

Co-Operative Societies Act, 1925

7 of 1925

[04 December 1925]

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 :- PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title
2. Extent
3. Definitions

CHAPTER 2 :- REGISTRATION

4. The Registrar
- 4A. Power Of Registrar To Issue Search Warrant
5. Societies Which May Be Registered
- 6 . Restrictions On Interest Of Member Of Society With Limited Liability And A Share Capital
7. Conditions Of Registration
8. Power Of Registrar To Decide Certain Questions
9. Application For Registration
10. Registration
11. Evidence Of Registration
12. Annual General Meeting
13. Special General Meeting
14. Change Of Name: Its Effect
15. Amalgamation And Division Of Societies
- 15A. Merger Of A Society In A Company, Etc
16. Amendment Of The By-Laws Of A Society
- 16A. Powers Of The Registrar To Amend Bye-Laws

CHAPTER 3 :- RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES OF MEMBERS

17. No Rights Of Membership To Be Exercised Till Due Payments Are Made
- 17A. Special Provisions For Membership Of Resource Societies
- 17B. Expulsion Of A Member
18. Votes Of Members
- 18A. General Body And Managing Committee
- 18B. Disqualification For Being, And For Voting At An Election Of Director, Manager Or Other Officer Of The Society
19. Restrictions On Transfer Of Share Or Interest

CHAPTER 4 :- DUTIES OF SOCIETIES

20. Address Of Societies

21. Copy Of Act Etc., To Be Open To Inspection

22. Audit

22A. Power Of Registrar To Exercise Powers Under Section 50-A In The Course Of An Audit

22B. Internal Audit Committee

CHAPTER 5 :- PRIVILEGES OF SOCIETIES

23. Societies To Be Bodies Corporate

24. Prior Claim Of Society

25. Charge And Set-Off In Respect Of Shares Or Interest Of Member

26. Shares Or Interest Not Liable To Attachment

27. Transfer Of Interest On Death Of Member

28. Liability Of Past Member

29. Liability Of The Estate Of Deceased Member

30. Register Of Members

31. Admissibility Of Copy Of Entry As Evidence

32. Exemption From Compulsory Registration Of Instruments Relating To Shares [54][Etc] Of Society

33. Power To Exempt From Income-Tax, Stamp-Duty, Registration And Court Fees

33A. Provincial Government May Give Loans Or Guarantee Interest

CHAPTER 6 :- PROPERTY AND FUNDS OF SOCIETIES

34. Restrictions On Loans

35. Restrictions On Borrowing [76][And Donations

36. Restrictions On Other Transactions With Non-Members

37. Investment Of Funds

38. Restriction On Dividend

39. Reserve Fund

40. Restriction On Distribution Of Profits

41. Provident Fund

42. Contribution To Charitable Purpose

CHAPTER 7 :- INSPECTION OF AFFAIRS

43. Inquiry By Registrar

44. Inspection Of Books Of Indebted Society

44A. Inspection Of Books And Properties

44B. Power Of Registrar To Exercise Powers Under Section 50-A In The Course Of An Inquiry Or Inspection

44C. Power To Remove Officers

44D. Power Of Registrar To Give Directions

44E. Special Measures

45. Costs Of Inquiry

46. Recovery Of Costs

CHAPTER 8 :- LIQUIDATION AND ARBITRATION

47. Winding Up

48. Society May Be Wound Up If Membership Is Reduced

48A. Winding Up Of Housing Society

49. Effect Of Cancellation Of Registration

50. Power Of A Liquidator

50A. Power Of Registrar To Assess Damage Against Delinquent Promoters, Etc

51. Bar Of Suit In Winding Up And Dissolution Matters

52. Disposal Of Surplus Assets

53. Surplus Assets Of Housing Society

54. Arbitration

54A. Registrars Power To Set Aside The Award And Order The Dispute To Be Referred Back To Arbitration

55. Attachment Before Award

56. Appeal Against Award Of Arbitrator

57. Finality Of Awards In Certain Orders

58. Powers To Enforce Attendance

59. Money How Recovered

59A. Transfer Of Property Which Cannot Be Sold

59B. Definitions

59C. Cases In Which Application For Distrain May Be Made

59D. Form Of Application

59E. Procedure On Receipt Of Application

59F. Execution Of Order For Distrain

59G. Service Of Notice Of Demand And The Grounds Of Distrain

59H. Right To Reap, Etc., Produce

59I. Sale Proclamation To Be Issued Unless Demand Is Satisfied

59J. Place Of Sale

59K. Provisions Relating To Growing Crops

59L. Manner Of Sale

59M. Postponement Of Sale

59N. Payment Of Purchase Money

59O. Certificate Be Given To The Purchaser

59P. Proceeds Of Sale How To Be Applied

59Q. Certain Persons May Not Purchase

59R. Procedure Where Demand Is Paid Before The Sale

59S. Distrain Of Property Which Is Under Attachment

59T. Suit For Compensation For Wrongful Distrain And Appeals

59U. Savings

CHAPTER 9 :- OFFENCES

60. Offences

61. Penalty For Offences Not Otherwise Provided For

62. Prohibition Of The Use Of The Word "Co-Operative".

63. Cognizance Of Offences

CHAPTER 10 :- APPEALS AND REVISIONS

64. Appeal

64A. Power Of Provincial Government And The Registrar To Call For Proceedings Of Subordinate Officers And To Pass Orders Thereon

64AA. Finality Of Orders Of Provincial Government

CHAPTER 11 :- MISCELLANEOUS

65. Recovery Of Sums Due To Government

65A. Section 65A

65B. Officers Of Societies To Be Public Servants

66. Power To Exempt Societies From Conditions As To Registration

67. Powers To Exempt Societies From Provisions Of Act

68. Companies Act Not To Apply

69. Branches, Etc., Of Societies Outside The Province

70. Notice Necessary In Suits

70A. Bar Of Jurisdiction

71. Rules

72. Repeal And Savings

72A. Construction Of References To Co-Operative Societies Act, 1912, In Enactments

72B. Validity Of Transfer Made Under Section 59 (2) Of Sind Vii Of 1925

73. Repeal

SCHEDULE 1 :- SCHEDULE I

Co-Operative Societies Act, 1925

7 of 1925

[04 December 1925]

An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to co-operative societies in [2][the Province of West Pakistan]. [3][Preamble.- Whereas it is expedient to provide for the formation, registration and regulation of cooperative societies for the promotion of thrift, self help and mutual assistance amongst agriculturist or other persons with common economic or social interests and for achieving better standards of living and for the matters incidental thereto; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

CHAPTER 1

PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title :-

This Act may be called the [5][* * *] Co-operative Societies Act, 1925.

2. Extent :-

This Act extends to the whole of the Province of West Pakistan, except the Tribal Areas.

3. Definitions :-

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

(a) "by-laws" means by-laws registered under this Act and for the time being in force and includes a registered amendment of such by-laws;

(b) "Committee" means the Committee of Management or other directing body to whom the management of the affairs of a society is entrusted;

[7][(bb) "Financing Bank" means a society the main object of which is to make loans in cash or in kind to any other society or to an agriculturist who is not a member of a society or to both societies and such agriculturists;]

[8][(bbb) "Loan" includes finance as defined in the Banking Tribunals Ordinance, 1984[9] and all cognate expressions shall be construed accordingly];

(c) "Member" includes a person joining in the application for the registration of a society or a person admitted to membership after registration in accordance with the rules and by-laws applicable to such society;

(d) "Officer" includes a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, member of committee or other person empowered under the rules or under the by-laws of a society to give directions in regard to the business of such society;

(e) "Society" means a society registered or deemed to be registered or deemed to be registered under this Act;

(f) "Registrar" means a person appointed to perform the duties of a Registrar of Co-operative Societies under this Act;

(g) "Rules" means rules made under this Act;

(h) (1) a "resource society" means a society formed with the object of obtaining for its members the credit, goods or services required by them;

(2) a "producers society" means a society formed with the object of producing and disposing of goods as the collective property of its members and includes a society formed with the object of the collective disposal of the labour of the members of such society;

(3) a "consumers society" means a society formed with the object

of obtaining and distributing goods to or of performing services for its members, as well as to other consumers and of dividing among its members and customers in a proportion prescribed by the rules or by the by-laws of such society, the profits accruing from such supply and distribution;

(4) a "housing society" means a society formed with the object of providing its members with dwelling houses on conditions to be determined by its by-laws;

(5) a "general society" means a society not falling under any of the four classes above-mentioned.

The Registrar shall classify all societies under one or other of the above heads and his decision shall be final.

A society formed with the object of facilitating the operations of any one of the above classes of societies shall be classified as a society of that class.

A list of all such societies, so classified shall be published annually in the [10][Official Gazette].

CHAPTER 2

REGISTRATION

4. The Registrar :-

The Provincial Government] may appoint a person to be Registrar of Co-operative Societies for [13][the Province] or any portion of it, and may appoint a person or persons to assist such Registrar, and may, by general or special order, confer on any such person or persons all or any of the powers of a Registrar under this Act.

4A. Power Of Registrar To Issue Search Warrant :-

(1) For the purpose of recovering any papers, documents or books of account belonging to a society, the Registrar may issue a search warrant and exercise all such powers with respect thereto as may be lawfully exercised by a Magistrate under the Provisions of Chapter VII of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, and all such searches shall be made in accordance with the Provisions of that Code.

(2) The powers under sub-section (1) shall not be exercised by the Registrar before serving a notice on the society and giving it a reasonable opportunity to produce such papers, documents or books of account as are specified in such notice.

5. Societies Which May Be Registered :-

Subject to the provisions hereinafter contained a society which has as its object the promotion of the economic interests of its members in accordance with co-operative principles, or a society established with the object of facilitating the operations of such a

society, may be registered under this Act with or without limited liability:

Provided that, unless [15][the Provincial Government] by general or special order otherwise directs-

(a) the liability of a society of which a member is a society shall be limited;

(b) the liability of a society of which the primary object is the creation of funds to be lent to its members, and of which the majority of the members are agriculturists and of which no member is a registered society shall be unlimited and the members of such a society shall, on its liquidation, be jointly and severally liable for and in respect of all obligations of such a society:

Provided further that when the question whether the liability of a society is limited or unlimited has once been decided by the Registrar at the time of registration his decision shall be final.

6. Restrictions On Interest Of Member Of Society With Limited Liability And A Share Capital :-

Where the liability of the members of a society is limited by shares, no member other than a society shall-

(a) hold more than such portion of the share capital of the society, subject to a maximum of one fifth, as may be prescribed by the rules; or

[16][(b) have or claim to have an interest in the shares of the society not exceeding fifty thousand rupees; provided that if the society is a housing society, a member may have or claim to have an interest in the shares of the society, not exceeding two hundred thousand rupees.

