

## ACT No. XVII OF 1890.

PASSED BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

*(Received the assent of the Governor General on the 16th October, 1890.)*

An Act to provide for certain matters in connection with the taking of the Census.

**WHEREAS** it has been determined to take a census of British India during the year 1891, and it is expedient to provide for certain matters in connection with the taking of such census; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

Title, extent and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Indian Census Act, 1890.

(2) It extends to the whole of British India, inclusive of Upper Burma and British Baluchistan; and

(3) It shall come into force at once.

Appointment of census-officers.

2. (1) The Local Government may appoint any person, by name or by office, to take, or aid in or supervise the taking of, the census within any specified local area.

(2) Persons so appointed shall be called census-officers.

(3) The Local Government may delegate to such authority as it thinks fit the power of appointing census-officers which is conferred by this section.

Proof of appointment of census-officers, and their status as public servants.

3. (1) A declaration in writing, signed by any officer authorised by the Local Government in this behalf, that any person has been duly appointed a census-officer for any local area shall be conclusive proof of such appointment.

(2) All census-officers shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code.

4. (1) (a) Every

4. (1) (a) Every military or naval officer in command of any body of men belonging to Her Majesty's military or naval forces or of any vessel of war,

Discharge of duties of census-officers in certain cases.

(b) every person (except a pilot or harbour-master) having charge or control of a vessel,

(c) every person in charge of a lunatic asylum, hospital, workhouse, prison, reformatory or lock-up, or of any public, charitable, religious or educational institution,

(d) every keeper, secretary or manager of any sarai, hotel, boarding-house, lodging-house or club, and

(e) every occupant of immoveable property having at the time of the taking of the census not less than fifty persons employed under him, or living, on or in such property,

shall, if so required by the District Magistrate, or by such officer as the Local Government may appoint in this behalf by name or by office, perform such of the duties of a census-officer in relation to the persons who at the time of the taking of the census are under his command or charge, or inmates of his house or present on or in such property, as such Magistrate or officer may, by written order, direct.

(2) All the provisions of this Act relating to census-officers shall apply, so far as they can be made applicable, to all such persons while performing such duties, and any person refusing or neglecting to perform any duty which he is directed under this section to perform shall be deemed to have committed an offence under section 187 of the Indian Penal Code.

5. (1) The District Magistrate, or such officer as the Local Government may appoint in this behalf by name or by office for any local area, may, by written order, call upon all owners and occupiers of land, tenure-holders, farmers, assignees of land-revenue and lessees of fisheries under the Burma Fisheries Act, 1875, or the Upper Burma Land and Revenue Regulation, 1889, in his district or in such local area, as the case may be, or their agents, upon village-servants in permanently-settled estates in the Madras Presidency,

Power of District Magistrate to call upon certain persons to give assistance.

and

XLV of 1860.

VII of 1875.

III of 1889.

and upon all members of panchayats appointed in his district or in such local area under the Village Chaukidari Act, 1870 (Bengal), or the Chota Nagpore Rural Police Act, 1887, or the Silhat and Kachar Rural Police Regulation, 1883, to give such assistance as he needs towards the taking of a census of the persons who are at the time of the taking of the census on the lands of such owners, occupiers, holders, farmers and assignees, or within the limits of such fisheries or in the villages for which such village-servants or panchayats are appointed, as the case may be.

(2) Such order shall specify the nature of the assistance required, and such owners, occupiers, holders, farmers, assignees, lessees or their agents, and such village-servants and the members of such panchayats, shall be bound to obey it.

Asking of questions by census-officers.

6. Every census-officer may ask all such questions of all persons within the limits of the local area for which he is appointed as, by instructions issued in this behalf by the Local Government and published in the official Gazette, he may be directed to ask.

Obligation to answer questions.

7. Every person of whom any question is asked under the last foregoing section shall be legally bound to answer such question to the best of his knowledge or belief :

Provided that no person shall be bound to state the name of any female member of his household, and that no woman shall be bound to state the name of her husband or deceased husband or of any other person whose name she is forbidden by custom to mention.

Occupier to allow access, and permit affixing of numbers.

8. Every person occupying any house, enclosure, vessel or other place shall allow census-officers such access thereto as they may require for the purposes of the census, and as, having regard to the customs of the country, may be reasonable, and shall allow them to paint on or affix to the place such letters, marks or numbers as may be necessary for the purposes of the census.

Occupier to fill up schedule.

9. (1) Subject to such orders as the Local Government may issue in this behalf, any census-officer may

VI (B. 1870.  
V (B. C. 1887.  
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may leave, or cause to be left, at any dwelling-house within the local area for which he is appointed, a schedule for the purpose of its being filled up by the occupier of such house or of any specified part thereof with such particulars as the Local Government may direct regarding the inmates of such house or part at the time of the taking of the census.

(2) When any such schedule has been so left, the occupier of the house or part to which it relates shall fill it up, or cause it to be filled up, to the best of his knowledge or belief, so far as regards the inmates of such house or part, as the case may be, at the time aforesaid, and shall sign his name thereto, and, when so required, shall deliver the schedule so filled up and signed to the census-officer or to such person as he may direct.

10. In any of the following cases, namely :—

Penalties.

- (a) if a census-officer without sufficient cause refuses or neglects to act as such,
- (b) if a census-officer intentionally puts any offensive or improper question or knowingly makes any false return,
- (c) if any person refuses to answer to the best of his knowledge or belief any question asked of him by a census-officer which he is legally bound by section 7 so to answer,
- (d) if any person occupying any house, enclosure, vessel or other place refuses to allow a census-officer such reasonable access thereto as he is required by section 8 to allow,
- (e) if any person removes, obliterates, alters or injures before the thirty-first day of March, 1891, any letters, marks or numbers which have been painted or affixed for the purposes of the census,
- (f) if any occupier of a dwelling-house or part thereof knowingly and without sufficient cause fails to comply with the provisions of section 9 or makes any false return under that section,

he

he shall be punished with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

Jurisdiction  
in prosecu-  
tions.

11. (1) The Local Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, declare before what classes of Magistrates prosecutions under this Act may be instituted.

(2) Unless and until a notification is published under sub-section (1), all prosecutions under this Act shall, in the towns of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, be instituted before a Presidency Magistrate, and elsewhere before the District Magistrate.

(3) No prosecution under this Act shall be instituted except with the previous sanction of the Local Government, or with the previous sanction of some officer authorised by the Local Government in this behalf by name or by office.

Records of  
census not  
admissible in  
evidence in  
certain pro-  
ceedings.

12. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, no entry in any book, register or record made by a census-officer in the discharge of his duty as such officer, and no entry in a schedule delivered under section 9, shall be admissible as evidence in any civil proceeding or any proceeding under Chapter XII or Chapter XXXVI of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1882.

I of 1872

X of 1882

Temporary  
suspension of  
local enact-  
ments and,  
rules as to  
mode of  
taking census  
in muni-  
cipalities.

13. Notwithstanding anything in any enactment or rule with respect to the mode in which a census is to be taken in any municipality, the municipal authority may, at the time appointed for the taking of the census of British India during the year 1891, cause the census of the municipality to be taken wholly or in part by any method authorised by this Act.