

9. ATROCITIES AGAINST WOMEN

With a view to prevent atrocities against women, the police will take the following action to ensure that women are treated with due respect.

- (a) In cases, where the complaints are registered by women and girls, the police will make enquiries and investigations expeditiously and arrest the accused immediately. Similarly legal and preventive action against them shall also be taken immediately. After collecting the evidence carefully about the said complaint and taking care to see that there are no loopholes in the investigation, the cases shall be filed in the Court.
- (b) (1) When an occasion to arrest a woman or to interrogate a woman witness arises, it is binding upon the police to keep a woman police personnel present.
- (2) While conducting inquiry and investigation, the statements of woman witnesses should be obtained by visiting them at their residence. During enquiry or investigation, interrogation of women/girls should not be done in such a way that they feel embarrassed. Nor should any questions be put to them by which they feel insulted nor any thing be asked raising doubts about their character or hurt their dignity.

- (3) If women and girls are to be arrested, they cannot be arrested after sunset and before sunrise. They cannot be taken to the police station. However, under exceptional circumstances, if it is extremely necessary to take them to the police station, it is binding upon the police to allow their relatives to stay with them.
- (4)** Accused women are to be kept in the cells specially reserved for them. If there are no separate room for them they are to be kept in the visitor's room. But under no circumstances they should be kept in custody where male accused are kept.
- (c) Considering the traumatic mental condition of women who have become victims of rape case, they should to be treated with due respect and consideration. Similarly, while taking their statements no uncivilized, vulgar or obscene language should be used. The statements of such women are to be obtained in the presence of women police personnel only.
- (d) In the case of suspected death of a married woman, the Assistant Commissioner of Police/Sub-Divisional Police officers will inspect the site and probe into the cause of death.