7. Conditions Of Registration :-

(1) No society, other than a society of which a member is a society, shall be registered under this Act, unless it consists of at least thirty members and in case of a producers or housing society, consists of at least fifty members and each member of a society, except the housing and producers societies, shall have the ordinary place of abode in the same town or village or in the same group of villages within a radius of fifteen kilometers from the registered office of the society.

(2) No society shall be registered for the purpose of carrying on business as a banking society, financing bank or which uses as part of its name under which it proposes to carry on business, the word

"bank" or "banking" unless-

(a) it has a paid up capital of not less than twenty million rupees or such higher amount, as may be prescribed; and

(b) satisfies such other conditions as may be prescribed.

(3) The word "Limited" shall be the last word in the name of every society registered with limited liability.]

[18][7-A. Eligibility for membership.- A person shall be eligible to become member of a society if-

(a) in case of an individual, he is above the age of eighteen years, is of sound mind, is solvent and has not applied to be adjudged as an un-discharged insolvent;

(b) it is a cooperative society; or

(c) it is a body corporate or a company.

8. Power Of Registrar To Decide Certain Questions :-

When any question arises as to whether, for the purposes of this Act, a person is an agriculturist or not, or is resident of a town or village or group of villages within a radius of fifteen kilometers from the registered office of the society, the question shall be decided by the Registrar, whose decision shall be final.

9. Application For Registration :-

(1) For purposes of registration an application to register shall be made to the Registrar.

[20][(2) The application for registration of a cooperative society shall be-

(a) made in writing specifying the address of its proposed registered office;

(b) signed by at least fifty persons in case of producers or housing society and at least thirty persons for any other category of societies with proof of the identifications of those persons; provided that this condition as to the number of persons shall not be applicable in case where at least one of the proposed member is a society;

(c) accompanied, in the case of producers, or housing society or any other society which is likely to adversely affect the environment, approval of the competent authority in accordance with section 12 of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997 (Act XXXIV of 1997);

(d) accompanied by the following documents:

(i) a feasibility report showing its financial viability;

Explanation.- Financial viability shall include a statement of finances relating to the expected business turn over of the society, stating the number of members and expenditures being within its income;

(ii) proof that promoter members contributions towards the paid up share capital are in accordance with the feasibility report;

(iii) proof of the payment of such registration fee as may be prescribed; provided that different registration fee may be prescribed for different categories of societies; provided further that in case of agriculture society, the registration fee shall not exceed five hundred rupees; and

(iv) a copy of the proposed by-laws of the society.

(3) A housing society shall, within a period of one year of its registration, furnish the schedule of proposed development of land, master plan, site plan indicating availability of the existing public utilities, public amenities and other allied facilities in the area and, in case of its failure, the Registrar may de-register the society after affording it an opportunity of hearing.

(4) The registration fee shall be deposited in the account of the Registrar and shall be utilized in the prescribed manner.

10. Registration :-

If the Registrar is satisfied that a society has complied with the provisions of this Act and the rules and that its proposed by-laws are not contrary to [21][any law for the time being in force], he may register the society and its by-laws.

11. Evidence Of Registration :-

A certificate of registration signed by the Registrar shall be conclusive evidence that the society therein mentioned is duly registered unless it is proved that the registration of the society has been cancelled.

12. Annual General Meeting :-

Every society shall within a period of three months after the date fixed for making up its accounts for the year under the rules for the time being in force call a general meeting of its members.

13. Special General Meeting :-

A special general meeting may be called at any time by a majority

of the committee and shall be called within one month-

(1) on the requisition in writing of one-fifth of the members of the society, or

(2) at the instance of the Registrar.

14. Change Of Name: Its Effect :-

A society may, by a resolution of a general meeting and with the approval of the Registrar, change its name: but such change shall not affect any right or obligation of the society, or of any of its members, or past members and any legal proceedings pending may be continued by or against the society under its new name.

15. Amalgamation And Division Of Societies :-

(1) Any two or more societies may, with the prior approval of the Registrar, by a resolution passed by two-third majority of the members present and voting in a general or special meeting of the societies, amalgamate as a single society.

(2) A society may, with the prior approval of the Registrar, by a resolution passed by two-third majority of the members present and voting in a general or special meeting of the society divide the society into two or more societies.

(3) A society or societies, as the case may be, by way of a resolution passed in accordance with this section, transfer to, divide or amalgamate its or their assets and liabilities with any other society or societies in case of division or amalgamation with the prior written consent of the creditor or creditors, if any, of the society or the societies.

(4) Division of assets and liabilities shall take place after due approval and audit and in such manner, as may be prescribed.

(5) No new society arising out of an existing society shall be registered unless it satisfies the conditions of registration of a society under this Act or the rules.]

15A. Merger Of A Society In A Company, Etc :-

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act and subject to any other law for the time being in force, a society may, with the written consent of its creditors and the approval of the Registrar, by a resolution, incorporating the terms and conditions of the proposed merger, passed by two-third majority of its members present and voting in a general body meeting, merge itself in a company or a body corporate.

(2) On the fulfillment of the legal formalities and disposal of objections, if any, the Registrar may issue a certificate authorizing such merger.

(3) On the issuance of the certificate under sub-section (2), all the assets and liabilities of the society shall stand transferred to the company or the body corporate, as the case may be.

16. Amendment Of The By-Laws Of A Society :-

(1) No amendment of the by-laws of a society shall be valid until it is registered under this Act.]

(2) If the Registrar is satisfied that any amendment of the by-laws [25][made by a society] is not contrary to [26][any law for the time being in force], he may register the amendment.

(3) When the Registrar registers an amendment of by-laws of a society [27][under sub-section(2)], he shall issue to the society a copy of the amendment certified by him, which shall be conclusive evidence that the same is duly registered.

16A. Powers Of The Registrar To Amend Bye-Laws :-

(1) If the Registrar is satisfied that the bye-laws of a society are inconsistent with any law for the time being in force, or it is necessary in the interest of the society and its members to make amendments in such bye-laws, he may, by means of a notice in writing, giving reasons, bring the fact to the notice of the society and advise the society to make the amendments within a period of sixty days.

(2) If the society fails to make such amendments within the time specified in sub-section (1), the Registrar may, after giving the society an opportunity of being heard, register such amendments as he may decide and issue to the society a copy of the amendment registered by him.

(3) An appeal shall lie to the Government from an order of the Registrar passed under sub-section (2) within two months of the date of communication of the order.

CHAPTER 3

RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES OF MEMBERS

17. No Rights Of Membership To Be Exercised Till Due Payments Are Made :-

No person shall exercise the rights of a member of a society unless or until he has made such payment to the society in respect of membership, or acquired such interest in the society as may be prescribed by the rules or the by-laws of such society.

17A. Special Provisions For Membership Of Resource Societies :-

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act and any other law for the time being in force-

(i) every application made by any person for membership of an Agricultural Credit Society shall be accompanied by a declaration specifying the immovable property on which he agrees to have a charge created for the dues of the society; and no such person shall be admitted as a member or shall exercise rights of a member of

such society unless he makes such declaration;

(ii) any member of an Agricultural Credit Society may at any time make a declaration as in clause(i) regarding immovable property on which he agrees to have a charge created for the dues of the society of which he is a member;

(iii) a declaration made under clause(i) or (ii) may be varied at any time by a member with the consent of the society in favour of which such charge is created;

(iv) no member of an Agricultural Credit Society so long as he continues to remain such member shall alienate the whole or any part of the property specified in the declaration made under clause(i) or (ii);

(v) any alienation of any property specified in the declaration made under clause (i) or (ii) by such member shall be void;

(vi) subject to the prior claim of [31][Government] in respect of land revenue or any money recoverable as arrears of land revenue, there shall be a first charge in favour of the society on the property specified in the declaration under clause (i) or (ii) in respect of and to the extent of any debt or other outstanding demand owing by such member to the society;

(vii) an entry regarding a charge on immovable property created by a declaration under clause (i) or (ii) or any variation made therein under clause (iii) shall be made in the record of rights maintained under Chapter X-A of the [32][Sind] Land Revenue Code, 1879, [33][or the relevant provisions of any other law relating to land revenue in force in the area,] notwithstanding anything contained in the said Chapter.

Explanation-For the purposes of this section an Agricultural Credit Society means a resource society of which the primary object is the creation of funds to be lent to its members and of which a majority of the members are agriculturists and of which no member is a registered society and the liability of which is limited.

17B. Expulsion Of A Member :-

(1) A society may recommend to the Registrar to expel from its membership a member who is a persistent defaulter of the dues of the society or who commits any act prejudicial to the interests of the society:

Provided that the managing committee of the society shall, after affording the member an opportunity of hearing, place the matter before the general body of the society and approval thereof shall be communicated to the Registrar.

(2) The Registrar may expel such a member from the society after affording him an opportunity of hearing.

(3) The Registrar shall, before passing the expulsion order, determine the amount payable, if any, by the society to the member and may direct that the expulsion order would take effect from the date of payment of the amount to such member or its deposit in the account of the Registrar.

(4) The member shall cease to be member of the society from the date when the expulsion order of the Registrar takes effect:

Provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to a member of a housing society who has made full payment towards the cost of land and the requisite development charges.

18. Votes Of Members :-

(1) No member of any society shall have more than one vote in its affairs, provided that in the case of an equality of votes the chairman shall have a casting vote.

(2) A Society which has invested any part of its funds in the shares of another society, may appoint one of its members to vote in the affairs of such other registered society.

18A. General Body And Managing Committee :-

- (1) The powers and management of a society shall vest in its general body consisting of all its members.
- (2) A society shall have a managing committee, constituted in accordance with the rules and the by-laws, which shall exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the general body.
- (3) Subject to any general or special order of the Provincial Government, the Registrar may, on such terms and conditions as he may deem fit, appoint not more than two experts on the managing committee of a society for the development and proper management of the society.
- (4) The Registrar may require a society to obtain approval of its general body, in any matter concerning the business of the society, before proceeding further in the matter.

18B. Disqualification For Being, And For Voting At An Election Of Director, Manager Or Other Officer Of The Society :-

A member of the society to which the provisions of this section have been applied by the Provincial Government by notification in the Official Gazette shall be disqualified for being, and for voting at an election of, a Director, Manager or other officer of the society-

- (a) if he has taken a loan from the society which has been outstanding for six months or more after it has become payable and has not been re-paid upto the day immediately preceding the date of the election, or
- (b) if he has taken a loan from the society which is repayable by installments and the amount of three or more installments has been outstanding for six months or more from the date on which the amount of the last installment became payable and has not been re-paid upto the day immediately preceding the date of the election.

