

No.D1-57530/09
Police Headquarters,
Thiruvananthapuram,
Dated: 21 -12-2009.

Circular No. 51/2009

Sub:- Pledging and Purchases – Precautions – Discouraging Pawning
and Sale by Thieves – Advisory to Pawn Brokers and
Financial Institutions - Instructions – Regarding

During recent years, it has come to notice that a large number of thieves and robbers easily dispose off stolen properties by pledging them with Pawn Brokers or Banks or other financial institutions in different places. It is reasonable that whenever a pawn broker/institutional purchaser receives any property, particularly gold ornaments from strangers, he should exercise due caution to ensure that he is not receiving a stolen property. In practical terms, there are difficulties faced by any pawn broker/purchaser in knowing whether any particular property is a stolen one or not. Hence pawn brokers as well as those who are engaged in the purchase of gold ornaments or other valuables as part of their regular business may be advised to take the following steps to discourage thieves and robbers from approaching them with stolen properties.

2. Whenever any article costing more than Rs. 10,000/-(Rupees ten thousand only) is pawned by a stranger before a regular pawn broker or a financial institution or is purchased by a regular shop owner, the pawn broker/purchaser may verify the identity of the person by asking him to produce his photo identity card and further keep a copy of the same along with the record of purchase of the property. It will not be a difficult condition to practice since practically everyone has an photo identity card for electoral purposes. In case there is no ready photo identification card, then the pawn broker or the institution or the purchaser may at least take a digital photo of the seller on a mobile phone or digital camera and keep it in a digital form along with a photo of the article received. Such a photo of the customer can also be kept on a computer data also along with that of the article.

3. These may be given by all officers as suggestions to pawn brokers and financial institutions in their jurisdiction. At the same, it may also be clarified that these suggestion to them are only advisory in nature, and not mandatory or statutory. No one need be compelled to follow them, if they do not so desire.

Sd/-

Director General of Police