



The Punjab Prohibition of Cow Slaughter Act, 1956

Act 15 of 1956

Keyword(s):

Beef, Beef-Products, Cow, Slaughter, Uneconomic Cow

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 PROHIBITION OF COW SLAUGHTER ACT, 1955

PUNJAB ACT NO. 15 OF 1956.

Table of Contents

SECTIONS	PAGES
1. Short title extent and commencement	..
2. Definitions	..
3. Prohibition of cow slaughter	..
4. Exceptions	..
5. Prohibition of sale of beaf	..
6. Establishment of institutions	..
7. Levy of charges of fees	..
8. Penalty	..
9. Offences to be cognisable and non-bailable	..
10. Power to make rules	..

**1956 Pb. Act. 15] THE PUNJAB PROHIBITION OF COW 439
SLAUGHTER ACT, 1955**

**THE PUNJAB PROHIBITION OF COW
SLAUGHTER ACT, 1955.**

Punjab Act No. 15 of 1956.

[Received the assent of the President of India on the 21st June, 1956, and was first Published for general information in the Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary) dated the 27th June, 1956].

1	2	3	4
Year	No.	Short Title	Wheteer affectrd by legis- lation.
1956	15	The Punjab Prohibition of Cow Slaughter Act, 1955.	Extended to Pepsu Territory by Punjab Act 5, of 1959 2

An Act to prohibit the slaughter of cow and its progeny in Punjab.

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 Prohibition of Cow Slaughter Act, 1955.

Short title, extent and commencement.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Punjab.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context—

Definitions.

(a) "beef" means flesh of cow in any form but does not include flesh of cow contained in sealed containers and imported into Punjab ;

(b) "beef-products" include extraction from beef;

(c) "cow" includes a bull, bullock, ox, heifer, or calf ;

1. For Statement of Objects and Reasons see Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), 1955 page 831.

2 For Statement of Objects and Reasons see Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary) 1958, page 1487.

- (d) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (e) "slaughter" means killing by any method whatsoever and includes maiming and inflicting of physical injury which in the ordinary course will cause death ;
- (f) "Government " means the Government of Punjab ; and
- (g) "uneconomic cow" includes stray, unprotected, infirm, disabled, diseased or barren cow.

Prohibition of
cow slaughter.

3. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force or any usage or custom to the contrary, no person shall slaughter or cause to be slaughtered or offer or cause to be offered for slaughter any cow in any place in Punjab ;

Provided that killing of a cow by accident or in self defence will not be considered as slaughter under the Act.

Exceptions.

4. (1) Nothing in section 3 shall apply to the slaughter of a cow—

- (a) Whose suffering is such as to render its destruction desirable according to the certificate of the Veterinary Officer of the area or such other Officer of the Animal Husbandry Department as may be prescribed ; or
- (b) Which is suffering from any contagious or infectious disease notified as such by the Government ; or
- (c) Which is subjected to experimentation in the interest of medical and public health research by a certified medical practitioner of the Animal Husbandry Department.

(2) Where it is intended to slaughter a cow for the reasons specified in clause (a) or clause (b) of subsection (1) it shall be incumbent for a person doing so to obtain the prior permission in writing of the Veterinary Officer of the Area or such other Officer of the Animal Husbandry Department as may be prescribed:

1956 Pb. Act 15] THE PUNJAB PROHIBITION OF COW 441
SLAUGHTER ACT, 1955

5. Except as herein excepted and notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, no person shall sell or offer for sale or cause to sold beef or beef-products in any form except for such medical purposes as may be prescribed.

Prohibition of sale of beef.

6. There shall be established by the Government or by any local authority, when so directed by the Government, institutions for the reception, maintenance and care of uneconomic cows.

Establishment of institutions.

7. The State Government or the Local authority, if so authorised, may levy such fees as may be prescribed for care and maintenance of uneconomic cows in the institution.

Levy of charges of fees.

8. (1) Whoever contravenes or attempts to contravene or abets the contravention of the provisions of section 3 or 5 shall be guilty of an offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both.

Penalty.

(2) Whoever fails to lodge the information in the manner and within the time stated in subsection (2) of section 4 shall be guilty of an offence punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees or with both.

(3) In any trial for an offence punishable under subsection (1) or subsection (2) the burden of proving that the slaughtered cow belonged to the class specified in clause (a) or (b) of subsection (1) of section 4 shall be on the accused.

Burden of proof.

9. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, an offence punishable under subsection (1) of section 8 shall be cognisable and non-bailable.

Offences to be cognisable and non-bailable.

10. (1) The State Government may make rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

Power to make rules.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of foregoing powers, such rules may provide for—

- (a) the conditions and the circumstances under which cows may be slaughtered under subsection (1) of section 4 ;
- (b) the manner in which diseases shall be notified under subsection (1) (b) of section 4 ;
- (c) the manner in which permission shall be obtained under subsection (2) of section 4 ;
- (d) the form and contents of the certificate mentioned in clause (a) of subsection (1) of section 4 and the authority competent to grant it ;
- (e) the manner in which and conditions under which beef or beef-products are to be sold under section 5 ;
- (f) the matters relating to the establishment, maintenance, management, supervision, and control of institutions referred to in section 6 ;
- (g) the duties of any officer or authority having jurisdiction under this Act, the procedure to be followed by such officer or authority ; and
- (h) the matters which are to be and may be prescribed.