Explanation-The date on which the loan or installment becomes payable is the date specified in the bond or any other instrument in writing evidencing the loan but does not include any extension thereof.

19. Restrictions On Transfer Of Share Or Interest :-

- (1) The transfer or charge of the share or interest of a member in the capital of a society shall be subject to such conditions as to maximum holding as may be prescribed by this Act or by the rules.
- (2) A member shall not transfer any share held by him or his interest in the capital or property of any society or any part thereof unless-
 - (a) he has held such share or interest for not less than one year; and
 - (b) the transfer or charge is made to the society or to a member of the society or to a person whose application for membership has been accepted by the society.

CHAPTER 4

DUTIES OF SOCIETIES

20. Address Of Societies :-

(1) Every society shall have a registered office which shall be the address of the society.

(2) A society shall not change its address without the prior approval of the Registrar:

Provided that before seeking the approval of the Registrar, the society shall inform its members creditors and where applicable, the society of which it is a member, by post and also through two national daily Newspapers, as to the proposed change of the address.

(3) The approval of the Registrar shall immediately be communicated by the society to its members creditors and the society of which it is a member.

21. Copy Of Act Etc., To Be Open To Inspection :-

Every society shall keep open to inspection at all reasonable times at the registered address of the society-

(a) a copy of this Act.

(b) a copy of the rules governing such society.

(c) a copy of the by-laws of such society, and

(d) a register of its members.

22. Audit :-

[(1) The Registrar shall, by himself, an auditor or a committee of auditors appointed by him, through general or special order in this behalf, specifying the period for completion, audit the accounts of every society once at least in a year:

Provided that no person shall audit the accounts of a society for two consecutive years.]

[41][(1-A) The Registrar may, by general or special order, determine the fee payable to the auditor or the committee of the auditors, as the case may be, and the fee so determined shall be payable by the society.]

(2) The audit under sub-section (1) shall include an examination of overdue debts, if any, the verification of cash balance and securities, and a valuation of the assets and liabilities of the society.

(3) The Registrar or other person auditing the accounts of any society shall have free access to the books, accounts and vouchers of such society and shall be allowed to verify its cash balances and

securities.

The Directors, Managers, and other officers of the society shall furnish to the Registrar or other person appointed to audit the accounts of a society all such information as to its transactions and working as the Registrar or such person may require.

(4) The Registrar and every other person appointed to audit the accounts of a society shall have power, when necessary-

(i) to summon at the time of his audit any officer, agent, servant or member of the society who he has reason to believe can give valuable information in regard to any transaction of the society or the management of its affairs, or

(ii) to require the production of any book or document relating to the affairs of any cash or securities belonging to the society by the officer, agent, servant, or member in possession of such book, document, cash or securities.

22A. Power Of Registrar To Exercise Powers Under Section 50-A In The Course Of An Audit :-

Where, in the course of an audit under section 22 it appears to the Registrar that there exists any such ground as is specified in section 50-A, he may, of his own motion or on the application of the person authorised by him under section 22, exercise the powers specified in section 50-A].

22B. Internal Audit Committee :-

(1) Every housing and producers society, in addition to the audit of accounts under section 22, shall also get the accounts audited by an internal audit committee comprising at least three members of the society other than the members of its managing committee as may be appointed by the general body with their consent.

(2) The report of the internal audit committee shall be submitted by the society or the committee to the Registrar within one month of the receipt or compilation of such report.

CHAPTER 5

PRIVILEGES OF SOCIETIES

23. Societies To Be Bodies Corporate :-

The registration of a society shall render it a body corporate by the name under which it is registered, with perpetual succession and a common seal, and with power to hold property, to enter into contracts, to institute, and defend suits and other legal proceedings and to do all things necessary for the purposes of its constitution.

24. Prior Claim Of Society :-

Subject to any prior claim of [45][Government] in respect of land revenue or any money recoverable as land revenue or of a landlord in respect of rent or any money recoverable as rent,

(a) any debt or outstanding demand owing to a society by any member or past member [46][or, in the case of a society authorised under sub-section (1) of section 34 to make loans to non-members, by a non-member] shall be a first charge (i) upon crops or other agricultural produce raised in whole or in part with a loan taken from the society by [47][such member, past member or non-member], and (ii) upon any cattle, fodder for cattle, agricultural or industrial implements or machinery, or raw materials for manufacture or workshop, godown or place of business, supplied to or purchased by [48][such member, past member or non-member] in whole or in part from any loan whether in money or goods given, him by the society:

Provided that nothing contained in this clause shall effect the claims of any bonafide purchaser or transferee for value without notice of any such crops or other agricultural produce, cattle, fodder for cattle or raw materials for manufacture or workshops, or agricultural or industrial implements; and

(b) any outstanding demands or dues payable to a housing society by any member or past member in respect of rent, shares, loans, or purchase money or any other rights or amounts payable to such society shall be a first charge upon his interest in the immovable property of the society.

25. Charge And Set-Off In Respect Of Shares Or Interest Of Member :-

A society shall have a charge upon the share or interest in the capital and on the deposits of a member or past member and upon any dividend, bonus or profits payable to a member or past member in respect of any debt due from such member or past member to the society, and may set-off any sum credited or payable to a member or past member in or towards payment of any such debt.

26. Shares Or Interest Not Liable To Attachment :-

Subject to the Provisions of section 25, the share or interest of a member in the capital of a society or in any provident fund established under section 41 of this Act shall not be liable to attachment or sale under any decree or order of a Court of justice

in respect of any debt or liability incurred by such member, and [49][neither the Official Assignee under the Insolvency (Karachi Division [50][* * *]) Act, 1909 nor a receiver under the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920, shall] be entitled to or have any claim on such share or interest.

27. Transfer Of Interest On Death Of Member :-

(1) On the death of a member of a society such society may within a period of one year from the death of such member transfer the share or interest of the deceased member to a person or persons nominated in accordance with the by-laws of the society, if duly admitted a member of the Society, in accordance with the rules or the by-laws of the society, or, if there is no person so nominated, to such person as may appear to the Committee to be the heir or legal representative of the deceased member if duly elected a member of the society, or may pay to such nominee, heir or legal representative, as the case may be, a sum representing the value of such members share or interest as ascertained in accordance with the rules or by-laws:

Provided that such nominee, heir or legal representative, as the case may be, may require that payment shall be made by the society within one year from the death of the member of the value of the share or interest of such member ascertained as aforesaid.

[51][Provided further that the nominee, heir or legal representative shall distribute the amount received by him among the heirs of the deceased.]

(2) A society shall subject to the provisions of section 25 and unless prevented by an order of a competent court pay to such nominee, heir or legal representative, as the case may be, all other moneys due to the deceased member from the society.

(3) All transfers and payments made by a society in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be valid and effectual against any demand made upon the society by any other person.

28. Liability Of Past Member :-

The liability of a past member for the debts of a society as they existed at the time when he ceases to be a member, shall continue for a period of two years from the date of his ceasing to be a member.

29. Liability Of The Estate Of Deceased Member :-

The estate of a deceased member shall be liable for the debts of the society, at the time of his death, for a period of one year.]

30. Register Of Members :-

Any register or list of members or shares kept by any society shall be prima facie evidence of any of the following particulars entered therein:-

- (a) the date at which the name of any person was entered in such register or list as a member;
- (b) the date at which any such person ceased to be a member.

31. Admissibility Of Copy Of Entry As Evidence :-

(1) A copy of any entry in any book, register or list regularly kept in the course of business in the possession of a society shall, if duly certified in such manner as may be prescribed by the rules, be admissible in evidence of the existence of the entry and shall be admitted as evidence of the matters and transactions therein recorded in every case where, and to the same extent to which the original entry would, if produced, have been admissible to prove such matters.

(2) In the case of such societies as [53][the Provincial Government] by general or special order may direct no officer of a society shall in any legal proceedings to which the society is not a party be compelled to produce any of the societys books, the contents of which can be proved under sub-section (1), or to appear as a witness to prove the matters, transactions and accounts therein recorded, unless by order of the Court or a Judge made for special cause.

32. Exemption From Compulsory Registration Of Instruments Relating To Shares [54][Etc] Of Society :-

Nothing in section 17, sub-section (1), clauses (b) and (c), of the [55][* * *]Registration Act, 1908[56], shall apply to-

- (1) any instrument relating to shares in a society notwithstanding that the assets of the society consist in whole or in part of immovable property; or
- (2) any debenture [57][participation term certificate [58][term] finance certificate, musharika certificate, modaraba certificate and such other instruments as may be approved by the State Bank of

Pakistan], issued by any society and not creating, declaring, assigning, limiting or extinguishing any right, title or interest to or in immovable property except in so far as it entitles the holder to the security afforded by a registered instrument whereby the society has mortgaged, conveyed or otherwise transferred the whole or part of its immovable property or any interest therein to trustees upon trust for the benefit of the holders of [59][such instruments]; or

(3) any endorsement upon or transfer of any debenture [60] [participation term certificate, term finance certificate, musharika certificate, modaraba certificate, and such other instruments as may be approved by the State Bank of Pakistan], issued by any society.

33. Power To Exempt From Income-Tax, Stamp-Duty, Registration And Court Fees :-

(1) The [61][Central Government], by notification in the [62] [Official Gazette], may, in the case of any society or class of societies, remit the income-tax or super-tax payable in respect of the profits of the society, or of the dividends or other payment received by the members of the society on account of profits or in respect of interest [63][or return] on securities held by the society.

(2) The [64][Provincial Government] by notification in the [65] [Official Gazette], may, in the case of any society or class of societies, remit-

(a) the stamp-duty with which, under any law for the time being in force, instruments executed by or on behalf of a society or by an officer or member and relating to the business of the society, or any class of such instruments [66][or security bonds executed by or on behalf of officers or servants of a society] or awards of the Registrar or arbitrators under this Act are respectively chargeable; and

(b) any fee payable under the law of registration and of court fees for the time being in force.

33A. Provincial Government May Give Loans Or Guarantee Interest :-

With such safeguards as may be prescribed by rules in this behalf [69][the Provincial Government] may give loans to societies or guarantee the payment of [70][the principal of debentures issued by them or of interest [71][or return] thereon or both].

34. Restrictions On Loans :-

(1) Except with the general or special sanction of the Registrar [73] [and subject to such terms and conditions as he may impose] a society shall not make a loan to any person other than a member.

(2) Save with the sanction of the Registrar, a society with unlimited liability shall not lend money on the security of movable property.

(3) [74][The Provincial Government] may, by general or special order, prohibit or restrict the lending of money on mortgage of immovable property by any society or class of societies.

