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THE COTTON ACT, 1957

ACT NO. XXXVIII OF 1957

[10th September, 1957]

An Act to provide for measures for the promotion of international trade in cotton. *

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for measures for the promotion of international trade in cotton;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Cotton Act, 1957

¹[(2) It extends to the whole of Bangladesh.]

(3) It shall come into force at once.

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

- (a) “contract” means a contract for the purchase or sale of cotton, and includes a factory selection contract;
- (b) “cotton” means unginced cotton (*kapas*) or ginned cotton (*rui*) or pressed and baled cotton but does not include wool cotton or silk cotton;
- (c) “factory selection contract” means a contract for the sale of cotton entered into in Bangladesh and providing for selection by the buyer at the factory and for delivery of the cotton selected in full pressed bales ²[* * *] within the period and at the price specified in the contract;
- (d) “notified order” means an order published in the *official Gazette*;

* Throughout this Act, unless otherwise provided, the word “Bangladesh” and “Government” were substituted for the words “Pakistan” and “Central Government” respectively by section 3 and the Second Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

¹ Sub-section (2) was substituted by section 3 and the Second Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

² The words “at Karachi” were omitted by section 3 and the Second Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

Short title,
extent and
commencement

Definitions

- (e) “pressing factory” means a place wherein steam, water or other mechanical power or electric power is used and where cotton is pressed into bales.

Constitution
of the
Cotton
Board

¹[3. (1) The Government may, for the promotion of international trade in cotton, constitute, by notification in the *official Gazette*, a Cotton Board with a Chairman and such other members, not exceeding ten, as may be specified in the notification.

(2) The Chairman and the members of the Cotton Board shall be nominated by the Government.]

Functions of
the Board

4. The Board shall have power to supervise and regulate all dealings in cotton, in so far as they are connected with the promotion of international trade therein, and shall perform such functions as the Government may, from time to time, direct for the purposes of this Act.

Control of
the Board

5. The Board shall be subject to the superintendence and control of the Government, and in the discharge of its functions shall be guided by such general or special instructions as may, from time to time, be given to it by the Government.

6. [*Requisition of factories, etc.- Omitted by section 3 and the Second Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).*]

Power to
secure
fulfilment of
contracts

7. If in the opinion of the Government, it is expedient or necessary so to do for the purpose of securing the fulfilment of any contract relating to export of cotton on which the exporter has defaulted, it may buy cotton elsewhere and appropriate it to the contract, and the defaulter shall be liable for any loss which the Government may sustain on that account, but the defaulter shall not be entitled to any gain on the purchase made against default.

Explanation.- In this section “exporter” means a seller of cotton to a foreign buyer or to his agent in Bangladesh.

¹ Section 3 was substituted by section 3 and the Second Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

8. (1) The Government may, at any time, by an order in writing, direct such person or class of persons as may be specified in the order to furnish such particulars relating to the fulfilment of any contract relating to export of cotton, in such manner and to such person, as may be specified in the order.

Power to call for information

(2) The Government may, by order in writing, require any person to furnish to it, or to such person as may be specified in this order, any information in his possession, being information which the Government may require for the purposes of this Act.

9. The Government may, by general or special order in writing, require any contract relating to export of cotton to be registered with such organisation and in such manner as may be specified in the order.

Registration of contracts

10. (1) The Government, if satisfied that it could be in the interests of the trade and also of the public to do so, may, by a notified order and subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified in the order, prohibit any specified kind or class of contracts, such as forward contracts or hedge contracts, unless such contracts are made through and under the control of, and in the manner prescribed by, an association recognised by the Government under sub-section (2).

Control of contracts through recognised associations

(2) For the purposes of this section, the Government may, by a notified order, recognise any association, constituted for the purpose of regulating and controlling contracts, which applies for such recognition.

(3) A recognition under sub-section (2) may be granted subject to the condition that the association shall by such amendments of its articles of association, rules or bye-laws as may be necessary provide for the appointment by the Government of not more than four persons, representing interests not directly represented through membership of the association, as members of the governing body of the association.

(4) Every association, which is recognised under sub-section (2), shall furnish to the Government such information and such periodical returns relating to the affairs of the association as the Government may by order in writing require.

