

THE EPIDEMIC DISEASES ACT, 1897

Act No. 3 of 1897¹

An Act to provide for the better prevention of the spread of Dangerous Epidemic Diseases.

[4th February, 1897.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the better prevention of the spread of dangerous epidemic disease; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1^a. (1) This Act may be called the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. Short title and extent.
*(2) It extends to the whole of India except ²[the territories which immediately before the 1st November, 1956, were comprised in Part B States.]³

2. (1) When at any time the ⁴[State Government] is satisfied Power to take special measures and prescribe regulations as to dangerous epidemic disease. that ⁵[the State] or any part thereof is visited by, or threatened with, an outbreak of any dangerous epidemic disease, the ⁶[State Government], if ⁷[it] thinks that the ordinary provisions of the law for the time being in force are insufficient for the purpose, may take, or require or empower any person to take, such measures and, by public notice, prescribe such temporary regulations to be observed by the public or by any person or class of persons as ⁸[it] shall deem necessary to prevent the outbreak of such disease or the spread thereof, and may determine in what manner and by whom any expenses incurred (including compensation if any) shall be defrayed.

This Act has been amended in its application to—

(1) the Punjab by the Epidemic Diseases (Punjab Amendment) Act, 1944 (Punjab Act 3 of 1944); in East Punjab by East Punjab Act 1 of 1947;

(2) the C. P. and Berar by the C. P. and Berar Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Act, 1945 (C. P. and Berar Act 4 of 1945).

¹ Subs. by the A. O. 1950.

² Subs. by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 2) Order, 1956 for "Part B States".

³ The word "and" at the end of sub-section (2), and sub-section (3), rep. by Act 10 of 1914, s. 3 and Sch. II.

⁴ For notifications issued under this section, see different local Rules and Orders.

⁵ Subs. by the A. O. 1937, for "G. G. in C."

⁶ Subs., *ibid.*, for "India".

⁷ Subs., *ibid.*, for "he".

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions, the [State Government] may take measures and prescribe regulations for—

- (b) the inspection of persons travelling by railway or otherwise, and the segregation, in hospital, temporary accommodation or otherwise, of persons suspected by the inspecting officer of being infected with any such disease.

Powers of Central Government.

[2A. When the Central Government is satisfied that India or any part thereof is visited by, or threatened with, an outbreak of any dangerous epidemic disease and that the ordinary provisions of the law for the time being in force are insufficient to prevent the outbreak of such disease or the spread thereof, the Central Government may take measures and prescribe regulations for the inspection of any ship or vessel leaving or arriving at any port in [the territories to which this Act extends] and for such detention thereof, or of any person intending to sail therein, or arriving thereby, as may be necessary.]

Penalty.

3. Any person disobeying any regulation or order made under this Act shall be deemed to have committed an offence punishable under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code.

Protection to persons acting under Act.

4. No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything done or in good faith intended to be done under this Act.

* Subs. by the A. O. 1937, for "G. O. in C."
 * Paragraph (n) omitted, *ibid*.
 * Sub-section (3) omitted by Act 38 of 1920, s. 2 and Sch. I.
 * Subs. by the A. O. 1937, for s. 2A ins. by Act 38 of 1920, s. 2 and Sch. I.
 * Subs. by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 2) Order, 1956 for "a Part A State or a Part C State".