[75][(4) Where the Registrar has accorded sanction to a financing bank under sub-section (1) to make loans to non-members, a society which is a member of such financing bank may, subject to the terms of the sanction and such other terms and conditions as the Registrar may impose, act as an agent of the financing bank and as such agent carry out, on or without the payment of any commission, all or any transactions connected with any loan made or to be made by the financing bank].

35. Restrictions On Borrowing [76][And Donations :-

A society shall receive deposits [77][, donations, grants] and loans from persons who are not members only to such extent and under such conditions as may be prescribed by the rules or by the bye-laws of the society.

36. Restrictions On Other Transactions With Non-Members :-

Consumers, producers and housing societies may to the extent permitted by their by-laws trade with persons who are not members, but the transactions of a resource society with persons other than members except as provided under section 34 or 35 shall be subject to such prohibitions and restrictions, if any, as [78] [the Provincial Government] may by rules prescribe.

37. Investment Of Funds :-

A society may invest or deposit its funds-

(a) in the Government Saving Bank; or

(b) in any of the securities specified in section 20 of the [79][* * *]

Trusts Act, 1882[80]; or

(c) in the shares or on the security of any other society, provided that no such investment shall be made in the shares of any society other than one with limited liability; or

(d) with any bank or person carrying on the business of banking approved for this purpose by the Registrar; or

(e) in any other mode permitted by the rules.

38. Restriction On Dividend :-

(1) No society, other than housing, banking or producers society, shall pay a dividend to its members at a rate exceeding ten percent of its net profits.

(2) A housing, banking or producers society shall pay a dividend to its members at a rate not exceeding twenty percent of its net profits.

39. Reserve Fund :-

(1) Every society which does or can derive a profit from its transactions shall maintain a reserve fund.

(2) In the case of a resource or producers society at least 1/4th of the net profits of the society each year shall be carried to the reserve fund and in the case of any other society at least 1/10th of the net profits of the society each year shall be carried to the reserve fund, and such reserve fund may be used in the business of the society or may be invested, subject to the provisions of section 37, as [82][the Provincial Government] may by general or special order direct, or may, with the previous sanction of [83][the Provincial Government] be used in part for some public purpose likely to promote the objects of this Act or for some purposes of provincial or local interest.

40. Restriction On Distribution Of Profits :-

Subject to the provisions of section 38 the balance of the profits of a society after making the prescribed provisions for the reserve fund may, together with any available profits of past years be distributed among its members, and in the case of consumers and producers societies, also among persons who are not members, to the extent and under the conditions prescribed by the rules or by the by-laws of such societies, provided that :-

(a) in the case of a resource society on a basis of unlimited liability

in which the members do not hold shares, no distribution of profits shall be made without the general or special order of [84][the Provincial Government] in this behalf; and

(b) in the case of a resource society on a basis of unlimited liability in which the members hold shares, no such distribution of profits shall be made until 10 years from the date of registration of the society have elapsed.

41. Provident Fund :-

Any society may establish a provident fund for its members out of contributions from such members in accordance with by-laws made by the society in this behalf and may contribute to such provident fund from its net profits, after the prescribed payments have been made to the reserve fund, provided that such provident fund shall not be used in the business of the society but shall be invested under the provisions of section 37; and provided further, that no part of such provident fund shall be considered as an asset of the society.

42. Contribution To Charitable Purpose :-

With the approval of the [85][Registrar] and after the payments prescribed by sub-section (2) of section 39 have been made to the reserve fund, any society may-

- (a) set aside a sum not exceeding 20 per cent of its net profits, and
- (b) utilize from time to time the whole of such sum in contributing to any public or co-operative purpose, or to a charitable purpose as defined in section 2 of the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890[86].

CHAPTER 7

INSPECTION OF AFFAIRS

43. Inquiry By Registrar :-

(1) The Registrar may of his own motion by himself or by a person duly authorised by him in writing in this behalf hold an inquiry into the constitution, working and financial condition of a society.

(2) The Registrar shall hold such an inquiry as is contemplated in sub-section (1) of this section-

- (a) on the requisition of a society, duly authorised by rules made in this behalf to make such requisition, in respect of one of its members, such member being itself a society,
- (b) on the application of a majority of the Committee of the

society,

(c) on the application of 1/3rd of the members of the society.

(3) All officers and members of the society whose affairs are investigated shall furnish such information in their possession in regard to the affairs of the society as the Registrar or the person authorized by the Registrar may require.

(4) The result of any inquiry under this section shall be communicated to the society whose affairs have been investigated.

44. Inspection Of Books Of Indebted Society :-

(1) The Registrar may, on the application of a creditor of a society inspect or direct some person authorized by him by order in writing in this behalf to inspect the books of the society:

Provided that-

(a) the applicant satisfies the Registrar that the debt is a sum then due, and that he has demanded payment thereof and has not received satisfaction within a reasonable time; and

(b) the applicant deposits with the Registrar such sum as security for the costs of the proposed inspection as the Registrar may require.

(2) The Registrar shall communicate the result of any such inspection to the creditor.

44A. Inspection Of Books And Properties :-

The Registrar, or any of his authorized representative, shall have access and right to inspect the books, accounts, cash, documents, properties and securities of a society and every employee, past or present, of the society shall produce the same and furnish such information with regard to the transactions and working of the society as the person making such inspection may require.

44B. Power Of Registrar To Exercise Powers Under Section 50-A In The Course Of An Inquiry Or Inspection :-

Where, in the course of any inquiry under section 43 or an inspection under section 44 or section 44-A it appears to the Registrar that there exists any such ground as is specified in section 50-A, he may, of his own motion or on the application of the person authorised by him under section 43 or section 44 or section 44-A, exercise the powers specified in section 50-A].

44C. Power To Remove Officers :-

(1) An officer of a society, by whatever name called may be removed by the Registrar, if, on an enquiry, he is satisfied that the said officer-

(i) acts in a manner prejudicial to the interest of the society or its members; or

(ii) has incurred any of the disqualifications or has ceased to possess any of the

qualifications for being an officer provided by the Act, rules or bye-laws; or
(iii) has committed an act in respect of which the Registrar is empowered to take action under section 50-A.

(2) An order under sub-section (1) shall not be passed without giving to the concerned officer a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(3) On being removed, the officer shall not perform any functions as such in relation to the society.

(4) An officer aggrieved by an order under sub-section (1) may, within a period of seven days from the date of the order of his removal, prefer an appeal to such Appellate Authority as may be constituted by the Government and the decision of the said Authority shall be final:

Provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to the Punjab Provincial Cooperative Bank Ltd.

[91][(5) The Registrar may suspend, for a period not exceeding three months, a member of the managing committee of a society, against whom an inquiry is pending under this Act or there are reasons to believe that any such member has committed any irregularity, illegality, breach of trust or act prejudicial to the interests of the society.]

44D. Power Of Registrar To Give Directions :-

(1) Where the Registrar is satisfied that in the public interest or to prevent the affairs of any society from being conducted in a manner detrimental to the interest of its members or depositors or the society or to secure the proper management of any society generally, it is necessary, to issue directions to the societies generally or to any society in particular, it may issue necessary directions, and the societies or as the case may be the society shall be bound to comply with such directions.

(2) The Registrar may on a representation made to him or on his own motion modify or cancel any direction issued under sub-section (1) and in so modifying or cancelling any direction impose such conditions as he may think fit subject to which the modification or cancellation shall have effect.

44E. Special Measures :-

(1) If it appears to the Registrar that in the interest of the members of a society or its depositors it is necessary that the moneys received and other assets of the society, whether held in the name of that society or any other person, are protected and preserved, the Registrar or any other person authorised by him, may without prejudice to any other action or proceedings which may be taken against the society under any law for the time being in force:

(i) enter and search any premises and seize books of account or other documents or records;

(ii) take in his custody all moneys, cash, securities, title deeds, properties, whether movable or immovable, belonging to such society including those being held on behalf of or in the name of any officer, employee or agent of the society, beneficiary or transferee of such society or other person or their dependents.

(iii) direct any bank, financial institution or person to freeze all moneys deposited with it or him on behalf of the society or of any officer, employee, agent, beneficiary or transferee of such society;

(iv) take all necessary steps and measures for identifying assets and property of the society and for realization, protection and preservation thereof;

(v) restrain any society or officer, employee, agent, beneficiary or transferee of such society or any person deriving or claiming title through any of them from alienating, transferring, selling, assigning, disposing of or parting with possession of any property, movable or immovable, or deriving any benefit, rent or income therefrom;

(vi) make such order for realization, protection and preservation of deposits of

money and other assets and property of the society as he may deem fit.

(2) The order passed under sub-section (1) may at any time be withdrawn and shall not remain in force for more than one year.

45. Costs Of Inquiry :-

Where an inquiry is held under section 43 or an inspection is made under section 44 the Registrar may apportion the costs, or such part of the costs, as he may think right, between the society, the members or creditors demanding the inquiry or inspection, the officers or former officers, and the members or past members of the society. [92][Costs may also be awarded by the Registrar to the financing bank in the case of inspection under section 44-A of the books of any society other than an Agricultural Credit Society the liability of which is unlimited]:

Provided that-

(a) no order of apportionment [93][or award] of the costs shall be made under this section unless the society or persons liable to pay the costs thereunder has or have been heard or has or have had a reasonable opportunity of being heard;

(b) the Registrar shall state in writing under his own hand the grounds on which the costs are apportioned [94][or awarded].

[95][Explanation-For the purposes of this section an Agricultural Credit Society means a resource society of which the primary object is the creation of funds to be lent to its members and of which a majority of the members are agriculturists and of which no member is a registered society and the liability of which is unlimited.

46. Recovery Of Costs :-

Any sum awarded by way of costs under section 45, may be recovered, on the application of the Registrar, by a Magistrate having jurisdiction in the place where the person from whom the money is claimable actually and voluntarily resides, or carries on business, or by an officer authorized in this behalf by the Government, by distress and sale of any movable property belonging to such person, within the limits of the jurisdiction of such Magistrate or any such officer.

CHAPTER 8

LIQUIDATION AND ARBITRATION

47. Winding Up :-

If the Registrar, after an inquiry has been held under section 43 or

after an inspection has been made under section 44 [98][or section 44-A] or on receipt of an application made by [99][two-third] of the members of a society present at a special general meeting, called for the purpose or of his own motion, in the case of a society that has not commenced working, or has ceased working [100][* * *], is of opinion that the society ought to be wound up he may issue an order directing it to be wound up, and the when necessary, may appoint a liquidator for the purpose and fix his remuneration.

