

PREVENTION OF THE CRIME OF DACOITY ACT 1843

ACT No. XXIV. OF 1843

(Rep., Act 17 of 1862)

[18<sup>th</sup> November, 1843.]

*Passed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India in Council, on the 18<sup>th</sup> November, 1843.*

AN Act for the better prevention of the Crime of Dacoity.

Whereas it has been considered necessary to adopt more stringent measures for the conviction of professional Dacoits, who belong to certain Tribes, systematically employed in carrying on their lawless pursuits in different parts of the country, and for this purpose to extend the Provisions of Acts XXX. of 1836, XVIII. of 1837, and XVIII. of 1839, for the prevention of Thuggee, to persons concerned in the perpetration of Dacoity.

I. It is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall be proved to have belonged either before or after the passing of this Act to any gang of Dacoits, either within or without the Territories of the East India Company, shall be punished with transportation for life, or with imprisonment for any less term with hard labor.

II. And it is hereby enacted, that any person accused of the offence of Dacoity with or without murder, or of having belonged to a gang of Dacoits, or of the offence of unlawfully and knowingly receiving or buying property stolen or plundered by Dacoity, may be committed by any Magistrate within the Territories of the East India Company, and may be tried by any Court which would have been competent to try him if his offence had been committed within the Zillah where that Court sits.

III. And it is hereby enacted, that no Court shall, on trial of the offences specified in this Act, require any futwa from any Laws Officer.

---