

## **GENERAL STATISTICS ACT, 1975**

Islamabad, Friday, November 21, 1975

Part I

Acts, ordinances, president's orders and regulations

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

Islamabad, the 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1975

The following act of parliament received the assent of the president on the president on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1975, is hereby published for general information:-

### **ACT No. LXIX OF 1975**

An Act to constitute certain authorities for the collection and coordination of statistics to facilitate economic and other planning.

Whereas it is expedient to constitute certain authorities for the collection and co-ordination of statistics to facilitate economic and other planning and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto:

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

#### **1. SHORT TITLE, EXTENT AND COMMENCEMENT**

1. This Act may be called the general statistics Act, 1975.
2. It extends to the whole of Pakistan.
3. It shall come into force on such date as the federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint.

#### **2. DEFINITIONS-**

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

- a. "Appropriate Government" means:-
  - i. In relation to the Federal statistics authority or any matter relating to the collection and compilation of statistics for the whole of Pakistan, the federal Government and
  - ii. In relation to a provincial statistics authority or any matter relating to the collection and compilation of statistics for a province or a part thereof the provincial the Provincial Government;
- b. "Competent authority" means an authority or officer appointed under section-6 to be a competent authority;
- c. "Council" means the National Statistical Council or the provincial Statistical Council constituted under section-3;
- d. "Establishment" means a shop, commercial establishment, industrial establishment, firm, company, private dispensary, maternity home, residential hotel, restaurant, eating house, café, cinema, theatre, circus or other place of public amusement and such other establishments or class thereof as the Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, declare to be an establishment for the purpose of this Act;
- e. "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- f. "Statistical agent" means any agency, authority or officer, appointed for, or engaged in, the collection of statistics under this Act; and
- g. "Statistics Authority" means the Federal Statistics Authority or a Provincial Statistics Authority appointed under section 5.

### **3. STATISTICAL COUNCIL-**

For the whole of Pakistan the Federal Government, and for a province a provincial Government, may, by notification in the official Gazette, constitute a Council to be called respectively the National Statistical Council and a provincial Statistical Council consisting of such members, including a chairman, as it may appoint.

The chairman and members of the Council shall hold office during the pleasure of, and on such terms and condition as may be determined by, the appropriate Government. The Council shall regulate its own procedure

### **4. FUNCTION OF THE COUNCIL-**

The following shall be the functions of the Council, namely:-

- a. To coordinate the functions of the Statistics Authorities and competent authorities and to advise them as to the ways and means of achieving efficient, adequate and prompt results;
- b. To approve of the priorities for filling gaps in statistical data and, for that purpose, to allocate functions to the Statistics Authorities;
- c. To draw up schemes for avoiding duplication in the formulation and execution of statistical programmes and to resolve differences in that respect;
- d. To make competent advice and guidance available to Statistics Authorities, competent authority and statistical agent in the matter of large-scale statistical operation and projects;
- e. To ensure economic and efficient utilization of field services, machine tabulation equipment and other scarce resources;
- f. To promote research and training in statistics; and
- g. To perform such other functions as the appropriate Government may, from time to time, direct.

### **12. STATISTICS AUTHORITY-**

For the whole of Pakistan, the Federal Government and for a province the Provincial Government may by notification in the official Gazette, appoint an officer to be called respectively the Federal Statistics Authority and the provincial Statistics Authority.

A Statistics Authority shall, in accordance with such instruction as the Council may, from time to time give, perform the following functions, namely:-

- a. Drawing up specific statistical programs to carry out the instruction of the Council;
- b. Appraising the quality of all statistics of national or regional importance;
- c. Laying down and approving forms and procedure for statistical enquiries and ensuring against any duplication and sub-standard data collection;
- d. Standardization of concepts and definition relating to statistics;
- e. Giving of advice and guidance to and coordinating the functions of, the competent authorities and the statistical agents;
- f. Laying down the procedure for a continuing programme of in-service institutional and foreign training;
- g. Making of recommendation to the Council relating to the standards of training of statisticians and statistical agents;

- h. Periodical review of statistical progress on the basis of reports obtained from the competent authorities and the statistical agents;
- i. Giving of advice to the Federal Government, the provincial Government and other authorities or persons on the use and relevance of available statistics in relation to specific problems of economic policy;
- j. Identification of gaps in the national, provincial or regional statistical series and submission for the consideration of the Council of proposals relating to the order of priority in filling such gaps;
- k. Appraisal and allocation of technical resources required for statistical project;
- l. Compilation and publication of data of general nature for national and international reference; and
- m. Such other function as the appropriate Government may, from time to time, direct.

