



Police Reform in India: Assessing the need for reform in Police Service in India

¹Author Nirmalee Kakati

ARTICLE INFO

RECEIVED 19 OCTOBER 2024

ACCEPTED 20 NOVEMBER 2024

PUBLISHED 21 NOVEMBER 2024

ABSTRACT

Policing is traditionally regarded as a law enforcing agency. Police in India has inherited its structure, practices, and methodologies from its imperial past, which does not suit the basic police needs of a liberal democratic country of modern times. Indian police is based on the foundations of a colonial act that is Indian Police Act of 1861. There is the increase of crime by police officials and in police stations. There are cases of custodial deaths and rape of women detainees. Interpretation of laws is another weak point in the Indian police system, especially when we talk about the level of Sub-inspectors and constables. In India, several police reform initiatives have been taken by various committees and commissions from time to time to make police more accountable, more accessible and more people friendly. This paper will try to analyze how far these recommendations have been implemented in India.

Keywords:

Police Reform, Accountability, Police Training, law enforcement.

¹ Corresponding Author : Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Suren Das College, Assam
Email – nirmaleekakati@gmail.com



INTRODUCTION

'The police force is far from efficient, it is defective in training and organization, it is inadequately supervised, it is generally regarded as corrupt and oppressive, and it has utterly failed to secure the confidence and cordial cooperation of the people'

– A.H.L.Fraser, Chairman of the Second Police Commission (1902).

Policing is traditionally regarded as a law enforcing agency. However, in a democratic country in the modern world, policing cannot be regarded only as a mere agency for law enforcement, but as a service to cater the need of safety, security, and wellbeing of the common people. The police organization is the service provider for these needs.

Police in India has inherited its structure, practices, and methodologies from its imperial past, which does not suit the basic police needs of a liberal democratic country of modern times. It is a historical fact that the Indian Police is based on the foundation laid down by the Indian Police Act of 1861 which suited the requirements of those times. However, its functioning continued to be governed by the Act of 1861 even after independence. The Act of 1861 was created at that time which provided for a Police force for the colonial state, with the objective of facilitating smooth conduct of administration, through ensuring domination and control of British Raj over the native population. The intension of the imperial government was to create a Police force, isolated from the general population. It is interesting to be noted that the Police system that was created at that time was not based on their own contemporary police system but on the Irish constabulary which is an occupational force rather than being a public service.

It could be stated here that the chairman of Second Police Commission of 1902, A. H. L. Fraser realised the oppressive nature of police. Still, nothing was done by the British



Government to improve the situation. Even after independence, this matter has not improved much.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Here the question arises as to what should the police in this changing society be like? It is not expected to be oppressive. They are not Agents of colonial masters anymore. Therefore, as an organ of democratic government, which is committed to the welfare of the people, they are expected to provide service to the people. They must realize their role as a public servant. In the new set-up, they are part of the development administration and as such, they are expected to maintain peace and thereby contribute their share to national reconstruction.

India has one of the finest selection processes for the selection of IPS officers and there is also provision for excellent training at National Police Academy Hyderabad. But the same is not available at the state level where officers below the rank of DSP are recruited. Favouritism, casteism, and corruption play a major part in this process. The National Police Commission in 1979 made several recommendations aiming at insulating the police from illegitimate outside control and pressure. But these remain unimplemented. Therefore, we need strong political will to make the selection, promotion, and transfer process more transparent and based on merit.

In an open letter to President Abdul Kalam, the former CBI director R. K. Raghavan said "Almost 90 per cent of the police in India consist of the constabulary. Now, educated men and women are joining police at this level, with the expectation of a satisfying career. Such resources need to be protected which is not possible under the existing state of affairs in Police, where the advancement depends on obedience to the senior officers and the political masters. For the encouragement of professional excellence, there should be the presence of the right working conditions where they



can give their best. Such an atmosphere cannot be provided without the implementation of the most important recommendations of National Police Commission.”

Police are always answerable to the politicians. Therefore, they have a tendency of showing their power over police. So, there is the urgent need of freeing police from the shackles of politicians.

There is the increase of crime by police officials and in police stations. There are cases of custodial deaths and rape of women detainees. This is mainly due to the lack of awareness of human rights among the policemen. Even during their basic training there should be sensitization of police about human rights and how to handle sensitive cases.

Interpretation of laws is another weak point in the Indian police system, especially when we talk about the level of Sub-inspectors and constables. There should be constant upgradation of knowledge and skills.

