



## The West Bengal Disturbed Areas Act, 1947

Act 6 of 1947

**Keyword(s):**

**Disturbed Area, Public Order, Suppression of Disorder, Fire upon, Use Force**

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## West Bengal Act VI of 1947<sup>1</sup>

### THE WEST BENGAL DISTURBED AREAS ACT, 1947.

ADAPTED

The Adaptation of Laws Order,  
1950.

[1st January, 1948.]

*An Act to make better provision for the suppression of disorder and for the restoration and maintenance of public order in the disturbed areas in West Bengal.*

WHEREAS it is expedient to make better provision for the suppression of disorder and for the restoration and maintenance of public order in the disturbed areas in West Bengal;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the West Bengal Disturbed Areas Act, 1947.

Short title  
and extent.

(2) It extends to the whole of West Bengal.

2. In this Act "disturbed area" means an area which is for the time being declared by notification under section 3 to be a disturbed area.

Definition.

3. The <sup>2</sup>[State] Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, declare that the whole or any such part of West Bengal as may be specified in the notification is a disturbed area.

Power to  
declare  
areas to be  
disturbed  
areas.

4. Any Magistrate and any Police Officer not below the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector may, if in his opinion it is necessary so to do for the maintenance of public order, after giving such warning, if any, as he may consider necessary, fire upon or otherwise use force against any person who is acting in contravention of any law or order for the time being in force in a disturbed area prohibiting the assembly of five or more persons or the carrying of weapons or of things capable of being used as weapons.

Power to fire  
upon  
persons  
contravening  
certain  
orders.

5. No prosecution, suit or other legal proceedings shall be instituted, except with the previous sanction of the <sup>2</sup>[State] Government, against any person in respect of anything done or purporting to be done in exercise of the powers conferred by section 4.

Protection of  
persons  
acting under  
section 4.

<sup>1</sup>For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see the *Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary*, dated the 21st November, 1947, Part IV, page 331; for proceedings in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, see the proceeding of the meeting of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly held on the 27th November, 1947.

<sup>2</sup>This word was substituted for the word "Provincial" by para. 4(1) of the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

[West Ben. Act VI of 1947.]

*(Section 6.)*

Continuance  
of action  
taken under  
Bengal  
Ordinance  
VII of 1947.

6. Any notification issued or anything done or any action taken in exercise of the powers conferred by the Bengal Disturbed Areas Ordinance, 1947, shall, on the said Ordinance ceasing to be in operation, be deemed to have been issued, done or taken in exercise of the powers conferred by this Act as if this Act had commenced on the 5th day of August, 1947.

Ben. Ord.  
VII of 1947.