(5) The Government may, by order in writing, give such directions, as it considers necessary in the interests of the trade and the public, to an association recognised under sub-section (2) in respect of contracts to which this section applies.

(6) No articles, rules or bye-laws of an association recognised under sub-section (2) shall be altered save with the previous approval of the Government.

(7) Whenever the Government considers it expedient to do so, it may by order in writing, direct any association recognised under sub-section (2) to make, repeal or amend any articles, rules or bye-laws of the association in the manner and within a period specified in the order; and if the recognised association refuses, fails or neglects to comply with the direction within the specified period, the Government may, by a notified order, make, repeal or amend the articles, rules or bye-laws in the manner specified in the order giving the direction or with such modifications as the Government may think fit, and the making, repeal or amendment of the articles, rules or bye-laws shall be deemed to have been duly effected by the association.

(8) If the Government is of the opinion that the interests of the trade and the public require that the recognition accorded to an association under sub-section (2) should be terminated, the Government may, after giving the association a reasonable opportunity of being heard in the matter, by a notified order, terminate the recognition on and from the date of such order or any specified date subsequent thereto, and the association shall cease to be an association recognised under sub-section (2) from the date of such termination:

Provided that such termination shall not affect the validity of any contract entered into or made before the date of such termination.

Delegation of powers

11. The Government may, by a notified order, direct that any power conferred upon it by or under this Act shall, in relation to such matters and subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified in the order, be exercisable by the Cotton Board.

Penalty, etc.

12. (1) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with an order made or direction given under this Act shall be punishable as if he had contravened a provision of this Act.

(2) Any person who contravenes any provision of this Act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both.

(3) Where any person as aforesaid is a company or a body corporate, every director, manager, secretary or other officer, and every agent and servant thereof, and in the case of an unlimited company or a company limited by guarantee, also any of its members, shall, subject to the provisions of the next succeeding sub-section, be punishable as if he had contravened the provisions of this Act.

(4) No such director, manager, secretary or other officer and no such agent, servant or member as is referred to in sub-section (3) shall be prosecuted under this Act unless he has been given an opportunity by the Government to show cause, within such time as the Government may specify, why he should not be prosecuted, and if it is made to appear to the satisfaction of the Government at any time before the institution of the prosecution that he has used due diligence to enforce the observance of the provisions of this Act and the orders and directions issued thereunder and that the offence has been committed without his knowledge or against his consent, the Government may forbear further proceedings against him:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall prevent the Government from proceeding against him further if it sees reason to do so.

13. If any person-

- (i) when required by an order under this Act to make any statement or furnish any information, makes any statement or furnishes any information which is false in any material particular and which he knows or has reasonable cause to believe to be false, or does not believe to be true, or
- (ii) makes any such statement as aforesaid in any book, account, record, declaration, return or other documents which he is required by any such order to maintain or furnish,

he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both.

False
Statements

Power to make rules

14. (1) The Government may, by notification in the *official Gazette*, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may prescribe the procedure for determining, whether by means of arbitration or otherwise, the loss that may be sustained by Government in securing the fulfilment of any contract on which an exporter has defaulted, and the manner in which the liability of the defaulter for such loss may be discharged by him.

(3) Rules made under this section shall be laid before the National Assembly at its meeting held next after the publication of the notification under sub-section (1).

Cognizance of offences

15. No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act except on a report in writing of the facts constituting such offence made by a person who is a public servant as defined in section 21 of the ¹[* * *] Penal Code.

Special provision regarding fines

16. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 32 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, it shall be lawful for any Magistrate of the First Class specially empowered by the ²[Government] in this behalf to pass a sentence of fine exceeding one thousand ³[taka] on any person convicted under this Act.

Presumption as to orders

17. Where an order purports to have been made and signed by an authority in exercise of any power conferred by or under this Act, a court shall, within the meaning of the Evidence Act, 1872, presume that such order was so made by that authority.

18. [Repeal.-Repealed by Section 2 and 1st Schedule of the Repealing and Amending Ordinance, 1965 (Ordinance No. X of 1965).]

¹ The word "Pakistan" was omitted by section 3 and the Second Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

² The word "Government" was substituted for the words "Provincial Government" by section 3 and the Second Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

³ The word "taka" was substituted for the word "rupees" by section 3 and the Second Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).