



The Punjab Special Powers (Press) Act, 1956

Act 38 of 1956

Keyword(s):

Public Harmony, Public Order, Printer, Publisher, Editor

DISCLAIMER: This document is being furnished to you for your information by PRS Legislative Research (PRS). The contents of this document have been obtained from sources PRS believes to be reliable. These contents have not been independently verified, and PRS makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or correctness. In some cases the Principal Act and/or Amendment Act may not be available. Principal Acts may or may not include subsequent amendments. For authoritative text, please contact the relevant state department concerned or refer to the latest government publication or the gazette notification. Any person using this material should take their own professional and legal advice before acting on any information contained in this document. PRS or any persons connected with it do not accept any liability arising from the use of this document. PRS or any persons connected with it shall not be in any way responsible for any loss, damage, or distress to any person on account of any action taken or not taken on the basis of this document.

**'THE PUNJAB SPECIAL POWERS (PRESS)
ACT, 1956.**

(PUNJAB ACT NO. 38 OF 1956)

*[Received the assent of the President of India on the
19th October, 1956, and was first published in the
Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary)
of the 25th October, 1956].*

1	2	3	4
Year	No.	Short title	Whether repealed or otherwise affected by legislation
1956	38	The Punjab Special Powers (Press) Act, 1956.	<p>Extended to the territories which immediately before the 1st November, 1956, were comprised in the State of Patiala and East Punjab States Union by Punjab Act, 5 of 1957¹</p> <p>Amended by Punjab Act 40 of 1957²</p> <p>Amended by Punjab Act 29 of 1960⁴</p> <p>Amended by Haryana Adaptation of Laws (State and Concurrent Subjects) Order, 1968⁵</p>

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the Seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Punjab Special Powers (Press) Act, 1956.

Short title,
extent and
commence-
ment.

(2) It extend to the State of [Haryana].

1. For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see *Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary)*, 1956, page 1149.
2. For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see *Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary)*, 1957, page 339.
3. For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see *Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary)*, 1957, page 1662.
4. For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see *Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary)*, 1960, page 1912.
5. See Haryana Government Gazette (Extraordinary), dated the 29th October, 1968.
6. Substituted for the word "Punjab" by Haryana Adaptation of Laws Order, 1968.

(3) It shall come into force at once ¹[in the principal territories and on the 3rd April, 1957 in the transferred territories].

Power to
control
publications.

2. (1) The State Government or any authority so authorised in this behalf if satisfied that such action is necessary for the purpose of preventing or combating any activity prejudicial to the maintenance of communal harmony affecting or likely to affect public order, may by order in writing addressed to a printer, publisher or editor,—

(a) prohibit the printing or publication in any document or any class of documents of any matter relating to a particular subject or class of subjects for a specified period or in a particular issue or issues of a newspaper or periodical :

Provided that no such order shall remain in force for more than two months from the making thereof ²[unless before the expiry of such period the State Government, by an order made in the like manner, extends it by any period not exceeding two months at a time as it thinks fit so, however, that the total period of the original order does not exceed six months :]

Provided further that the person against whom the order has been made may within ten days of the passing of this order make a representation to the State Government which may on consideration thereof modify, confirm or rescind the order ;

(b) require that any matter, covering not more than two columns, be published in any particular issue or issues of a newspaper or periodical on payment of adequate remuneration, and may while doing so, specify the period (not exceeding one week) during which and the manner in which such publication shall take place ;

(c) require that any matter relating to a particular subject or class of subjects shall before publication be submitted for scrutiny by an authority appointed by the State Government in its behalf and published only in accordance with the direction given there at.

1. Added by Haryana Adaptation of Laws Order, 1968.

2. Added by Punjab Act 29 of 1960.

(2) In the event of disobedience of an order under this section, the State Government or the authority issuing the order may, without prejudice to the other penalty to which the person guilty of the disobedience is liable under this Act, order the seizure of all copies of any publication concerned and of any printing press or other instrument or apparatus used in the publication.

3. ¹[(1) The State Government or any authority authorised by it in this behalf, if satisfied that such action is necessary for the purpose of preventing or combating any activity prejudicial to the maintenance of communal harmony affecting or likely to affect public order, may, by order notified in the Official Gazette, prohibit the bringing into ²[Haryana] of any newspaper, periodical, leaflet or other publication :

Power to prohibit entry into ²[Haryana] of newspaper, etc.

Provided that no such order shall remain in force for more than two months from the making thereof ³[unless before the expiry of such period the State Government, by an order made in the like manner, extends it by any period not exceeding two months at a time as it thinks fit so, however, that the total period of the original order does not exceed six months :]

Provided further that person aggrieved by such order may, within ten days of the passing thereof, make a representation to the State Government which may on consideration thereof modify, confirm or rescind the order.]

(2) In the event of disobedience of an order under this section, the State Government or the authority issuing the order, may without prejudice to the other penalty to which the person guilty of the disobedience is liable under this Act, order the seizure of all copies of any newspaper, periodical, leaflet or other publication concerned.

4. Whoever contravenes, disobeys or neglects to comply with any order made or direction given under sections 2 and 3 of this Act, shall, on conviction, be liable to be punished with imprisonment of either description which may extend to one year or with fine up to one thousand rupees or with both.

Penalty.

1. Substituted for old sub-section (1) by Punjab Act 40 of 1957.

2. Substituted for the word "Punjab" by Haryana Adaptation of Law Order, 1968.

3. Added by Punjab Act 29 of 1960.