The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Pests and Diseases Act, 1919

Act 3 of 1919

Keyword(s):
Insect Pest, Plant Disease, Noxious Weed, Plant, Occupier, Director of Agriculture

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THE TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL PESTS AND DISEASES ACT, 1919.

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An Act for the prevention of the spread of insect pests, plant diseases and noxious weeds.

WHEREAS it is expedient to take measures to prevent the spread of insect pests, plant diseases and noxious weeds injurious to health or to crops, plants, trees or water-supply or obstructive to water-ways within

This Act was extended to the Kanyakumari district and the Shencottah taluk of the Tirunelveli district by section 3 of, and the First Schedule to, the Tamil Nadu Merged States (Laws) Act, 1949 (Tamil Nadu Act XXXV of 1949).

This Act was extended to the merged State of Pudukkottai by section 3 of, and the First Schedule to, the Tamil Nadu Merged States (Laws) Act, 1949 (Tamil Nadu Act XXXV of 1949).

This expression was substituted for the expression “Presidency of Madras” by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws Order, 1970, which was deemed to have come into force on the 14th January 1969.
1. This Act may be called "The Agricultural Pests and Diseases Act, 1919."

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

"Insect pest" means any insect or other invertebrate animal which has been declared by notification under section 3 of this Act to be an insect pest;

"Plant disease" means any fungoid, bacterial, parasitical or other disease which has been declared by notification under section 3 of this Act to be a plant disease;

"Noxious weed" means any weed which has been declared by notification under section 3 of this Act to be a noxious weed;

"Plant" includes the fruit, leaves, bark, cuttings or any living portion of a plant but does not include the seed unless the seed has been especially included in the definition of plant by the State Government by notification under this Act;

"Occuper" means the person having for the time being the right of occupation of any land, premises, or water or his authorised agent or any person in actual occupation of the land, premises or water;

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1 These words were substituted for the word "Madras" by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws Order, 1969, as amended by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws (Second Amendment) Order, 1969, which came into force on the 14th January 1969.

2 The words "Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "Governor in Council" by the Adaptation Order of 1937 and the word "State" was substituted for "Provincial" by the Adaptation Order of 1950.
and includes a local authority and a company having such right of occupation or in such actual occupation;

"Notified area" means the area covered by a notification published under section 3;

"Director of Agriculture" means an officer appointed by the State Government to be the Director of Agriculture and includes every person who for the time being performs the duties of the office;

"Prescribed" means prescribed by notification or rules made under this Act.

PART II.

Of insect pests, plant diseases and noxious weeds.

3. [(1)] If the State Government considers that any pest, disease or weed in any local area is dangerous to health or is injurious to crops, plants, trees or water-supply or is obstructive to water-ways, the State Government may by notification in the official gazette declare any area to be an infested area.

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1 The words "railway or other" were omitted by section 3 of the Second Schedule to the Tamil Nadu Repealing and Amending Act, 1955 (Tamil Nadu Act XXXVI of 1955). In so far as this Act applies to the added territories, in the definition of the expression "occupier", the words "railway or other" were omitted by section 4 of, and the Second Schedule to, the Tamil Nadu (Added Territories) Extension of Laws (No. 2) Act, 1961 (Tamil Nadu Act 39 of 1961).

2 The words "Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "Governor in Council" by the Adaptation Order of 1937 and the word "State" was substituted for "Provincial" by the Adaptation Order of 1950.

3 Section 3 was renumbered as sub-section (1) of section 3 by Section 2 of the Madras Agricultural Pests and Diseases (Amendment) Act, 1925 (Madras Act VII of 1925).

4 This word was substituted for the word "considers" by the Adaptation Order of 1937.
and that it is necessary to take measures to eradicate it or to prevent its introduction or re-appearance, [they] may by notification in the [Official Gazette]--

(a) declare that such pest, disease or weed is an insect pest, a plant disease or a noxious weed,

(b) prohibit or restrict the removal of any plant from one place to another or prescribe such other preventive or remedial measures as may be necessary in respect of such pest, disease or weed, and

(c) define the local area within which and the period during which such notification shall be in force.

