



The Calcutta Slum Clearance and Rehabilitation of Slum-Dwellers Act, 1958

Act 20 of 1958

Keyword(s):

Hut, Slum, Slum Area

DISCLAIMER: This document is being furnished to you for your information by PRS Legislative Research (PRS). The contents of this document have been obtained from sources PRS believes to be reliable. These contents have not been independently verified, and PRS makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or correctness. In some cases the Principal Act and/or Amendment Act may not be available. Principal Acts may or may not include subsequent amendments. For authoritative text, please contact the relevant state department concerned or refer to the latest government publication or the gazette notification. Any person using this material should take their own professional and legal advice before acting on any information contained in this document. PRS or any persons connected with it do not accept any liability arising from the use of this document. PRS or any persons connected with it shall not be in any way responsible for any loss, damage, or distress to any person on account of any action taken or not taken on the basis of this document.

©

West Bengal Act XX of 1958¹

THE CALCUTTA SLUM CLEARANCE AND REHABILITATION OF SLUM-DWELLERS ACT, 1958.

[30th December, 1958.]

An Act to provide for the clearance of slums in Calcutta and Rehabilitation of Slum-dwellers and for certain other matters connected therewith.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the clearance of slums in Calcutta and wherever possible for the erection of planned buildings after demolition of existing huts and other structures in such slums in the manner hereinafter appearing with a view to the removal of insanitary and unhygienic conditions prevailing therein, the provision of better accommodation and improved living conditions for the slum-dwellers, and the promotion of public health generally, and for certain other matters connected therewith;

It is hereby enacted in the Ninth Year of the Republic of India, by the Legislature of West Bengal, as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Calcutta Slum Clearance and Rehabilitation of Slum-dwellers Act, 1958.

(2) It shall come into ²force on such date as the State Government may by notification appoint.

(3) It shall apply ³to Calcutta or to such portion or portions thereof as the State Government may, from time to time, by notification declare. The State Government may by notification extend it to any other town or local area in West Bengal specified in such notification.

Short title,
commence-
ment and
extent.

¹For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see the *Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary*, of the 2nd December, 1957, Part IVA, page 5701; for Report of the Joint Select Committee on the Bill, see the *Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary* of the 26th February, 1958, Part IVA, pages 687-700; for proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, see the proceedings of the meetings of that Assembly held on the 12th December, 1957, the 4th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 18th, 20th, 25th and the 26th March, 1958 and the 5th July, 1958; and for proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Council, see the proceedings of the meetings of that Council held on the 16th December, 1957, the 18th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 30th July, 1958 and the 5th August, 1958.

²The Act came into force with effect from the 1st March, 1959. *Vide* notification No. 1644-M/1A-5/59, dated the 25th February, 1959, published in the *Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary*, of 1959, Part IA, page 467.

³This Act shall apply to the certain portions of Calcutta in ward No. 1 of Calcutta Municipal Corporation *vide* Notification No. 160-H.W., dated the 8.1.1965.

*The Calcutta Slum Clearance and Rehabilitation of
Slum-dwellers Act, 1958.*

[West Ben. Act

(Sections 2-4.)

Explanation.—In this sub-section, "Calcutta" means the area described in Schedule I to the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1951, as deemed to have been amended under section 594 of that Act.

West Ben.
Act XXXIII
of 1951.

Repeal and
prohibition
of erection
or addition
or alteration
of new hut,
etc.

2. In any area to which this Act applies,—

- (a) sections 393 to 413 (both inclusive) of, and Parts VIII and IX of Schedule XVI to, the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1951, and sections 335 to 362 (both inclusive) of, and Parts VIII and IX of Schedule XVII to, the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923, as extended to the Municipality of Howrah by notification No. 260M, dated the 18th January, 1932, by the Government of Bengal in the Ministry of Local Self-Government and sections 334 to 347 (both inclusive) of, and sections E, F and G and Form B of Schedule VI to, the Bengal Municipal Act, 1932, as the case may be, shall stand repealed, and
- (b) notwithstanding anything contained in any of the aforesaid Acts, no new hut or collection of huts shall be erected or no addition to, or alteration in, any such hut or collection of huts, shall be made in such area except with the permission in writing of the prescribed authority and subject to such restrictions or conditions, if any, as may be prescribed.

Ben. Act III
of 1923.

Bengal Act
XV of 1932.

Definitions.

3. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

- (1) "hut" means any structure, no substantial part of which, excluding the walls up to a height of eighteen inches above the floor or floor-level, is constructed of masonry, reinforced concrete, ferro-concrete, cemented brick-work, steel, iron or other metal, or any combination of these materials;
- (2) "notification" means a notification published in the *Official Gazette*;
- (3) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (4) "prescribed authority" means any person appointed by the State Government, by notification, to perform all or any of the functions of the prescribed authority under this Act;
- (5) "slum" means any land containing a collection of huts or other structures used or intended to be used for human habitation;
- (6) "slum-area" means any area declared as such by the State Government under section 4.

