The Bengal Police Act, 1869

Act 7 of 1869

Keyword(s):
Police Force, General Police District, Inspector General
Bengal Act VII of 1869

[THE BENGAL POLICE ACT, 1869.]

An Act to amend the constitution of the Police-force in Bengal.

WHEREAS it is expedient that the entire police-establishment in the provinces under the control of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal1 should cease to be one police-force, and that the said provinces should cease to be one general police-district under one Inspector-General;

It is enacted follows:

1. [Repeal of Act V of 1861]—Rep. by Sec. 4 and the Third Schedule of the Amending Act, 1903 (1 of 1903).

2. It shall be lawful for the [State Government] 3x*, from time to time, to divide the said [States] as many general police-districts as it may think fit, and from time to time to vary and alter any of such general police-districts, or to consolidate two or more of such general police-districts into one district, as it may think fit.

1Short title.—This short title was given by the Amending Act, 1903 (1 of 1903).

2Legislative Papers.—For the Statement of Objects and Reasons, see the Calcutta Gazette of 1869, page 484, and for Proceedings in Council, see ibid. Supplement, 1869, pages 155, 265, 291, 341, and 645.

3Local extent.—This Act was passed for the whole of the former Province of Bengal—see the title and preamble.

4This includes the present State of West Bengal and other territory.

5The words "Provincial Government" were first substituted for the word "Lieutenant-Governor" by para. 4(1) of the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937. Thereafter, the word "State" was substituted for the word "Provincial" by para. 4(1) of the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

6The words "of Bengal" were omitted by para. 3(1) and the Schedule of the Indian Independence (Adaptation of Bengal and Punjab Acts) Order, 1948.

7Substituted for the word "Provinces" by para. 4(1) of the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

8This word was substituted for the word "he" by para. 5(2) of the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937.
3. It shall be lawful for the said 1[State Government] in each such general police-district to appoint some person or exercise in such district the powers of an Inspector-General of Police, whether such person shall or shall not hold any other office under the 2[Government]; and the administration of the police throughout such general police-district, and all powers and authorities by 3[the Police Act, 1861] or any other Act conferred on an Inspector-General of Police, shall be vested in such person.

4. The entire police-establishment in every such district shall, for the purposes of 4[the Police Act, 1861], be deemed to be one police-force, and shall be formally enrolled, and shall consist of such number of officers and men, and shall be constituted in such manner, 4* * * as shall from time to time be ordered by the said 5[State Government]. 5* * * 6

5. It shall be lawful for the 7[State Government] to employ members of the police-force who have been enrolled in, or appointed to, any one general police-district, in any other general police-district within the 8[States] subject 9* * * to 10[its] control; and the powers conferred on

1See foot-note 3 on page 143, ante.
2The word "Crown" was first substituted for the words "said Lieutenant-Governor" by para. 3 and Schedule IV of the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937. Thereafter the word "Government" was substituted for the word "Crown" by para. 4(1) of the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.
3The words and figures were substituted for the words and figures "the said Act V of 1861" by s. 2 and the First Schedule of the Bengal Repealing and Amending Act, 1938 (Ben. Act I of 1939).
4The words "and the members of such force shall receive such pay" were omitted by para. 3 and Sch. IV of the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937.
5The words "subject to the sanction of the Governor-General of India in Council" were omitted, ibid.
6These words were inserted, ibid.
7Substituted for the word "Provincial" by para. 4(1) of the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.
8See foot-note 5 on page 143, ante.
9The words "in the case of officers of the Indian Police of and above the rank of Assistant Superintendent" were omitted by para. 3 and Sch. IV of the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937.
10This word was substituted for the word "his" by paragraph 3(2) of the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937.
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(Section 6.)

police-officers by the Code of Criminal Procedure, "[1898.] may be by
them exercised in any portion of the said "[States] without reference to the
local limits of the general police-district to which they may respectively
belong.

6. This Act shall be read and taken, in the "[territories to which it
extends] as part of "[the Police Act, 1861].

1This figure was inserted by s. 2 and the First Schedule of the Bengal Repealing and
Amending Act, 1938 (Ben. Act I of 1939).

2Substituted for the word "Provinces" by para. 4(1) of the Adaptation of Laws Order,
1950.

3Substituted for the words "provinces under the control of the Provincial Government of
Bengal" by para. 3(1) and the Schedule of the Indian Independence (Adaptation of Bengal

4These words and figures were substituted for the words and figures "the said Act V of
1861" by s. 2 and the First Schedule of the Bengal Repealing and Amending Act, 1938 (Ben.
Act I of 1939).