

## *Preface*

Laws relating to habitual offenders are preventive measures which empower the law enforcement officials to curb the incidence of crime. The measures are in the nature of supervisory checks on those who attain the status of "habitual offender." It is believed that efficacious implementation of curbs may scuttle the crime career of a recidivist, and it may also enable preventing the dissemination of dangerous criminality in the community, since the activities of potential and persistent offenders are sought to be contained through the legal measures. The efforts of the administration to regulate criminal conduct of a habitual offender are, however, circumscribed by constitutional provisions, laws, rules and orders.

This study aims at analysis of the law relating to habitual offenders, as well as to make the operational study of the law in the society. An evaluation of socio-legal aspects of the problem, therefore, necessitated to deal with the problem on an objective plane. Accordingly information was collected through a questionnaire which was sent to all the states. The information thus received from some of the states furnished basis for objective evaluation. The enforcement and working of the laws relating to habitual offenders were keenly perceived and observed at several places. All these were also compiled in the form of data. The data thus came from several sources to enable us to make the operational study. In this regard the Inspector Generals of the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala deserve special thanks for their co-operation.

The author is well aware of several errors that have crept in the printing of the book, and relies upon the generosity of readers to take condoning view of the same, though the responsibility for analysis and conclusions are not disowned. The lapses can be accounted for the hurry of rushing the manuscript through the press at a time when the Institute has been preoccupied with activities that have been undertaken as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations programme.

Thanks are due to Dr. S.N. Jain, Director, Indian Law Institute and Mr. P.M. Bakshi former member-Secretary Law Commission for their valuable criticism and help. Thanks are also due to Mr. M.L. Bhanot I.P.S (former Deputy Director of BPRD), Mr. Nathu Lal I.P.S. (now D.I.G.U.P.) and Mr. G.P. Joshi, Asstt. Director Bureau of Police Research and Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Mr. Pramod Kumar of Faculty of Law, University of Luknow lent his support and cooperation in several ways. The valuable assistance of my colleagues in the Indian Law Institute Shri N.S. Nahar, Assistant Research Professor and Shri Pramodh Singh, Assistant Librarian, are also thankfully acknowledged.

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