

THE UNLAWFUL ASSOCIATIONS ACT.

[INDIA ACT XIV, 1908.]

(11th December, 1908.)

1-14. * * * *

PART II.

UNLAWFUL ASSOCIATIONS.

Definitions.

15. In this Part-

(1) "association" means any combination or body of persons, whether the same be known by any distinctive name or not; and

(2) "unlawful association" means an association-

(a) which encourages or aids persons to commit acts of violence or intimidation or of which the members habitually commit such acts, or

(b) which has been declared to be unlawful by the President of the Union under the powers hereby conferred.

Power to declare association unlawful.

16. If the President of the Union is of opinion that any association interferes or has for its object interference with the administration of the law or with the maintenance of law and order, or that it constitutes a danger to the public peace, the President of the Union may, by notification in the Gazette, declare such association to be unlawful.

Penalties.

17. (1) Whoever is a member of an unlawful association, or takes part in meetings of any such association, or contributes or receives or solicits any contribution for the purpose of any such association, or in any way assists the operations of any such association, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term [which shall not be less than two years and more than three years and shall also be liable to fine].

(2) Whoever manages or assists in the management of an unlawful association, or promotes or assists in promoting a meeting of any such association, or of any members thereof as such members, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term [which shall not be less than three years and more than five years and shall also be liable to fine].

(3) * * * *

Power to notify and take possession of places used for the purposes of an unlawful association.

17A. (1) The President of the Union may, by notification in the Gazette, notify any place which in his opinion is used for the purposes of an unlawful association.

Explanation.- For the purposes of this section "place" includes a house or building, or part thereof, or a tent or vessel.

(2) The District Magistrate, or any officer authorized in this behalf in writing by the District Magistrate, may thereupon take possession of the notified place and evict therefrom any person found therein, and shall forthwith make a report of the taking possession to the President of the Union:

Provided that where such place contains any apartment occupied by women or children, reasonable time and facilities shall be afforded for their withdrawal with the least possible inconvenience.

(3) A notified place whereof possession is taken under sub-section (2) shall be deemed to remain in the possession of Government so long as the notification under sub section (1) in respect thereof remains in force.

Movable property found in a notified place.

17B. (1) The District Magistrate, or officer taking possession of a notified place, shall also take possession of all movable property found therein and shall make a list thereof in the presence of two respectable witnesses.

(2) If, in the opinion of the District Magistrate, any articles specified in the list are or may be used for the purposes of the unlawful association, he may proceed subject to the provisions hereafter contained in this section to order such articles to be forfeited to the State.

(3) All other articles specified in the list shall be delivered to the person whom he considers to be entitled to possession thereof, or, if no such person is found, shall be disposed of in such manner as the District Magistrate may direct.

(4) The District Magistrate shall publish, as nearly as may be in the manner provided in section 87 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the publication of a proclamation, a notice specifying the articles which it is proposed to forfeit and calling upon any person claiming that any article is not liable to forfeiture to submit in writing within fifteen days any representation he desires to make against the forfeiture of the article.

(5) Where any such representation is accepted by the District Magistrate, he shall deal with the article concerned in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (3).

(6) Where any such representation is rejected, the representation, with the decision thereon, shall be forwarded to the District Judge, in the case of a decision by a District Magistrate, and no order of forfeiture shall be made until the District Judge has adjudicated upon the representation. Where the decision is not confirmed the articles shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (3).

(7) In making an adjudication under sub-section (6) the procedure to be followed shall be the procedure laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure for the investigation of claims, so far as it can be made to apply, and the decision of the District Judge shall be final.

(8) If the article seized is livestock or is of a perishable nature, the District Magistrate may, if he thinks it expedient, order the immediate sale thereof, and the proceeds of the sale shall be disposed of in the manner herein provided for the disposal of other articles.

Trespass upon notified places.

17C. Any person who enters or remains upon a notified place without the permission of the District Magistrate, or of an officer authorized by him in this behalf, shall be deemed to commit criminal trespass.

The relinquishment of property.

17D. Before a notification under sub-section (1) of section 17A is cancelled, the President of the Union shall give such general or special directions as he may deem requisite regulating the relinquishment by Government of possession of notified places.

Power to forfeit funds of an unlawful association.

17E. (1) Where the President of the Union is satisfied, after such inquiry as he may think fit, that any monies, securities or credits are being used or are intended to be used for the purposes of an unlawful association, the President of the Union may, by order in writing, declare such monies, securities or credits to be forfeited to the State.

