

The Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1956

(ACT NO. VI OF 1956)

An Act to provide for the appointment of Commissions of Inquiry and for vesting such Commissions with certain powers. ¹♣

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the appointment of Commissions of Inquiry and for vesting such Commissions with certain powers;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

Short title, extent and commencement 1. (1) This Act may be called the ²[* * *] Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1956.
(2) It extends to the whole of ³[Bangladesh].

(3) It shall come into force at once.

Definitions 2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-
(a) "Commission" means a Commission of Inquiry appointed or deemed to have been appointed under section 3; and
(b) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under section 12.

Appointment of Commission 3. (1) The Government may, if it is of opinion that it is necessary so to do, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint a Commission of Inquiry for the purpose of making an inquiry into any definite matter of public importance and performing such functions and within such time as may be specified in the notification, and the Commission so appointed shall make the inquiry and perform the functions accordingly.

(2) The Commission may consist of one or more members appointed by the Government, and where the Commission consists of more than one member, one of them may be appointed as the President thereof.

**Powers of
Commission**

4. The Commission shall have the powers of a civil court, while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in respect of the following matters, namely:-

- (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;
- (b) requiring the discovery and production of any documents;
- (c) receiving evidence on affidavits;
- (d) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.

**Additional
powers of
Commission**

5. (1) Where the Government is of opinion that, having regard to the nature of the inquiry to be made and other circumstances of the case, all or any of the provisions of sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) or sub-section (4) or sub-section (5) or sub-section (6) should be made applicable to a Commission, the Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, direct that all or such of the said provisions as may be specified in the notification shall apply to that Commission and on the issue of such a notification, the said provisions shall apply accordingly.

(2) The Commission shall have power to require any person, subject to any privilege which may be claimed by that person under any law for the time being in force, to furnish information on such points or matters as, in the opinion of the Commission, may be useful for, or relevant to, the subject matter of the inquiry.

(3) The President or any officer, not below the rank of a gazetted officer, specially authorised in this behalf by the President may enter any building or place where the Commission has reason to believe that any books of account or other documents relating to the subject matter of the inquiry may be found, and may seize any such books of account or documents or take extracts or copies therefrom, subject to the provisions of section 102 and section 103 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, in so far as they may be applicable.