NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE TRUST
(Public Welfare • Justice • Development)
(A Social Institution Established under Central Act No. 2 of 1882)
Establishment No. – 212/IV/2026
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Ref. No. NPST/123/2026 Dated - 02.10.2026

1- The Secretary (Home),
Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun
Email : bagaulis@ias.nic.in

2- The Director General of Police,
Uttarakhand Police Headquarters, Dehradun
Email : dgc-police-ua@nic.in

3- The District Magistrate,
District-Haridwar, Roshanabad, Haridwar
Email : dm-har-ua@nic.in

Subject: Regarding State-wide enforcement of Rules 13 and 14 of the Arms Rules, 2016 and establishment of a uniform mechanism for ensuring statutory timelines, transparency and accountability in processing of arms licence applications.

Sir,

National Public Service Trust is a public-interest organisation working on issues concerning constitutional values, rule of law, administrative transparency and accountability, good governance and protection of citizens' rights. In furtherance of the said objects, the following matter of substantial public importance is being brought to your notice for necessary and time-bound action.

The Trust has come across an issue concerning implementation of the statutory timelines prescribed under **Rules 13 and 14 of the Arms Rules, 2016** by the Licensing Authorities and Police Authorities in the State of Uttarakhand. The issue is not concerned with grant of an arms licence to any particular person; rather, it concerns whether statutory applications are being processed through a transparent, accountable and time-bound mechanism prescribed by law.

In this regard, **Rule 13 of the Arms Rules, 2016**, titled **"Time limit for grant of licence",** specifically provides:

> The licensing authority, after considering the application and on being satisfied that the applicant has fulfilled the eligibility conditions, shall grant or refuse to grant a licence for permissible category of arms or ammunition specified in category III of Schedule I, to any person by **recording in writing the reasons for such grant or refusal, by passing a speaking order, within a period of sixty days of the receipt of the police report:**

Thus, the Rule casts a statutory obligation upon the Licensing Authority to bring the proceedings to a reasoned conclusion by either granting or refusing the licence through a speaking order within sixty days from receipt of the police report.

Similarly, **Rule 14 of the Arms Rules, 2016**, titled **"Time limit for police report for grant of licenses"**, provides that:

> **(1)** On receipt of an application for grant of a license under sub-section (1) of section 13 or every subsequent renewal thereof under section 15, the licensing authority shall call for a report of the officer-in-charge of the nearest police station on that application, **and such officer shall send his report in Form S-4, within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of application by him.**
>
> **(2)** The Central Government may by issuance of a general or special order, extend the period of thirty days as specified in sub-rule (1) up to ninety days for certain areas or States for any reason deemed appropriate by it.
>
> **(3) The licensing authority may in case of non-receipt of police report within the period of thirty days under sub-rule (1) or within the extended period under sub-rule (2), make an order in writing for grant or refusal of license, without further waiting for the report.**

Therefore, the statutory scheme expressly equips the Licensing Authority with the power to proceed in accordance with law without indefinitely waiting for the police report after expiry of the applicable statutory period.

The necessity for examining State-wide implementation of these provisions has arisen from information obtained under the RTI Act, 2005 from the office of the District Magistrate, Haridwar. The RTI application dated 22.07.2026 sought information regarding new arms licence applications received during the period 01.01.2025 to 22.07.2026, their disposal, pendency, police verification and the procedure/time limit applicable to their disposal.

In response, the office of the District Magistrate, Haridwar vide communication dated 14.08.2026 disclosed that 1,873 applications for new arms licences had been received during the aforesaid period. The response further records 683 final decisions and states that 321 applications were pending on the basis of consent/reports received from the police authorities.

The aforesaid disclosure raises an important issue of statutory compliance and institutional accountability. Where the police report has already been received, Rule 13 prescribes the framework for a speaking order within sixty days; whereas where the police report itself is not received within the applicable period, Rule 14(3) expressly enables the Licensing Authority to consider proceeding without further waiting for such report. Consequently, prolonged pendency requires an effective administrative mechanism capable of identifying the stage at which delay has occurred and ensuring that the statutory framework is actually implemented.

The above noted RTI information is being referred to only as an illustrative official disclosure warranting State-level examination. National Public Service Trust is neither representing any individual applicant nor seeking grant, refusal or disposal of any particular arms licence application. The issue concerns the institutional administration of Rules 13 and 14 throughout Uttarakhand and whether the State Government presently maintains any effective mechanism to ascertain district-wise how many applications are awaiting police verification, how many police reports have remained pending beyond the applicable period, how many applications remain pending after receipt of police reports and whether delays beyond the statutory framework are being periodically reviewed.

In the absence of a uniform monitoring mechanism, implementation of the same statutory Rules may vary from district to district and prolonged pendency may remain outside effective supervisory scrutiny. Maintenance of stage-wise data relating to the date of application, date of forwarding for police verification, date of receipt by the police authority, date of submission/receipt

of police report and date of final speaking order would enable the Government itself to identify delays and ensure accountability without interfering with the merits of any individual licensing decision.

Therefore, National Public Service Trust requests that the State Government may undertake a State-wide review of implementation of Rules 13 and 14 of the Arms Rules, 2016 across all districts of Uttarakhand; obtain district-wise and stage-wise data regarding compliance with the prescribed statutory framework; issue uniform directions/SOP to all District Magistrates/Licensing Authorities and concerned Police Authorities for effective implementation thereof; and establish an appropriate State-level monitoring mechanism whereby cases exceeding the applicable statutory timelines are automatically identified, reasons for such pendency are recorded and periodically reviewed by the competent supervisory authority.

It is further requested that Rule 14(3) be appropriately brought to the notice of all Licensing Authorities for consideration in accordance with law wherever the police report has not been received within the applicable period, without treating the provision as creating any automatic or deemed entitlement to grant of a licence.

Considering the importance of uniform implementation of statutory provisions and public accountability in exercise of statutory powers, it is requested that appropriate action may kindly be initiated and National Public Service Trust be informed in writing regarding the action taken on the present representation.

Regards,
Krishnakant
(Chairman)

Enclosed (copy of):

1. Rule 13 and 14 of Arm Rules, 2016
2. RTI response dated 14.08.2026