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# Cops understand only 'crack of whip': SC

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

**New Delhi:** Commoners, often harassed by the police's refusal to register FIRs (first information reports), have turned the tables on the men in khaki, thanks to the Supreme Court.

Stating that officials in India understood only the "crack of a whip", the apex court on Friday ordered that a policeman turning away a person without registering his complaint could face contempt of court charges and cool his heels in jail if he failed to justify non-registration of the FIR.

Brushing aside the apprehensions of some counsel who felt that an order as harsh as this could be prone to misuse by those who had an axe to grind against the police, the bench said that in India, officials were activated only by the crack of a whip.

"In India, officials act only on hunter-



ing (flogging). India understands only 'chabuk'—this is the meaning of swaraj and this is the concept of swaraj (self-rule)," Justice B N Agrawal said.

The cracker of an order came from a bench headed by Justice Agrawal, who on Thursday had a massive spat with a former law minister in open court before recusing himself from hearing a petition that had sought FIRs against judicial officers allegedly involved in the Rs 23 crore PF scam.