



**The West Bengal Prohibition of Smoking in Show Houses and Public Halls
Act, 1950**

Act 55 of 1950

Keyword(s):
Show House, Public Hall

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West Bengal Act LV of 1950¹

THE WEST BENGAL PROHIBITION OF SMOKING IN SHOW HOUSES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1950.

[16th November, 1950.]

An Act to prohibit smoking in showhouses and public halls in West Bengal.

WHEREAS it is expedient to prohibit smoking in show houses and public halls in West Bengal;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the West Bengal Prohibition of Smoking in Show Houses and Public Halls Act, 1950.

Short title,
extent and
commence-
ment.

(2) It extends to the whole of West Bengal.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, appoint.

2. In this Act,—

Definitions.

(a) "show house" means any building, or any roofed and enclosed structure, used ordinarily or occasionally for the demonstration or exhibition to the public, whether on payment or otherwise, of cinematographic films, dramatical, pantomime, or musical performances, dances, physical feats of human beings or animals, conjuring tricks or sleights of hand, boxing, wrestling, skating, billiards or table-tennis competitions, or any other indoor amusement or diversion whatsoever;

(b) "public hall" means a chamber or hall used ordinarily or occasionally as a place of public assembly or meeting.

3. Whoever smokes, during a demonstration, exhibition or meeting, in any part of a show house or public hall reserved for the audience or the spectators shall be punishable with fine which for a first offence may extend to twenty-five rupees and for a second or subsequent offence to one hundred rupees.

Penalty for
smoking in
show houses
and public
halls.

4. Any police officer not below the rank of sub-inspector may arrest without warrant any person committing in his presence an offence under section 3.

Power to
arrest
without
warrant.

¹For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see the *Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary*, dated the 12th September, 1950, Pt. IV, page 1155; for Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, see the Proceedings of the meetings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, held on the 28th and 29th September, 1950.

²This Act came into force on the 1st December, 1950, vide notification No. PH. 2862/2R-13/50, dated the 24th November, 1950, published in the *Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary*, of 1950, Part I, page 1491.

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(Sections 5, 6.)

Management
to post
notices or
exhibit
slides.

5. (1) Every person responsible for the management of a demonstration or exhibition in a show house and every person who controls the deliberations of a public assembly or meeting in a public hall, shall bring to the notice of the audience or the spectators, by posting notices prominently or by exhibiting slides, that any person smoking during a demonstration, exhibition or meeting in any part of such show house or public hall reserved for the audience or spectators shall be liable to arrest without warrant and to fine.

(2) Whoever contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

Power to
exclude
from the
operation of
the Act.

6. The State Government or any officer of the State Government authorised in this behalf may, by general or special order in writing, direct that the provisions of this Act shall not apply in respect of any show house or public hall or any demonstration, exhibition or public meeting therein.