Women in the total police force in our country is very low in number. The creation of women police stations will be a positive development since women police are better equipped to take a sympathetic approach to issues like domestic violence, dowry harassment, and child abuse.

Another problem is that most state police departments are understaffed with many vacancies. Fresh departments for anti-terrorism cells, VIP security, cybercrime, and human rights are created but are not manned properly.

Indian police is one of the most ill-equipped in the world although our country is one of the worst sufferers of terrorism. The present-day police lack fast vehicles, communication equipment, and even proper weapons. Forensic tools for fighting crime and technology to tackle the growing instances of cybercrime are urgent needs for effective policing in modern times. There is also the need to introduce computers



to maintain records. Indian Police have computerised the passport data which has improved the efficiency of police to detect illegality, fraud and crime involved in this process.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To analyse the police reform initiatives taken in India
- 2) To examine how far these reform initiatives have been implemented in India

METHODOLOGY

This study has been done through the analysis of the Reports of various Committees and Commissions regarding Police Reform. For secondary sources, the data published by Bureau of Police Research & Development have been used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In India, several police reform initiatives have been taken by various committees and commissions from time to time. In this part, an analysis of the various reports and recommendations of various committees and commissions has been presented to see how far these recommendations have been implemented in India.

The Gore Committee 1971:

The Gore Committee has given priority to the matter of training of police personnel, which was being neglected over the years. Police training was based on the training that was given in military training establishments. The military model was accepted by police training institutions because of historical reasons. But, Gore Committee emphasised the need for developing professional skills and equip the police so that they can perform their duties efficiently. There is the need for more practical approach to implement its recommendations. The committee expressed that "It lies essentially with police to take the initiative and positive steps in improving police-citizen relations. A constructive relationship is however a two way affair." Gore Committee's recommendations are very important. The recommendations relating to training are



almost implemented, but the reforms of police structure are ignored.

National Police Commission 1977:

The Government of India appointed the National Police Commission (NPC) in 1977 with wide terms of reference covering the police organization, its role, functions, accountability, relations with the public, political intervention in police work, misuse of powers by police, assessment of its performance, etc. This was the first Police Commission which was appointed at the national level after Independence. The NPC provided various recommendations in its eight reports. As Police and Public Order are state subjects, the reports of NPC were sent to the state governments and union territories for taking proper action. The central government took initiatives to encourage the state governments/UTs to implement NPC recommendations. Some of the accepted recommendations are strengthening of police communication system, establishment of National Crime Record Bureau, assistance for computerization of police force, more fund for housing, organisation of management courses for IPS officers in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad, streamlining the set-up of BPRD etc.

However, some of the recommendations are not implemented till now in respect of constitution of State Security Commission, insulation of investigation from undue pressure, replacement of Police Act of 1861, appointing head of Anti-Corruption Bureau from a panel of IPS officers which is prepared by a committee headed by Chief Vigilance Commissioner and selection of DGP from a panel of IPS officers of state cadre which will be prepared by a committee consisting of Chairman of UPSC, Union Home Secretary, senior most head of Central Police Organisation, Chief Secretary and outgoing DGP as members and tenure of DGP. We will analyze all the reports below to provide a clear picture of its implementation.

The first report of NPC addressed issues like grievance redressal, complaints against police, pay structure, housing for constabulary, etc. But, most of these recommendations remain unimplemented.



The second report took up the issue of avoiding political interference in police. According to the Commission, the political control over the police in this country has led to gross abuses, resulting in erosion of the rule of law and loss of police credibility as a professional organization. The threat of transfer or suspension is the most potent weapon in the hands of the politician to compel the police to act according to his will. The Commission recommended that the superintendence of the state government over the police should be limited so that police performance can be in accordance with law. But, political pressure is very much present till today. Reforms are only in theory, but not in practice.

The third report stressed on police and weaker section of society, modernisation of police, village police etc. But, in reality, modernisation has not taken place till now. In most of the police stations, especially in the rural or semi urban areas, even the basic facilities needed are not available in the police stations. The report also talked about providing adequate funds to remove corruption. But, proper funds are not provided to the police stations and corruption is very much present in the police department.

The fourth report took up the issue of launch of FIR and investigation methods. This Report recommended that FIR should be launched in a police station, even if the place of crime is outside its jurisdiction, and if required, the FIR should be transferred to the concerned police station. However, its recommendations regarding this issue remained unimplemented. The separation of investigation work from law and order has not become a reality till now. There is not even the presence of political will to implement such reforms.

