

THE PUNJAB PROHIBITION OF COW
SLAUGHTER ACT, 1955.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sections

1. Short title, extent and commencement.
2. Definitions.
3. Prohibition of cow slaughter.
4. Exceptions.
5. Prohibition of sale of beef.
6. Establishment of institutions.
7. Levy of charges of fees.
8. Penalty.
9. Burden of proof.
10. Offences to be cognizable and non-bailable.
11. Power to make rules.

**THE PUNJAB PROHIBITION OF COW
SLAUGHTER ACT, 1955.**

PUNJAB ACT NO. XV OF 1956.

[Received the assent of the President on the 21st June, 1956, and first published in the *Punjab Gazette (Extraordinary)* of the 27th June, 1956].

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Year	No.	Short title	Whether repealed or otherwise affected by legislation.
1956	XV	The Punjab Prohibition of Cow Slaughter Act, 1955	<p>Extended to the territories which immediately before the 1st November, 1956, were comprised in the State of Patiala and East Punjab States Union by Punjab Act No. 5 of 1959.²</p> <p>Amended by the Punjab Reorganisation (Chandigarh) (Adaptation of Laws on State and Concurrent Subjects) Order, 1968.</p>

AN

ACT

*to prohibit the slaughter of cow and its progeny in
Punjab*

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the Seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Punjab Prohibition of Cow Slaughter Act, 1955.

(2) It extends to the ³[Union Territory of Chandigarh].

Short title, extent and commencement.

¹For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), 1955, dated the 7th October, 1955.

²For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), 1958, page 1487.

³Substituted for the words "State of Punjab" by the Punjab Reorganisation (Chandigarh) (Adaptation of Laws on State and Concurrent Subjects) Order, 1968.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

Definitions.

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

(a) "beef" means flesh of cow in any form but does not include flesh of cow contained in sealed containers and imported into ¹[Union Territory of Chandigarh] :

(b) beef-products include extraction from beef ;

(c) "Cow " includes a bull, bullock, ox, heifer, or calf ;

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

(e) "slaughter" means killing by any method whatsoever and includes maiming and inflicting of physical injury which in the ordinary course will cause death ;

(f) "Government " means the ²[Central Government] ; and

(g) "uneconomic cow" includes stray, unprotected, infirm, disabled, diseased or barren cow.

Prohibition of
cow slaughter.

3. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force or any usage or custom to the contrary, no person shall slaughter or cause to be slaughtered or offer or cause to be offered for slaughter any cow in any place in ¹[Union Territory of Chandigarh] :

Provided that killing of a cow by accident or in self defence will not be considered as slaughter under the Act.

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

²Substituted for the words "State Government " by *ibid.*

4. (1) Nothing in section 3 shall apply to the slaughter of a cow— Exceptions.

(a) whose suffering is such as to render its destruction desirable according to the certificate of the Veterinary Officer of the area or such other Officer of the Animal Husbandry Department as may be prescribed ; or

(b) which is suffering from any contagious or infectious disease notified as such by the Government ; or

(c) which is subjected to experimentation in the interest of medical and public health research by a certified medical practitioner of the Animal Husbandry Department.

(2) Where it is intended to slaughter a cow for the reasons specified in clause (a) or clause (b) of subsection (1) it shall be incumbent for a person doing so to obtain the prior permission in writing of the Veterinary Officer of the area or such other Officer of the Animal Husbandry Department as may be prescribed.

5. Except as herein excepted and notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, no person shall sell or offer for sale or cause to be sold beef or beef products in any form except for such medicinal purposes as may be prescribed.

Prohibition of sale of beef.

6. There shall be established by the Government or by any local authority, when so directed by the Government, institutions for the reception, maintenance and care of uneconomic cows.

Establishment of institutions.

7. The ¹[Central Government] or the local authority, if so authorised, may levy such fees as may be prescribed for care and maintenance of uneconomic cows in the institution.

Levy of charges of fees.

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

Penalty.

8. (1) Whoever contravenes or attempts to contravene or abets the contravention of the provisions of section 3 or 5 shall be guilty of an offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both.

(2) Whoever fails to lodge the information in the manner and within the time stated in sub-section (2) of section 4 shall be guilty of an offence punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees or with both.

Burden of proof.

(3) In any trial for an offence punishable under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) the burden of proving that the slaughtered cow belonged to the class specified in clause (a) or (b) of sub-section (1) of section 4 shall be on the accused.

Offences to be cognisable and non-bailable.

9. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, an offence punishable under sub-section (1) of section 8 shall be cognisable and non-bailable.

Power to make rules.

10. (1) The ¹[Central Government] may make rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of foregoing powers, such rules may provide for—

- (a) the conditions and the circumstances under which cows may be slaughtered under sub-section (1) of section 4 ;
- (b) the manner in which diseases shall be notified under sub-section (1) (b) of section 4 ;
- (c) the manner in which permission shall be obtained under sub-section (2) of section 4 ;
- (d) the form and contents of the certificate

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

mentioned in sub-clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 4 and the authorities competent to grant it ;

- (e) the manner in which and conditions under which beef or beef products are to be sold under section 5 ;
 - (f) the matters relating to the establishment, maintenance, management, supervision and control of institutions referred to in section 6 ;
 - (g) the duties of any officer or authority having jurisdiction under this Act, the procedure to be followed by such officer or authority ; and
 - (h) the matters which are to be and may be prescribed.
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