

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

**THE PUNJAB GOOD CONDUCT PRISONERS (TEMPORARY
RELEASE) ACT, 1962.**

(PUNJAB ACT NO. 11 OF 1962)
(As amended upto the 14th May, 2026)



2026

THE PUNJAB GOOD CONDUCT PRISONERS (TEMPORARY RELEASE) ACT, 1962.

Sections

CONTENTS

1. Short title extent and commencement.
2. Definitions.
3. Temporary release of prisoners on certain grounds
4. Temporary release of prisoners on furlough.
5. Exclusion of certain days in computing period under sections 3 and 4.
- 5A. Prisoners not entitled to be released in certain cases.
6. Cases where consultation with District Magistrate not necessary or where prisoners are not to be released.
7. Journey expenses of poor prisoners to be borne by State Government.
8. Liability of prisoner to surrender on expiry of release period and consequences of overstaying.
9. Penalty for failure to surrender.
10. Power to make rules.
11. Repeal and saving.

**¹THE PUNJAB GOOD CONDUCT PRISONERS (TEMPORARY
RELEASE) ACT, 1962.
(Punjab Act No. 11 of 1962)**

*[Received the assent of the President of India on the 19th May, 1962,
and first published for general information in the Punjab Government
Gazette (Extraordinary), Legislative Supplement, dated the 19th June,
1962.]*

1. Year	2. No.	3. Short Title	4. Whether repealed or otherwise affected by the legislation
1962	11	The Punjab Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Act, 1962.	1. Amended by Punjab Act no.30 of 1978. 2. Amended by Punjab Act no. 21 of 2000. 3. Amended by Punjab Act no.1 of 2016. 4. Amended by Punjab Act no.2 of 2019. 5. Amended by Punjab Act no.15 of 2020.

***An Act to provide for the temporary release of prisoners for good
conduct on certain conditions.***

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the
Thirteenth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

- Short title, extent
and
commencement.
1. (1) This Act may be called the Punjab Good Conduct Prisoners
(Temporary Release) Act, 1962.
 - (2) It extends to the whole of the State of Punjab.

¹ For Statement of Objects and Reasons see Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), 1959, page
1869.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Definitions

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) "District Magistrate" means the District Magistrate of the District within whose jurisdiction the prisoner after his temporary release under this Act is likely to reside during the period of his release;

¹[(aa) "hardcore prisoner" means a person confined in prison under a sentence of imprisonment, who has been convicted of-

(i) an offence of rape with murder under section 376 read with section 302 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860;

(ii) an offence punishable under section 14 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012;]

(b) ²["member of prisoner's family" means the husband, wife, son, daughter, father, mother, brother, sister, grand-father, grand-mother, grand-son, grand-daughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, father`s brother, father`s sister, mother`s brother or mother`s sister of the prisoner;]

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

(d) "prisoner" means a person confined in prison under a sentence of imprisonment;

¹ Inserted by Punjab Act No.1 of 2016, section 2(i).

² Substituted by Punjab Act No.1 of 2016, section 2(ii).

- (e) "Superintendent of Jail" means the Superintendent of the Jail in which the prisoner is undergoing his sentence of imprisonment.

Temporary
release of
prisoners
on certain
grounds.

3. (1) The State Government may, in consultation with the District Magistrate and subject to such conditions and in such manner as may be prescribed, release temporarily for a period specified in sub-section (2) any prisoner if the State Government is satisfied that-

- (a) ¹[a member of the prisoner's family has died; or
- (aa) husband or wife or son or daughter or father or mother or brother or sister or grand-father or grand-mother or grand-son or grand-daughter or father-in-law or mother-in-law of the prisoner is seriously ill; or]
- (b) the marriage of the prisoner's son or daughter is to be celebrated; or
- (c) the temporary release of the prisoner is necessary for ploughing, sowing or harvesting or carrying on any other agricultural operation ²[on his land or any other land cultivated by him] and no friend of the prisoner or a member of the prisoner's family is prepared to help him in this behalf in his absence; or
- ³[(cc) a lady prisoner is pregnant and is likely to deliver a child; or]
- (d) it is desirable so to do for any other sufficient cause.