The fifth report provided a very important recommendation that recruitment to the Police must be done only at two levels which are Constables and Indian Police Service. The recruitment at other levels should be eliminated. According to the Commission, psychological tests should be an important part of the selection procedure. But, this recommendation also remained unimplemented. Police recruitment has been taking place in more than two levels. Psychological tests are also not included in the process



of selection. It also recommends that there should be constant evaluation of the performance, attitudes and behaviour of all recruits during the training program and those who are not shaping as good policemen should be eliminated. This has also not become reality. This report has pointed out the reason for poor police public relations, which are police partiality, corruption, brutality etc. In fact, police harass even those people who try to help them. This fact is very much true. Therefore, there is a need for transparency. The NPC has recommended that there must be the strengthening of women police and they should be assigned investigation work in much greater measure. Women police must become an essential part of the police organization. At present, they are used to deal with crimes against women and children and in tackling the problem of juvenile delinquency. But, according to the commission, they should in due course share all the duties now performed by their male counterparts. They should be recruited in much larger numbers than now, particularly in the ranks of Assistant Sub-inspectors and Sub-inspectors of Police. But, till now, most of the women police are concentrated at the constabulary level.

The Sixth Report provided its view against reservation in the police for minorities and other weaker sections based on their share in population. The Commission felt that it would fragment the force on caste and communal lines. It also recommends that police should reflect a mixture of all the communities. But, in reality, political pressure is there in matter of appointment. The NPC in this report has recommended that in cities with a population of 5 lakhs and above and even in places where there may be special reasons like speedy urbanisation, industrialisation etc., the system of police commissionerate should be introduced and it would provide more effective policing. The commissionerate system is very much present in various cities of India. But, still a good number of cities with population more than 5lakhs yet to have this system.

The Seventh Report made recommendations for All India Police Institute and Central Police Committee which are not implemented. It also talked about enhancement of financial provisions for having proper infrastructure facilities of police. But, if we look at the infrastructure available at present time, it shows a picture of misery.



The eighth report recommended that to maintain police accountability, there should be continuous monitoring of the performance of the police forces in the country. The State Security Commission should have an independent cell for the evaluation of police performance. But, most of these recommendations are not implemented. The NPC has also recommended in this report that the Police Act of 1861 should be replaced by a new Police Act, which is also not implemented.

It is important to mention here that most of the major recommendations of the NPC have remained unimplemented. There is always the presence of a strong resistance to the idea of police reforms. Politicians and bureaucrats have their vested interest in retaining control over the police organization. At the same time, there are people even within the police department who want to retain the status quo. However, the existing system is unacceptable. It has resulted in subverting the rule of law and also creating problems in the growth of a healthy and professional system of policing. Therefore, there is an urgent need for change.

Ribeiro Committee on Police Reform, 1998:

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India set up a Committee on Police Reforms according to the Supreme Court's directions issued in the context of Writ Petition (Civil) No. 310 of 1996. Supreme Court asked the Committee to review action taken for the implementation of the recommendations of the NPC, with focus on the need of setting up a Security Commission or Police Authority in each State and at the Centre, prescribing a transparent procedure for the appointment of Police Chiefs and giving the senior incumbents a minimum tenure; and insulating the investigative wing of the police department from its law and order functions. The Committee has completed its deliberations on these three issues and submitted its report to the court through Government of India. These reports were also forwarded to the state governments and UTs to take proper actions. The committee recommended for Police Accountability Commission, District Police Complaint Authority and Police Establishment Board, as suggested by NPC. It discarded NPC's recommendation for Security Commission at central level.



The committee feels the need for the replacement of the old Police Act of 1861 by a new Police Act. The Committee mentions about the Vohra Committee recommendation for the establishment of a Nodal Cell in the Ministry of Home Affairs to deal with the problem of nexus between crime syndicates, political leaders, government functionaries and others. The Ribeiro committee mentions about such a cell operating, but the committee is not aware of its success or failure. The committee accepted the Law Commission's recommendations for separation of the investigative functions of the police from its law and order work. It has accepted NPC's recommendations regarding recruitment, training and welfare of the constabulary, the reorganisation of the hierarchy of the police, with an increase in the strength at middle levels of ASI/SI/Inspector etc. Establishment of an independent Police Recruitment Board and entrust to it the task of recruitment of all non-gazetted ranks is also recommended. It stresses the need for qualitative improvement of the training process to improve the performance and behaviour of police.

