

**THE EAST PUNJAB DISPLACED PERSONS (LAND
RESETTLEMENT) ACT, 1949.**

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THE EAST PUNJAB DISPLACED PERSONS (LAND RESETTLEMENT) ACT, 1949.

EAST PUNJAB ACT NO. XXXVI OF 1949.

[Received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General of India on the 17th November, 1949, and first published in the East Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary) of November 19, 1949.]

1	2	3	4
Year	No.	Short title	Whether repealed or otherwise affected by legislation
1949..	XXXVI	The East Punjab Displaced persons (Land Resettlement) Act, 1949	Amended in part by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950 Amended in part by Punjab Act XI of 1950 ² Amended in part by the Adaptation of Laws (Third Amendment) Order, 1951 Amended by the Punjab Reorganisation (Chandigarh) (Adaptation of Laws on State and Concurrent Subject) Order, 1968.

An Act to provide for the allotment and leases of evacuee land in ³[Punjab].

It is hereby enacted as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be called the East Punjab Dis- Short title and extent.
placed Persons (Land Resettlement) Act, 1949.

(2) It shall extend to the whole of ⁴[Union Territory of Chandigarh].

¹For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see *East Punjab Government Gazette* (Extraordinary), 1949, pages 1015-1016; for proceedings in the Assembly, see *East Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates*, Volume IV, 1949, pages (7)78—(7)91.

²For statement of Objects and Reasons, see *East Punjab Government Gazette* (Extraordinary), 1950, pages 222-223; for proceedings in the Assembly, see *Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates*, Volume II, 1950, pages (20)38—(20)39.

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

⁴Substituted for the word "Punjab" by the Punjab Reorganisation (Chandigarh) (Adaptation of Laws on State and concurrent subjects Order, 1968.

Definitions.

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

- (a) "the Principal Ordinance" means the Administration of Evacuees Property Ordinance, 1949 ;
- (b) "allottee" means a displaced person to whom land is allotted by the Custodian under the conditions published with East Punjab Government Notification No. 4892/S, dated the 8th July, 1949, and includes his heirs, legal representatives and sub-lessees ;
- (c) "displaced person" means a land-holder in the territories now comprised in the province of ¹[Punjab in Pakistan] or a person of Punjabi extraction who holds land in the Provinces of North-West Frontier Province, Sind or Baluchistan or any State adjacent to any of the aforesaid Provinces and acceding to * * ²* * * 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 ;
- (d) "land" means land which is not urban land and 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 ;

¹Substituted for the words "West Punjab" by the Adaptation of Laws (Third Amendment) Order, 1951.

²The words "the Domination of" omitted by the Adaptation of Laws (Third Amendment) Order, 1951.

- (iv) a right to receive rent ; and
- (v) any right of occupancy ;
- (e) "lessee" means a displaced person to whom land is leased by the Custodian under the conditions published with East Punjab Government notification No. 4891/S, dated the 8th July, 1949, and includes his heirs, legal representatives and sub-lessees ;
- (f) "present holder" means a person who is in occupation of the land allotted or leased to an allottee or lessee, as the case may be ;
- (g) "Rehabilitation Authority" includes Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation, the Commissioner of the Division, Director-General, Rehabilitation, Deputy Commissioner and Additional Deputy Commissioner of a district, Assistant Collectors of the first and second grades and a District Urban Resettlement Officer ;
- (h) "urban land" means all land included within the limits of a Corporation, Municipal Committee, Notified Area Committee, Town Area, Small Town Committee and Cantonment as these limits stood on the 15th of August, 1947 ; and
- (i) words and expressions used in this Act but not defined, have the meaning assigned to them in the principal Ordinance.

3. When the evacuee property consists of a share of an evacuee in shamilat land the Custodian shall be empowered to appropriate land by order out of the shamilat according to the share of the evacuee and the land so appropriated shall vest in the Custodian. Power of Custodian to earmark land in Shamilat.

4. An allottee or lessee shall be deemed to have entered into constructive possession of the land allotted or leased to him with effect from Kharif, 1949, but he shall be entitled to take actual possession of any part of such Right of allottee or lessee to possession.

land on which no crop is standing on the 1st December, 1949, and of the balance, from the 1st March, 1950, or when the standing crops have been harvested by the present holder, whichever is later, but in any case by the 15th May, 1950.

Rights and obligations of the present holder.

5. (1) The present holder shall be entitled to keep possession of the land till such date as the allottee or lessee under the preceding section becomes entitled to actual possession thereof and from that date all rights, title and interest in the land of such holder shall cease and, except as provided in section 9. he shall not be entitled to claim any damages or compensation on any ground whatsoever.