⁴[*Explanation.* - The expression "sufficient cause" includes-

¹ Substituted by Punjab Act No.1 of 2016, section 3(i)(A).

² Substituted for words "on his land" by Punjab Act No.21 of 2000, section 2(i).

³ Inserted by Punjab Act No.1 of 2016, section 3(i)(B).

⁴ Added by Punjab Act No.1 of 2016, section 3(i)(C).

- (1) serious damage to life or property of the member of the family caused by any natural calamity; or
- (2) critical condition of any member of the family on account of accident; or
- (3) delivery of child by the wife of the prisoner.]

(2) ¹[The period for which a prisoner may be released shall be determined by the State Government so as not to exceed—

- (a) where the prisoner is to be released on the ground specified in clause (a) of sub-section (1), fifteen days ;
- (b) where the prisoner is to be released on the ground specified in clause (aa) or clause (b) or clause (c) or clause (d) of sub-section (1), ²[eight weeks]; and
- (c) where the prisoner is to be released on the ground specified in clause (cc) of sub-section (1), one hundred and twenty days (sixty days prior to date of delivery of child and sixty days after the date of delivery of child).]

³[(2-A) The total period of temporary release of the prisoner, excluding the release availed of,-

- (i) on the death of a family member of the prisoner; or
- (ii) by a female prisoner on account of delivery of child, as the case may be,

shall not exceed sixteen weeks, during a calendar year and shall be availed of on quarterly basis:

Provided that a prisoner, may avail such release for a continuous period of sixteen weeks, during the period falling between the 23rd day of November, 2018 to the 23rd day of November, 2019, as a

¹ Substituted by Punjab Act No.1 of 2016, section 3(ii).

² Substituted for words "six weeks" by Punjab Act No.2 of 2019, section 2(i).

³ Inserted by Punjab Act No. 21 of 2000, section 2(ii), further substituted by Punjab Act No. 1 of 2016, section 3(iii), further substituted by Punjab Act No.2 of 2019, section 2(ii).

onetime measure on pro-rata basis, however, subject to the other provisions of the Act:

Provided further that any prisoner who is on temporary release for a specified period and wants to surrender before the expiry of his temporary release period, he shall be allowed to do so:]

¹[Provided further that during disasters under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, or epidemics under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, the State Government may, by a special notification published in the Official Gazette, allow temporary release beyond the maximum period of sixteen weeks during a calendar year, and may also waive the condition of temporary release being availed of on quarterly basis.]

(3) The period of release under this section shall not count towards the total period of the sentence of a prisoner.

(4) The State Government may by notification authorise any officer to exercise its power under this section in respect of all or any of the grounds specified therein.

Temporary
release of
prisoners
on
furlough.

4. (1) The State Government or any other officer authorised by it in this behalf may, in consultation with the District Magistrate and subject to such conditions and in such manner as may be prescribed, release temporarily, on furlough, any prisoner who has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than five years, and who—

(a) has, immediately before the date of his temporary release, undergone imprisonment for a period of three years, excluding remissions; and

(b) has not during such period committed any jail offence and has earned at least three annual good conduct remissions:

¹ Added by Punjab Act No.15 of 2020, section 2.

Provided that nothing herein shall apply to a prisoner who-

- (i) is a habitual offender as defined in clause (3) of section 2 of the Punjab Habitual Offenders (Control and Reforms) Act, 1952, or
- (ii) has been convicted of robbery or dacoity or such other offence as the State Government may, by notification, specify.

(2) The period of furlough for which a prisoner is eligible under sub-section (1) shall be three weeks during the first year of his release and two weeks during each successive year thereafter.

(3) Subject to the provisions of clause (d) of sub-section (3) of section 8, the period of release referred to in sub-section (1) shall count towards the total period of the sentence of a prisoner.

Exclusion of certain days in computing period under sections 3 and 4.

5. For the purpose of calculating the period of temporary release of a prisoner under sections 3 and 4, the days of departure from and arrival at the prison shall be excluded.

Prisoners not entitled to be released in certain cases.

