



The East Punjab Damaged Areas Act, 1949

Act 10 of 1949

Keyword(s):

Building, Damaged Area, Debris, Municipality, Small Town, Salvaged Property

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THE EAST PUNJAB DAMAGED AREAS ACT, 1949

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THE EAST PUNJAB DAMAGED AREAS ACT, 1949**EAST PUNJAB ACT NO. 10 OF 1949**

[Received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 9th April, 1949, and was first published in the East Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary) of April 11, 1949].

1	2	3	4
Year	No.	Short title	Whether repealed or otherwise affected by legislation
1949	10	The East Punjab Damaged Areas Act, 1949	Amended in part by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950

An Act to provide for salvage and disposal of property and clearance of debris in riot-stricken urban areas

1. (1) This Act may be called the East Punjab Damaged Areas Act, 1949. Short title, extent and commencement.

(2) It extends to all urban areas in ²[Punjab].

(3) This section and sections 2 and 3 shall come into force at once; and the ³[State] Government may by notification direct that the other provisions of this Act or any provision thereof specified in the notification, shall come into force in any urban area on such date as it may by notification appoint.

¹For Statement of Objects and Reasons see *East Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary)*, 1949, page 54-G; for proceedings in the Assembly, see *East Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates*, Volume III, 1949, pages (20) 46 to (20) 47.

²Substituted for the words "East Punjab" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

³Substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

Definitions

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

- (a) “building” means a building as defined in sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 (hereinafter referred to as the Municipal Act); Punjab Act, III of 1911.
- (b) “damaged area” means any area which is for the time being declared by notification under section 3, to be a damaged area;
- (c) “debris” means any building material of a building in a damaged area, which has been destroyed, damaged or demolished since the 3rd of March 1947, or which may be destroyed, damaged or demolished after the date of the notification under section 3 in respect thereof, but it does not include the building material of such portion of any building as is substantially intact;
- (d) “Municipality” means a municipality as defined in sub-section (9) of section 3 of the Punjab Municipal Act; Punjab Act, III of 1911.
- (e) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules under this Act;
- (f) “small town” means a small town as defined in clause (e) of section 2 of the Punjab Small Towns Act (hereinafter referred to as the towns Act); Punjab Act II of 1922.
- (g) “Salved property” means any movable property other than debris, which has been salvaged, recovered or removed from any damaged area since the 3rd of March, 1947, under the orders of the ¹[State] Government, a Local authority or any other competent authority

¹Substituted for the word “Provincial” by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

and which is lying undisposed of on the date of the notification under section 3, or any other such property which may be salvaged, recovered or removed from any damaged area thereafter or any other property which may be declared to be salvaged property by the ¹[State] Government by notification ; and

(h) "Urban area" means any area administered by a municipal committee, a town committee or a notified area Committee.

3. The ¹[State] Government may, by notification, declare any urban area or any portion thereof to be a damaged area, and may, in the like manner, add to, amend, vary or rescind any such notification.

Power to declare areas to be damaged areas.

4. (1) the ¹[State] Government may, by notification declare that—

Power to add to amend or vary the provisions of the Municipal Act and the Towns Act for purposes of damaged areas.

Punjab Act, III of 1911.

Punjab Act, II of 1922.

(a) the provisions of Municipal Act, for purposes of its application to the damaged area of any urban area other than a small town;

(b) the provisions of the Towns Act for purposes of its application to the damaged area of any small town;

shall be added to, amended or varied in such manner as may be specified in the notification.

(2) On the issue of a notification under sub-section (1), the provisions of the Municipal Act or the Towns Act, as the case may be, shall, for the purposes aforesaid, be deemed to have been added to, amended or varied in the manner specified in the notification.

5. (1) When on the issue of a notification under the last preceding section, any provision of the Towns Act ceases to have effect in the damaged area of a small town, or any provision of the Municipal Act ceases to have effect in the damaged area of any other urban area the ¹[State] Government may, without prejudice to any power which it

Power to make orders in respect of damaged areas in urban areas.

¹Substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

exercise under the last preceding section, make orders in place of or in substitution for the said provisions of the Municipal Act or the Towns Act.

(2) All orders made under sub-section (1) shall be published by notification, and shall on such publication have effect in the damaged area concerned as if enacted in the Municipal Act or the Towns Act, as the case may be.

(3) Any order which has effect as if enacted in the Municipal Act shall be deemed to be a provision of the said Act, for the purposes of its extension to the damaged area of any notified area under clause (f) of sub-section (1) of section 242 of the said Act.

Power to make retrospective notification and orders.

6. The ¹[State] Government may direct that any notification issued under sub-section (1) of section 4 or order made under sub-section (1) of section 5 shall have effect from a date not earlier than the 3rd day of March, 1947, and such notification or order shall take effect accordingly.

Possession of debris and salvaged property pending its disposal.

7. (1) The ¹[State] Government may prescribe the authority in whom and the manner in which possession of any debris or salvaged property shall vest pending its disposal in accordance with or under the provisions of this Act.

(2) Any person in possession of debris or salvaged property not belonging to him, otherwise than in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1) shall forthwith report the fact to the Magistrate of the District and shall deposit such property in such manner as may be prescribed.

(3) Whoever contravenes the provisions of sub-section (2) shall be deemed to have committed an offence punishable under section 403 of the Indian Penal Code. Act XLV of 1860

Record of debris and salvaged property to be prepared.

