

ACT No. XIII OF 1887.

PASSED BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

(Received the assent of the Governor General on the 11th March, 1887.)

An Act to provide for the protection of person and property from the risks incident to the supply and use of electricity for lighting and other purposes.

WHEREAS it is expedient to control the supply and use of electricity for lighting and other purposes ;

And whereas in the existing circumstances of the supply and use of electricity in India the exercise of that control by means of licenses or other like methods may be deferred, and it will suffice for the present to provide for the protection of person and property from the risks incident to such supply and use ;

It is hereby enacted as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Electricity Act, 1887.

Title, extent and commencement.

(2) It shall extend to the whole of British India ; and

(3) It shall come into force on the first day of July, 1887.

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

Definitions.

(1) “electricity” includes galvanism, magnetism, magneto-electricity and electro-magnetism :

(2) expressions defined in the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, have the meanings assigned to them in that Act :

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(3) “purpose”

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(3) "purpose" includes any purpose except the transmission of a message: and

(4) "vessel" includes anything used for the conveyance by water of human beings or of property.

Notice of intention to supply or use electricity.

3. In either of the following cases, namely:—

(a) if a person intends to undertake the business of supplying electricity, or

(b) if a person intends to use electricity for any public purpose, or in any public place, or in any place where there is likelihood of the public being affected, or in a place in which one hundred or more persons are likely to be assembled, or in a place which is a factory within the meaning of the Indian Factories Act, 1881,

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the person shall, one week at least before commencing the supply or use, give notice of his intention to the District Magistrate or, in a presidency-town, to the Commissioner of Police.

Power to make rules.

4. (1) The Governor General in Council may make such rules as he thinks expedient—

(a) for the protection of person and property from injury by reason of contact with, or the proximity of, appliances or apparatus used in the generation or supply of electricity, and

(b) for preventing telegraph-lines from being injuriously affected by any of those appliances or apparatus.

(2) The rules may, among other matters, authorise, or empower a Local Government or other authority to authorise, any officer, either by name or in virtue of his office, to enter, inspect and examine any place, carriage or vessel in which the officer has reason to believe any such appliances or apparatus to be.

(3) Any rules made in pursuance of this section shall be deemed to be within the powers conferred by this section on the Governor General in Council, and shall be of the same force as if enacted by this Act.

(4) The

(4) The power to make rules under this section is subject to the condition of the rules being made after previous publication.

5. If a person undertakes the business of supplying electricity, or uses electricity for any such purpose or in any such place as is referred to in section 3, without giving the notice required by that section, or infringes any rule under section 4, or obstructs an officer in the exercise of his authority under any such rule to enter, inspect and examine any place, carriage or vessel, he shall be punished with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, and, if he continues so to supply or use electricity or infringe the rule or obstruct the officer, after notice in writing to desist from so doing has been given to him by the District Magistrate or, in a presidency-town, by the Commissioner of Police, he shall be further punished with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees for every day during which such supply, use, infringement or obstruction continues. Penalties.

6. The Governor General in Council may, for the placing of appliances and apparatus for the supply of electricity for any purpose of the Government, confer upon any public officer any of the powers which the telegraph-authority possesses under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, with respect to the placing of telegraph lines and posts for the purposes of a telegraph established or maintained by the Government or to be so established or maintained. Exercise for the purposes of the Government of the powers of the telegraph-authority.

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