5-A. ¹[Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 3 and 4,-

- (a) no prisoner shall be entitled to be released under this Act to whom the death sentence has been awarded or is a hardcore, prisoner;
- (b) notwithstanding anything contained in clause (a), hardcore prisoner may be allowed to be released temporarily on the grounds specified in clause (a) or clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section (3). However, extra conditions may be imposed on the prisoner at the

¹ Inserted by Punjab Act No.1 of 2016, section 4.

time of temporary release or furlough after considering all the facts and circumstances of the case.]

Cases where consultation with District Magistrate not necessary or where prisoners are not to be released.

¹[6. Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 3 and 4,

- (i) it shall not be necessary to consult the District Magistrate where the State Government is satisfied that the prisoner maintained good conduct during the period of his earlier release under any of the aforesaid sections; and
- (ii) no prisoner shall be entitled to be released under this Act, if on the report of the District Magistrate, where consultation with him is necessary, the State Government or an officer authorised by it in this behalf is satisfied that his release is likely to endanger the security of the State or the maintenance of public order.]

Journey expenses of poor prisoners to be borne by State Government.

7. If, on the report of the District Magistrate, the State Government is satisfied that a prisoner's family cannot bear the expenses of his journey from and to the prison after his temporary release under this Act, the expenses may be borne by the State Government to such extent and in such manner as may be prescribed.

Liability of prisoner to surrender on expiry of release period and consequences of overstaying.

8. (1) On the expiry of the period for which a prisoner is released under this Act, he shall surrender himself to the Superintendent of the Jail from which he was released.

(2) If a prisoner does not surrender himself as required by subsection (1) within a period of ten days from the date on which he should have so surrendered, he may be arrested by any police officer without a warrant and shall be remanded to undergo the unexpired portion of his sentence.

¹ Substituted by Punjab Act No.30 of 1978, section 2.

(3) If a prisoner surrenders himself to the Superintendent of the Jail from which he was released within a period of ten days of the date on which he should have so surrendered, but fails to satisfy the Superintendent of the Jail that he was prevented by any sufficient cause from surrendering himself immediately on the expiry of the period for which he was released, all or any of the following penalties shall, after affording the prisoner a reasonable opportunity of being heard, be awarded to him by the Superintendent of the Jail, namely—

- (a) a maximum cut of five days remission for each day of overstay;
- (b) stoppage of canteen concession for a maximum period of one month;
- (c) withholding concession of either interviews or letters or both for a maximum period of three months;
- (d) the period of temporary release on furlough of the prisoner under section 4 shall not be counted towards his sentence;
- (e) warning;
- (f) reduction from the status and grade of "Convict Watchman" or "Convict Overseer".

Penalty for failure to surrender.

9. ¹[Any prisoner who is liable to be arrested under sub-section (2) of section 8, shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description which may extend to three months or with fine not exceeding one thousand rupees or with both and such offence shall be cognizable and non-bailable.]

¹ Substituted by Punjab Act No.1 of 2016, section 5.

Power to
make
rules.

10. (1) The State Government may by notification make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for--

- (a) the execution by the prisoner (including his sureties) of bond for his good behaviour during the release period and for his surrender on the expiry of such period;
- (b) the amount for which and the form and manner in which such bonds shall be furnished;
- (c) the forfeiture of the amount of bonds in case of breach of any of its terms;
- (d) the conditions on which and the manner in which prisoners may be released temporarily under this Act;
- (e) the manner in which the District Magistrate shall be consulted before a prisoner is released;
- (f) the extent to which and the manner in which journey expenses of poor prisoners shall be borne by the State Government.

Repeal
and
saving.

11. The Pepsu Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Act, 1954 (Pepsu Act 11 of 1954), is hereby repealed:

Provided that such repeal shall not affect—

- (a) the previous operation of the Act so repealed or anything duly done or suffered thereunder; or

- (b) any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired or incurred under the Act so repealed ; or
- (c) any penalty, forfeiture or punishment incurred in respect of any offence committed against the Act so repealed; or
- (d) any investigation, legal proceeding or remedy in respect of any such right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment as aforesaid:

and any such investigation, legal proceeding or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced, and any such penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed, as if this Act had not been passed:

Provided further that anything done or any action taken under the Act so repealed shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provision of this Act and shall continue to be in force accordingly unless and until superseded by anything done or any action taken under this Act.