Padmanabhaiah Committee on police reform, 2000:

This committee has provided about 240 recommendations out of which 24 recommendations are not accepted by Ministry of Home Affairs. Some of the recommendations, which are not accepted, are recruitment of 10th & 12th passed boys as constable and inspector and giving them training for 2-3 years, maximum age of entry to IPS to be 24, to post IAS/IPS as judicial magistrate etc. Some of the accepted recommendations are relating to recruitment, training of police personnel, posting and transfer of police, design of police station etc. The accepted recommendations are sent to the state governments and UTs for implementation. The committee does not have any representation from the public. The report was submitted in 2000, but till now it is not released to the public. Committee stated that corruption is the main cause of politicisation and criminalisation of police. But, criminalisation is not confined to corruption only. There are other factors involved.

The committee talked about establishment of Police Establishment Board, which will decide on the matter of transfer of DSP and above. This recommendation is borrowed



from the recommendation of Ribeiro Committee which suggested the establishment of Police Establishment Board to decide on transfer of rank of DSP and below.

Committee on Reforms of Criminal Justice System/ Malimath Committee:

The Malimath Committee submitted its report in 2003 and it was circulated to the state governments and UTs for implementation. Most of the recommendations are already implemented by the Government. However, the recommendations like confession to senior officers be regarded as evidence, and increasing judicial custody, changing proof beyond doubt etc. should not be implemented.

Review Committee on the Recommendations of National Police Commission and Other Commission/committee on Police Reforms, 2004:

The review Committee's recommendations are also forwarded to the State Governments and UTs administration to take necessary action.

Soli Sorabjee Committee:

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India set up a Committee of Experts, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Soli J. Sorabjee, in September 2005 in order to draft a Model Police Act that could meet the democratic aspirations of the people and make police people friendly. The committee finalised the Model Police Act in 2006. The Act should be based on the need of police service, which is efficient, effective, responsive to the needs of the common people and accountable to the Rule of Law. The Act emphasizes that the police will be governed by the principles of impartiality and human rights norms and it should give special attention to protection of weaker sections including minorities. It also includes a provision that the composition of the police must reflect social diversity.

The Model Police Act creates few mechanisms which will help the police to perform its functions more efficiently and effectively and will also enhance its credibility in the eyes of the public. These are creation of a State Police Board which will give the policy guidelines for efficient policing, merit based selection and appointment of senior officers of State Police, provision of security of tenure by fixing a minimum tenure of



two years for the Director General of Police and other important positions like the District Superintendent of Police and the Station House Officer , creation of Establishment Committee both at the state as well as district levels, in order to look into the matter of transfers and postings of police officers at different levels on the basis of collective wisdom and experience, and to look into the complaints of police officers against any illegal orders. The act also encourages professionalism in police by introducing preparation of proper plan to achieve any objective within given time. The act talks about better educated personnel at civil police. The Act mentions that the rank of constabulary must be done away within the Civil Police. Instead, it talks about Civil Police officer Grade II as the lowest rank to ensure dignity and status at this level. But, it is important to note that in country like UK, the term constable has been using with dignity.

Realising the importance of accountability of the police for the general public, the Act provides detailed mechanism comprising of the State Police Board, assisted by an Inspectorate of Performance Evaluation, for the evaluation of the police service at the state, district and police station levels. It will evaluate the police on matters of operational efficiency, public and victim satisfaction, accountability, utilisation of resources, observance of human rights standards etc. Accountability Commissions and District authorities at the state and district level should inquire into public complaints against the police for serious misconduct.

The act also aims at providing better service conditions to the police personnel which include rationalising their working hours, one day off in each week, or compensatory benefits etc. It creates a Police Welfare Bureau for taking care of health care, housing, and legal facilities for the police personnel as well as for providing financial security for the next of kin of those dying in service. It also mandates the government to provide insurance cover to all officers, and special allowances to officers who are posted in special wings commensurate with the risk involved.

The Act also deals with police preparedness for management of threats to internal security from activities of terrorists, militants, insurgents and organised crime groups.

The police have not been granted any special powers in the Act for dealing with these threats; rather the Act provides for systematic preparation and meticulous compliance of Internal Security and Standard Operation Procedures.

The Model Police Act has used the term 'service' instead of 'force' which means a people friendly police. Provisions are there to decrease political interference in police and also to make police more accountable to the people.

A copy of the Model Police Act was sent to the state Governments and UTs for consideration on 31st December, 2006. 17 states viz. Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttarakhand have either enacted this act or amended the existing act. In order to make police more responsive and police friendly, the Model Police Act was reviewed again and accordingly, a revised Model Police Bill 2015 was uploaded in BPRD website.