#### **COMPETENT AUTHORITY-**

The appropriate Government may, for the purpose of collection and compilation of statistics on any matter, appoint any authority or officer to be a competent authority for the purpose of this Act.

In the exercise of its powers and performance of its function under this Act, a competent authority shall appropriate Government by which it has been appointed.

#### **STATISTICAL AGENT-**

The appropriate Government, and, if so empowered by the appropriate Government, a statistics authority and a competent authority, may for the purpose of collection of statistics or information under this Act, appoint or engage such officers or persons as it may think fit.

#### **FORMULATION OF QUESTIONNAIRE ETC.-**

For the purpose of collecting statistics on any matter, a statistics authority may, by notification in the official gazette, formulate such questionnaire as it may think fit, and a competent authority or a statistical agent appointed for the collection of such statistics may require any person within its jurisdiction to give answer to such questionnaire and to such other questions relevant thereto as may be necessary to elicit full answers to the questionnaire.

Any person who is required to give answer to the questionnaire and other relevant questions under sub-section (1) shall give answer to the best of his knowledge and belief;

Nothing in this section shall authorize a statistics authority, a competent authority or a statistical agent;-

- a. To require a woman to state the name of her husband or deceased husband or any other person whose name she is by custom forbidden to mention; or
- b. To insist on information of a purely private nature.

#### **POWER TO CALL FOR RETURNS AND INFORMATION-**

Without prejudice to the provisions of section 8, a competent authority may, for the purpose of collecting statistics for which it has been appointed, serve or cause to be served on any person, by post or otherwise, a notice requiring him to furnish to such authority or

person in such manner. At such time or intervals and in such form and with such particulars. Such information or returns as may be prescribed and person served with such notice shall accordingly furnish information or returns required thereby.

**RIGHT OF ACCESS TO RECORD DOCUMENT-**

A statistical agent shall for the purpose of collection statistics for which he has been appointed, have access to any relevant record or document in the possession of any person required to furnish information or return under section 9 and may, at any reasonable after due notice, enter any premises, house, vessel or other place wherein he believes such record or document to be and ask any person any questions necessary for obtaining any information required to be furnished by such person.

Every person owning or occupying any premises, house, vessel or land shall allow a statistical agent such access thereto as he may reasonably require for the purpose of collection of statistics for which he has been appointed and shall allow him to paint on, affix to or dig in the premises, house, vessel or land such letters, marks or objects as may be necessary for such purpose.

**SECRECY OF ANSWERS, INFORMATION AND RETURNS-**

All answers to the questions received and all information and returns furnished under this Act shall be confidential and shall not be;-

- a. Used for any purpose other than a=compilation of statistics under this Act'
- b. Published in a form which may disclose the state of affairs of any particular individual, firm or institution;
- c. Divulged, except with the written consent of the person answering the question or furnishing the said answers, information or returns have been called for;
- d. Accessible to the inspection of any person otherwise than for the purpose of prosecution for contravention of the provisions of this Act, or
- e. Disclosed to any person, or used or, nothing, contained in the Evidence Act,1872 (I of 1872), be admissible in evidence in any proceedings to which the person giving the answer of furnishing the information or return is a party, except for the purpose of prosecution for contravention of the provisions of this Act.

**PENALTIES FOR REFUSAL TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, etc.-**

Whoever, after he has been given due notice to answer any questionnaire or to furnish any information or returns under this Act, willfully and without lawful excuse, refuses or fails to answer, to the best of his knowledge and belief, such questionnaire or other relevant questions asked of him by a statistical agent which he is legally bound to answer, or to furnish such information or returns, within the period specified.

**i. THE INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS ACT, 1942**

**ACT NO. XIX OF 1942**

An Act to facilitate the collection of statistics of certain kind's relation of to industries whereas it is expedient to facilitate the collection of statistics of certain kinds relating to industries;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

**1. SHORT TITLE, EXTENT AND COMMENCEMENT-**

- i. This Act may be called the industrial statistics Act, 1942.
- ii. It extends to the whole of Pakistan.
- iii. It shall come into force on such date as the provincial Government may by notification in the official gazette, appoint in this behalf for the territories under its administration.

