

**THE EAST PUNJAB REFUGEES (REGISTRATION OF
LAND CLAIMS) ACT, 1948.**

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THE EAST PUNJAB REFUGEES (REGISTRATION OF
LAND CLAIMS) ACT, 1948.

EAST PUNJAB ACT No. XII OF 1948.

[Received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 1st April, 1948, and was first published in the East Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary) of April, 1948.]

1	2	3	4
Year	No.	Short title	Whether repealed or otherwise affected by legislation
1948 ..	XII	East Punjab Refugees (Registration of Land Claims) Act, 1948	Amended in part by the Adpatation of Laws Order, 1950
			Amended in part by the Adaptation of Laws (Third Amendment) Order, 1951
			Amended in part by Punjab Act XIV of 1952 ^a
			Amended by Punjab Act, XXV of 1964 ^b Amended by the Punjab Reorganisation (Chandigarh) (Adaptation of Laws on State and Concurrent Subjects) Order, 1968.

^aFor Statement of Objects and Reasons, see East Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), 1948, page 176; for proceedings in the Assembly, see East Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume II, 1948, pages 196—207 and 677-78.

^bFor Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), dated 4th July, 1952, page 512; for proceedings in the Assembly, see Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates, 1952.

^cFor Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), 1964, page 935-37.

It is hereby enacted as follows :—

Short title, and extent.

1. (1) This Act may be called the East Punjab Refugees (Registration of Land Claims) Act, 1948.

(2) It extends to the whole of ¹[Union Territory of Chandigarh].

Interpretation.

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

(a) “claim” means a statement of loss or damage suffered by a refugee since the 1st day of March, 1947, in respect of his land within the territory now comprised in the Provinces of ²[Punjab in Pakistan], North-West Frontier Province, Sind or Baluchistan, or in any State adjacent to the aforesaid Provinces and acceding to * * 3 * * * Pakistan ;

(b) “land” means land which is not occupied as the site of any building in a town or village and is occupied or let for agricultural purposes or for purposes subservient to agriculture or for pasture, and includes—

(i) the sites of buildings and other structures on such land ;

(ii) a share in the profit of an estate or holding ;

(iii) any dues or any fixed percentage of land revenue payable by an inferior landowner to a superior landowner ;

(iv) a right to receive rent ; and

(v) any right of occupancy.

¹Substituted for the word “Punjab” by the Punjab (Adaptation of Laws on State and Concurrent Subjects) Reorganisation (Chandigarh) Order, 1968.

²Substituted for the words “West Punjab” by the Adaptation of Laws (Third Amendment) Order, 1951.

³The words “the Dominion of” omitted by the Adaptation of Laws (Third Amendment) Order, 1951.

XVI of
1887.

V of
1912.

XVII
of
1887.

(c) "land-holder" means an owner of land or a tenant having a right of occupancy under the Punjab Tenancy Act, 1887 [XVI of 1887] or a tenant as defined in section 3 of the Colonization of Government Lands Act, 1912 [Punjab Act V of 1912] and such other holder or grantee of land as may be specified by the ¹[Central Government] ;

(d) "refugee" means a land-holder in the territories now comprised in the Province of ²[Punjab in Pakistan], or who or whose ancestor migrated as a colonist ³[from the undivided Punjab] since 1901, to the Provinces of North-West Frontier Province, Sind or Baluchistan or to any State adjacent to any of the aforesaid Provinces and acceding to ⁴ * * * * Pakistan, and who has since the 1st day of March, 1947, abandoned or been made to abandon his land in the said territories on account of civil disturbances, or the fear of such disturbances, or the partition of the country ;

(e) "Regist : in? Officer" means a Land Claims Officer or Assistant Land Claims Officers appointed under this Act and includes any Revenue Officer as defined in section 6 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act [Act No. XVII of 1887] within the area of his jurisdiction ; and

(f) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act ;

⁵[(g) "Deputy Commissioner" means a Deputy Commissioner of the District and includes an Additional Deputy Commissioner or other officer appointed by the ¹[Central Government]

¹Substituted for the words "State Government" by the Punjab Reorganisation (Chandigarh) (Adaptation of Laws on State and Concurrent Subjects) Order, 1968.

