

CIRCULAR No: 22/2010

Sub:- Vehicles received at Automobile Workshops – procedures –instructions issued – reg

There are five million vehicles in Kerala today as against a mere one lakh three decades ago. The growth continues and in a few years from now we will have 10 million vehicles. At the same time instances in which vehicles are used for the purpose of committing crimes or getting away from the scene will increase. Therefore it is important that crime prevention strategies and crime detection methodologies take due note of this development. Vehicles which get involved in crimes tend to get damaged and hence will require care and repair at some maintenance facility. Hence there is need for police to keep track confidentially and otherwise about activities at Motor Vehicle maintenance facilities.

Vehicles received at workshops may have been involved in reported cases of motor accidents, hit and run cases or thefts or even may have been used as an M.O. in the commission of some crime. Presently, there is no monitoring of the functioning of automobile workshops and as such it becomes easy for the criminal offenders to use workshops as a convenient conduit for the furtherance of their criminal activities. There is an imperative need to monitor the activities of motor vehicle workshops operating in the State. Keeping the above in mind, the following instructions are issued to guide police activity in this regard.

(2) SHOs shall maintain a list of Automobile Workshops in their jurisdiction with details of ownership, Phone numbers etc. This will enable them to easily ascertain the details of Vehicles involved in accidents and the persons who entrust the vehicles for repairs. The Automobile Workshop owners/managers should be formally advised to maintain a register in which relevant data relating to vehicles which they repair are entered. Such data should incorporate the date on which a vehicle was entrusted at the Workshop for repair, category of the vehicle, Registration No. of the vehicle, name of the person who brought the vehicle for repair, major damage caused as a result of the accident, if any, and the date of release of the vehicle after repairs.

(3) It may, however, be noted that police have no power under the law to compel the maintenance of such a register. This will be in the form of a recommended good practice to help the workshop owners themselves to

identify suspicious circumstances with regard to customers who approach them. This will also help the workshop owners from being unwilling facilitators of disappearance of evidence. This procedure will also help the police to keep track of vehicles involved in hit and run accidents and also those involved in some criminal activities. The above instructions are to be implemented in a spirit of co-operation and not by coercive persuasion.

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE

To

All Officers in list B

Copy to i) CAs to all officers in PHQ.

ii) Circular Book/Operation Cell/Stock File