(2) Where the preventive or remedial measures prescribed in sub-section (1) include the removal or destruction of any plant in order to eradicate or prevent the introduction or re-appearance of any insect pest, such notification shall, prior to the date on which the notification shall come into force, be proclaimed in the local area defined in the notification in such manner as may be prescribed.]

4. On the issue of a notification under section 3 every occupier within the notified area shall be bound to carry out the remedial and preventive measures prescribed in such notification.

Explanation.—For the purpose only of this section [the State Government] shall be deemed to be the occupier in the case of all lands which are the property

1 This word was substituted for the word "he" by the Adaptation Order of 1937.

2 These words were substituted for the words "Fort St. George Gazette" by ibid.

3 Sub-section (2) was added by section 2 of the Madras Agricultural Pests and Diseases (Amendment) Act, 1925 (Madras Act VII of 1925).

4 The words "the Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "the Government" by the Adaptation Order of 1937 and the word "State" was substituted for "Provincial" by the Adaptation Order of 1950.
5. Any officer appointed under section 19 may enter on any land or water within the notified area and take such action as may be necessary in order to ascertain—

(a) whether any insect pest, plant disease or noxious weed is there present; and

(b) whether the prescribed remedial or preventive measures or both, as the case may require, have been taken.

5-A. Where the remedial or preventive measures prescribed by a notification under section 3 include the removal or destruction of any plant in order to eradicate or prevent the introduction or re-appearance of any insect pest, any occupier who fails to remove such plant on or before the date specified in the notification shall be deemed to have committed an offence under this Act and the removal or destruction of such plant may be carried out by the inspecting officer or under his supervision.

6. (1) If any inspecting officer appointed under section 19 finds that any prescribed remedial or preventive measures other than those specified in section 5-A have not been properly carried out, he may...

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1 The words "of the Crown" were substituted for the words "of Government" by the Adaptation Order of 1937 and the word "Government" was substituted for "Crown" by the Adaptation Order of 1950.

2 These words were substituted for the word "Madras" by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws Order, 1969, as amended by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws (Second Amendment) Order, 1969, which came into force on the 14th January 1969.

3 Section 5-A was inserted by section 3 of the Madras Agricultural Pests and Diseases (Amendment) Act, 1925 (Madras Act VII of 1925).

4 These words, figures and letter were substituted for the words "If such inspecting officer finds that the prescribed remedial or preventive measures have not been properly taken" by section 4, ibid.
subject to such rules as the \textsuperscript{1}State Government\ may prescribe under section 21 (g) call upon the occupier by notice in writing to carry out the prescribed remedial or preventive measures within a time to be specified in such notice.

(2) The occupier may within seven days of the service upon him of such notice prefer an appeal to the prescribed officer who may make such order as he thinks fit. The decision on such appeal shall be final.

(3) The officer receiving the appeal may extend the time specified in the notice under sub-section (1).

7. If any occupier upon whom notice has been served under section 6 fails to comply with the notice within the time specified by the inspecting officer or, in cases where an appeal has been preferred, by the prescribed officer on appeal, he shall be deemed to have committed an offence under this Act and the prescribed remedial or preventive measures may be carried out by the inspecting officer or under his supervision.

8. (1) If any prescribed remedial or preventive measures are carried out by the inspecting officer \textsuperscript{2}under section 5-A or 7\ the cost of such measures shall be recoverable from the occupier as if it were an arrear of land revenue, but such occupier may appeal to the Collector within thirty days from the date of demand on the ground that,

(a) charges for items other than cost of labour, material or use of implements have been included, or

(b) the charges for labour, material or use of implements are unduly high.

(2) The order of the Collector on such appeal shall be final.

\textsuperscript{1}The words "Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "Governor in Council" by the Adaptation Order of 1937 and the word "State" was substituted for "Provincial" by the Adaptation Order of 1950.

