

Highlights of meetings April 2005

Meeting of Mr. Asthana with Mana Police Station Staff :

Questions asked by Mr. Asthana to Police and answer & feedback given by the them:

1-What are their feelings about this Community Policing experiment?

The T.I. replied that this is a very good process as he feels that there should be a good relation between police and public of their area. Unless they are not taken in confidence law and order cannot be controlled. The Community Policing experiment process is taking care of this. But he also said that in this process the bad elements and politically motivated elements should be kept outside.

2-What are the benefits the police are getting from this Community Policing?

They said that they are getting more crime information, more witnesses, and also the people are now not turning violent over incidences like road accidents when they occur in their villages. Hence, the law and order condition is good in this area.

Policemen also said that now people are more comfortable in coming to the police station.

Due to it this was the first time when the Panchayat election, which occurred about months earlier, went peacefully and no violence or complaints registered.

3-What is the major work done by them?

The police personnel said that the major work of this P.S. is their duty in the Mana Airport. They told that about 70-75% of their time is spent in their duty to the airport, where in addition to 3 daily flights, they have to be present for the special minister or governor airplane or helicopter flight.

4-What are the personal problems faced by them as a policemen?

As there are no staff quarters (only TI & SI have one each) for the personnel, most of the personnel have their residence in Raipur hence they are facing on taking rest after long working hours.

They neither get sufficient money as residential allowances so that they can reside here in Mana Camp on hire basis.

The toilet inside the police station is not proper, so they as well as people in custody, face a problem.

They don't get traveling allowances for coming on duty from Raipur or for the time patrolling from their personal vehicles.

5-What are the main problems they face in policing?

The police personnel told Mr. Asthana, due to the their major duty in the airport they are not able to give sufficient time in patrolling. Also they don't have a small four wheeler

vehicle (like Jeep), hence they are not able to enter inside the village during the time of patrolling or raids. Also due to lack of ASI they are overburdened with work.

Due to absence of lady police personnel in the P.S. they face many problems in dealing with women's issues and cases.

They don't have lockup rooms, so they face problems in keeping people in custody.

Their duty hours are very long; hence they don't get sufficient time to give for their family and for their rest

Mr Asthana's meeting with CLG members:-

Beat: I & II

Mana Camp-

Problems Solved:

Pressure has been built up over the mischievous & unsocial elements by police, so their activity has come down. The 'Satta-Patti' has come down and now its not happening in open as were happening earlier. Police are now more active in crime prevention.

Problems Unsolved & grievances

The 'Satta-Patti' has not yet stopped fully. The illegal liquor selling has not yet stopped fully. Other views:

One or two CLG members told that they feel insecurity in raising the problem related to the selling of illegal liquors and satta-patti. In response to this the other CLG members opposed this view by arguing that they themselves do not raise the problem than who else will, and it will become worse if not checked regularly.

Banarsi

Problems Solved:

The illegal liquor selling has just stopped about a month ago after the conduct of 'nukkad-natak'. The mischievous and unsocial elements activities have come down.

The 'Satta-Patti' has been stopped completely.

Problems Unsolved & grievances:

Police patrolling is not happening at all although they pass through the inside road which adjoins to Nation Highway. Sometimes policemen themselves are found taking liquor from the illegal liquor sellers. The gambling through cards is still going on in village.

Other views:

One CLG member describe, that due to the huge corruption and maladministration by the Panchayat members of his village who generally belong to the majority caste, the minority caste people living in village feel unsafe in raising their voice against any law and order problem created by majority class people.

Nakti-

Problems Solved:

The illegal liquor selling, the mischievous & unsocial elements activities, and the gambling through cards have come to a stop in the village.

Problem Unsolved & grievances:

Law-order due to the caste equation is still going on.

Dharampura-

Problems Solved

The mischievous & unsocial elements activities have come down. The gambling through cards has come to stop in the village.

Problems Unsolved & grievances:

No problem regarding law & order

Baroda-

Problem Solved:

The illegal liquor selling has been stopped, and the 'Satta-Patti' has been stopped completely.

Problems Unsolved & grievances:

The gambling with cards is still going on in village.

Other views:

The CLG members told that as sometimes when the Panchayat members are themselves involved in creating law and order problems, so they face difficulty and insecurity in raising it unless all members show unity and made consensus.

The CLG members were asked that whether the ST, SC & lower caste people are taking participation in the meeting ?

The CLG members of every village told said that in their villages ST/SC & OBC are CLG members (satnami, gond, yadav, sahu, verma, patel, etc)

Comments:-

The CLG members of Baroda actively participated and after the end of the meeting they came with an application and asked for suggestions regarding the ST/SC atrocity act where the ex-Sarpanch abused them (SC peoples including Gram Sabha members). We suggested for them to go to the ST/SC special police station where their complaint will be given more weight.

Mr Asthana's meeting with CLG members:-Beat 3, 4

Questions asked by Mr Asthana to the participants and responses/feedback given:

Does the ST, SC & lower caste people participating in the meetings?

In every village ST/SC & OBC are CLG members (satnami, gond, yadav, sahu, verma, patel), although there is no fixed ratio of the lower caste CLG members in their village to its percentage.

Are the poor people participating in the meetings?

Poor people like agricultural labourers, skilled and unskilled labourers and landless poor are CLG members.

What were the benefits of this Community Policing experiment in their villages?

Sale of illegal liquor has come down to a high extent, gambling with cards has come down to a high extent and 'satta-patti' has almost stopped in villages. Factory pollution in the village Doomartarai has been stopped. The recent Panchayat election finished off peacefully. Pressure has been built up over the mischievous and unsocial elements by police, hence their activity has come down.

What are the law & order problems, which were not yet solved through these community policing meetings?

Mischievous and unsocial elements making chaos after drinking although came down but still found in some villages. The Police patrolling in the village is very irregular and sometime they may not come to village for a week.

What are the negative points noticed by the villagers in the behavior & action of the Mana Police (inside & outside) the Police Station in the last few months?

Sometimes the policemen themselves come drunk in the villages. Sometimes the policemen don't come/react in time when informed about any law and order problem in the village, or if they lack of police personnel to send at the time of complaint then they don't inform this to the complainant.

What are the positive changes and points noticed by the villagers in the behavior and action of the Mana Police (inside & outside) the Police Station in the last few months?

Now the Mana Police are more active and effective in crime prevention and law and order maintenance. They behave better when one's go to police station. They are now more visible.