8. (1) The ¹[State] Government may prepare or cause to be prepared records in writing with such precision as may be possible, and giving such details as may be prescribed, relating to the debris and the salvaged property of each damaged area.

¹Substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

(2) An entry made in a record prepared in accordance with or under the provisions of this Act shall be presumed to be true until the contrary is proved or a new entry is lawfully substituted thereof.

(3) A record prepared under sub-section (1) shall on its completion, be open to inspection by the public, in such manner as may be prescribed by the ¹[State] Government, and the District Magistrate shall cause public notice of the date of its completion to be given at convenient places in the urban area in which the damaged area to which it relates is situate.

9. (1) The ¹[State] Government or any authority empowered in this behalf by the ¹[State] Government may, by general or special order, direct that any salved property which is subject to speedy or natural decay and an entry relating to which has been incorporated in the record prepared under the last preceding section shall be sold. Power to sell salved property in certain cases.

(2) The details of any such sale including the price fetched by the property sold shall be incorporated in the said record.

10. (1) The ¹[State] Government may prescribe the manner in which debris shall be dealt with or disposed of, and the manner in which the proceeds thereof, if any, shall be distributed. Power to dispose of debris.

(2) In case of any doubt whether certain property is debris or not a certificate granted in this behalf by such authority as may be prescribed shall be final.

11. The ¹[State] Government may, by notification, appoint a Claims Commissioner for the purposes of this Act for any damaged area. Appointment of Claims Commissioners.

12. (1) Any person interested in any salved property or any proceeds thereof may within fifteen days from the date of completion of the record relating to it Claims to salved property.

¹Substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

under section 8 or such longer period not exceeding 30 days, as the Claims Commissioner may allow, apply to the Claims Commissioner of the damaged area concerned for the restoration to him of any salvaged property to which he may be entitled, or for the payment to him of the proceeds thereof.

(2) The application under sub-section (1) shall be in such form and contain such particulars, as may be prescribed.

Power of Claims Commissioner to dispose of claims and restore salvaged property.

13. (1) A Claims Commissioner on the receipt of the claim under section 12 may, after such notice to any other person concerned, and after such enquiry as he may deem fit, make an order accepting or rejecting the claim in whole or in part and may on accepting the claim in whole or in part make over any salvaged property or any proceeds thereof, to any person appearing to him to be entitled to receive the property or the proceeds.

(2) The making over of any salvaged property or any proceeds thereof to a person specified in an order under sub-section (1) shall be a full discharge of the Government or any other person or authority holding it under section 7, but shall not prejudice any rights in respect of the said property which any other person may be entitled by due process of law to enforce against the person to whom the property has been delivered.

Claims Commissioner to be a court for certain purposes.

14. For the purposes of section 13, the Claims Commissioner shall have the same powers of enforcing the attendance of witnesses and compelling the production of evidence as are vested in a court by the Civil Procedure Code, 1908. Act of 1908

Power to impose fines and award compensation in respect of frivolous claims.

15. Where any claim to any salvaged property or any proceeds thereof, whether made under section 12 or in the course of any proceedings before him, is dismissed or rejected, the Claims Commissioner may if he is of opinion that the claim was false, frivolous or vexatious, impose a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees on the person making it, and may, while doing so direct that the whole or a

portion of it, if recovered, shall be paid by way of compensation to any person who has opposed the claim.

16. A Claims Commissioner and any person acting under his orders for the purposes of this Act, shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

Act XLV
1860.

Certain persons
to be public
servants.

17. Any salved property or any proceeds thereof in respect of which no claim has been received in accordance with the provisions of this Act, may be disposed of by the ¹[State] Government as prescribed.

Power to dispose
of unclaimed
property.

18. (1) No prosecution, suit or other proceeding whatsoever shall lie against the ¹[State] Government or any officer thereof or any local authority or any officer thereof, in respect of any action relating to debris or salvaged property including its delivery to any person between the 3rd March, 1947, and the date of the notification under section 3 relating to the damaged areas concerned.

General indemnity

(2) No prosecution, suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against any local authority or against any officer thereof without the previous sanction of the ¹[State] Government, for failure to comply with any provisions of the Municipal Act or the Towns Act since the 3rd March, 1947, till such date as may be notified by the ¹[State] Government.

Punjab
Act.
III
of
1911.
Punjab
Act, II
of
1922.

19. No civil or criminal proceedings shall be instituted for anything done or intended to be done under this Act or any loss or damage caused to or in respect of any property whereof possession has been taken under this Act.

Indemnity in respect
of action
under this Act.

20. Except as provided in this Act, no proceeding or order taken or made under this Act shall be called in question by any court.

Saving
orders.
as to

¹Substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

Power to make rules.

21. (1) The ¹[State] Government may make ²rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely :—

- (a) vesting of possession of debris or salvaged property pending its disposal;
- (a) depositing of salvaged property under sub-section (2) of section 7 ;
- (c) preparation and form of the records under section 8 and their publication ;
- (d) disposal of debris or the proceeds thereof under section 10 ;
- (e) appointment of authority under sub-section (2) of section 10 ;
- (f) the form and contents of the application under section 12 ;
- (g) maintenance of records by a Claims Commissioner ; and
- (h) disposal of unclaimed salvaged property or proceeds thereof.

¹Substituted for the word " Provincial " by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 195

²For rules, see Punjab Government notification No. 8596-LG(A)-5/011-10114 dated 1st December, 1950, published in *Punjab Government Gazette*, 1950. Part I-A, pages 543—45.