Declaration
of slum-area.

4. (1) If the State Government is satisfied that in any area—

- (a) the huts or other structures used or intended to be used for human habitation are unfit for

*The Calcutta Slum Clearance and Rehabilitation of
Slum-dwellers Act, 1958.*

181

XX of 1958.]

(Section 5.)

- (b) the unhealthy or unhygienic condition thereof or of the huts or other structures therein, is dangerous or injurious to public health or to the health of the inhabitants of the area,

the State Government may, by notification, and in such other manner as may be prescribed, proclaim its intention to declare such area to be a slum-area.

(2) Upon the publication of such a notification and within two months of such publication, the person or persons affected by such notification may make representations in writing to the State Government, stating the grounds of their objection to the intended declaration.

(3) Upon consideration of such representations, if any, the State Government may withdraw the notification mentioned in sub-section (1) or may, by notification, declare such area or any portion thereof to be a slum-area.

5. (1) The State Government may, within one year after an area has been declared a slum-area under sub-section (3) of section 4, acquire the land comprised in such area together with all huts and other structures, standing thereon by publishing in the *Official Gazette* and in such other manner as may be prescribed a notice to the effect that the State Government has decided to acquire such land together with all huts and other structures standing thereon.

Acquisition
of slum-area.

(2) When a notice is published as aforesaid, any officer of the State Government, authorised by it in this behalf, may take possession of the land comprised in the slum-area together with all huts and other structures standing thereon, and thereupon such land and huts and other structures shall vest absolutely in the State Government free from all encumbrances:

Provided that such officer shall not take possession of any hut or other structure until the expiration of two months from the date of service of a notice to quit such hut or other structure which shall be served in such manner and on such persons as may be prescribed.

(3) If such notice is not complied with by the person concerned mentioned in the proviso to sub-section (2), the officer referred to in that sub-section may—

- (a) if he is a Magistrate, enforce the delivery of possession to himself of the hut or other structure, in respect of which the notice has been served; or
- (b) if he is not a Magistrate, apply to the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, or to a Magistrate, as the case may be, and such Commissioner or Magistrate shall enforce the delivery of possession of such hut or other structure to such officer:

Provided that the provisions of sub-sections (2) and (3) shall not apply unless the State Government has offered

*The Calcutta Slum Clearance and Rehabilitation of
Slum-dwellers Act, 1958.*

[West Ben. Act

(Section 6.)

alternative accommodation as near as may be within a radius of one mile from the slum-area to the occupier of such hut or other structure at a rent which the State Government is satisfied is comparable to what was being paid by the occupier or if no rent was being paid by the occupier, what was payable for similar accommodation in the locality and the occupier has refused or neglected to occupy such alternative accommodation within the time prescribed.

(4) Before taking possession under sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) of the land and huts and other structures, the officer shall pay such amount to the occupier as may be prescribed on account of—

- (a) cost of removal,
- (b) cost of dismantling and re-erecting any plant, machinery or such other equipment used for any trade or industry, and
- (c) compensation for any temporary loss of occupation.

6. (1) On the removal of the occupiers from all huts and other structures in pursuance of the provisions of sub-sections (2) and (3) of section 5, the State Government may take all necessary measures to clear the acquired land by the demolition of all huts and structures therein and to erect thereon buildings according to such plan as may be approved by it.

Utilisation of
slum-area for
building and
other public
purposes.

(2) The State Government may itself execute or cause to be executed the measures referred to in sub-section (1) or may entrust the execution to such local authority or any other public authority constituted by Government and on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the State Government.

(3) The buildings so erected or the huts remodelled under sub-section (6) will be let out to slum-dwellers and persons of such low income groups as may be prescribed.

(4) The terms and conditions for letting out the buildings erected or the huts remodelled under the provisions of sub-section (3) shall be such as may be prescribed.

(5) Where the acquired land is unsuitable for the construction of any building as aforesaid on the ground that the area is small, or on any other ground, the State Government may use it for such public purposes as it thinks fit.

(6) The State Government may, instead of demolishing huts and other structures and erecting buildings, take measures to remodel the slum in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.

XX of 1958.]

(Section 7.)

7. (1) Any person having any interest in any land or hut or structure acquired under this Act shall be entitled to receive from the State Government compensation calculated according to the principles enumerated below, namely:—

Compensation.