\textsuperscript{2}The words, letter and figures "under section 5-A or 7\ were substituted for the words and figure "under section 7\ by section 5 of the Madras Agricultural Pests and Diseases (Amendment) Act, 1925 (Madras Act VII of 1925).
9. (1) If in carrying out any prescribed remedial or preventive measures under \(^1[\text{section 5-A or 7}]\) the inspecting officer destroys or causes to be destroyed:

(a) any tree which is infected with the insect pest or plant disease, or

(b) any plants, not being trees, some or all of which are affected by the insect pest or plant disease but which are grown so closely together that it is not ordinarily practicable to treat each plant individually, or

(c) any plants including trees which, though not so infected, have in his opinion become liable to such infection,

he shall serve a notice in writing on the occupier stating particulars of the trees and plants destroyed and his estimate of their value.

(2) When any trees or plants are destroyed as aforesaid the occupier shall be entitled to compensation as follows:

for a tree destroyed under \(^2[\text{sub-section (1) (a)}]\)—not exceeding one-half the value thereof;

for plants destroyed under \(^2[\text{sub-section (1) (b)}]\)—not exceeding two-thirds of the value thereof;

for plants destroyed under \(^2[\text{sub-section (1) (c)}]\)—their full value:

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\(^1\) The words, letter and figures "section 5-A or 7" were substituted for the word and figure "section 7" by section 6 (i) of the Madras Agricultural Pests and Diseases (Amendment) Act, 1925 (Madras Act VII of 1925).

\(^2\) These words, brackets, figures, and letters were substituted for the words, figures, brackets and letters "sub-section 1 (a)", "sub-section 1 (b)" and "sub-section 1 (c)" by section 3 of, and the Second Schedule to, the Tamil Nadu Repealing and Amending Act, 1955 (Tamil Nadu Act XXXVI of 1955). In so far as this Act applies to the added territories, in sub-section (2) of section 9 for the words, figures, brackets and letters "sub-section 1 (a)", "sub-section 1 (b)" and "sub-section 1 (c)", the words, brackets, figures and letters "sub-section (1) (a)", "sub-section (1) (b)" and "sub-section (1) (c)" were respectively substituted by section 4 of, and the Second Schedule to, the Tamil Nadu (Added Territories) Extension of Laws (No. 2) Act, 1961 (Tamil Nadu Act 39 of 1961).
Provided that no compensation shall be payable for cotton plants the destruction of which has been prescribed in order to eradicate or prevent the introduction or re-appearance of any insect pest.]

(3) For the purposes of this section 'value' shall mean the value of the tree or plant at the time of its destruction.

10. All claims for compensation under section 9 shall be made in writing to the valuing officer appointed by the *[State Government]* within one month from the service of the notice mentioned in sub-section (1) of section 9.

11. (1) The valuing officer after making such inquiry and taking such evidence as he may consider necessary shall award compensation not exceeding the rates prescribed in section 9 and transmit or cause to be transmitted copies of his award in writing to the occupier and to the inspecting officer.

(2) The date within which and the officer before whom an appeal may be preferred shall be entered in the award.

12. Either the occupier or the inspecting officer may within thirty days of the date of receipt of the award prefer an appeal against such award to the prescribed officer whose decision shall be final.

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1 This provision was substituted by section 6 (ii) of the Madras Agricultural Pests and Diseases (Amendment) Act, 1925 (Madras Act VII of 1925).

2 The words "Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "Governor in Council" by the Adaptation Order of 1937 and the word "State" was substituted for "Provincial" by the Adaptation Order of 1950.
13. Village officers of villages in taluks adjoining a notified area within whose village limits a pest, disease or weed similar to the insect pest, plant disease or noxious weed within the notified area shall appear, shall report the same to the Collector.

14. Any one convicted by a magistrate of an offence under [section 5-A or 7] of this Act shall be liable to fine not exceeding Rs. 50, or in default to simple imprisonment for a period not exceeding ten days.

15. If any person contravenes a notification under section 3 (b) of this Act prohibiting or restricting the removal of any plant from one place to another he shall be deemed to have committed an offence under this Act. Any one convicted by a magistrate of such an offence shall, in addition to confiscation and destruction of the plant in respect of which the offence was committed, be liable to fine not exceeding Rs. 50, or in default to simple imprisonment for a period not exceeding ten days.

PART III.

General.

16. Where an occupier destroys any trees or plants in obedience to a notice issued under section 6, he may be granted compensation in accordance with such rules as may be made under this Act.

