

Nilgiris Game And Fish Preservation Act, 1879

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An Act to provide for the protection of Game and Acclimatised fish in the district of the Nilgiris in the 2[State of Tamil Nadu]. WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the protection of wild animals and birds used for food and of acclimatised fish, and to prohibit the killing, capturing and selling game and acclimatised fish in the district known as the Nilgiris, as described in the Schedule hereto appended, under certain conditions ; It is hereby enacted as follows:-- 1. Received the assent of the Governor on the 12th February 1879, and of the Governor-General on the 24th March 1879, and took effect from the 6th May 1879.

1. Title And Local Extent :-

This Act may be called the Nilgiris Game and Fish Preservation Act, 1879 ; and it shall come into operation in the district aforesaid, or such parts thereof, and from such dates as the 1[State Government], may, from time to time, declare by notification in the 2[Official Gazette].

The Act has been supplemented by Act IV of 1897.

1. The words "Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "Governor in Council" by the Adaptation Order of 1987 and

the word "State" was substituted for "Provincial" by the Adaptation Order of 1950.

2 . Substituted for the words "Fort St. George Gazette" by the Adaptation Order of 1987.

2. Interpretation Clause--"Game". :-

In this Act, the word "game" shall include bison, sambhur, ibex, jungle-sheep, deer of all descriptions, hares, jungle-fowl, pea-fowl, partridge, quail, and spur-fowl, or such birds or animals as the 1[State Government] may deem fit to specify by notification, from time to time, in the 2[Official Gazette].

1. The words "Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "Governor in Council" by the Adaptation Order of 1987 and the word "State" was substituted for "Provincial" by the Adaptation Order of 1950.

2 . Substituted for the words "Fort St. George Gazette" by the Adaptation Order of 1987.

3. Power To Fix Close Season :-

The 1[State Government] may, by notification in the 2[Official Gazette], from time to time, fix a season or seasons of the year during which it shall not be lawful for any person to shoot at, kill, capture, pursue or sell, or attempt to kill, capture or sell game, as may be specified in such notification within the district aforesaid :

Proviso as to private lands.--Provided that nothing in this Act contained shall preclude proprietors or occupiers of land from adopting such measures on such land as may be necessary for the protection of crops or produce growing thereon.

1. The words "Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "Governor in Council" by the Adaptation Order of 1987 and the word "State" was substituted for "Provincial" by the Adaptation Order of 1950.

2 . Substituted for the words "Fort St. George Gazette" by the Adaptation Order of 1987.

4. Protection Of Animal, Bird Or Fish Not Indigenous :-

Whenever any animal, bird or fish useful for food, not indigenous to the district aforesaid, is introduced into it with the approval of the Government with a view to becoming acclimatised or being propagated therein, it shall be lawful for the 1[State Government],

from time to time, by notification in the 2[Official Gazette], to prohibit altogether, or to regulate in such manner and for such period not exceeding three years as may be declared in such notification, the pursuit, killing or capture of such animal, bird or fish.

1. The words "Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "Governor in Council" by the Adaptation Order of 1987 and the word "State" was substituted for "Provincial" by the Adaptation Order of 1950.

2. Substituted for the words "Fort St. George Gazette" by the Adaptation Order of 1987.

5. Power To Prescribe Rules For The Regulation And Control Of Fishing :-

It shall be lawful for the 1[State Government] by notification in the 2[Official Gazette], from time to time, make rules for the regulation and control of fishing in any stream or lake within the said district; and such rules may, with the view to protect acclimatised fish which may be believed to be there or may be hereafter introduced therein, prohibit or regulate the poisoning of the waters of any stream or lake, the throwing of any deleterious matter therein, the use of fixed engines for the capture of fish in any stream, and the use of nets of a mesh below a certain size to be defined in such rules for the capture of fish in such stream or lake.

1 . The words "Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "Governor in Council" by the Adaptation Order of 1987 and the word "State" was substituted for "Provincial" by the Adaptation Order of 1950.

2. Substituted for the words "Fort St. George Gazette" by the Adaptation Order of 1987.

6. Power Of Government Officer Or Police :-

Any Government officer or servant or policeman, producing his certificate of office, or wearing the prescribed distinctive dress or badge of his department, may require any person whom he finds committing any offence against section 3, 4 or 5 of this Act to give his name and address, or, if there is reason to doubt the accuracy of the name and address so given, to accompany him to the nearest police-station.

7. Penalties For Shooting, Etc. During Close Breach Of

Fishing Rules :-

Every person convicted before a Magistrate¹ of any offence against section 3, 4 or 5 of this Act shall be liable for a first offence to a penalty not exceeding rupees fifty and to the forfeiture to Government, at the discretion of the Magistrate¹, of the game, birds or fishes taken, and of all guns, engines, implements, nets and dogs used in or for the purpose of aiding the commission of such offence, and in default of payment of fine, to simple imprisonment for a period not exceeding one month, and for every second and subsequent offence, to a penalty not exceeding rupees one hundred and the same liability to forfeiture, and in default of payment to simple imprisonment for a period not exceeding two months.

1. Now, Judicial Magistrate.

8. Procedure Under This Act :-

The provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898¹, relating to the summoning and examination of persons accused and witnesses and to the levying of penalties shall be applied to proceedings under this Act.

1. See now Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Central Act 2 of 1974).

9. Appropriation Of Fees, Fines, Etc :-

All fees, fines and forfeitures realized under this Act shall be paid into the public treasury.

Award to informer.--But it shall be competent to the convicting Magistrate to award such portion of the fine or of the proceeds of the forfeiture as he may think fit, not exceeding one-half the amount of full fine authorized to be imposed by this Act in any case under this Act, to the person or persons on whose information the conviction is obtained.