The resolution of the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, November 15, 1977, appointing the Commission

No. VI-24021/36/77-GPA.1—Far-reaching changes have taken place in the country after the enactment of the Indian Police Act, 1861, and the setting up of the Second Police Commission of 1902, particularly during the last thirty years of independence. Though a number of States have appointed police commissions after independence to study the problems of the police in their respective States, there has been no comprehensive review at the national level of the police system after independence despite radical changes in the political, social and economic situation in the country. A fresh examination is necessary of the role and performance of the police—both as a law enforcement agency, and as an institution to protect the rights of the citizens enshrined in the Constitution. The Government of India have, therefore, decided to appoint a National Police Commission composed of the following:

1. Shri Dharamvira (retired Governor) Chairman
The following will be the terms of reference of the Commission:

1. Re-define the role, duties, powers and responsibilities of the police with special reference to prevention and control of crime and maintenance of public order.

2. Examine the development of the principles underlying the present policing system, including the method of magisterial supervision, evaluate the performance of the system, identify the basic weaknesses of inadequacies, and suggest appropriate changes in the system and the basic laws governing the system.
(3) Examine, if any changes are necessary in the existing method of administration, disciplinary control and accountability.

(4) Enquire into the system of investigation and prosecution, the reasons for delay and failure; the use of improper methods, and the extent of their prevalence; and suggest how the system may be modified or changed, and made efficient, scientific and consistent with human dignity; and how the related laws may be suitably amended.

(5) Examine the methods of maintaining crime records and statistics and suggest methods for making them uniform and systematic.

(6) Review policing in rural areas, evaluate any new arrangements that have been made, and recommend changes that are necessary.

(7) Examine the system of policing required in non-rural and urbanised areas including metropolitan areas, and suggest the pattern that would be the most suitable.

(8) Examine the steps taken for modernising law enforcement, evaluate the work of police communications, the computer network, scientific laboratories and agencies for research and development, and examine whether modernisation can be speeded up; examine to what extent, as a result of the modernisation of police forces, streamlining of its functions and its re-structuring, it would be possible to economise in the manpower in the various areas of its activities.
(9) Examine the nature and extent of the special responsibilities of the police towards the weaker sections of the community and suggest steps to ensure prompt action on their complaints for the safeguard of their rights and interests.

(10) Recommend measures and institutional arrangements:

(i) to prevent misuse of powers by the police, and to examine whether police behaviour, outlook, responsiveness and impartiality are maintained at the correct level, and if not the steps such as recruitment and training which should be taken to improve them;

(ii) to prevent misuse of the police by administrative or executive instructions, political or other pressure, or oral orders of any type, which are contrary to law;

(iii) for the quick and impartial inquiry of public complaints made against the police about any misuse of police powers;

(iv) for the quick redressal of grievances of police personnel and to look after their morale and welfare; and

(v) for a periodic objective evaluation of police performance in a metropolitan area.
Examine the manner and extent to which police can enlist ready and willing cooperation of the public in the discharge of their social defence and law enforcement duties and suggest measures regarding the institutional arrangements to secure such cooperation and measures for the growth of healthy and friendly public-police relationship.

Examine the methods of police training, development, and career-planning of officers and recommend any changes that are required at any time in their service, to modernise the outlook, and to make the leadership of the force effective and morally strong.

Examine the nature of the problems that the police will have to face in the future, and suggest the measures necessary for dealing with them, and for keeping them under continuous study and appraisal.

Consider and make recommendations and suggestions regarding any other matter which the Government may refer to the Commission; and

Any other matter of relevance or importance having an impact on the subject.
3. The headquarters of the Commission will be at Delhi.

4. The Commission will devise its own procedure and may consult such advisers as it may consider necessary for any particular purpose. It may call for such information and take such evidence as it may consider necessary. Ministries and departments of the Government of India will furnish such information and documents and other assistance as may be required by the Commission. The Government of India trust that the State Governments, Union Territories Administrations, service associations and others concerned will extend to the Commission their fullest cooperation and assistance.

5. The Commission will make its recommendations as soon as practicable.

ORDER

ORDERED that a copy of the Resolution be communicated to all State Governments, Administrations of Union Territories and Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, Planning Commission, Cabinet Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats.

2. ORDERED also that the Resolution be published in the Gazette of India for general information.

Sd/-T.C.A. Srinivasavaradan
Secretary to the Government of India