



## The Punjab Special Powers (Press) Act, 1956

Act 38 of 1956

**Keyword(s):**

**Public Harmony, Public Order, Printer, Publisher, Editor**

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

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

## SECTIONS

1. Short title, extent and commencement.
2. Power to control publications.
3. Power to prohibit entry into Punjab of newspapers.
4. Penalty.

**THE PUNJAB SPECIAL POWERS (PRESS) ACT, 1956.**(PUNJAB ACT NO. 38 OF 1956.)<sup>1</sup>

[Received the assent of the President on the 19th October, 1956 and was published in the Punjab Gazette, Extra., dated the 25th October, 1956.]

Amended, repealed or otherwise affected by,—

- (i) Punjab Act No. 40 of 1957<sup>2</sup>, published in Punjab Gazette, Extra., dated the 16th November, 1957.
- (ii) Punjab Ordinance No. I of 1960.
- (iii) Punjab Act No. 29 of 1960<sup>3</sup>, published in the Punjab Gazette, Extra, Legislative supplement Part I, dated the 28th November, 1960.
- (iv) A.O. 1968, published in the R.H.P. dated the 1st February, 1969, p. 158-161.
- (v) A.O. 1973, published in R.H.P. Extra, dated the 20th January, 1973. P. 91-112.

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

1. For statement of Objects and Reasons, see Punjab Gazette, Extra., dated the 28th August, 1956. The Act applies only to merged areas by virtue of section 88 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966. It was extended to erstwhile Pepsu areas by Punjab Act No. 5 of 1957.

2. For statement of Objects and Reasons, see Punjab Gazette, Extra., dated the 19th October, 1957.

3. For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Punjab Gazette Extra, dated the 14th October, 1960.

**1. Short title, extent and commencement.**—(1) This Act may be called the Punjab Special Powers (Press) Act, 1956.

(2) It extends to <sup>1</sup>[the territories specified in sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966.]

(3) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Power to control publications.**—(1) The <sup>2</sup>[State Government] or any authority so authorised in this behalf if satisfied that such action is necessary for the purposes 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, <sup>3</sup>[unless before the expiry of such period the <sup>2</sup>[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 <sup>2</sup>[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 <sup>2</sup>[State Government] in its behalf and published only in accordance with the directions given thereat.

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1. Subs. by A.O. 1968, for the words "the State of Punjab."

2. Subs. for the expression 'Central Government' (which was subs. for 'State Government' by A.O. 1968) by A.O. 1973.

3. Added by Punjab Act No. 29 of 1960, Sec. 2.

(2) In the event of disobedience of an order under this section, the <sup>1</sup>[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. Power to prohibit entry into <sup>2</sup>[the territories specified in sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966].—<sup>3</sup>(1) The <sup>1</sup>[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 of 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 <sup>2</sup>[the territories specified in sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966] of any newspaper, periodical, leaflet or other publication :**

Provided that no such order shall remain in force for more than two months from the making thereof, <sup>4</sup>[unless before the expiry of such period the <sup>1</sup>[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 aggrieved by such order may, within ten days of the passing thereof, make a representation to the <sup>1</sup>[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 <sup>1</sup>[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. Penalty.—**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.

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1. Subs. for the expression "Central Government" (which was subs. for "State Government" by A.O. 1968) by A.O. 1973

2. Subs. by A.O. 1968 for the word "Punjab."

3. Subs. by Punjab Act No. 40 of 1957, Sec. 2.

4. Added by Punjab Act No. 29 of 1960, sec. 2.