17. Notwithstanding anything in this Act, no compensation shall be payable for any noxious weed destroyed.

18. (1) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any officer for anything done under this Act in good faith or for any damage to property caused by any action taken in good faith in carrying out the provisions of this Act.

The words, figures and letter“ section 5-A or 7 ” were substituted for the word and figure“ section 7 ” by section 7 of the Madras Agricultural Pests and Diseases (Amendment) Act,1925. (Madras Act VII of 1925).
(2) No prosecution under this Act shall be commenced without the previous sanction of the District Collector.

(3) No prosecution under this Act shall be commenced after six months from the date of the alleged offence.

19. The 1[State Government] may from time to time appoint inspecting officers for the purpose of carrying out the duties prescribed in sections 5, 4[5-A] and 6.

20. The 1[State Government] may by notification in the 3[Official Gazette] delegate all or any of 4[their] powers under this Act except those conferred by sections 3 and 21 to the Director of Agriculture or any other officer or to any local authority or the president or chairman of any local authority.

21. The 1[State Government] may by notification in the 3[Official Gazette] make such rules not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may from time to time be necessary—

(a) including seed within the definition of a plant,

(b) prescribing the methods of publication of descriptions of insect pests, plant diseases and noxious weeds and of the treatment to be followed,

(c) prescribing the qualifications required of inspecting officers,

(d) prescribing the procedure to be followed in making an award under section 11 and the methods and conditions of valuation of trees and plants,

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1 The words "Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "Governor in Council" by the Adaptation Order of 1937 and the word "State" was substituted for "Provincial" by the Adaptation Order of 1950.

2 The figure and letter '5-A' were inserted by section 8 of the Madras Agricultural Pests and Diseases (Amendment) Act, 1925 (Madras Act VII of 1926).

3 These words were substituted for the words "Fort St. George Gazette" by the Adaptation Order of 1937.

4 This word was substituted for the word "his" by ibid.
(e) providing for payment of compensation under section 16 and for all matters connected therewith,

(f) prescribing the officers to whom appeals may be made, and the procedure to be followed in respect of such appeals,

(g) prescribing the procedure, notices and method of service thereof, notifications, registers and other processes needed for the effectual working of this Act, and

(h) generally to carry out the purposes of this Act.
An Act further to amend the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Pests and Diseases Act, 1919.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Tamil Nadu in the Thirty-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Pests and Diseases (Amendment) Act, 1982. Short title and commencement.

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

2. In section 2 of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Pests and Diseases Act, 1919 (Tamil Nadu Act III of 1919) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act),— Amendment of section 2, Tamil Nadu Act III of 1919.

(1) in the definitions of the terms “Insect pest”, “Plant disease”, “Noxious weed” and “Notified area”, for the word and figure “section 3”, the words, figures and letter “section 3 or 8-A” shall be substituted;

(2) after the definition of the term “Occupier”, the following shall be inserted, namely:—

*For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Tamil Nadu Government Gazette Extraordinary, dated the 22nd August 1981, Part IV—Section 1, pages 680-681.
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"Company" means any body corporate and includes a firm, society or other association of individuals;"

3. In section 3 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), of section 3, in the opening paragraph, the words "in the Official Tamil Nadu Gazette" shall be omitted.

4. After section 8 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:

"8-A. Preventive or remedial measures in emergent cases.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 3 to 8, if the State Government are satisfied that any pest, disease or weed injurious to crops, plants or trees is prevalent or is likely to break out in any local area and that immediate preventive or remedial measures have to be taken, they may, by notification,—

(a) declare that such pest, disease or weed is an insect pest, a plant disease, or a noxious weed;

(b) prescribe such preventive or remedial measures such as ground spraying or dusting as may be necessary in respect of such pest, disease or weed;

(c) prohibit or restrict the removal of any plant from one place to another;

(d) define the local area within which and the period during which, such notification shall be in force; and

(e) declare that the State Government may cause the prescribed preventive or remedial measures to be carried out in the notified area.

