



THE FOREST ACT, 1927



CONTENTS

PREAMBLE.

CHAPTER I. PRELIMINARY

- 1 Short title and extent.
- 2 Interpretation clause.

CHAPTER II. OF RESERVED FORESTS

- 3 Power to reserve forests.
- 4 Notification by Provincial Government.
- 5 Bar of accrual of forest-rights.
- 6 Proclamation by Forest Settlement-officer.
- 7 Inquiry by Forest Settlement-officer.
- 8 Powers of Forest Settlement-officers.
- 9 Extinction of rights.
- 10 Treatment of claims relating to practice of shifting cultivation.
- 11 Power to acquire land over which right is claimed.
- 12 Order on claims to rights of pasture or to forest-produce.
- 13 Record to be made by Forest Settlement-officer.
- 14 Record where he admits claim.
- 15 Exercise of rights admitted.
- 16 Commutation of rights.
- 17 Appeal from order passed under section 11, section 12, section 15 or section 16.
- 18 Appeal under section 17.
- 19 Pleaders.
- 20 Notification declaring forest reserved.
- 21 Publication of translation of such notification in neighbourhood of forest.
- 22 Power to revise arrangement made under section 15 or section 18.
- 23 No right acquired over reserved forest, except as here provided.
- 24 Rights not to be alienated without sanction.

- 25 Power to stop ways and water-courses in reserved forests.
26 Acts prohibited in such forests.
27 Power to declare forest no longer reserved.

CHAPTER III. OF VILLAGE FORESTS

- 28 Formation of village-forests.

CHAPTER IV. OF PROTECTED FORESTS

- 29 Protected forests.
30 Power to issue notification reserving trees, etc.
31 Publication of translation of such notification in neighbourhood.
32 Power to make rules for protected forests.
33 Penalties for acts in contravention of notification under section 30 or of rules under section 32.
34 Nothing in this Chapter to prohibit acts done in certain cases.

CHAPTER V. OF THE CONTROL OVER FORESTS AND LANDS NOT BEING THE PROPERTY OF GOVERNMENT

- 35 Protection of forests for special purposes.
36 Power to assume management of forests.
37 Expropriation of forests in certain cases.
38 Protection of forests at request of owners.

CHAPTER VI. OF THE DUTY ON TIMBER AND OTHER FOREST-PRODUCE

- 39 Power to impose duty on timber and other forest-produce.
40 Limit not to apply to purchase money or royalty.

CHAPTER VII. OF THE CONTROL OF TIMBER AND OTHER FOREST-PRODUCE IN TRANSIT

- 41 Power to make rules to regulate transit of forest-produce.
41 A Powers of Federal Government as to movements of timber across Customs Frontiers.
42 Penalty for breach of rules made under section 41.
43 Government and Forest-officers not liable for damage to forest-produce at depot
44 All persons bound to aid in case of accidents at depot.

CHAPTER VIII. OF THE COLLECTION OF DRIFT AND STRANDED TIMBER

- 45 Certain kinds of timber to be deemed property of Government until title thereto proved, and may be collected accordingly.
46 Notice to claimants of drift-timber
47 Procedure on claim preferred to such timber.
48 Disposal of unclaimed timber.
49 Government and its officers not liable for damage to such timber.
50 Payments to be made by claimant before timber is delivered to him.
51 Power to make rules and prescribe penalties.

CHAPTER IX.

PENALTIES AND PROCEDURE

- 52 Seizure of property liable to confiscation.
- 53 Power to release property seized under section 52.
- 54 Procedure thereupon.
- 55 Forest-produce, tools, etc, when liable to confiscation.
- 56 Disposal, on conclusion of trial for forest-offence, of produce in respect of which it was committed.
- 57 Procedure when offender not known, or cannot be found.
- 58 Procedure as to perishable property seized under section 52.
- 59 Appeal from orders under section 55, section 56 or section 57.
- 60 Property when to vest in Government.
- 61 Saving of power to release property seized.
- 62 Punishment for wrongful seizure.
- 63 Penalty for counterfeiting or defacing marks on trees and timber and for altering boundary-marks.
- 64 Power to arrest without warrant.
- 65 Power to release on a bond a person arrested.
- 66 Power to prevent commission of offence.
- 67 Power to try offences summarily.
- 68 Power to compound offences.
- 69 Presumption that forest-produce belongs to Government.

CHAPTER X. CATTLE-TRESPASS

- 70 Cattle-trespass Act, 1871, to apply.
- 71 Power to alter fines fixed under that Act.

CHAPTER XI. OF FOREST-OFFICERS

- 72 Provincial government may invest Forest-officers with certain powers.
- 73 Forest-officer deemed public servants.
- 74 Indemnity for acts done in good faith.
- 75 Forest-officers not to trade.

CHAPTER XII. SUBSIDIARY RULES

- 76 Additional powers to make rules.
- 77 Penalties for breach of rules.
- 78 Rules when to have force of law.

CHAPTER XIII. MISCELLANEOUS

- 79 Persons bound to assist Forest-officers and Police-officers.
- 80 Management of forests the joint property of Government and other persons.
- 81 Failure to perform service for which a share in produce of Government forest is enjoyed.
- 82 Recovery of money due to Government.
- 83 Lien on forest-produce for such money.

- 84 Land required under this Act to be deemed to be needed for a public purpose under the land Acquisition Act, 1894.
- 85 Recovery of penalties due under bond.
- 85 A Saving for rights for [Federal Government.]
- 86 Repealed.

THE SCHEDULE.
[Repeals.]

THE FOREST ACT, 1927

¹ACT NO. XVI OF 1927

[21st September, 1927]

An Act to consolidate the law relating to forests, the transit of forest produce and the duty leviable on timber and other forest-produce.

WHEREAS it is expedient to consolidate the law relating to forests, the transit of forest-produce and the duty leviable on timber and other forest-produce ; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

¹For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Gazette of India, 1926, [Pt. V, p. 165, and for Report of Select Committee, see *ibid.*, p. 242.

It has also been applied to Phulera in the Excluded Area of Upper Tanawal to the extent the Act is applicable in the N.-W.F.P. and extended to the Excluded Area of Upper Tanawal (N.-W.F.P) other than Phulera with effect from such date and subject to such modifications as may be notified, see N.-W.F.P (Upper Tanawal) (Excluded Area) Laws Regulation, 1950.

It has been amended in its application to the Province of—

(i) Punjab, see Punjab Act 4 of 1948, s. 2.

(ii) Sind, see Sind Act 8 of 1953, s. 2 and

(iii) West Pakistan, by West Pakistan Ordinance 4 of 1962, s. 2 (with effect from the 22nd January, 1962) and by West Pakistan Act 7 of 1964, s. 2 (with effect from the 17th March, 1964).

The Act, as in force in the North-West Frontier Province immediately before the commencement of N.-W.F.P Regulation No. II of 1974, has been applied to the Provincially Administered Tribal Areas of Chitral, Dir, Kalam, Swat and Malakand Protected Area, by N.-W.F.P. Regulation, No. II of 1974, s. 3.