(a) For the interest of the owner of the land—
compensation equal to the sum of—

(i) value of the land determined according to the following table:—

Table

<i>Amount of purchase price.</i>	<i>Value for purpose of compensation</i>
(1) For the first Rs. 5,000 or less of the amount of purchase price.	100 per centum of the amount.
(2) For the next Rs. 5,000 or less of the amount of purchase price.	80 per centum of the amount.
(3) For the next Rs. 5,000 or less of the amount of purchase price.	70 per centum of the amount.
(4) For the next Rs. 5,000 or less of the amount of purchase price.	60 per centum of the amount.
(5) For the balance of the purchase price.	55 per centum of the amount.

and

(ii) ten times the net annual income derived or derivable by the owner from any huts and structures owned by him.

Explanation.—“Purchase price” means the price which the land fetched or could have fetched in any transaction involving the sale or purchase thereof on the 31st day of December, 1946.

(b) For the interest of a lessee or a sub-lessee of the land—
compensation equal to the amount derivable by him for the unexpired period of the lease calculated on the basis of his net annual income from the land and from any huts and

*The Calcutta Slum Clearance and Rehabilitation of
Slum-dwellers Act, 1958.*

[West Ben. Act

(Section 7.)

period of the lease is ten years or more or when the period of the lease is not specified, the amount of compensation shall not exceed the amount indicated in the following table:—

Table

Amount of the net annual income.	Amount of compensation.
For the first Rupees One hundred or less of the net annual income.	Twenty times the amount.
For the next Rupees One hundred and fifty or less of net annual income.	Fifteen times the amount.
For the balance of the net annual income.	Ten times the amount.

Explanation.—A lessee or sub-lessee will include a *thika* tenant as defined in the Calcutta *Thika* Tenancy Act, 1949, or a tenant who does not hold under an instrument in writing.

West Ben.
Act II of
1949.

- (c) For the interest of the owner of any hut or other structure—compensation equal to the cost of construction of a similar hut or other structure as on the date of vesting, after deducting therefrom an amount on account of depreciation calculated at such percentage as may be prescribed having regard to the nature of the materials used in the construction.

Explanation.—(i) "Gross income" means the aggregate of the amounts received or receivable during a year by the owner or the lessee or the sub-lessee on account of the rent of the land and of any huts or structures owned by him.

(ii) "Net income" means the amount arrived at by deducting from the gross income—

- (a) the annual rents and taxes payable by the owner or the lessee or the sub-lessee for such land, huts and structures;
- (b) the cost of repairs and maintenance of the huts and structures, if any, calculated at ten per centum of the gross income;
- (c) the cost of management and collection

XX of 1958.]

(Sections 8, 9.)

(iii) "Net annual income" means the average of the net income calculated over a period of five consecutive years preceding the date of vesting. If only a portion of the land was let out for any period during the five consecutive years as aforesaid, then the gross income for the portion so let out shall be the basis determining the gross income of the entire land for such period.

(2) Where several persons claim to be entitled to compensation payable for any land or hut or structure under sub-section (1), the prescribed authority shall determine the persons who, in his opinion, are entitled to receive the same and apportion the amount among them.

(3) Determination of persons entitled to receive the compensation and the amount payable to each of them by the prescribed authority shall, subject to appeal as hereinafter provided, be final and conclusive.

8. The compensation mentioned in section 7 shall be paid and satisfied by issue of bonds by the State Government which shall bear interest at the rate of 5 per centum per annum with effect from the date of vesting referred to in sub-section (2) of section 5. The said bonds shall be redeemed and paid in full at the face value thereof immediately on the expiry of twenty years from the date of their issue but the State Government shall be at liberty to redeem and pay such bonds or any part thereof before the expiry of the said twenty years:

Determina-
tion of
compensa-
tion and
manner of
payment
thereof.

Provided, however, that the State Government shall, where the compensation does not exceed Rs. 5,000, pay such compensation in cash and where the amount of the compensation exceeds Rs. 5,000, pay an amount not exceeding Rs. 5,000 in cash and the balance in bonds.

9. (1) Any person aggrieved by an order made under section 7 may, within sixty days from the date of such order, prefer an appeal to such authority as may be appointed by the State Government.

Appeal.

(2) The authority appointed to hear appeals may entertain an appeal even after the expiry of the period of sixty days, if he is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from preferring the appeal in time.

(3) The State Government shall not appoint any person as the authority to hear appeals unless he is, or has been, or is qualified for appointment as a judge of a High Court.

*The Calcutta Slum Clearance and Rehabilitation of
Slum-dwellers Act, 1958.*

[West Ben. Act XX of 1958.]

(Sections 10, 11.)

Indemnity.

10. No suit shall lie against any person in respect of anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.

Power to
make rules.

11. (1) The State Government may, after previous publication, make rules for carrying out the purposes 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 matters which, under any provision of this Act, are required to be prescribed by rules.