(2) A copy of an order under sub-section (1) may be served on the person having custody of the monies, securities or credits, and on the service of such copy such person shall pay or deliver the monies, securities or credits to the order of the President of the Union:

Provided that, in the case of monies or securities, a copy of the order may be endorsed for execution to such officer as the President of the Union may select, and such officer shall have power to enter upon and search for such monies and securities in any premises where they may reasonably be suspected to be, and to seize the same.

(3) Before an order of forfeiture is made under sub-section (1) the President of the Union shall give written notice to the person (if any) in whose custody the monies, securities or credits are found of his intention to forfeit, and any person aggrieved thereby may within fifteen days from the issue of such notice file an application to the District Judge in a District to establish that the monies, securities or credits or any of them are not liable to forfeiture, and if any such application is made, no order of forfeiture shall be passed in respect of the monies, securities or credits concerned until such application has been disposed of, and unless the District Judge has decided that the monies, securities or credits are liable to forfeiture.

(4) In disposing of an application under sub-section (3) the procedure to be followed shall be the procedure laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure for the investigation of claims, so far as it can be made to apply, and the decision of the District Judge shall be final.

(5) Where the President of the Union has reason to believe that any person has custody of any monies, securities or credits which are being used or are intended to be used for the purposes of an unlawful association, the President of the Union may, by order in writing prohibit such person from paying, delivering, transferring or otherwise dealing in any manner whatsoever with the same, save in accordance with the written orders of the President of the Union. A copy of such order shall be served upon the person to whom it is directed.

(6) The President of the Union may endorse a copy of an order under sub-section (3) for investigation to any officer he may select, and such copy shall be warrant whereunder such officer may enter upon any premises of the person to whom the order is directed, examine the books of such person, search for monies and securities, and make inquiries from such person, or any officer, agent or servant of such person, touching the origin of and dealings in any monies, securities or credits which the investigating officer may suspect are being used or are intended to be used for the purposes of an unlawful association.

- (7) A copy of an order under this section may be served in the manner provided in the Code of Criminal Procedure for the service of a summons, or, where the person to be served is a corporation, company, bank or association of persons, it may be served on any secretary, director or other officer or person concerned with the management thereof, or by leaving it or sending it by post addressed to the corporation, company, bank or association at its registered office, or, where there is no registered office, at the place where it carries on business.
- (8) Where an order of forfeiture is made under sub-section (1) in respect of any monies, securities or credits in respect of which a prohibitory order has been made under sub-section (3), such order of forfeiture shall have effect from the date of the prohibitory order, and the person to whom the prohibitory order was directed shall pay or deliver the whole of the monies, securities, or credits forfeited to the order of the President of the Union.
- (9) Where any person liable under this section to pay or deliver any monies, securities or credits to the order of the President of the Union refuses or fails to comply with any direction of the President of the Union in this behalf, the President of the Union may recover from such person, as arrears of land-revenue or as a fine, the amount of such monies or credits or the market value of such securities.
- (10) In this section, "security" includes a document whereby any person acknowledges that he is under a legal liability to pay money, or whereunder any person obtains a legal right to the payment of money; and the market value of any security means the value as fixed by any officer or person deputed by the President of the Union in this behalf.
- (11) Except so far as is necessary for the purposes of any proceeding under this section, no information obtained in the course of any investigation made under sub-section (6) shall be divulged by any officer of Government without the consent of the President of the Union.

Jurisdiction barred.

17F. Every report of the taking possession of property and every declaration of forfeiture made, or purporting to be made under this Act shall, as against all persons, be conclusive proof that the property specified therein has been taken possession of by Government or has been forfeited, as the case may be, and save as provided in sections 17B and 17E no proceeding purporting to be taken under section 17A, 17B, 17C, 17D, or 17E, shall be called in question by any Court, and no civil or criminal proceeding shall be instituted against any person for anything in good faith done or intended to be done under the said sections or against Government or person acting on behalf of or by authority of Government for any loss or damage caused to or in respect of any property whereof possession has been taken by Government under this Act.

Continuance of association.

18. An association shall not be deemed to have ceased to exist by reason only of any formal act of dissolution or change of title, but shall be deemed to continue so long as any actual combination for the purposes of such association continues between any members thereof.