²Substituted for the words "West Punjab" by the Adaptation of Laws (Third Amendment) Order, 1951.

³Substituted for the words "from the Punjab" by the Adaptation of Laws (Third Amendment) Order, 1951.

⁴The words "the Dominion of" omitted by the Adaptation of Laws (Third Amendment) Order, 1951

⁵Added by Punjab Act XIV of 1952, section 2.

to perform in any District or Districts or parts thereof the functions of a Deputy Commissioner under this Act.]

Power to appoint
Land Claims
Officers.

3. For the purpose of registering claims under this Act the ¹[Central Government] may, by notification, appoint one or more Land Claims Officers and Assistant Claims Officers and may specify the local limits of their jurisdiction.

Registration
land claims.

of 4. (1) A refugee may submit to the Registering Officer on the prescribed form and supported by an affidavit an application for the registration of his claim in respect of his land abandoned by him, or which he has been made to abandon :

Provided that a refugee who has previously submitted a claim under Ordinance VII of 1948, to any other authority competent to register such claim shall not submit another claim in respect of the same land to the Registering Officer.

(2) The Registering Officer shall thereupon register his claim.

Powers.

5. The Registering Officer shall have all the powers of a Civil Court for the purpose of attesting affidavits under this Act.

Protection of
action taken under
this Act.

6. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the ¹[Central Government] or the Registering Officer or any person acting under his directions in respect of anything done or purporting to have been done in pursuance of this Act.

Offences
penalties.
and

7. Any person who—

- (a) submits with regard to his claim under this Act any information which is false ; or
- (b) being a public servant as defined in section 21 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 [Act XLV of 1860] abets the commission of an offence under ^{XLV}₁₈₆₀ clause (a) above ;

shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment which may

¹Substituted for the words "State Government" by the Punjab Reorganisation (Chandigarh) (Adaptation of Laws on State and Concurrent Subjects) Order, 1968.

extend to five years or with fine up to Rs 5,000 or with both.

8. (1) Any person who in the opinion of a Deputy Commissioner has submitted with regard to his claim any information which is false shall in addition to any other punishment to which he may be liable, be by order in writing of the Deputy Commissioner, disqualified from being allotted any land by the ¹[Central Government], or, if he has already been allotted land by the ¹[Central Government], such allotment shall be, by order in writing of the Deputy Commissioner cancelled either in whole or in part. Additional Penalties.

(2) Any person aggrieved by an order passed by a Deputy Commissioner under sub-section (1) may, within thirty days of the making of the order, appeal against that order to the Financial Commissioner.

(3) The order of the Financial Commissioner on such appeal, and subject only to such order, the order of the Deputy Commissioner shall be final and conclusive and shall not be liable to be called in question in any court.

9. (1) All offences under this Act shall be triable by ^{Procedure.} a ²[Judicial Magistrate] of the first class in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 [V of 1898].

(2) No prosecution for any offence punishable under this Act shall be instituted except on a complaint in writing by the District Magistrate of the district in which that offence was committed.

10. The ¹[Central Government] may by notification make such ³rules as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for putting into effect the provisions of this Act.

11. The East Punjab Refugees (Registration of Land Claims) Ordinance No. VII of 1948 is hereby repealed and any rules made, notification issued, anything done, any action taken in exercise of the powers conferred by or under the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been made, issued, done or taken in exercise of the powers conferred by, or under this Act as if this Act had come into force on 3rd day of March, 1948. Repeal.

¹Substituted for the words 'State Government' by the Punjab Reorganisation (Chandigarh) (Adaptation of Laws on State and Concurrent Subjects) order 1968.

²Substituted for the word "Magistrate" by Punjab Act, No. 25 of 1964.

³For rules framed under the East Punjab Ordinance No. VII of 1948, see East Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), dated 20th March, 1948, page 295.