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The Punjab Disturbed Areas Act, 1983

(ACT No. 32 of 1983)

[*As on the* 1*st July*, 2026]

THE PUNJAB DISTURBED AREAS ACT, 1983

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTIONS

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THE PUNJAB DISTURBED AREAS ACT, 1983

ACT NO. 32 OF 1983

[8*th December*, 1983.]

An Act to make better provision for the suppression of disorder and for the restoration and maintenance of public order in disturbed areas in Punjab.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Thirty-fourth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. Short title, extent and commencement.—(*1*) This Act may be called The Punjab Disturbed Areas Act, 1983.

(*2*) It extends to the whole of the State of Punjab.

(*3*) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 7th day of October, 1983.

2. Definition.—In this Act, "disturbed area" means an area which is for the time being declared by notification under section 3 to be a disturbed area.

3. Powers to declare areas to be disturbed areas.—The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare that the whole or any part of any district of Punjab as may be specified in the notification, is a disturbed area.

4. Power to fire upon persons contravening certain orders.—Any Magistrate or Police Officer not below the rank of Sub-Inspector or Havildar in case of the Armed Branch of the Police may, if he is of opinion that it is necessary so to do for the maintenance of public order, after giving such due warning, as he may consider necessary, fire upon, or otherwise use force, even to the causing of death, against any person who is acting in contravention of any law or order for the time being in force in the disturbed area, prohibiting the assembly of five or more persons or the carrying of weapons or of things capable of being used as weapons or of fire-arms, ammunition or explosive substances.

5. Powers to destroy arms dump, fortified positions, etc.—Any Magistrate or Police Officer not below the rank of a Sub-Inspector may, if he is of the opinion that it is necessary so to do, destroy any arms dump, prepared or fortified position or shelter from which armed attacks arc made or are likely to be made or are attempted to be made or any structure used as training camp for armed volunteers or utilized as a hide-out by armed gangs or absconders wanted for any offence.

6. Protection of persons acting under sections 4 and 5.—No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall be instituted except with the previous sanction of the [1][Central Government] against any person in respect of anything done or purporting to be done in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 4 and 5.

7. Repeal and saving.—(*1*) The Punjab Disturbed Areas Ordinance, 1983 (5 of 1983), is hereby repealed.

(*2*) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

1. Subs. by President Act 2 of 1989, s. 2, for "State Government" (w.e.f. 3-4-1989).

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The activities of the extremists, terrorists and secessionist elements in the State of Punjab and the Union territory of Chandigarh have These persons have been indulging methods and encouraging illegal police authorities in Punjab with been a matter of serious concern. in violent activities, terrorist activities. In order to arm the additional as to deal with the situation which had arisen powers a result of these activities and to restore conditions of peace and normaley in Punjab, the President promulgated on the 7th day of October, 1983. the Punjab Disturbed Areas Ordinance, 1983 (No. 5 of 1983).

2. The Bill seeks to replace the Ordinance.

P. C. SETHI.

NEW DEIHI;
The 8th November, 1983.

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