

THE EPIDEMIC DISEASES ACT, 1897

[Act No. 3 of 1897 dated 4th. February, 1897]¹

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

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the better prevention of the spread of dangerous epidemic disease;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. Short title and extent

(1) This Act may be called the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.

²[(2) It extends to the whole of India except ³[the territories which, immediately before the 1st November, 1956, were comprised in Part B States.]] ⁴[***]

⁵[***]

2. Power to take special measures and prescribe regulations as to dangerous epidemic disease

(1) When at any time the ⁶[State Government] is satisfied that ⁷[the State] or any part thereof is visited by, or threatened with, an outbreak of any dangerous epidemic disease, the ⁶[State Government], if ⁸[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.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions, the ⁶[State Government] may take measures and prescribe regulations for-

⁹[***]

(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.

¹⁰[***]

11[2A. Powers of Central Government

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 ¹²[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.]

3. Penalty

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 (45 of 1860).

4. Protection to persons acting under Act

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.

Foot Notes

1. This Act has been amended in its application to the Punjab by the Epidemic Diseases (Punjab Amendment) Act, 1944, in East Punjab by East Punjab Act No. 1 of 1947, the C. P. and Berar by the C.P. and Berar Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Act, 1945.

The Act has been extended to the whole of Madhya Pradesh by M.P. Act No. 23 of 1958, the transferred territories of Punjab by Punjab Act No. 8 of 1961, to Dadra and Nagar Haveli, w.e.f. 1st. July, 1965 by Reg. 6 of 1963, to Lakshadweep, w.e.f. 1st. October, 1967, to the Union territory of Pondicherry by Act No. 26 of 1968.

The Act has been repealed in its application to Bellary District by Mysore Act No. 14 of 1955.

2. Substituted by the A.O. 1950.
3. Substituted by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 2) Order, 1956, for the words "Part B States".
4. The word "and" at the end of sub-section (2) omitted by Act No. 10 of 1914.
5. Sub-section (3) omitted by Act No. 10 of 1914.
6. Substituted by the A.O. 1937, for the words "G.G. in C."
7. Substituted by the A.O. 1937, for the words "India".
8. Substituted by the A.O. 1937, for the words "he".
9. Paragraph (a) omitted by the A.O. 1937.
10. Sub-section (3) omitted by Act No. 38 of 1920.
11. Substituted by the A.O. 1937 for former section 2A.
12. Substituted by the Adaptation of laws (No. 2) Order, 1956, for the words "a Part A State or a Part C State".