(2) The present holder shall, unless another rate has been or is specified in this behalf, be liable to pay rent equal to two and a half times the land revenue in addition to the cesses for the time being in force for Kharif, 1949, and be¹ [liable to pay two and a half times the land revenue in addition to the cesses for the time being in force at the time of entering into constructive possession in Rabi, 1950 and after.]

Right of the allottee or lessee to a share in rent.

6. The rent realized from the present holder under sub-section (2) of section 5 or from his sub-lessee or actual cultivator of the land under section 8 shall be appropriated in the following order, namely —

(a) towards the payment of land revenue and cesses ;

(b) towards the fees of, and other expenses incurred by, the Custodian in respect of that land ; and

¹Substituted for the words "liable to pay four times the land revenue in addition to the cesses for the time being in force or customary batai at his option to be decided mutually with the new allottee or lessee at the time of entering into constructive possession for Rabi, 1950 and after" by Punjab Act XI of 1950, section 2.

- (c) the balance after meeting the charges referred to in clauses (a) and (b) shall be paid to the allottee or lessee, in cash or, at the option of the Custodian, adjusted against any amount due from him to the Custodian.

7. (1) When the lease or allotment is in favour of more than one person, any liability imposed by this Act shall be the joint and several liability of each such person. Liability of the allottee or lessee.

(2) The liability of the allottee or lessee for the payment of the rent to the Custodian shall commence from Kharif, 1950, or when actual possession is surrendered to him, whichever is later.

8. If for any reason the present holder abandons the land held by him the liability to pay rent for Kharif, 1949, and Rabi, 1950, may be enforced by the Custodian against the sub-lessee of the present holder, or the actual cultivator of the land to the same extent and under the same procedure as it could be enforced against the present holder. Liability of the sub-lessee of the present holder.

9. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, all leases of land except such leases as the Custodian may by order exempt from the operation of this section, made by an evacuee in favour of a person other than an evacuee shall be deemed to have terminated on the 25th July, 1949, and the land shall be deemed to have vested under this Act in the Custodian with effect from the same date free from all rights of the lessee or persons claiming under such lessee. Termination of leases of land by evacuees in favour of non-evacuees.

(2) Where any lease is determined under this section there shall be paid compensation the amount of which shall be determined in the manner and in accordance with the principles hereinafter set out, that is to say:—

- (a) Where the amount of compensation can be fixed by agreement between the Custodian and the lessee, it shall be paid in accordance with such agreement.

- (b) Where no such agreement can be reached the ¹[Central Government] shall appoint as arbitrator any Subordinate Judge having jurisdiction in the district where the land is situated.
- (c) At the commencement of the proceedings before the arbitrator the Custodian and the person to be compensated shall state what in their respective opinions is a fair amount of Compensation.
- (d) An appeal shall lie to the District Judge against an award of an arbitrator except in cases where the amount thereof does not exceed the amount prescribed in this behalf by rule made by the ¹[Central Government].
- (e) Save as provided in this section and in any rules made thereunder, nothing in any law for the time being in force shall apply to arbitration under this section.

(3) The compensation awarded shall be paid by the Custodian to the person entitled thereto according to the award :

Provided that nothing herein contained shall affect the liability of any person who may receive the whole or any part of any compensation awarded under this section to pay the same to the person lawfully entitled thereto.

Delegation.

10. The Custodian may, by general or special order, delegate to a Rehabilitation Authority or such officers and persons as he consider fit, any of his functions under this Act.

Instrument not to require stamp and registration.

11. Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, no instrument in writing giving effect to a transfer by the Custodian or Rehabilitation Authority of any land of an evacuee shall require stamp, attestation or registration.

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

12. Except as provided in this Act, no order made or action taken in exercise of any power conferred by this Act, shall be called i to question in any court or before any officer or authority. Orders not to be called in question.

13. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the ¹[Central Government], the Custodian or a Rehabilitation Authority or any person acting under their direction in respect of anything done or purported to have been done in pursuance of this Act. Bar to legal proceedings.

14. (1) The ¹[Central Government] may, by notification in the official Gazette, make such rules as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for putting into effect the provisions of this Act. Power to make rules.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely,—

- (a) the procedure to be followed in arbitration under section 9 ;
- (b) the principles to be followed in apportioning the cost of proceedings before the arbitrator and on appeal ;
- (c) the maximum amount of an award against which no appeal shall lie; and
- (d) any incidental or supplementary matters for which the ¹[Central Government] thinks it expedient for the purpose of this Act to provide.

15. The East Punjab Displaced Persons (Land Re-settlement) Ordinance, 1949, is hereby repealed but notwithstanding such repeal, any orders made, anything done or any action taken in the exercise of any powers conferred by or under the said Ordinance and any liability incurred or proceeding commenced under the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been made, done, taken, incurred or commenced in the exercise of the powers conferred by or under this Act. Repeal of East Punjab Ordinance No. XIV of 1949.

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