

3. Officers of the Forest Directorate in West Bengal who are exempted from prohibition under the Indian Arms Act, 1878 (xi of 1878)

Government of West Bengal, Home Department (Police), Notification No. 1650-P1.—The 8th April, 1950—
In exercise of the power conferred by item (4) of Schedule VII to the Indian Arms Rules, 1951, read with Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs notification No. 19/1/58-Police (IV), dated the 23rd April 1958, the Governor is pleased hereby to declare to be in the public interest the possession of the one smooth bore gun by every such officer of the Forest Directorate of the Government of West Bengal as is eligible for the grant of an arm license and is certified by the Divisional Forest Officer, Government of West Bengal to be a Forest Rangers, Deputy Ranger/Forester, Head Forest Guard or Forest Guard and to require fire arms for the purpose of self-protection in the course of his duties.*

[*Under rule 44(7) of the Indian Arms Rules, 1951, no fee shall be chargeable in respect of the grant or renewal of any license for the possession of the smooth bore gun.]

Exemption of Police Officers and other Officers under section 1(b) of the Indian Arms Act, 1878 (XI of 1878).— Police Officers of and above the rank of sub-inspector, including sergeants, are authorised to possess one revolver as part of their equipment. They are, therefore, exempted under section 1(b) of the Arms Act from the obligation to take out a license in respect of a weapon so possessed.

The Government of India have held that section 1(b) covers cases where firearms are issued by Government to subordinate officers, including forest subordinates, for protection in the execution of their duty but do not form part of the officer's equipment. Such officers, therefore, do not require a license in respect of any firearms so issued.

Note : Paragraph 46 covers the cases of certain forest subordinates who should possess arms for the adequate discharge of their duty but are not supplied with guns by Government. A forest subordinate who is exempted under section 1(b) in respect of a gun issued by government or who receives under paragraph 46 a free license for a gun not supplied by Government must take out and pay for a license for any other weapon in his possession.

[Letter NO. 3863 P.J., dated the 21st September 1920, and the Government of India, Home Department, Letter No. F. 21/XXIII/24-Police, dated 14th April, 1925]