PRAKASH SINGH VS UNION OF INDIA- SC DIRECTIVES FOR POLICE REFORMS:

The Supreme Court of India delivered a historic judgement on 22 September, 2016 in the famous Prakash Singh vs. Union of India providing instructions to the central and state governments to comply with a set of seven directives laying down the practical mechanisms for police reform. These directives are specially made to achieve two main objectives. These are functional autonomy for the police through security of tenure, streamlined appointment and transfer processes, and the creation of a "buffer body" between the police and the government and enhanced police accountability, both for organisational performance and individual misconduct. These directives are as enumerated below:

- Directive One: Constitute a State Security Commission (SSC) to
 - Ensure that the state government does not exercise unwarranted influence or pressure on the police
 - Lay down broad policy guideline and

- Evaluate the performance of the state police

Thus, it directs the state governments to constitute a State security Commission in every state which will be headed by the Chief Minister or Home minister as the Chairman. The DGP of the respective state will be the ex officio Secretary. Supreme Court gave liberty to the states to choose any models of recommendations by National Human Rights Commission, Ribeiro Committee or Soli Sorabji Committee.

- Directive Two: It talks about the appointment of the DGP on merit basis and through transparent process who will have a minimum tenure of two years.
- Directive Three: It ensures that other police officers on operational duties including Superintendents of Police in-charge of a district and Station House Officers in-charge of a police station will also have a minimum tenure of two years
- Directive Four: It talks about the separation of the investigation and law and order functions of the police
- Directive Five: It talks about set up of a Police Establishment Board (PEB) which will decide the service related matters like promotion, posting, transfer etc. of police officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police and below and will also make recommendations on postings and transfers above the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police.
- Directive Six: It talks about the setting up a Police Complaints Authority (PCA) at state level which will make inquiry into public complaints against police officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police and above in cases of serious misconduct, including custodial death, grievous hurt, or rape in police custody etc. It will also inquire into public complaints against the police personnel below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police at the district level in cases of serious misconduct.
- Directive Seven: It recommends the setting up of a National Security



Commission (NSC) at the union level to prepare a panel for selection and placement of Chiefs of the Central Police Organisations (CPO) with a minimum tenure of two years.

A three member Monitoring Committee was appointed in May 2008 for looking into the implementation of the Court's directives by the Governments. This Committee was headed by Justice K.T. Thomas, a retired judge of the Supreme Court and it had Mr. Kamal Kumar (a retired IPS officer) and Mr. Dharmendra Sharma (Joint Secretary of Police Modernisation) as members.

As it was not possible to visit every state, they only visited 4 states to make the report namely:- Maharashtra (West Zone), Uttar Pradesh (North Zone), Karnataka (South Zone) and West Bengal (East Zone) as these states were populous & defaulters according to committee. Five reports were submitted by the Committee to Supreme Court based on these which clearly indicated lack of compliance following which court issued notices to the four states.

It may be mentioned here that only some states have committed to comply with the directions of the Supreme Court. These include the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttrakhand and Goa. It must be clarified however that the directions are yet to be implemented on the ground. Some other states like Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and West Bengal have partially complied with the directions. Twelve states (Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura and Uttrakhand) have drafted laws with a view to circumventing the implementation of Supreme Court's directions. The Bihar Police Bill is particularly perverse. Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are among the most non-compliant states. Communities are the main beneficiaries as well as the main victims of police reforms. But, none of the bills of the states took into account the transparency & public accountability nor involved public in making legislation except Kerala. Kerala was the only state which appointed 10 members Select



Committee & visited each district to take public feedback for the bill.

Regarding Directive one, State Security Commissions are created by many states. However, the composition of the commission does not include either leader of opposition or judicial element or both. Regarding Directive two, looking at the difficulty in involving UPSC in empanelment of officers, the states are sticking to earlier selection procedure of DGP. Regarding the tenure, most of the states have side-stepped the directive. Regarding Directive three, all the states are not following this directive of a fixed tenure for certain categories of police officers. Regarding Directive four, the provision has remained only in paper in most of the states. Regarding Directive five, Police Establishment Boards have been created in most of the states but their effectiveness is questioned. As per Directive six, Police Complaint Authorities have not been created in most of the states. Regarding Directive seven too, although the Home Ministry of central government have taken some important steps, these are ineffective.

