

## ACT No. XXIV OF 1881.

PASSED BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

(Received the assent of the Governor General on the 26th October, 1881.)

An Act to amend the Panjáb Laws Act, 1872.

WHEREAS, in order to provide for the establishment of a system of municipal-watchmen in certain municipalities in the territories administered by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Panjáb, it is expedient to amend the Panjáb Laws Act, 1872; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. This Act may be called "The Panjáb Laws Amendment Act, 1881," and shall come into force at once.

2. For sections 39A and 39B of the said Act, the following sections shall be substituted:—

"39A. The Local Government may establish a system of village-watchmen or municipal-watchmen in any part of the territories under its administration, and in furtherance of this object may, from time to time, make rules to provide for the following matters:—

- (a) the definition of the limits of watchmen's beats;
- (b) the determination of the several grades of watchmen, and the number of each grade to be appointed to each beat;
- (c) the appointment, suspension, dismissal and resignation of watchmen of each grade;
- (d) the equipment and discipline of, and the control and supervision over, such watchmen;

(e) the

Preamble.

Short title.  
Commencement.

Substitution of new sections for sections 39A and 39B.

Power to establish system of village-watchmen and municipal-watchmen, and to make rules.

- (e) the conferring upon them, and the exercise by them, of any powers, and the enjoyment by them of any protection or privilege, which may be exercised and enjoyed by a police-officer under any law for the time being in force ;
- (f) the performance by them of such duties relating to police, sanitation or statistics, or for the benefit of the village-communities or municipalities within their respective beats, as the Local Government thinks fit ;
- (g) the exercise of authority over, and the rendering of aid to, such watchmen by headmen of the villages or members of the Municipal Committees of the towns comprised in their respective beats ;
- (h) the performance, by the headmen of villages comprised in the beat of any watchman, of any of the duties of a village-watchman in aid of, or substitution for, such watchman ;
- (i) the exercise, by such village-headmen for the purposes referred to in clauses (g) and (h), or by members of Municipal Committees for the purposes referred to in clause (g) of this section, of any of the powers, and the enjoyment by such headmen or members of any privilege or protection, of a village-watchman or a municipal-watchman as the case may be ;
- (j) the determination of the rate at which, and the mode in which, watchmen shall be paid, and, in the case of village-watchmen, of the mode in which their pay, the expenses of their equipment, and other charges connected with the village-watchman system shall be provided for, whether out of cesses or funds already leviabie or available in the villages comprised in the beat, or by a special tax in money or kind to be imposed on any class of persons residing or owning property

property in, or resorting to, such villages, or partly in one of these ways and partly in the other;

- (k) the collection with or without the aid of the village-headmen, and by any process available for the realization of the land-revenue, of any tax imposed under clause (j) of this section, and the application of, and the mode of accounting for, the same; and generally for
- (l) the efficient working of the system of village-watchmen or municipal-watchmen:

“ Provided—

*1st*,—that the rules to be made regarding the appointment of village-watchmen shall allow to the headmen of the villages comprised in the beat to which such a watchman is to be appointed, a power of nomination to be exercised in such manner, and subject to such reasonable conditions, as may be prescribed by such rules;

*2ndly*,—that the rules to be made under clause (j) of this section with regard to village-watchmen shall include provisions for recording and securing due consideration of the views and opinions on the matters therein referred to of the headmen of the villages comprised in each beat.”

“ 39B. Every person is bound to render to a village-watchman, or municipal-watchman, or village-headman discharging the duties of a police-officer under the rules made hereunder, all the assistance which he is bound to render to a police-officer.

“ Any person who obstructs such watchman or headman in the discharge of such duties may be arrested without warrant by a police-officer or by any watchman or village-headman empowered in this behalf by the Local Government.”

Obligation to assist watchmen and headmen.

Person obstructing watchman or headman may be arrested without warrant