

ORISSA ACT XIII OF 1951

**THE ORISSA PUBLIC EMBANKMENT CONSTRUCTION AND
IMPROVEMENT ACT, 1950**

*[Received the assent of the Governor on the 2nd March 1951, first published
in an extraordinary issue of the Orissa Gazette, dated
the 10th March 1951]*

**AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC
EMBANKMENTS FOR THE PREVENTION OF FLOOD IN
THE STATE OF ORISSA**

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the construction
and improvement of public embankments for the preven-
tion of flood in Orissa ;

It is hereby enacted as follows :—

Short title,
extent and
commence-
ment.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Orissa Public Embankment
Construction and Improvement Act, 1950.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Orissa.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

Definitions

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

(1) "Collector" means the Collector of a district and shall
include an Additional District Magistrate and any other officer
specially appointed by the State Government to perform the
functions of a Collector under this Act.

(2) "embankment" includes (a) every bank, dam, wall
and dyke made or used for excluding water from, or for
retaining water upon any land ; (b) every sluice, spur,
groyne, training-wall or other work annexed to, or portion
of, any such embankment ; and (c) every bank, dam, dyke,
wall, groyne or spur made or erected for the protection
of any such embankment or of any land from erosion or
overflow by or of rivers, tides, waves or waters.

(3) "improvement" used with reference to an embank-
ment shall mean any work which adds to or alters such
embankment in a manner directly more beneficial to the purpose
for which it was constructed and includes the renewal of such
works, or alterations therein or additions thereto.

(4) "public embankment" means an embankment main-
tained by the State Government.

(5) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made by
the State Government under this Act.

Initiation of
proceedings
and
hearing of
objections.

3. (1) Whenever the State Government decides that
construction or improvement of any public embankment
for the prevention or control of flood should be undertaken, a
notice to that effect shall be published in the prescribed manner
inviting objections, if any, from the persons likely to be affected
by the project

(2) If objections are received, a date, which shall not be less than fifteen days after the expiration of the prescribed period, shall be fixed by the Collector for hearing the objections received during the said period relating to the proposed work. The Collector shall hear the objections on the date appointed or on any subsequent date to which the hearing may be adjourned and hold such inquiry as he thinks fit.

(3) After holding the inquiry referred to in sub-section (2) the Collector shall forward a report on the objections to the State Government.

(4) After receipt of the report and in all cases before the construction or improvement is undertaken, the State Government shall cause an examination of the proposed work to be made by the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) or any other officer specially authorised in this behalf by the State Government.

(5) The State Government after considering the report of the Collector and the recommendation of the Commissioner, if any, and the report under sub-section (4) may, by notification, direct that the proposed work shall not be executed or that it shall be executed with such modifications, if any, as the State Government may specify therein.

(6) At any time after the publication of the notification under sub-section (5) the State Government may, by further notification, direct that the proposed work shall not be executed or that it shall be executed with such further modifications as may be specified in that notification.

Recovery of
cost.

4. (1) The cost incurred in the construction or improvement of any* public embankment may be recovered, in whole or in part, as the State Government may deem fit, from the persons who are benefited or are likely to be benefited thereby.

(2) If two or more persons are benefited or are likely to be benefited by such construction or improvement, the Collector shall apportion the cost thereof among them in the prescribed manner and so far as practicable in the same proportion as the area benefited and owned by each of such persons respectively bears to the total area so benefited.

(3) All cost under this section shall be payable in equal instalments on such days as the Revenue Commissioner or the Commissioner, Northern Division, as the case may be, shall direct :

Provided that no instalment shall exceed eight annas for every acre of land in respect of which the same is payable and that not more than four instalments shall be payable in any one year :

Provided further that when a new embankment is constructed and the cost incurred in the construction has already been realised therefor, no cost on account of improvement of such embankment, effected within ten years after the completion of the construction, shall be realised from the persons benefited or are likely to be benefited thereby.

(4) Instalment or instalments remaining unpaid in any year shall be recovered at the expiry of the year† as an arrear of land revenue.

* Inserted by section 2 of Orissa Act XXXII of 1951.

† Substituted by Orissa Act XXXII of 1951.

Settlement
of dispute.

5. If there is any dispute as to the person or persons who shall be liable to pay the cost of construction or improvement of the embankment or as to the apportionment of such expenses amongst those persons, such dispute shall be decided by the Collector.

Appeal

6. (1) Any person aggrieved by any order passed under section 5, may, within thirty days from the date of the order present an appeal to the Revenue Commissioner or the Commissioner, Northern Division as the case may be.

(2) The Revenue Commissioner or the Commissioner Northern Division, as the case may be, shall then send for the record of the case from the Collector and, after perusing such record and making such further enquiries, as he thinks fit, shall decide the appeal.

(3) The decision of the Revenue Commissioner or the Commissioner, Northern Division, as the case may be and subject only to such decision an order of the Collector under section 5 shall, subject to the provision of sub-section (4), be final.

(4) The State Government may, upon application or of their own motion, revise any order passed under sub-section (3)

Protection
of action
taken under
the Act.

7. (1) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or of the rules or orders made thereunder.

(2) No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Government for any damage caused or likely to be caused by anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of any provision of this Act or of any rule or order made thereunder.

Power to
make rules.

8. The State Government may make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act and for the guidance of officers in all matters connected with its enforcement. 3