

# ACT No. XII OF 1925.

[PASSED BY THE INDIAN LEGISLATURE.]

(Received the assent of the Governor General on the 18th March, 1925.)

An Act to provide for the better regulation of cotton ginning and cotton pressing factories.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the better regulation of cotton ginning and cotton pressing factories; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925. Short title, extent and commencement.

(2) It extends to the whole of British India (except Burma), including British Baluchistan and the Sonthal Parganas.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Governor General in Council may, by notification in the Gazette of India, appoint.

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

(a) " bale " means any pressed package of cotton of whatever size or density;

(b) " cotton " means ginned or unginned cotton, or cotton waste;

(c) " cotton ginning factory " means any place where cotton is ginned or where cotton fibre is separated from cotton seed by any process whatever involving the use of steam, water or other mechanical power or of electrical power;

(d) " cotton pressing factory " means any factory as defined in the Indian Factories Act, 1911, in which cotton is pressed into bales;

(e) " cotton waste " means droppings, strippings, fly and other waste products of a cotton mill or of a cotton ginning factory or of a cotton pressing factory, but does not include yarn waste;

(f) " Indian

[Price One Anna or Three-half Pence.]

- (f) "Indian Central Cotton Committee" means the Indian Central Cotton Committee constituted under the Indian Cotton Cess Act, 1923, and includes any sub-committee appointed by it to perform any function of the Indian Central Cotton Committee under this Act; and
- (g) "occupier" includes a managing agent or other person authorised to represent the occupier;
- (h) "prescribed" means prescribed by or under rules made under this Act.

Maintenance of registers.

3. (1) The owner of every cotton ginning factory shall cause to be maintained at the factory in such form, if any, as may be prescribed, a ginning register containing a record of all cotton ginned in the factory and of the names of the persons for whom and the dates on which the cotton has been ginned and of the amount ginned for each person.

(2) The owner of every cotton pressing factory shall cause to be maintained at the factory in such form, if any, as may be prescribed, a press register containing a daily record of the number of bales pressed in the factory, the serial number of each bale, and the name of the person for whom it has been pressed.

(3) The owner or the person in charge of a cotton ginning or cotton pressing factory shall be bound to produce any ginning register or press register maintained under this section when required to do so by any person appointed by the Local Government in this behalf, and the owner or person in charge of any cotton pressing factory shall be bound to furnish to the Indian Central Cotton Committee, if so required by it in writing, a copy, certified as correct by the owner or person in charge of the factory, of the entry in any press register maintained at the factory relating to any specified bale.

(4) No register required to be maintained by this section shall be destroyed until after the expiration of three years from the date of the last entry therein.

(5) If—

- (a) in any factory any register required by this section to be maintained is not maintained or is maintained in any form other than the form, if any, prescribed for the purpose, or
- (b) any entry in any such register is proved to be false in any material particular, or
- (c) any such register is destroyed before the expiration of the period referred to in sub-section (4),

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the owner of the factory shall be punished with fine which may extend to fifty rupees or, if he has previously been convicted of any offence under this sub-section, to five hundred rupees.

(6) If the owner or the person in charge of any factory fails to produce any register, or to furnish a certified copy of any entry, when required to do so under sub-section (3), or furnishes a certified copy of an entry knowing or having reason to believe such copy to be false, he shall be punished with fine which may extend to fifty rupees or, if he has previously been convicted of any offence under this sub-section, to five hundred rupees.

4. (1) The owner of every cotton pressing factory shall cause every bale pressed in the factory to be marked in such manner as may be prescribed, before it is removed from the press-house, with a serial number and with the mark prescribed for the factory. Marking of bales.

(2) If any bale is removed from the press-house of any cotton pressing factory without having been marked as required by sub-section (1), the owner of the factory shall be punished with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

5. (1) The owner of every cotton pressing factory shall submit to the prescribed authority, within such time and in such form as may be prescribed, weekly returns showing the total number of bales of cotton pressed during the preceding week and from the commencement of the season to the end of that week, and the approximate average net weight of the bales pressed in that week. Returns.

(2) The Local Government shall compile from the weekly returns, and shall publish in such manner as the Governor General in Council may direct, a statement showing the total number of bales pressed in the province during the week and from the commencement of the season to the end of the week, to which the returns relate:

Provided that the number of bales pressed in any individual factory shall not be published.

(3) If default is made in submitting any return as required by sub-section (1), the owner of the factory shall be punished with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

(4) Where the owner of a cotton pressing factory has notified to the prescribed authority that the work of pressing bales in that factory has been suspended, it shall not be necessary for the owner to submit returns under sub-section (1) until such work has been resumed.

*Explanation*

*Explanation.*—In this section "season" means the period notified in this behalf by the Local Government in the local official Gazette.

Scales and weights.

6. (1) No scales or weights shall be used in any cotton ginning or cotton pressing factory other than the scales or weights, if any, prescribed by the Local Government as standard for the district in which the factory is situated.

(2) If in any factory any scale or weight is used in contravention of the provisions of sub-section (1), the owner of the factory shall be punished with fine which may extend to fifty rupees or, if he has been previously convicted of any offence under this sub-section, to five hundred rupees.

