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THE CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS ACT, 1890

(VI of 1890)

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TEXT

¹THE CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS ACT, 1890

(VI of 1890)

[8th March, 1890]

An
Act

to provide for the Vesting and Administration of Property held in trust for charitable purposes.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the vesting and administration of property held in trust for charitable purposes; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. Title, extent and commencement.— (1) This Act may be called the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890.

²[(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.]

(3) It shall come into force on the first day of October, 1890.

2. Definition.— In this Act “charitable purpose” includes relief of the poor, education, medical relief and the advancement of any other object of general public utility, but does not include a purpose which relates exclusively to religious teaching or worship.

3. Appointment and incorporation of Treasurer of Charitable Endowments.— ³[(1) The ⁴[Federal Government] may appoint an officer of the Government by the name of his office to be treasurer of charitable endowments for ⁵[Pakistan], and the Government of any Province may appoint an officer of the Government by the name of his office to be treasurer of charitable endowments for the Province.]

(2) Such Treasurer shall, for the purposes of taking, holding and transferring moveable or immoveable property under the authority of this Act, be a corporation sole by the name of the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments for ⁶ ⁷[Pakistan] or, as the case may be, the Province], and, as such treasurer, shall have perpetual succession and a corporate seal, and may sue and be sued in his corporate name.

¹This Act was published in the Gazette of India, dated: 8 March 1890, pp. 17-19. For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Gazette of India, 1889, Part V, p. 137; for Report of the Select Committee, see *ibid.*, 1890, p. 65; and for Proceedings in Council, see *ibid.*, 1889, Part VI, pp. 117 and 190, and *ibid.*, 1890, Part VI, p. 37.

²Substituted by the Central Laws (Statute Reform) Ordinance, 1960 (XXI of 1960); assented to by the President on 7 June 1960; and, was published in Gazette of Pakistan (Extraordinary), dated: 9 June 1960, pp. 725-845, s. 3 read with the Second Schedule: it came into force on 14 October 1955.

³Substituted by the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937, published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary), dated: 1 April 1937, pp. 75-344, Article 3 read with the First Schedule.

⁴Substituted for the words “Central Government” by the Federal Adaptation of Laws Order, 1975 (P. O. No. 4 of 1975), published in the Gazette of Pakistan (Extraordinary), dated: 1 August 1975, pp. 435-467, Article 2 read with the Table of General Adaptations.

⁵Substituted for the word “India” by the Adaptation of Central Acts and Ordinances Order, 1949 (G.G.O. No. 4 of 1949), published in the Gazette of Pakistan (Extraordinary), dated: 28 March 1949, pp. 223-283, Article 3 read with the Schedule.

⁶Substituted for the words “the territories subject to the Local Government” by the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937, published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary), dated: 1 April 1937, pp. 75-344, Article 3 read with the First Schedule.

⁷Substituted for the word “India” by the Adaptation of Central Acts and Ordinances Order, 1949 (G.G.O. No. 4 of 1949), published in the Gazette of Pakistan (Extraordinary), dated: 28 March 1949, pp. 223-283, Article 3 read with the Schedule.

¹[3A. **Definition of “appropriate Government”, etc.**— In the subsequent provisions of this Act “the appropriate Government” means, as respects a charitable endowment, the objects of which do not extend beyond a single Province and are not objects to which the executive authority of the ²[Federal Government] extends, the Government of the Province, and as respects any other charitable endowment the ³[Federal Government].]

4. Orders vesting property in Treasurer.— (1) Where any property is held or is to be applied in trust for a charitable purpose, the ⁴[appropriate Government], if it thinks fit, may, on application made as hereinafter mentioned, and subject to the other provisions of this section, order, by notification in the official Gazette, that the property be vested in the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments on such terms as to the application of the property or the income thereof as may be agreed on between the ⁵[appropriate Government] and the person or persons making the application, and the property shall thereupon so vest accordingly.

(2) When any property has vested under this section in a Treasurer of Charitable Endowments, he is entitled to all documents of title relating thereto.

⁶[(3) * * * * *]

(4) An order under this section vesting property in a Treasurer of Charitable Endowments shall not require or be deemed to require him to administer the property, or impose or be deemed to impose upon him the duty of a trustee with respect to the administration thereof.

5. Schemes for administration of property vested in the Treasurer.— (1) On application made as hereinafter mentioned, and with the concurrence of the person or persons making the application, the ⁷[appropriate Government], if it thinks fit, may settle a scheme for the administration of any property which has been or is to be vested in the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments, and may in such scheme appoint, by name or office, a person or persons, not being or including such Treasurer, to administer the property.

(2) On application made as hereinafter mentioned, and with the concurrence of the person or persons making the application, the ⁸[appropriate Government] may, if it thinks fit, modify any scheme settled under this section or substitute another scheme in its stead.

(3) A scheme settled, modified or substituted under this section shall, subject to the other provisions of this section, come into operation on a day to be appointed by the ⁹[appropriate Government] in this behalf, and shall remain in force so long as the property to which it relates continues to be vested in the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments or until it has been modified or another such scheme has been substituted in its stead.

