

STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN ACT, 1999

(Act No. V of 1999)

[Received the assent of the Governor on 13th April, 1999 and published in the Government Gazette dated 19th April, 1999].

An Act to constitute a State Commission for Women and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Be it enacted by the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature in the Fiftieth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

CHAPTER I

Preliminary

1. Short title, extent and commencement. —(1) This Act may be called the State Commission for Women Act, 1999.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

¹[(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Government may, by notification in the Government Gazette, appoint.]

2. Definitions. —In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, —

- (a) “Commission” means the State Commission for Women constituted under section 3;
- (b) “Government” means the Government of Jammu and Kashmir ;
- (c) “Member” means a Member of the Commission ;
- (d) “Prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

CHAPTER II

The State Commission for Women

3. Constitution of the State Commission for Women. —(1) The Government shall constitute a body to be known as the State Commission for Women to exercise the powers conferred on, and to perform the functions assigned to it, under this Act.

(2) The Commission shall consist of,—

- (a) a whole time Chairperson and two part-time Members to be nominated

1. Enforced vide SRO 499 dated 17th November, 1999 w. e. f. 19th November, 1999.

by the Government from amongst eminent women of the State committed to the cause of women;

- (b) one Secretary of the rank of Additional Secretary to Government to be nominated by the Government.

4. Term of office and conditions of service of Chairperson and Members. —(1) The Chairperson and every Member shall hold office for such period, not exceeding three years, as may be specified by the Government in this behalf.

(2) The Chairperson or a Member may, by writing and addressed to the Government, resign from the office of Chairperson or, as the case may be, of the Member at any time.

(3) The Government shall remove a person from the office of Chairperson or a Member referred to in sub-section (2) if that person—

- (a) becomes an undischarged insolvent ;
- (b) gets convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for an offence which in the opinion of the Government involves moral turpitude ;
- (c) becomes of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court;
- (d) refuses to act or becomes incapable of acting ;
- (e) is, without obtaining leave of absence from the Commission, absent from three consecutive meetings of the Commission ; or
- (f) in the opinion of the Government has so abused the position of Chairperson or Member as to render that person's continuance in office detrimental to the public interest :

Provided that no person shall be removed under this clause until that person has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in the matter.

(4) A vacancy caused under sub-section (2) or otherwise shall be filled by fresh nomination.

(5) The salaries and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service of, the Chairperson and Members shall be such as may be prescribed.

5. Officers and other employees of the Commission. —(1) The Government shall provide the Commission with such officers and employees as may be necessary for the efficient performance of the functions of the Commission under this Act.

(2) The salaries and allowances payable to, and the other terms and condi-

tions of services of, the officers and other employees appointed for the purpose of the Commission shall be such as may be prescribed.

6. Salaries and allowances to be paid out of grants. —The salaries and allowances payable to the Chairperson and Members and the administrative expenses including salaries, allowances and pensions payable to officers and other employees referred to in section 5, shall be paid out of the grants referred to in sub-section (1) of section 11.

7. Vacancies etc. not to invalidate proceedings of the Commission. — No act or proceedings of the Commission shall be questioned or shall be invalid on the ground merely of the existence of any vacancy or defect in the constitution of the Commission.

8. Committee of the Commission. —(1) The Commission may appoint such committees as may be necessary for dealing with such special issues as may be taken up by the Commission from time to time.

(2) The Commission shall have the power to co-opt as members of any committee appointed under sub-section (1) such number of persons, who are not members of the Commission, as it may think fit and the persons so co-opted shall have the right to attend the meetings of the committees and take part in its proceedings but shall not have the right to vote.

(3) The persons so co-opted shall be entitled to receive such allowances for attending the meetings of the committee as may be prescribed.

9. Procedure to be regulated by the Commission. —(1) The Commission or a committee thereof shall meet as and when necessary and shall meet at such time and place as the Chairperson may think fit.

(2) The Commission shall regulate its own procedure and the procedure of the committees thereof.