48. Society May Be Wound Up If Membership Is Reduced :-

(1) The Registrar may, by order in writing, direct a society to be wound up, if at any time it is proved to his satisfaction that the membership of the society has been reduced to less than the requisite minimum number of members and the society, despite a reasonable opportunity, has failed to raise the number of members to be in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(2) All existing societies shall, within two years of the commencement of this Act, raise their membership to be in accordance with the provisions of this Act, failing which the Registrar may wind up such a society after affording it an opportunity of being heard.]

48A. Winding Up Of Housing Society :-

If a housing society fails to complete development and allotment of plots in accordance with its development schedule, the Registrar may order the winding up of the society after affording it an opportunity of hearing.

49. Effect Of Cancellation Of Registration :-

When the affairs of a society for which a liquidator has been appointed under section 47 have been wound up, or, where no liquidator has been appointed, after two months from the date of an order under section 47, or after confirmation of such order in appeal, the Registrar shall make an order cancelling the registration of the society, and the society shall be deemed to be dissolved from the date of such order.

50. Power Of A Liquidator :-

A liquidator appointed under section 47 shall have power with the sanction of the Registrar to do all or any of the following things:-

- (a) pay any class or classes of creditors in full;
- (b) make any compromise or arrangement with creditors or persons claiming to be creditors or having or alleging themselves to have any claim, present or future, whereby the society may be rendered liable;
- (c) to compromise all calls or liabilities to calls and debts, and liabilities capable of resulting in debts, and all claims, present or future, certain or contingent, subsisting or supposed to subsist between the society and a contributory or alleged contributory or other debtor or person apprehending liability to the society and all questions in any way relating to or affecting the assets or the winding up of the society on such terms as may be agreed and take any security for the discharge of any such call, liability, debt, or claim and give a complete discharge in respect thereof;
- (d) from time to time to determine the contribution to be made or remaining to be made by the members or past members or by the estates or nominees, heirs or legal representatives of deceased members or by any officer to the assets of the society, such contribution including debts due from such members or persons;
- (e) to institute and defend suits and other legal proceedings on behalf of the society in the name of his office;
- (f) to issue requisitions under section 59 upon the Collector for the recovery as arrears of land revenue of any sum ordered by him to be recovered as dues from members, or as a contribution to the assets of the society or to the cost of liquidation;
- (g) to get disputes referred to arbitration;
- (h) to investigate all claims against the society and subject to the provisions of this Act as to decide questions of priority arising out of such claims, and to pay rateably according to the amount of such debts, the surplus if any being applied in payment of interest [103] [or return] from the date of liquidation at a rate to be fixed by the Registrar and not exceeding the contract rate;
- (i) to determine by what persons and in what proportion the cost of the liquidation shall be borne;
- (j) to give such directions in regard to the collection and distribution of the assets of the society as may appear to him to be necessary for winding up the affairs of the society;
- (k) to fix the time or times within which creditors shall prove their debts and claims or be included for the benefit of any distribution made before those debts or claims are proved;
- (l) to carry on the business of the society so far as may be necessary for the beneficial winding up of the same:

Provided that no liquidator shall determine the contribution, debt or dues to be recovered from a past member or the representative of a deceased member unless opportunity has been given to such past member or to such representative to answer the claim:

[104][Provided further that all debts due to [105][Government] shall have priority over all debts which are not secured by a mortgage, charge or lien on the property of the society or any part thereof but nothing herein contained shall affect the provisions of sections 137 and 138 of the [106][Sind] Land Revenue Code, 1879[107] [108][, or any other law relating to land revenue in force in the area].

50A. Power Of Registrar To Assess Damage Against Delinquent Promoters, Etc :-

(1) Where in the course of the winding up of a society it appears that any person who has taken part in the organization or management of the society or any past or present chairman, secretary, member of the managing committee or officer of the society has misapplied or retained or become liable or accountable for any money or property of the society or has been guilty of misfeasance or breach of trust in relation to the society [109][or, where the society is acting under sub-section (4) of section 34 as agent of the financing bank, has made any payment contrary to the instructions of the financing bank] the Registrar may, on the application of the liquidator or of any creditor or contributory, examine into the conduct of such person and make an order requiring him to repay or restore the money or property or any part thereof respectively with interest [110][or return] at such rate as the Registrar thinks just or to contribute such sum to the assets of the society [111][or of the financing bank] by way of compensation in regard to the misapplication, retainer, misfeasance or breach of trust as the Registrar thinks just.

(2) This section shall apply notwithstanding that the act is one for which the offender may be criminally responsible.

51. Bar Of Suit In Winding Up And Dissolution Matters :-

Save in so far as is expressly provided in this Act no civil court shall take cognizance of any matter[112][arising out of any proceedings under Chapter VIII-A or] connected with the winding up or dissolution of a society under this Act and when a winding up order has been made no suit or other legal proceeding shall lie or be proceeded with against the society except by leave of the Registrar and subject to such terms as he may impose.

52. Disposal Of Surplus Assets :-

After all the liabilities including the paid-up share capital of a cancelled society have been met, the surplus assets shall not be divided amongst its members but they shall be devoted to any

object or objects described in the by-laws of the society and when no object is so described to any object of public utility determined by the general meeting of the society and approved by the Registrar or they may in consultation with them either be assigned by the Registrar in whole or in part to any or all of the following:-

- (a) an object of public utility of local or communal interest,
- (b) a charitable purpose as defined in section 2 of the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890[113].
- (c) the [114][[115][* * *] Provincial Co-operative Institute], or may be placed on deposit with [116][the Provincial Co-operative Bank] until such time as a new society with similar conditions is registered when with the consent of the registrar such surplus may be credited to the reserve fund of such new society.

53. Surplus Assets Of Housing Society :-

Where the society directed to be wound up is a housing society, its assets, both movable and immovable, shall for the purposes of winding up or dissolution of the society jointly vest, subject to all rights and equities, in three persons of whom one shall be nominated by the Registrar, one shall be nominated by the said society in a general meeting specifically called for the purpose and one shall be nominated by the [117][[118][* * *] Provincial Co-operative Institute]. Such persons shall, for the purpose of winding up or dissolution of the society be Joint Liquidators and shall have all the powers of a liquidator under this Act. They may, with the sanction of the Registrar, continue the working of the society, or may, subject to his sanction and in consultation with the members of the society in a general meeting, reconstruct the society or may sell off the premises of the society to the best advantage of all interests concerned, and when all the liabilities of the society are met, may dispose of the surplus assets of the society, if any, as provided in section 52.

54. Arbitration :-

[119][If any dispute touching the business of a society (other than a dispute regarding disciplinary action taken by the society or its committee against a paid servant of the society) arises-

- (a) between members or past members of the society or persons claiming through a member or past member, or
- (b) between members or past members or persons so claiming and any past or present officer, agent or servant of the society, or

(c) between the society or its committee, and any past or present member of the society, or

(d) between the society or its committee, and any past or present officer, agent or servant of the society, or a surety of such officer, agent or servant, whether such surety is or is not a member of the society, [120][or].

[121][(e) between a financing bank authorised under sub-section (1) of section 34 and a person who is not a member of a society], it shall be referred to the Registrar for decision by himself or his nominee, or if either of the parties so desires, to arbitration of three arbitrators who shall be the Registrar or his nominee and two persons of whom one shall be nominated by each of the parties concerned.]

A dispute shall include [122][the question whether a person is or was a member of a society and also] claims by a society for debts or demands due to it from[123][a member, past member or non-member] or the heirs or assets of a past member [124][or non-member] whether such debts or demands be admitted or not:

Provided that if the question at issue between a society and a claimant, or between different claimants, is one involving complicated questions of law and fact, the Registrar may, if he thinks fit, suspend proceeding, in the matter until the question has been tried by a regular suit instituted by one of the parties or by the society. If no such suit is instituted within six months of the Registrars order suspending proceedings, the Registrar shall take action as laid down in paragraph 1 of this section.

54A. Registrars Power To Set Aside The Award And Order The Dispute To Be Referred Back To Arbitration :-

(1) In the case of any award made by the arbitrators under section 54, the Registrar, if he is not one of such arbitrators, may of his own motion or on the application of any of the parties to the award, by an order in writing recording reasons therefore,-

(a) modify or correct the award (i) where it appears that a part of the award is upon a matter not referred to arbitration and such part can be separated from the other part and does not affect the decision on the matter referred; or (ii) Where the award is imperfect in form or contains any obvious error which can be amended without affecting such decision; or (iii) where the award contains a clerical mistake or an error arising from an accidental slip or omission; or

(b) remit the award or any matter referred to arbitration to the arbitrators for reconsideration-

(i) where the award has left undetermined any of the matters referred to arbitration or where it determines any matter not referred to arbitration and such matter cannot be separated without affecting the determination of the matters referred, or

(ii) where the award is so indefinite as to be incapable of execution, or

(c) set aside the award and order that the dispute shall be referred to arbitration in the manner provided in the said section:

Provided that no order referred to in clauses (a) to (c) shall be made after the issue of a certificate under section 59 for the execution of the award:

Provided further that no order under clause (c) shall be made unless the Registrar is of opinion that-

(i) an objection to the legality of the award is apparent on the face of it, or

(ii) the award has been vitiated in consequence of corruption or misconduct on the part of the arbitrators, or

(iii) the award is in any way perverse.]

(2) In making an order under [127][clause (c) of] sub-section (1), the Registrar may direct that all or any of the arbitrators who made the award shall not act again as arbitrators for deciding the dispute.

(3) Where a dispute is referred back to arbitration under [128][clause (c) of] sub-section (1), the arbitrators shall make a fresh award within such time as may be fixed by the Registrar. If the arbitrators fail to make a fresh award within the time so fixed, the Registrar or his nominee shall decide the dispute.

55. Attachment Before Award :-

Where a dispute has been referred to the Registrar under section 54 or to arbitration under clause (g) of section 50, the Registrar or his nominee or the arbitrators, as the case may be, if satisfied on inquiry or otherwise, that a party to such arbitration with intent to delay or obstruct the execution of any award that may be made,-

(a) is about to dispose of the whole or any part of his property, or

(b) is about to remove the whole or any part of his property from the jurisdiction of the Registrar,

may unless adequate security is furnished direct the conditional attachment of the said property; and such attachment shall have the same effect as if made by a competent Civil Court.

56. Appeal Against Award Of Arbitrator :-

Any party aggrieved by any decision of the Registrars nominee made under section 54 [129][or sub-section (3) of section 54-A] or an order passed under section 55 by the Registrars nominee or arbitrators may within one month of the date of the award or order appeal to the Registrar and the Registrar shall decide the appeal [130][* * *].