**2. DEFINITIONS-**

In this Act prescribed' means prescribed in rules made under this act or in any from prescribed by those rules.

**3. COLLECTION OF STATISTICS-**

- i. The provincial Government may by notification in the official gazette, direct that statistics shall be collected relation to any of the following matters, namely:
  - a. Any matters relating to factories,
  - b. Any of the following matters so far as they relate to welfare of labour and conditions of labour, namely,
    - i. Prices of commodities
    - ii. Attendance
    - iii. Living conditions, including housing, water supply and sanitation
    - iv. Indebtedness
    - v. Rent of dwelling-house
    - vi. Provident and other funds provided for labour
    - vii. Benefits and amenities provided for labour
    - viii. Hours of work
    - ix. Employment and un-employment
    - x. Industrial and labour disputes and thereupon the provisions of this Act shall apply to collection of those statistics.
    - xi. Wages and other earnings
- ii. In clause (a) of sub-section (1) factory, means a factory as defined in clause (j) of section 2 deemed to be a factory in pursuance of a declaration made under sub-section (1) of section of that Act.

**4. APPOINTMENT OF STATISTICS AUTHORITY-**

The provincial Government may appoint any officer be the statistics authority for purposed of the collection any statistics under this Act.

**5. POWER OF STATISTICS AUTHORITY TO CALL FOR THE RETURNS AND INFORMATION-**

- I. The statistics authority may serve or serve or cause to be served on any persons a notice requiring him to furnish, at a such intervals and in such forms and with such particulars as may be prescribed, such information or returns relating to any matter

in respect of which statistics are to be collected and to such authority or persons and in such manner and at such times as may be prescribed.

II. The notice referred to in sub-station (1) may be served by post

#### **6. RIGHT OF ACCESS OR DOCUMENT-**

The statistics authority or any person authorized by him to in writing behalf shall, for the purpose of the collection of any statistics under this act, have access to any relevant record or document in the possession of any person required to furnish any information are return under this Act, and may enter at any responsible time any premises wherein he believes such record or document to be, and may ask any question necessary for obtaining any information required to be furnished under this Act

#### **7. RESTRICTION ON THE PUBLICATION AND RETURNS AND INFORMATION**

I. No individual returns, and no part of a individual return, made, and no information with respect to any particular undertaking given, for the purpose of this Act, shall without the previous consent in writing of the owner for the time being of the undertaking in relation to which the returns or information was made or given, or his authorized agent, be published in such manner as would enable any particular undertaking.

III. EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSE OF A PROSECUTION UNDER THIS ACT or under the Pakistan penal code, no persons not engaged in connection with the collection of statistics under this Act shall be permitted to see any individual return of information referred to sub-section(1).

If any person required furnishing any information or any return:

#### **6. PENALTIES.**

- a. Willfully refuses or without lawful excuse neglects to furnish such information or return as required under this Act, or
- b. Willfully furnishes or causes to be furnished any information or return which he knows to be false, or
- c. Refuses to answer willfully gives a false answer to any question necessary for obtaining any information required to be furnished under this Act, if any person impedes the right of access to relevant records and documents or the rights of entry conferred by section 6, he shall for each such offence with a further tone which may extend to two hundred rupees for each day after the first during the offence continues; and in respect of false information, returns or answer been given or made,

#### **7. PENALTY FOR IMPROPER DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION OR RETURNS-**

If any person engaged in connection with the collection of statistics under this Act willfully disclose any information or the content of any return given or made under this Act otherwise than in the execution of his duties under this act or for the purpose of the prosecution of an offence under this Act or under the Pakistan penal code, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six month, or with fine which fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both imprisonment and fine.

#### **8. COGNIZANCE OF OFFENCE-**

No prosecution under section 8 shall be instituted except by or with the sanction of the statistics authority and no prosecution under section 9 shall be instituted except by or with the sanction of the provincial Government.

**9. (POWER OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO GIVE DIRECTIONS OMITTED BY A.O 1964,  
ART.2 AND SCH.)**

**10. POWER OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO MAKE RULES-**

- i. The provincial Government may, subject to the condition of previous publication by notification in the official gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
- ii. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing powers, rules may be made under this section regulating the exercise of the right of access to document and the right of entry conferred by section 6.