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## **Bihar Government Premises (Rent, Recovery And Eviction) Act, 1956**

**20 of 1956**

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## **Bihar Government Premises (Rent, Recovery And Eviction) Act, 1956**

**20 of 1956**

An Act to provide for collection of rents from persons in occupation of Government premises and for eviction of persons from such premises in certain circumstances. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Bihar in the Seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

### **1. Short Title, Extent And Commencement :-**

This Act may be called the Bihar Government Premises 1[Allotment, Rent, Recovery and Eviction] Act, 1956. (2) It extends to the whole of the State of Bihar. (3) It shall come into force at once. 1. Substituted by Act 8 of 1996.

### **2. Definitions :-**

In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or

context,-- (a) "allotment" means the grant, in writing, by or on behalf of the State Government, of a right of use and occupation of any Government premises to any person but does not include a grant by way of lease; (b) "competent authority" means any officer not below the rank of a Sub-Deputy Collector or a Sub-Deputy Magistrate, authorised by the State Government by notification in the official Gazette, to perform all or any of the functions of the competent authority under this Act for such area as may be specified in the notification;

## **2A. Creation Of Pools And Allotments Of Quarters :-**

- 1[(1) The State Government by way of notification create one or more pools and allocate Government premises (residences/quarters) to such pool or pools out of Government premises (residences/quarters) and may also transfer Government premises (residences/quarters) from one pool to another pool. (2) The State Government may allot Government premises (residences/ quarters) to persons who are under the control of the executive power of the State Government or entitled for a residence/quarter under any other law."] 1. Inserted by Act 8 of 1996.

## **3. Cancellation Of Allotment :-**

If any Government premises is required for any public purpose, the competent authority may, notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, cancel the allotment under which such premises, is held or occupied by a person : Provided that before cancelling the allotment under this section, the competent authority shall require such person to show cause within fifteen days why the allotment should not be cancelled.

## **4. Power To Evict Certain Persons From Government Premises :-**

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any law for the time being in force, if the competent authority is satisfied-- (a) that the person authorised to occupy any Government premises has, whether before or after the commencement of this Act-- (i) sub-let, without the permission of the State Government or of the competent authority, the whole or any part of such premises; or (ii) committed or is committing such acts of waste as are likely to affect materially the value or utility of premises; or (iii) otherwise acted in contravention of any of the terms, express or implied, under which he is authorised to occupy such premises; (b) that any person is in unauthorised occupation of any Government premises, the competent authority may, by notice served by registered post or in such other manner as may be prescribed order that person as well as any other person who may be in occupation of the whole or any

part of the premises, shall vacate the premises within 1[one week] of the date of the service of the notice; and if any person refuses or fails to comply with such order, the competent authority may evict that person from, and take possession of the premises and may for that purpose use force as may be necessary : 2[Provided that if within one week for the service of notice on him the person concerned files a show cause, the competent authority shall consider and shall pass such order thereon, as he may consider necessary, and if the show cause is rejected, necessary steps for eviction of the person concerned may be taken.] 1. Substituted for "15 days" by Act 5 of 1982. 2. Substituted by *ibid*.

#### **5. Power To Recover Damages :-**

(1) Where any person is in unauthorised occupation of any Government premises, the competent authority may, in the prescribed manner, assess such damages on account of the use and occupation of premises as it may deem fit, and may, by notice served by registered post or in such other manner as may be prescribed, order that person to pay the damages within such time as may be specified in the notice. (2) Where any person in occupation of any Government premises commits such acts of waste as are likely to affect materially the value or utility of premises, the competent authority may, by notice served by registered post or in such other manner as may be prescribed order that person to pay such damages as may be assessed by such authority within such time as may be specified in the notice : Provided that, before assessing damages under sub-section (1) or (2), the competent authority shall communicate to the person concerned the grounds on which it is proposed to make such assessment and require him to show cause within a month why such assessment should not be made. (3) If any person refuses or fails to pay the damages within the time specified in the notice, the damage may be recovered as arrears of land revenue.

#### **6. Notice Of Demand For Rents Not Paid :-**

(1) Where an arrear of rent is payable by any person for occupation of Government premises, the competent authority may at any time after thirty days from the date on which the rent accrued due, serve or cause to be served upon the person liable a notice of demand stating the name of the person, amount payable by him and the Government premises in respect of which it is due. (2) The notice of demand shall be signed by the competent authority.

## **7. Recovery Of Rent :-**

If the arrears of rent for which the notice of demand has been served are not paid to the competent authority within thirty days from the date of the service of the notice or such extended period as the competent authority may allow, such arrears with all costs of recovery shall be recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

## **8. Appeal :-**

(1) Any person aggrieved by an order of the competent authority under this Act may, within 1[one week] of such order, prefer an appeal to the State Government : Provided that the State Government may entertain the appeal after the expiry of the said period of 2[one week,] if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal in time. (2) On receipt of any appeal under sub-section (1), the State Government may, after calling for a report from the competent authority and after hearing the appellant and making such further enquiry, if any, as may be necessary, pass such orders as may be deemed proper and the orders of the State Government shall be final. (3) Where an appeal is preferred under sub-section (1) the State Government may stay the enforcement of the order of the competent authority for such period and on such conditions as it thinks fit. 1. Substituted for "1 month" by Act 5 of 1982. 2. Ibid.

## **9. Bar Of Jurisdiction Of Civil Court :-**

No order made or action taken by the State Government or the competent authority in the exercise of any power conferred by or under this Act shall be called in question in any Court and no injunction shall be granted by any Court or other authority in respect of any order made or action taken or to be taken in pursuance of any power conferred by or under this Act.

## **10. Protection Of Action Taken In Good Faith :-**

No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the State Government or the competent authority or any officer subordinate to them in respect of anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or of any rules made thereunder.

## **11. Delegation :-**

The State Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, direct that any power exercisable by it under this Act, shall, subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified in the notification, be exercisable by an officer specially empowered in this behalf by

the State Government : Provided that the powers under Section 8 shall not be delegated to an officer below the rank of Additional Collector or Additional District Magistrate.

**12. Penalty :-**

Any person who contravenes any provision of this Act, or of any rule or order made thereunder or obstructs the lawful exercise of any power conferred by or under this Act; or who abets such contravention or obstruction, shall, without prejudice to recovery of damages under Section 5, be punishable with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees.

**13. Fees Not To Be Paid On Petition, Etc. :-**

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Court Fees Act, 1870 (VII of 1870), no fee shall be required to be paid on petitions and memorandums of appeal filed under the provisions of this Act.

**14. Power To Make Rules :-**

(1) The State Government may by notification in the official Gazette, 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 following matters, namely : (a) the form of notice and manner in which it may be served; (b) the procedure to be followed in taking possession of Government premises; (c) the manner in which damages under Section 5 may be assessed and the matter which may be taken in to account in assessing such damages; (d) the manner in which appeals may be preferred and procedure to be followed in appeals; 1(e) Creation of pool for Government residences/quarters from one pool to another pool]; (f) the manner in which allotment of Government premises (residences/ quarters) shall be made; 2[(g) any other matter which has to, or may be, prescribed.] 1. Clause (e) made Clause (g) and new Clauses (e) and (f) added by Act 8 of 1996. 2. Ibid.

**15. Application Of Other Laws Not Barred :-**

The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and in not in derogation of, any other law for the time being in force relating to occupation of Government premises.