57. Finality Of Awards In Certain Orders :-

The award of arbitrators or a decision by the Registrar or his nominee under section 54 or section 54-A or an order passed in appeal by the Registrar under section 56 shall, subject to the provisions of sections 64 and 64-A, be final and conclusive and shall not be liable to be called in question in any civil or revenue court.

58. Powers To Enforce Attendance :-

Wherever in this Act it is provided that the Registrar or person duly authorized by general or special order in writing by the Registrar in this behalf shall hold an inquiry under section 43 or shall make an inspection under section 44 or shall wind up a society or shall arbitrate, such Registrar, or person authorized, as the case may be, shall have the power to summon and enforce the attendance of witnesses including the parties interested or any of them and to compel them to give evidence, and to compel the production of documents by the same means and as far as possible in the same manner as is provided in the case of a civil court by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908[132].

59. Money How Recovered :-

(1) [133][Every order passed by a liquidator under section 50, or by the Registrar under section 50-A, or by the Registrar or his nominee or arbitrators on disputes referred to him or them under clause (g) of section 50 or under section 54 or under sub-section (3) of section 54-A, every order passed in appeal, under section 56, every order passed by the Provincial Government in appeal against orders under sections 50, 50-A, 54 or sub-section (3) of section 54-A and every order passed under section 64-A shall, if not carried out, [134][* * *]:

[135][(a) on a certificate signed by the Registrar or a liquidator, be deemed to be a decree of a Civil Court and shall be executed in the same manner as a decree of such court; or]

[136][(b) be executed according to the law for the time being in force for the recovery of arrears of land revenue; provided that any application for recovery of the amount in such a manner shall be made to the Collector and shall be accompanied by a certificate signed by the Registrar or by an officer subordinate to the Registrar to whom the said power has been delegated by the Registrar.]

[137][(2) Powers of Registrar to recover certain sums by attachment and sale of property.- The Registrar or any person subordinate to him empowered by the Registrar in this behalf may, subject to such rules as may be prescribed by the Provincial Government and without prejudice to any other mode of recovery provided by or under this Act, recover by exercising powers of the Collector under the [138][Sind] Land Revenue Code, 1879[139], [140][or the relevant provisions of any other law relating to land

revenue in force in the area], and the Rules thereunder-

(a) any amount due under a decree or order of a Civil Court, a decision or an award of the Registrar, obtained by a registered society including a financing bank or liquidator; or

(b) any sum awarded by way of costs under sections 44-B and 45; or

(c) damages assessed in sections 22-A and 50-A; or

(d) penalty provided for in sections 61 and 62; or

(e) sums due to [141][Government] under section 65, together with the interest, [142][or return], if any, due on such amount or sum and the cost of process, by the attachment and sale or by the sale without attachment of property of the person against whom such decree, decision, award or order has been obtained or passed.

(3) Registrar or person empowered by him to be a Civil Court for certain purposes.- The Registrar or any person empowered by him in that behalf shall be deemed when exercising any powers under this Act for the recovery of any amount by the attachment and sale or by the sale without attachment of any property, or when passing any orders on any application made to him for such recovery or to take some step-in-aid of such recovery to be a Civil Court for the purposes of Article 182 of the First Schedule to the Limitation Act, 1908[143].]

[144][(4) The Government or the Registrar may, on an application, direct that an order or award, passed under this Act, shall be executed in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908 (Act V of 1908) or any other law for the time being in force.

(5) The Registrar or any other officer subordinate to him, duly authorized by the Government to execute the orders or the awards, shall be deemed to be a civil court and shall have the powers vested in an executing court under the Civil Procedure Code 1908 (Act V of 1908).]

59A. Transfer Of Property Which Cannot Be Sold :-

(1) When in execution of an order sought to be executed under section 59, any property cannot be sold for want of buyers, if such property is in the occupancy of the defaulter or of some person on his behalf or of some person claiming under a title created by the defaulter subsequently to the issue of the certificate of the Registrar, Liquidator or Assistant Registrar under clause (a) or (b) of sub-section (1), the Court or the Collector, as the case may be, with the previous consent of the Registrar, direct that the said property or any portion thereof shall be transferred to the society which has applied for the execution of the said order and that the said property or the portion shall be delivered to the society in the prescribed manner.

(2) Subject to such rules as may be made in this behalf and to any right, encumbrances, charges or equities lawfully subsisting in favour of any other person, such property or portion thereof shall be held by the said society on such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the Court or the Collector, as the case may be, and the said society:

Provided that any private transfer or delivery of or encumbrance or charge on the property made or created after the issue of the certificate of the Registrar, Liquidator or Assistant Registrar, as the case may be, under section 59 shall be null and void as against the said society].

CHAPTER VIII-A DISTRAINT

59B. Definitions :-

- .
- In this Chapter, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context-
- (a) "Collector" includes an officer appointed by the Provincial Government to discharge any of the functions of the Collector under this Chapter;
 - (b) "defaulter" means a person (including his legal representatives if he is dead) from whom any such debt or outstanding demand as is referred to in section 59-C is recoverable;
 - (c) words and expressions used herein and not hereinbefore defined shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them by the [147][Sind] Land Revenue Code, 1879[148] [149][or any other law relating to land revenue in force in the area].

59C. Cases In Which Application For Distraint May Be Made

:-

Where any debt or outstanding demand is due to a society from any member or past member or is due to a society which is authorised by the Registrar under sub-section (1) of section 34 to make loan to non-members, from any person who is not a member of a society, the society may, in addition to any other remedy to which it is entitled by law, present an application to the Registrar requesting him to recover the debt or outstanding demand by distraining, while in the possession of the defaulter any crop or other produce belonging to him, whether the same is growing or is ungathered or has been reaped or gathered.

59D. Form Of Application :-

- (1) Every application under the last foregoing section shall specify-
 - (a) particulars of the land on which the crop or produce is or has been grown;
 - (b) the name of the defaulter;
 - (c) a detailed account of the debts and outstanding demands due to the society;
 - (d) the nature and approximate value of the crop or produce to be distrained;
 - (e) if the crop or produce is growing or is ungathered, the time at which it is likely to be fit to be reaped or gathered; and
 - (f) if the crop or produce has been reaped or gathered, the place where it is kept or such other particulars as may suffice for its identification.
- (2) The application shall be signed and verified in the manner prescribed by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for the signing and verification of plaints.

59E. Procedure On Receipt Of Application :-

- .
- (1) A society shall at the time of making an application under section 59-C, file before the Registrar such documentary evidence, if any, as it may consider necessary for the purpose of proving the statements made in the application.
 - (2) The Registrar may, after taking such evidence as he thinks fit, admit the

application or reject it:

Provided that the person against whom the application is made shall be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(3) Where the Registrar does not at once admit or reject the application, he may make an order prohibiting removal of the crop or other produce specified in the application, pending a final decision on the application.

(4) Where an order for distraining any crop or produce is made under this section a considerable time before the crop or produce is likely to be fit to be reaped or gathered, the Registrar may suspend the execution of the order for such time as he thinks fit and may make a further order prohibiting the removal of such crop or produce pending the execution of the order of distraint.

(5) An order under sub-section (3) or sub-section (4) shall be served and published in such manner as may be prescribed by rules.

(6) Any person who shall disobey any order made under sub-section (4) prohibiting the removal of any crop or produce pending the execution of the order of distraint, after the same has been published or served upon him, or who shall, within the meaning of the [150][Pakistan] Penal Code, abet the disobedience of any such order, shall be liable, on conviction after a summary enquiry by the Collector, to a fine not exceeding double the amount due to the society for the recovery of which it is proposed to make the distraint. Such fine shall be recovered as an arrear of land revenue.

59F. Execution Of Order For Distraint :-

(1) If the application is admitted under the last foregoing section and an order for distraining any crop or produce is made, the Registrar shall send to the Collector for execution a copy of the order together with such particulars as may be prescribed by rules.

(2) Upon receipt of a copy of the order referred to in sub-section (1) the Collector shall depute an officer to distraint the crop or produce specified therein or such portion thereof as the Collector thinks fit and the officer so deputed shall at once proceed to the place where the crop or produce is or is kept, and distraint the same by taking charge of it himself or by placing it in the charge of some other person appointed by him in this behalf. The distraining officer shall publish a notification of the distraint in the manner prescribed by rules.

(3) Any crop or produce which from its nature does not admit of being stored shall not be distrained at any time less than twenty days before the time at which it is likely to be fit to be reaped or gathered.

59G. Service Of Notice Of Demand And The Grounds Of Distraint :-

(1) The distraining officer shall, at the time of making the distraint serve on the defaulter-

(a) a notice of demand for the amount due and the costs incurred in making the distraint (herein after called the demand amount); and

(b) a statement of the grounds on which the distraint is made.

(2) The notice of demand and the statement shall be served in such manner as may be prescribed by rules.

59H. Right To Reap, Etc., Produce :-

(1) Subject to such conditions as the Collector may impose in this behalf either in the order of distraint or in any subsequent order, the defaulter may tend, reap, gather or store the crop or produce and do any other act necessary for maturing or preserving it; and if the defaulter fails to do all or any of such acts, the distraining

officer may appoint a person to do all or any of them, and the costs incurred by the distraining officer for this purpose shall be recoverable from the defaulter as if they were included in the costs of distraint.

(2) The crop or produce reaped or gathered by defaulter shall remain in charge of the distraining officer or some other person appointed by him in this behalf.

59I. Sale Proclamation To Be Issued Unless Demand Is Satisfied :-

(1) Unless the demand amount is immediately paid, the distraining officer shall issue a proclamation in [151][the local language of the area] of the intended sale specifying the particulars of the property distrained and the demand amount for which it is distrained and shall further notify that he will, at a place and on a day specified, not being less than three or more than seven days from the date of the distraint, sell the distrained property by public auction:

Provided that when the crop or other produce distrained is capable of being stored but has not been stored, the day of the sale shall be so fixed as to allow of its being stored before the sale.

(2) Such proclamation shall be made by beat of drum in the village in which the distrained property was seized and a copy of the proclamation shall be affixed in some public place in the village and in the Mukhtiarkars office.

59J. Place Of Sale :-

The sale shall be held-

(a) in the case of a growing crop on or near the land on which such crop has been grown, or

(b) if the crop or produce has been reaped or gathered, at or near the place where it is kept:

Provided that the distraining officer may direct the sale to be held at the nearest place of public resort, if he is of opinion that the crop or produce is thereby likely to sell to greater advantage.

59K. Provisions Relating To Growing Crops :-

(1) Where the crop is growing one and from its nature admits of being stored, the sale shall not be held until the crop is reaped or gathered and is ready for storing.