(3) All orders and decisions of the Commission shall be authenticated by the Member-Secretary or any other officer of the Commission duly authorized by the Member-Secretary in this behalf

CHAPTER III

Functions of the Commission

10. Functions of the Commission. —(1) The Commission shall perform all or any of the following functions, namely:—

- (a) investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for woman under the Constitution and other laws ;

- (b) present to the Government, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards ;
- (c) make in such reports, recommendations for the effective implementation of those safeguards for improving the condition of women by the State ;
- (d) review, from time to time, the existing provisions of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir and other laws affecting women and recommending amendments thereto so as to suggest remedial legislative measures to meet any lacunae, inadequacies or shortcomings in such legislations;
- (e) take up the cases of violation of the provisions of the Constitution and of the other laws relating to women with the appropriate authorities ;
- (f) looking into complaints and take suo-moto notice of matters relating to—
 - (i) deprivation of women’s rights ;
 - (ii) non-implementation of laws enacted to provide protection to women and also to achieve the objective of equality and development ;
 - (iii) non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships and ensuring welfare and providing relief to women;and take up the issues arising out of such matters with appropriate authorities ;
- (g) call for special studies or investigations into specific problems or situations arising out of discrimination and atrocities against women and identify the constraints so as to recommend strategies for their removal ;
- (h) undertake promotional and educational research so as to suggest ways of ensuring due representation of women in all spheres and identify factors responsible for impeding their advancement, such as, lack of access to housing and basic services, inadequate support services and technologies for reducing drudgery and occupational health hazards and for increasing their productivity ;
- (i) participate and advise on the planning process of socio-economic development of women ;
- (j) evaluate the progress of the development of women under the State ;

- (k) inspect or cause to be inspected a jail, remand home, women's institution or other place of custody where women are kept as prisoners or otherwise and take up with the concerned authorities for remedial action, if found necessary ;
- (l) fund litigation involving issues affecting a large body of women ;
- (m) make periodical reports to the Government on any matter pertaining to women and in particular various difficulties under which women toil;
- (n) any other matter which may be referred to it by the Government.

(2) The Government shall cause all the reports referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (1) to be laid before each House of the State Legislature along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendation and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.

(3) The Commission shall, while investigating any matter referred to in clause (a) or sub-clause (i) of clause (f) of sub-section (1) have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and, in particular, in respect of the following matters, namely:—

- (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath ;
- (b) requiring the discovery and production of any document ;
- (c) receiving evidence on affidavits ;
- (d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office ;
- (e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents; and
- (f) any other matter which may be prescribed.

CHAPTER IV

Finance, Accounts and Audit

11. Grants by the Government. —(1) The Government shall, after due appropriation made by State Legislature by law in this behalf, pay to the Commission by way of grants such sums of money as the Government may think fit for being utilized for the purpose of this Act.

(2) The Commission may spend such sums as it thinks fit for performing

the functions under this Act, and such sums shall be treated as expenditure payable out of the grants referred to in sub-section (1).

12. Accounts and audit.—(1) The Commission shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts in such form as may be prescribed by the Government.

(2) The accounts of the Commission shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General at such intervals as may be specified by him and any expenditure incurred in connection with such audit shall be payable by the Commission to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

(3) The Comptroller and Auditor General and any person appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of the Commission under this Act shall have the same rights and privileges and the authority in connection with such audit as the Comptroller and Auditor General generally has in connection with the audit of the Government accounts and, in particular, shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers and to inspect any of the offices of the Commission.

(4) The accounts of the Commission, as certified by the Comptroller and Auditor General or any other person appointed by him in this behalf, together, with the audit report thereon shall be forwarded annually to the Government by the Commission.

13. Annual report .—The Commission shall prepare in such form and at such time for each financial year, as may be prescribed, its annual report, giving a full account of its activities during the previous financial year and forward a copy thereof to the Government.

14. Annual report and audit report to be laid Wore State Legislature.—The Government shall cause the annual report together with a memorandum of action taken on the recommendations contained therein and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations and the audit report to be laid as soon as may be after the reports are received before each House of State Legislature.

CHAPTER IV

Miscellaneous

15. Chairperson, Members and staff of the Commission to be public servants.—The Chairperson, the members, officers and other employees of the Commission shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Ranbir Penal Code.

16. Government to consults Commission. --The Government shall consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting woman.

17. Power to make rules. --The Government may, by notification in the Government Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:--

- (a) salaries and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service of, the Chairperson and Members under sub-section (5) of section 4 and of officers and other employees under sub-section (2) of section 5 ;
- (b) allowances for attending the meetings of the committee by the co-opted persons under sub-section (3) of section 8 ;
- (c) other matters under clause (f) of sub-section (4) of section 10 ;
- (d) the form in which the annual statement of accounts shall be maintained under sub-section (1) of section 12 ;
- (e) the form in, and the time at, which the annual report shall be prepared under section 13 ;
- (f) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed.

(3) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of State Legislature, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

Act updated by:—

Q. T. Mahmood (PLO)