¹Inserted by the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937, published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary), dated: 1 April 1937, pp. 75-344, Article 3 read with the First Schedule.

²Substituted for the words “Central Government” by the Federal Adaptation of Laws Order, 1975 (P. O. No. 4 of 1975), published in the Gazette of Pakistan (Extraordinary), dated: 1 August 1975, pp. 435-467, Article 2 read with the Table of General Adaptations.

³*Ibid.*

⁴Substituted for the words “Local Government” by the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937, published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary), dated: 1 April 1937, pp. 75-344, Article 3 read with the First Schedule.

⁵*Ibid.*

⁶Repealed *ibid.*

⁷Substituted for the words “Local Government” by the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937, published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary), dated: 1 April 1937, pp. 75-344, Article 3 read with the First Schedule.

⁸*Ibid.*

⁹*Ibid.*

(4) Such a scheme, when it comes into operation, shall supersede any decree or direction relating to the subject-matter thereof in so far as such decree or direction is in any way repugnant thereto, and its validity shall not be questioned in any Court, nor shall any Court give, in contravention of the provisions of the scheme or in any way contrary or in addition thereto, a decree or direction regarding the administration of the property to which the scheme relates.

¹[Provided that nothing in this subsection shall be construed as precluding a court from inquiring whether the Government by which a scheme was made was the appropriate Government.]

(5) In the settlement of such a scheme effect shall be given to the wishes of the author of the trust so far as they can be ascertained and, in the opinion of the ²[appropriate Government], effect can reasonably be given to them.

(6) Where a scheme has been settled under this section for the administration of property not already vested in the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments, it shall not come into operation until the property has become so vested.

6. Mode of applying for vesting orders and schemes.— (1) The application referred to in the two last foregoing sections must be made,—

- (a) if the property is already held in trust for a charitable purpose, then by the person acting in the administration of the trust or, where there are more persons than one so acting, then by those persons or a majority of them, and
- (b) if the property is to be applied in trust for such a purpose, then by the person or persons proposing so to apply it.

(2) For the purposes of this section the executor or administrator of a deceased trustee of property held in trust for a charitable purpose shall be deemed to be a person acting in the administration of the trust.

³[**7. Exercise by Governor General in Council of powers of Local Government.**— * * * * *]

8. Bare trusteeship of Treasurer.— (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a Treasurer of Charitable Endowments shall not, as such Treasurer, act in the administration of any trust whereof any of the property is for the time being vested in him under this Act.

(2) Such Treasurer shall keep a separate account of each property for the time being so vested in so far as the property consists of securities for money, and shall apply the property or the income thereof in accordance with the provision made in that behalf in the vesting order under section 4 or in the scheme, if any, under section 5, or in both those documents.

(3) In the case of any property so vested other than securities for money, such Treasurer shall, subject to any special order which he may receive from the authority by whose order the property became vested in him, permit the persons acting in the administration of the trust to have the possession, management and control of the property, and the application of the income thereof, as if the property had been vested in them.

¹Inserted *ibid.*

²Substituted *ibid.*, for the words “Local Government”.

³Omitted by the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937, published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary), dated: 1 April 1937, pp. 75-344, Article 3 read with the First Schedule.

9. Annual publication of list of properties vested in Treasurer.— A Treasurer of Charitable Endowments shall cause to be published annually in the ¹[Official Gazette], at such time as the ²[appropriate Government] may direct, a list of all properties for the time being vested in him under this Act and an abstract of all accounts kept by him under sub-section (2) of the last foregoing section.

10. Limitation of functions and powers of Treasurer.— (1) A Treasurer of Charitable Endowments shall always be a sole trustee, and shall not, as such Treasurer, take or hold any property otherwise than under the provisions of this Act or, subject to those provisions, transfer any property vested in him except in obedience to a decree divesting him of the property, or in compliance with a direction in that behalf issuing from the authority by whose order the property became vested in him.

(2) Such a direction may require the Treasurer to sell or otherwise dispose of any property vested in him and, with the sanction of the authority issuing the direction, to invest the proceeds of the sale or other disposal of the property in any such security for money as is ³[specified in the direction], or in the purchase of immoveable property.

(3) When a Treasurer of Charitable Endowments is divested, by a direction of ⁴[the appropriate Government] under this section, of any property, it shall vest in the person or persons acting in the administration thereof and be held by him or them on the same trusts as those on which it was held by such Treasurer.

11. Provision for continuance of office of Treasurer in certain contingencies.— If the office held by an officer of the Government who has been appointed to be a Treasurer of Charitable Endowments is abolished or its name is changed, the ⁵[appropriate Government] may appoint the same or another officer of the Government by the name of his office to be such Treasurer, and thereupon the holder of the latter office shall be deemed for the purposes of this Act to be the successor in office of the holder of the former office.