(2) Where the crop from its nature does not admit of being stored, it may be sold before it is reaped or gathered, and the purchaser shall be entitled to enter on the land by himself or by any other person appointed by him in this behalf and to do all acts necessary for the purpose of tending, reaping or gathering the crop.

59L. Manner Of Sale :-

The distrained property shall be sold by public auction in one or more lots as the officer holding the sale may determine; and if the demand amount is realised by the sale of a portion of the property, the order of distraint shall not be executed with respect to the remainder.

59M. Postponement Of Sale :-

If, on the distrained property being put up for sale, a fair price, in the opinion of the officer holding the sale, is not offered for it, and if the owner of the property or a person authorised to act on his behalf applies to have the sale postponed to the

next day, the sale shall be postponed until that date and shall then be completed whatever may be the price offered for the property.

59N. Payment Of Purchase Money :-

(1) The price of each lot shall be paid at the time of sale or as soon thereafter as the officer holding the sale directs, and in default of such payment the property shall forthwith be resold.

(2) Any deficiency of price which may happen on a resale by reason of the purchasers default, and all expenses attending such resale, shall be certified to the Collector by the officer holding the sale, and shall, at the instance of the society or the defaulter, be recoverable from the defaulting purchaser as if they were an arrear of land revenue.

59O. Certificate Be Given To The Purchaser :-

. When the purchase money has been paid in full the officer holding the sale shall grant a receipt for the same and the sale shall become absolute as against all persons whomsoever.

59P. Proceeds Of Sale How To Be Applied :-

(1) When any property is sold under this Chapter the proceeds of the sale shall be applied to defraying the costs of distraint and sale and to the payment of the amount for which the distraint was made and the surplus, if any, shall be paid to the person whose property has been sold.

(2) The costs of distraint and sale shall be estimated at such rates as may, from time to time, be sanctioned by [152][Executive District Officer (Revenue) or any other officer authorized by the Government in this behalf].

59Q. Certain Persons May Not Purchase :-

No officer or other person having any duty to perform in connection with any distraint or sale made under this Chapter and no officer or servant of any society shall, either directly or indirectly, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold.

59R. Procedure Where Demand Is Paid Before The Sale :-

(1) If at any time after a distraint has been made under this Chapter and before the sale of the distrained property, the defaulter or any other person deposits with the Collector or with the distraining officer the demand amount together with such costs as may have been incurred after the service of the notice of demand, the order of distraint shall not be executed.

(2) When the distraining officer receives the deposit, he shall forthwith remit it to the Collector.

(3) After the expiration of one month from the date on which the deposit is made under sub-section (1), the Collector shall pay to the society which applied for distraint the amount due to it;

Provided that, if before the expiry of the said period the Collector receives notice of any suit in which the legality of the distraint order is questioned or compensation is claimed for illegal distraint, he shall withhold payment to the society and shall deal with the money in accordance with such decree [153][or] order as may be passed in the suit.

59S. Distraint Of Property Which Is Under Attachment :-

Where an order of distraint issued under this Chapter and an order made by a Civil Court for attachment or sale relate to the same property, the order of distraint shall prevail; but if the property is sold under the order of distraint the surplus proceeds of the sale shall not be paid under section 59-P to the owner of the property without the sanction of the court by which the order of attachment or sale was made.

59T. Suit For Compensation For Wrongful Distraint And Appeals :-

No appeal shall lie against an order made by the Registrar or the Collector under this Chapter; but a person whose property is distrained on an application made under section 59-C may institute a suit against the applicant for recovery of compensation if such an application is not competent under that section.

59U. Savings :-

Nothing contained in this Chapter shall affect the operation of the provisions of [154][the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1967 (W.P. Act XVII of 1967)] in so far as they give priority to claims of the Provincial Government to any moneys recoverable under the provisions of that Chapter over any other debt, demand or claim.

CHAPTER 9 **OFFENCES**

60. Offences :-

It shall be an offence under this Act if-

- (a) Default by a society, officer or member- a society with a working capital of Rs.50,000 or more or an officer or member thereof fails without any reasonable excuse to give any notice, send any return or document, do or allow to be done anything which the society, officer or member is by this Act[156][or rules made thereunder] required to give, send, do or allow to be done; or
- (b) Wilful neglect or default by a society, etc.- a society or an officer or a member thereof wilfully neglects or refuses to do any act or to furnish any information required for the purposes of this Act [157][or rules made thereunder] by the Registrar or other person duly authorised by him in writing in this behalf; or
- (c) Wilful furnishing of false information- a society or an officer or member thereof wilfully makes a false return or furnishes false information; or
- (d) Disobedience of summons, requisition, or order- any person wilfully or without any reasonable excuse disobeys any summons, requisition or lawful written order issued under the provisions of

this Act [158][or rules made thereunder] or does not furnish any information lawfully required from him by a person authorized to do so under the provisions of this Act [159][or rules made thereunder] [160][; or]

[161][(e) Indulgence in fraudulent activities- a member of a society indulges in fraudulent or corrupt activities concerning the management or business of the society, or indulges in any illegal or corrupt practices, as defined in the Punjab Local Government Ordinance, 2001 (XIII of 2001), in the conduct of elections of the managing committee of the society; or

(f) Performing acts without approval- an officer, an employee of a society or a member of the managing committee of the society performs any act without prior approval of the Registrar or of the general body of the society where such prior approval is required by law; or

(g) Making a false report or refusing to do an act- an officer or a member of the internal audit committee of a society refuses or neglects to do an act which he is required by law to do or makes a false report; or

(h) Violation of the master plan- a member of the managing committee of a cooperative housing society commits any violation or breach of an approved master plan.

61. Penalty For Offences Not Otherwise Provided For :-

Every society, officer or member of a society or other person guilty of an offence under this Act for which no penalty is expressly provided herein shall be liable to a fine not exceeding [162][fifty thousand rupees].

62. Prohibition Of The Use Of The Word "Co-Operative". :-

(1) No person other than a registered society shall without the sanction of [163][the Provincial Government], trade or carry on business under any name or title of which the word "co-operative" or its vernacular equivalent forms part:

Provided that nothing in this section shall apply to the use by any person or his successor in interest of any name or title under which he traded or carried on business at the date on which this Act comes into operation.

(2) Whoever contravenes the provisions of this section shall be punishable with fine which may extend to [164][fifty thousand] rupees and in the case of a continuing offence with further fine of

[165][five hundred] rupees for each day on which the offence is continued after conviction therefor.

[166][62.A. Penalty.- (1) Whoever contravenes the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 44-C or any direction given by the Registrar under section 44-D shall be guilty of an offence punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months or with fine or with both.

(2) Whoever contravenes an order passed under section 44-E shall be guilty of an offence which shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years but which shall not be less than six months and shall also be liable to be punished with fine].

63. Cognizance Of Offences :-

No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act except on a complaint in writing made by the Registrar or by a person duly authorised, for the purpose, by him:

Provided that cognizance of an offence under sub-section (2) of section 62-A may be taken even otherwise than on such complaint.

CHAPTER 10

APPEALS AND REVISIONS

64. Appeal :-

An appeal against an order or decision of or sanctioned by the Registrar under Section 10, 16, 45, 47, 50, 50-A, [169][54 or sub-section (3) of section 54-A] may be made by any party aggrieved or affected by the order or decision to [170][the Provincial Government] within two months of the date of the communication of the order.

64A. Power Of Provincial Government And The Registrar To Call For Proceedings Of Subordinate Officers And To Pass Orders Thereon :-

[171][The Provincial Government] and the Registrar may call for and examine the record of any inquiry or the proceedings of any officer subordinate to them for the purpose of satisfying themselves as to the legality or propriety of any decision or order passed and as to the regularity of the proceedings of such officer. If in any case, it shall appear to [172][the Provincial Government] or the Registrar that any decision or order or proceedings so called for should be modified, annulled or reversed,[173][the Provincial Government] or the Registrar, as the case may be, may pass such order thereon as to it or him may seem fit.

64AA. Finality Of Orders Of Provincial Government :-

An order passed in appeal under section 64 or in revision under section 64-A by the Provincial Government shall be final and conclusive and shall not be liable to be called in question in any civil or revenue court.

CHAPTER 11

MISCELLANEOUS

65. Recovery Of Sums Due To Government :-

(1) All sums due from a society or from an officer or member or past member of a society as such to [176][Government], may be recovered according to the law and under the rules for the time being in force for the recovery of arrears of land revenue.

(2) Sums due from a society to [177][Government] and recoverable under sub-section (1) may be recovered, firstly from the property of the society; secondly, in the case of a society of which the liability of the members is limited, from the members or past members subject to the limit of their liability; and, thirdly, in the case of other societies, from the members or past members.

(3) The liability of past members shall in all cases be subject to the provisions of section 28.

65A. Section 65A :-

(1) A member of a society may execute an agreement in favour of the society providing that his employer shall be competent to deduct every month from the salary or wages payable to him by the employer such amount not exceeding the amount prescribed by rules, as may be specified in the application and pay the amount so deducted to the society in satisfaction of any debt or other demand owing by the member to the society.

(2) On the execution of such agreement the employer shall, if so required by the society and so long as such debt or demand or any part of it remains unpaid, make the deduction in accordance with the agreement and pay the amount so deducted to the society.

(3) The provisions of this section shall also apply to all such agreements of the nature referred to in sub-section (1) as were in force on the date of the commencement of the [179][Sind] Co-operative Societies [180][* **] (Second Amendment) Act, 1940, but nothing herein contained shall be deemed to authorise the deduction, under any such agreement, of any amount in excess of that prescribed by the rules.

[181][(4) Nothing contained in this section shall apply to persons employed in mines of nuclear fuels, mineral oils and natural gas.

65B. Officers Of Societies To Be Public Servants :-

Every officer of a society, including a Co-operative bank, shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of section 21 of the Pakistan Penal Code[183]]

66. Power To Exempt Societies From Conditions As To

Registration :-

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, [184][the Provincial Government] may, by special order in each case and subject to such conditions, if any, as it may impose, exempt any society from any of the requirements of this Act as to registration.

67. Powers To Exempt Societies From Provisions Of Act :-

[185][The Provincial Government] may, by general or special order to be published in the [186][Official Gazette], exempt any society or class of societies from any of the provisions of this Act, or may direct that such provisions shall apply to such society or class of societies with such modifications as may be specified in the order; provided that no order to the prejudice of any society shall be passed without an opportunity being given to such society to represent its case.

68. Companies Act Not To Apply :-

The provisions of the [187][* * *] Companies Act of 1913[188], shall not apply to societies registered under this Act.