(2) On the issue of a notification under sub-section (1), any inspecting officer appointed under section 19 may enter on any land or water within the notified area and carry out, or cause to be carried out under his supervision, the prescribed preventive or remedial measures.
(3) Where any preventive or remedial measures are carried out under sub-section (1) or (2), the occupier shall be liable to pay to the State Government towards the cost of such measures, such amount (not exceeding the prescribed percentage of the cost aforesaid) as the inspecting officer may, by order in writing, determine and the amount so determined shall be recoverable from the occupier as if it were an arrear of land revenue.

(4) In calculating the cost referred to in sub-section (3), the following shall be taken into account, namely:

(a) the charges for labour, material or use of implements; and

(b) proportionate charges for any special establishment entertained for the purpose.

(5) (a) Any occupier may, within thirty days of the date of receipt of the order under sub-section (3), prefer an appeal against such order to the prescribed officer who may make such order as he thinks fit. The decision on such appeal shall be final:

Provided that no such appeal shall lie unless the amount determined under sub-section (3) has been paid.

(b) Where the amount paid by the occupier is in excess of the amount payable under any order made in such appeal, such excess shall be refunded to him.

5. In section 9 of the principal Act,—

(1) for the heading, the following heading shall be substituted, namely:

“Destruction of trees, plants or crops in execution of remedial or preventive measures and compensation therefor.”;

(2) in sub-section (1),—

(a) in the opening paragraph, for the words, figures and letter “section 5-A or 7”, the words, figures and letters “section 5-A, 7 or 8-A” shall be substituted;
(b) at the end of clause (c), the word "or" shall be inserted;

(c) after clause (c), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:

"(d) any crops which are infected with insect pests or plant disease."

(d) in the concluding paragraph, for the words "trees and plants", the words "trees, plants and crops" shall be substituted;

(3) in sub-section (2),—

(a) for the words "any trees or plants are destroyed", the words "any trees, plants or crops are destroyed" shall be substituted;

(b) before the proviso, the following shall be inserted, namely:

"for crops destroyed under sub-section (1) (d)—their full value;"

(4) in sub-section (3), for the words "tree or plant", the words "tree, plant or crop" shall be substituted.

6. In section 15 of the principal Act, for the word, figure, brackets and letter "section 3 (b)", the words, brackets, letters and figures "clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 3 or clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 8-A" shall be substituted.

7. After section 15 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted in Part II, namely:

"15-A. Offences by companies.—(1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, every person who, at the time the offence was committed, was in charge of and was responsible to, the company for the conduct of the business of the company as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded and punished accordingly."
Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment, if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where any such offence has been committed by a company and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer, shall be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall also be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, "director" shall mean a director in the sense of the Indian Companies Act, 1913, or a person who is or was at any relevant time the manager, secretary or other officer of the society or other association with the management of the affairs of the society or other association, as the case may be.”.

8. In section 19 of the principal Act, for the words, Amendment of figures and letter “sections 5, 5-A and 6”, the words, Tamil Nadu Act II of 1919, figures and letters “sections 5, 5-A, 6 and 8-A” shall be substituted.

9. In section 20 of the principal Act,—

(1) the words “in the Official Gazette” shall be omitted;

(2) for the words and figures “sections 3 and 21”, the words, figures and letter “sections 3, 8-A and 21” shall be substituted.

10. In section 21 of the principal Act,—

(1) in the opening paragraph, the words “by notification in the Official Gazette” shall be omitted;
(2) in clause (d), for the words "trees and plants", the words "trees, plants and crops" shall be substituted;

(3) in clause (f), after the words "appeals may be made", the words "and the fees to be paid for" shall be inserted.

11. After section 21 of the principal Act, the following section shall be added, namely:

"22. Publication of rules, commencement of rules and notifications and placing them on the table of the Legislature.—(1) (a) All rules made under this Act shall be published in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette and, unless they are expressed to come into force on a particular day, shall come into force on the day on which they are so published.

(b) All notifications issued under this Act shall, unless they are expressed to come into force on a particular day, come into force on the day on which they are published.

(2) Every rule made or notification issued under this Act shall, as soon as possible, after it is made or issued, be placed on the table of both Houses of the Legislature, and if before the expiry of the session in which it is so placed or the next session, both Houses agree in making any modification in any such rule or notification or both Houses agree that the rule or notification should not be made or issued, the rule or notification shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or notification.".