⁶**[12. Transfer of property from one treasurer to another.**— If by reason of any alteration of areas or by reason of the appointment of a treasurer of charitable endowments for ⁷[Pakistan] or for any Province for which such a treasurer has not previously been appointed or for any other reason it appears to the ⁸[Federal Government] that any property vested in a treasurer of charitable endowments should be vested in another such treasurer, that Government may direct that the property shall be so vested and thereupon it shall vest in that other treasurer and his successors as fully and effectually for the purposes of this Act as if it had been originally vested in him under this Act.]

¹Substituted *ibid.*, for the words “Local official Gazette”, Article 4 read with the Table of General Adaptations.

²*Ibid.*, for the words “Local Government”, Article 3 read with the First Schedule.

³Substituted for the expression “mentioned in section 4, sub-section (3), clause (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e)” by the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937, published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary), dated: 1 April 1937, pp. 75-344, Article 3 read with the First Schedule.

⁴*Ibid.*, for the words “the Local Government or the Governor General in Council”.

⁵*Ibid.*, for the words “Local Government”. They were earlier substituted for the words “Governor General in Council” by the Devolution Act (XXXVIII of 1920), published in the Government Gazette Punjab and its Dependencies, dated: 24 September 1920, pp. 127-153, s. 2 read with the First Schedule.

⁶Substituted by the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937, published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary), dated: 1 April 1937, pp. 75-344, Article 3 read with the First Schedule.

⁷Substituted for the word “India” by the Adaptation of Central Acts and Ordinances Order, 1949 (G.G.O. No. 4 of 1949), published in the Gazette of Pakistan (Extraordinary), dated: 28 March 1949, pp. 223-283, Article 3 read with the Schedule.

⁸Substituted for the words “Central Government” by Federal Adaptation of Laws Order, 1975 (P. O. No. 4 of 1975), published in the Gazette of Pakistan (Extraordinary), dated: 1 August 1975, pp. 435-467, Article 2 read with the Table of General Adaptations.

¹[13. **Power to frame forms and make rules.**—²[(1) * * * * *]]

- (2) The ³[appropriate Government] may make rules consistent with this Act for—
- (a) prescribing the fees to be paid to the Government in respect of any property vested under this Act in a Treasurer of Charitable Endowments;
 - (b) regulating the cases and the mode in which schemes or any modification thereof are to be published before they are settled or made under section 5;
 - (c) prescribing the forms in which accounts are to be kept by Treasurers of Charitable Endowments and the mode in which such accounts are to be audited; and
 - (d) generally carrying into effect the purposes of this Act.]

14. Indemnity to Government and Treasurer.— No suit shall be instituted against the ⁴[Government] in respect of anything done or purporting to be done under this Act, or in respect of any alleged neglect or omission to perform any duty devolving on the Government under this Act, or in respect of the exercise of, or the failure to exercise, any power conferred by this Act on the Government, nor shall any suit be instituted against a Treasurer of Charitable Endowments except for divesting him of property on the ground of its not being subject to a trust for a charitable purpose, or for making him chargeable with or accountable for the loss or misapplication of any property vested in him, or the income thereof, where the loss or misapplication has been occasioned by or through his wilful neglect or default.

⁵[15. **Saving of provisions of the Official Trustees Act, 1913.**— Nothing in this Act shall be construed to impair the operation of the Official Trustees Act, 1913 (II of 1913).]

⁶[16. **General controlling authority of Governor General in Council.**— * *]

¹Substituted by the Devolution Act (XXXVIII of 1920), published in the Government Gazette Punjab and its Dependencies, dated: 24 September 1920, pp. 127-153, s. 2 read with the First Schedule.

²Omitted by the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937, published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary), dated: 1 April 1937, pp. 75-344, Article 3 read with the First Schedule.

³Substituted *ibid.*, for the words "Local Government".

⁴Substituted for the word "Crown" by the Central Laws (Adaption) Order, 1961 (P.O. No. 1 of 1961); made by the Minister exercising the functions of President under Article 2 of the State Arrangements Order, 1959 on 21 January 1961; and, was published in the Gazette of Pakistan (Extraordinary), dated: 24 January 1961, pp. 102-163, Article 2 read with the Schedule: it came into force on 23 March 1956. It was earlier substituted for the word "Government" by the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937, published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary), dated: 1 April 1937, pp. 75-344, Article 3 read with the First Schedule.

⁵Substituted by the Federal Laws (Revision and Declaration) Ordinance, 1981 (XXVII of 1981), published in the Gazette of Pakistan (Extraordinary), dated: 8 July 1981, pp. 345-475, s. 3 read with the Second Schedule. It was earlier amended by the Adaptation of Central Acts and Ordinances Order, 1949 (G.G.O. No. 4 of 1949), published in the Gazette of Pakistan (Extraordinary), dated: 28 March 1949, pp. 223-283, Article 3 read with the Schedule.

⁶Omitted by the Devolution Act (XXXVIII of 1920), published in the Government Gazette Punjab and its Dependencies, dated: 24 September 1920, pp. 127-153, s. 2 read with the First Schedule.