The Model Police Bill complements the directions of Supreme Court & helps to implement the same effectively. It was hoped that the states would enact their own police legislation according to the Model Police Bill & Supreme Court Directives; but actually it never happened.

There are a number of reasons for non-compliance of the states. Firstly, the states are of the view that this will lead to “juristocracy” i.e. increased influence of Judiciary in matter of legislation. Secondly, the states believe that the constitutional scheme of “separation of power” was destroyed as all powers were integrated & assumed by Supreme Court. Lastly, the state of Maharashtra & UP are saying that in Prakash Singh case, the Supreme Court had issued “recommendations” and not “directions” & had taken help of following pleas:

a) Under Articles 154 & 163, the Executive power of the State is vested in the Governor who shall act in accordance with the aid and advice of the council of ministers or the cabinet.



b) Under Article 163 (3), they said that the Court has no power to question how such advice has been tendered. Emphasis was laid on “shall” (which in law means mandatory in contrast with “may”, which means voluntary).

IMPLEMENTATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ASSAM

Though the Police Act of 1861 was the legislation governing police, after the Prakash Singh & Others case, the Assam Police Act was enacted in 2006. This is the sole act for whole of Assam. The purpose of creation of the act was ensuring efficient policing which can safeguard the interests of people and remain accountable to people. The act also tries to focus on the matter of modernisation and accountability of police.

In the preamble itself, it is mentioned that the police organisation should work for good governance and promotion of human rights. Police must be efficient, effective and people-friendly. To fulfill these objectives, it is necessary to implement the provisions of the act properly.

The Assam Police Act is for the whole of the state of Assam. The act discussed the constitutional organization of police force where it is mentioned that there shall be one police force for the state and it should consist of various ranks and organizations as determined by the State Government By general or special order. The act talks about the appointment of DGP which will be the highest ranking in police hierarchy in the state. The Supreme Court directive talks about the minimum tenure of DGP to be two years, which is not clearly mentioned in the act. Therefore, this provision should be included in the act, through the amendment of Section 6 of the act. In Assam, the police force is overburdened with both investigation and law and order duties. Section 11(4) mentions that there should be a crime investigation unit in each police station. Therefore, there should be the separation of investigation from law and order function. The act talks about setting of organizations for undertaking research in matter of police efficiency. The act, while talking about administration of police, recommends the establishment of State Security Commission. As per the act, the same was constituted with Chief Minister as the chairperson, a retired judge of High



Court, the Chief Secretary, The Secretary-in charge of home department as its member secretary, DGP and three non-political members. The act also provides the functions of the commission as framing policy guidelines to promote effective and efficient policing, identify performance indicators to evaluate the performance of police etc. The act also talks about Police Establishment Board to examine the matters of complaints of police officers.

The act also discussed the role of police including the social roles and also the role in emergency situations. The matters of police and internal security and investigations through scientific ways have also been discussed. Rules for administration of Police are also elaborately discussed. It also talks about establishment of Police Accountability commission which will enquire into the matter of serious misconduct by police personnel. Thus, based on its recommendation, the Assam Government established State Police Accountability Commission with a chairman and three members. But whether this commission is performing its duty efficiently or not is a big question.

CONCLUSION

Thus, various reform initiatives have been taken by the Government to bring some positive changes in the police organisation in India. A number of recommendations of the committees and commissions are accepted and implemented. However, some of the major recommendations still have not received attention. The recommendations of NPC are also not implemented properly. The colonial act of 1861 is still the basis of police system in India. At the same time, terrorism, extremism, cyber-crime etc. are creating new threats which show the need for effective and efficient police. Therefore, for the better functioning of the police organisation, there is the need for proper implementation of the recommendations of the committees on police reform.

REFERENCES

1. Assam police Act, 2007
2. Mehta, Ajay K.(1985), Police changing India, Usha Publication, New Delhi



3. Police Reforms(2014), Unstarred Question No 3305, Ministry of Home Affairs, Lok Sabha, Government of India.
4. Police Reform (2016), Unstarred Question no 387, Ministry of Home Affairs, Lok Sabha, Government of India.
5. Report of the Ribeiro Committee on Police Reforms: A Critical Analysis
6. Report of the Ribeiro Committee on Police Reforms: A Critical Analysis.

https://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/programs/aj/police/india/initiatives/analysis_ribeiro.pdf accessed 10.32 am, 11-06-2024.

7. The National Police Commission: Some Selected Recommendations of the National Police Commission,

https://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/publications/police/npc_recommendations.pdf accessed 11.23 am, 13-06-2024