road accidents and riots was much higher than the other cases and constituted 56 *per cent* of the total cases during the period.

Table 68

Year	Cases registered	Cases N/A	Cases U/T	Cases U/I	Cases Challenged	Cases convicted	Cases acquitted	Cases Comp.	Cases Under trial
2007	1544	121	218	203	1002 (65%)	147	107	37	710 (71%)
2008	1246	73	127	509	537 (43%)	92	0	5	445 (83%)
2009	1580	141	264	346	829 (52%)	73	10	12	737 (89%)
2010	975	68	101	352	454 (47%)	51	3	6	394 (87%)

(Source: Departmental figures; N/A: Not admitted, U/T: Under Trial, U/I: Under Investigation; Data for 2006 not available)

There has been a decline in the number of cases finalized/disposed of. This is evidenced by the fact that the number of cases challaned in the courts had decreased from year to year and also *percentage* of cases challaned against the number of cases registered had decreased from 65 to 47 *per cent* from 2007 to 2010. Besides, there has been a decline in the disposal of challaned cases which was in the range of 71 *per cent* in 2007 to

87 per cent in 2010. On being pointed out, it was stated that instructions would be issued for early completion of investigations and submission of challans.

Recommendations

- ✚ *Adequate housing facility need to be provided to police personnel, particularly at the police stations.*
- ✚ *Deficiency in trainings etc. needs to be addressed to enable the force to meet future challenges.*
- ✚ *Attention needs to be paid to provide better infrastructure and mobility at police stations for smooth and fast actions to reduce response time.*
- ✚ *Concerted efforts need to be made to finalize the pending investigation cases.*

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