Liability of lessee as owner.

7. (1) Where the owner of a cotton ginning or pressing factory has leased the factory for a period of not less than one month, in the case of a cotton ginning factory or three months, in the case of a cotton pressing factory, and the lessor retains no interest in the management or profits of the factory and notice of the lease has been given by the lessor and the lessee to the prescribed authority, the lessee shall be deemed to be the owner of the factory, from the date of the notice and for the period of the continuance of the lease, for the purposes of section 3, in respect of the registers maintained or to be maintained from that date and for that period, and for the purposes of sections 4, 5 and 6.

(2) On the termination of the lease the lessee shall hand over to the lessor the registers maintained under section 3, and the lessor shall forthwith report to the prescribed authority any default of the lessee in complying with the provisions of this sub-section or in maintaining the registers in accordance with the provisions of section 3.

(3) If default is made in handing over any register or making any report as required by this section, the lessor or the lessee, as the case may be, shall be punished with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

Liability on transfer of ownership.

8. (1) On a transfer of the ownership of a cotton ginning or pressing factory, the transferor shall hand over to the transferee the registers maintained under section 3, and the transferee shall forthwith report to the prescribed authority any default of the transferor in complying with the provisions of this sub-section or in maintaining the registers in accordance with the provisions of section 3.

(2) If default is made in handing over any register or making any report as required by sub-section (1), the transferor or the transferee, as the case may be, shall be punished with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

9. (1) In

9. (1) In the case of cotton ginning factories the construction of which is commenced after the commencement of this Act— Structural requirements for factories.

- (a) gin-houses shall be provided with separate entrances and exits for the bringing in of unginned and the taking out of ginned cotton respectively, and
- (b) the factories shall be constructed in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the prescribed authority :

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall apply to any factory in which only roller gins are used where the number of such gins is not more than four.

(2) Within such period after the commencement of this Act as may be prescribed, the owner of every cotton pressing factory in which cotton is handled on the ground floor shall cause the press house to be paved or provided with other suitable flooring to the satisfaction of the prescribed authority.

(3) If the owner of any factory fails to comply with any provision of this section which is applicable to the factory, he shall be punished with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees.

(4) (a) Where the owner of a factory has been convicted under sub-section (3), the prescribed authority may serve on the owner of the factory an order in writing directing that such alterations shall be made in the factory, before a specified date, as in the opinion of the said authority are necessary to secure compliance with the provisions of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), as the case may be.

(b) Where the alterations are not made in accordance with the order served under clause (a) of this sub-section, the prescribed authority may serve on the owner and on the occupier, if any, of the factory an order in writing directing that the work of ginning or pressing cotton in such factory shall be suspended until the alterations have been made in accordance with the order served under clause (a) of this sub-section and the owner and the occupier, if any, shall be jointly and severally liable to fine which may extend to fifty rupees for each day on which cotton is ginned or pressed in the factory in contravention of the order served under this clause.

10. Where the person guilty of an offence under this Act is a company, every director, manager, secretary and other officer thereof who is knowingly a party to the default shall also be guilty of the like offence and liable to the like punishment. Liability of officers of a company.

11. (1) No

Cognizance of offences.

11. (1) No prosecution under this Act shall be instituted except by or with the previous sanction of the District Magistrate or a Chief Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class specially empowered in this behalf by the Local Government.

(2) No offence punishable under this Act shall be tried by any Court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or of a Magistrate of the first class.

Power of the Governor General in Council to make rules.

12. The Governor General in Council may make rules to provide for—

- (a) the allotment of a special mark to be used by each pressing factory for the purpose of the marking of bales;
- (b) the manner in which bales shall be marked; and
- (c) the manner in which the weekly statements referred to in section 5 shall be published.

Power of the Local Government to make rules.

13. The Local Government may, by notification in the local official Gazette, make rules consistent with this Act to provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

- (a) the forms in which registers, records and returns are to be maintained or submitted, and the inspection of records and registers;
- (b) the appointment of the authority to whom and the time within which the returns required by section 5 shall be made;
- (c) the weights and scales to be used in cotton ginning and cotton pressing factories in any district in the province, and the inspection of the same;
- (d) the appointment of authorities for the purposes of sections 7, 8 and 9;
- (e) the manner of service of orders made under section 9;
- (f) the powers of entry and inspection which may be exercised by District Magistrates or by any officer specially empowered in this behalf by the Local Government;
- (g) any other matter which is to be or may be prescribed or for which provision is necessary in order to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Power to reject unmarked bales in fulfilment of contracts.

14. After the expiration of one year from the commencement of this Act, any person who has made a contract for the purchase of baled cotton may require that no bales other than

bales

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bales marked in accordance with section 4 shall be supplied in fulfilment of such contract, and, if he does so require, no bale not so marked shall be tenderable in fulfilment of the contract:

Provided that nothing in this section shall apply to a contract for the sale and delivery of cotton grown before, or less than one year after, the commencement of this Act.

15. No suit or other legal proceeding shall be instituted against any person in respect of anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act. Protection for acts done under Act.