69. Branches, Etc., Of Societies Outside The Province :-

Every co-operative society registered outside the [189][Province of West Pakistan], which has or establishes a branch or place of business in the [190][Province of West Pakistan] shall within six months from the commencement of this Act or from the establishment of such branch or place of business, file with the Registrar a certified copy of the by-laws and amendments and, if these are not written in the English language, a certified translation in English thereof, and shall submit to the Registrar such returns and information as are submitted by similar societies in the [191][Province of West Pakistan] in addition to those submitted to the Registrar of the province where it is registered.

70. Notice Necessary In Suits :-

No suit shall be instituted against a society or any of its officers in respect of any Act touching the business of the society until the expiration of two months next after notice in writing has been delivered to the Registrar, or left at his office, stating the cause of action, the name, description and place of residence of the plaintiff

and the relief which he claims; and the plaint shall contain a statement that such notice has been so delivered or left.

70A. Bar Of Jurisdiction :-

(1) Notwithstanding anything provided in any other law for the time being in force, but save as expressly provided in this Act-

(a) no Court or other authority whatsoever shall have jurisdiction to entertain, or to adjudicate upon, any matter which the Provincial Government, the Registrar or his nominee, any arbitrator or liquidator, a society, a financing bank, a Co-operative bank or any other person is empowered by or under this Act, or the rules or by-laws framed thereunder, to dispose of or to determine;

(b) the validity of anything done or an order passed by the Provincial Government, a society, a financing bank, a Co-operative bank, the Registrar or any other person referred to in clause (a), under this Act or the rules and by-laws framed thereunder, shall not be called in question in any manner whatever before or by any Court or other authority whatsoever; and

(c) no Court or other authority whatsoever shall be competent to grant any injunction or pass any other order in relation to any proceedings under this Act or any rules or by-laws framed thereunder before the Provincial Government, a society, a financing bank, a Co-operative bank, the Registrar or any other person referred to in clause (a).

(2) The provisions of sub-section (1) shall be applicable to proceedings, appeals and revisions pending adjudication or disposal before or in any Court or other authority whatsoever on the date that the Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1966, comes into force, and any order passed in such proceedings, whether before or after the coming into force of the said Ordinance, in regard to matters referred to in sub-section (1), shall stand vacated and be without any force.

71. Rules :-

(1) [193][The Provincial Government] may, for the whole or any part of the [194][Province] and for any society or class of societies, make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power such rules may-

(a) subject to the provisions of section 6, prescribe the maximum number of shares or portion of the capital of a society which may be held by a member;

(b) prescribe the forms to be used and the conditions to be complied with in the making of applications for the registration of a society and the procedure in the matter of such applications;

(c) prescribe the matters in respect of which a society may or shall make by-laws and the procedure to be followed in making, altering and abrogating by-laws and the conditions to be satisfied prior to such making, alteration or abrogation;

(d) prescribe the conditions to be complied with by persons applying for admission or admitted as members and provide for the

election and admission of members and the payment to be made and the interests to be acquired before the exercise of the right of membership;

(e) provide for ascertaining the value of a deceased members share or interest;

(f) provide for general meetings of the members and for the procedure at such meetings and the powers to be exercised by such meetings;

(g) provide for the appointment, suspension and removal of the members of the committee and other officers and for the procedure at meetings of the committee and for the powers to be exercised and the duties to be performed by the committee and other officers;

[195][(ga)] provide, where all the members of the committee have been suspended or removed, for the appointment of a person to administer the affairs of the society and for the powers to be exercised and the duties to be performed by such person;

(h) prescribe the accounts and the books to be kept by a society and provide for the audit of such accounts, and the charges, if any, to be made for such audit, and for the periodical publication of a balance sheet showing the assets and liabilities of a society;

(i) prescribe the returns to be submitted by a society to the Registrar and provide for the persons by whom and the form in which such returns shall be submitted;

(j) provide for the persons by whom and the form in which copies of documents or entries in books of societies may be certified, and for the charges to be levied for the supply of such copies;

(k) provide for the formation and maintenance of a register of members, and where the liability of the members is limited by shares, of a register of shares;

(l) prescribe the payments to be made and the conditions to be complied with by members applying for loans, and the period for which loans may be made, and the amount which may be lent to an individual member;

[196][(m) prescribe the conditions, prohibitions and restrictions subject to which a society may-

(i) transact business with persons who are not members; or

(ii) make loans against the security of movable property;]

(n) provide for the formation and maintenance of reserve funds, and the objects to which such funds may be applied, and for the investment of any funds under the control of a society;

(o) prescribe the extent to which a society may limit the number of

its members;

(p) prescribe the conditions under which profits may be distributed to the members of a society and the maximum rate of dividend which may be paid by societies;

(q) Prescribe the procedure to be followed in presenting and disposing of appeals;

(r) provide for securing that the share capital of any society shall be variable in such a way as may be necessary to secure that shares shall not appreciate in value and that necessary capital shall be available for the society as required;

(s) Provide that persons qualified under the by-laws of a society shall not be excluded from membership without due cause;

(t) prescribe the procedure to be followed by a liquidator appointed under section 47;

(u) prescribe the mode of appointing an arbitrator or arbitrators and the procedure to be followed in proceedings before the Registrar or such arbitrator or arbitrators and for fixing and levying the expenses of determining the dispute;

(v) provide for the issue and service of processes and for proof of service thereof;

(w) provide for the writing off of bad debts;

(x) regulate the manner in which funds may be raised by means of shares or debentures [197][,participation term certificates, term finance certificates, musharika certificates, modaraba certificates, and such other instruments as may be approved by the State Bank of Pakistan], or otherwise;

(y) provide for the withdrawal and expulsion of members and for the payments to be made to them and for the liabilities of past members;

(z) provide for the nomination of a person to whom the interest of a deceased member may be paid or transferred;

(aa) prescribe the cases in which an appeal shall lie from the order of a liquidator appointed under section 47;

(bb) provide for the inspection of documents in the Registrars office and the levy of fees for granting certified copies of the same;

(cc) prescribe the procedure to be followed for the custody of property attached under section 55;

[198][(cca) prescribe the manner in which an order under sub-section (3) or sub-section (4) of section 59-E or a notice of demand shall be served or published;

(ccb) prescribe the particulars to be supplied to the Collector under sub-section (1) of section 59-F;

(ccc) prescribe the manner in which a notification of distraint should be published under sub-section (2) of section 59-F;]

(dd) provide for the payment of contributions at such rates and subject to such conditions as may from time to time be prescribed by co-operative societies to any provident fund which may be established for the benefit of officers and servants employed by them; [199][* * *]

(ee) prescribe the period and terms under which Government aid may be given to co-operative societies and the terms under which [200][the Provincial Government] may guarantee the payment of [201][the principal of and] interest [202][or return] on [203][instruments referred to in clause (x) of this sub-section] issued by registered societies;

[204][(ff) prescribing the manner in which any property shall be delivered to, and the terms and conditions subject to which such property shall be held by, a society under section 59-A [205][;]

[206][(gg)] Provide that the contravention of any rule or order issued thereunder shall be punishable with fine not exceeding rupees [207][five thousands][208][; and]

[209][(hh) prescribe the environmental standards and the standards for the use of land.]

(3) [210][The Provincial Government] may, subject to such conditions, if any, as it thinks fit, delegate all or any of its powers to make rules under this section to any authority specified in the order of delegation.

(4) The power to make rules conferred by this section is subject to the condition of the rules being made after previous publication.

[211][(5)* * * * *]

72. Repeal And Savings :-

(1) The following enactments are hereby repealed:-

(a) the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912; and

(b) the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act, 1925[213], as applicable to the District of Karachi.

(2) Every society now existing which has been registered under the Co-operative Societies Act, 1904[214], or under the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912[215], shall be deemed to be registered under this Act, and its by-laws shall, so far as the same are not inconsistent with the express provisions of this Act, continue in force until altered or rescinded.

(3) All rules, regulations, notifications and orders made or issued

under this Act and in force at the time of the commencement of the Sind Co-operative Societies (West Pakistan Amendment) Ordinance, 1965[216], shall, so far as may be, extend and apply, until altered, amended or rescinded by competent authority to the areas to which this Act has been extended by the Sind Co-operative Societies (West Pakistan Amendment) Ordinance, 1965[217]].

[218][(4) The repeal of the Acts specified in sub-section (1) hereinafter referred to as the repealed Acts, shall not-

(a) revive anything not in force or existing at the time at which the repeal takes effect; or

(b) affect the previous operation of the repealed Acts or anything duly done or suffered thereunder; or

(c) affect any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under the repealed Acts; or

(d) affect any penalty, forfeiture or punishment incurred in respect of any offence committed against any repealed Act; or

(e) affect any investigation, legal proceeding or remedy in respect of any such right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture, or punishment as aforesaid, and any such investigation, legal proceeding or remedy may be instituted, continued, or enforced, and any such penalty or forfeiture or punishment may be imposed as if this Act had not been passed.

(5) Any person who immediately before the coming into force of the Sind Co-operative Societies (West Pakistan Amendment) Ordinance, 1965, was appointed as, or was exercising the powers of, a Registrar, Liquidator, Registrars nominee or any other authority, under any repealed Act, shall be deemed to have been so appointed under this Act, and shall continue to exercise the powers of the Registrar, Liquidator, Registrars nominee, or other corresponding authority, as the case may be, under this Act, until such appointment is rescinded by the competent authority under this Act.]

72A. Construction Of References To Co-Operative Societies Act, 1912, In Enactments :-

All references to the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912[220], occurring in any enactment made by any authority in [221][Pakistan] and for the time being in force in [222][the Province of West Pakistan] shall, in the application, to the [223] [said Province], of any such enactment, be read and construed as references to this Act and anything done or any proceeding commenced in pursuance of any such enactment on or after the date on which this Act shall have come into operation shall be deemed to have been done or to have been commenced and to have had effect as if the reference in such enactment to the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912[224], had been the reference to this Act, and no such thing or proceeding

shall be deemed to have been invalid on the ground that such enactment did not refer to this Act.

72B. Validity Of Transfer Made Under Section 59 (2) Of Sind Vii Of 1925 :-

Repealed by the Sind Laws (Adaptation, Revision, Repeal and Declaration) Ordinance, 1955 (Sind Ordinance V of 1955), section 6, Schedule II.

73. Repeal :-

Repealed by the Sind Laws (Adaptation, Revision, Repeal and Declaration) Ordinance, 1955 (Sind Ordinance V of 1955), s.6. Schedule II.

SCHEDULE 1

SCHEDULE I

Repealed by the Sind Laws (Adaptation, Revision, Repeal and Declaration) Ordinance, 1955 (Sind Ordinance V of 1955), section 6. Schedule II.