

**THE PUNJAB SHOPS AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS ACT,
1958**

Contents

1. Short title extent commencement and application	4
2. Definitions.....	4
3. Act not applicable to certain establishments and persons	6
4. Provisions of section 9 and sub-section (1) of section 10 not applicable to certain establishments.....	7
5. Power of Government to extend the provisions of Act.....	8
6. Conditions of employment for young persons	8
7. Hours of employment.....	9
8. Intervals for rest or meal	10
9. [Opening and closing hours	10
10. Close day.....	10
11. Employees' off day in a week	11
12. [Holidays	11
13. Registration of establishments	11
14. Leave	13
15. Wages for close days and during leave Period	14
16. Wage Period.....	14
17. Deduction from wages.....	14
18. Realisation of compensation	15
19. [Enforcement and appointment of inspectors]	15
20. Records	15
21. Inspection of registers and calling for information	16
22. Notice of removal	16
23. Notice by employee	17
24. [* * * *].....	17
25. Provisions as to trading elsewhere than in establishments	17
26. Penalties.....	17
[26A. Power to compound offences.....	18
27. Protection of officers and their agents from personal liability.....	18
28. Power to grant exemptions	18

29. Prohibition of employment of children 18

30. Conditions of employment of women 19

31. Maternity Benefit..... 19

32. Bar of Legal Practitioners in certain proceedings..... 19

33. Saving of certain rights and privileges 19

[33A. Cognizance of offences 20

34. Power to make rules 20

35. Repeal 20

THE PUNJAB SHOPS AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1958

(Punjab Act No. 15 of 1958)

1. Short title extent commencement and application

- (1) This Act may be called the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958.
- (2) It extends to the whole of the State of Punjab.
- (3) It shall come into force on such date as Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint in this behalf.
- (4) It shall apply in the first instance to the areas specified in the Schedule, but Government may by notification direct that it shall also apply to such other area and on such date as may be specified in the notification.

2. Definitions

- (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,
 - (i) "closed" means not open for the service of any customer or for any other purpose whatsoever relating to business;
 - (ii) "close day" means the day of the week on which a shop or commercial establishment remains closed;
 - (iii) "closing hour" means the hour at which a shop or commercial establishment closes;
 - (iv) "commercial establishment" means any premises wherein any business, trade or profession is carried on for profit, and includes journalistic or printing establishment and premises in which business of banking, insurance, stocks and shares, brokerage or produce exchange is carried on or which is used as hotel, restaurant, boarding or eating-house, theatre, cinema or other place of public entertainment or any other place which the Government may declare, by notification in the Official Gazette, to be a commercial establishment for the purposes of this Act;
 - (v) "day" means the period of twenty-four hours beginning at mid-night:
Provided that in the case of any employee whose hours of work extend beyond mid-night, day means the period of twenty-four hours beginning from the time when such employment commences;
 - (vi) "employee" means a person wholly or principally employed in, or in connection with, an establishment, whether working on permanent, periodical, contract or piece-rate wages or on commission basis even though he receives no reward for his labour, but does not include a member of the employer's family;

- (vii) “employer” means a person having charge of or owning or having ultimate control over the affairs of an establishment and includes members of the family of an employer, a manager, agent or other person acting in the general management or control of the establishment;
- (viii) “establishment” means a shop or a commercial establishment;
- (ix) “factory” has the meaning assigned to it in the Factories Act, 1948;
- (x) “family” in relation to an employer, means-
 - (i) spouse;
 - (ii) children and step-children; and
 - (iii) parents, sisters and brothers if residing with and wholly dependent upon him;
- (xi) “festival” means any festival which Government may, by notification, declare to be festival for the purposes of this Act;
- (xii) “Government” means the Government of Haryana;
- (xiii) “hours of work” or “working hours” means the time during which the persons employed are at the disposal of the employer exclusive of any interval allowed for rest and meals;
- (xiv) “Inspector” means an Inspector appointed under this Act;
- (xv) “leave” means leave provided for in Section 14;
- (xvi) “manager” in relation to an establishment where five or more persons are employed or an establishment whose owner does not ordinarily carry on the business personally, means a person declared as such by the employer in the prescribed manner;
- (xvii) “night” means a period of at least twelve consecutive hours which shall include the interval between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- (xviii) ³“opened” in relation to a shop or commercial establishment whose entrance is the only entrance to the residence, means opened for the service of any customer or for any business connected with the establishment;
- (xix) “opening hour” means the hour at which an establishment opens;
- (xx) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (xxi) “prescribed authority” means the authority prescribed under the rules made under this Act;
- (xxi-A) ⁴“quarter” means a period of three months commencing on the first day of January first day of April first day of July and first day of October, every year;
- (xxii) “retail trade or business” includes the business of a barber or hair-dresser, the sale of refreshments or intoxicating liquors, and retail sales by auction;

- (xxiii) "register of establishments" means a register maintained for the registration of establishments under this Act;
 - (xxiv) "registration certificate" means a certificate showing the registration of an establishment;
 - (xxv) "shop" means any premises where any trade or business is carried on or where services are rendered to customers and includes offices, store-rooms, ⁵[godowns, sale depots or warehouses], whether in the same premises or otherwise, used in connection with such trade or business but does not include a commercial establishment or a shop attached to a factory where the persons employed in the shop are allowed the benefits provided for workers under the Factories Act, 1948 (LXIII of 1948);
 - (xxvi) "spread-over" means the period between the commencement and the termination of work of an employee on any day;
 - (xxvii) "wages" shall have the meaning assigned to it in the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 (IV of 1936);
 - (xxviii) "wage period" means the period after which the wages of an employed person shall be paid;
 - (xxix) "week" means the period between midnight on Saturday and midnight on the following Saturday;
 - (xxx) "young person" means a person who has attained the age of fourteen but has not attained the age of eighteen years; and
 - (xxxi) "year" means a year commencing on the first day of April.
- (2) For the purpose of this Act, any employment in the service of the employer of an establishment upon any work, whether within the establishment or outside it, which relates to, or is connected with or is ancillary to the business carried on at the establishment, shall be deemed to be about the business of the establishment.

3. Act not applicable to certain establishments and persons

Nothing in this Act shall apply to:

- (a) offices of or under the Central or State Government (except commercial undertakings), the Reserve Bank of India, any railway administration or any local authority;
- (b) any railway service, air service, water transport service, tramway, postal, telegraph or telephone service, any system of public conservancy or sanitation or any industry, business or undertaking which supplies power, light or water to the public;
- (c) railway dining cars;
- (d) offices of lawyers;

- (e) any person employed about the business of any establishment mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d) aforesaid;
- (f) any person whose hours of employment are regulated by or under the Factories Act, 1948, except the provisions of sub-section (3), (4) and (5) of Section 7 of this Act in so far as they relate to employment in a factory ;
- (g) any person whose work is inherently intermittent;
- (h) ⁶[establishment of stamp vendors and petition writers.]

4. Provisions of section 9 and sub-section (1) of section 10 not applicable to certain establishments

- (1) ⁷ [Nothing in ⁸[Section 9 and sub-section (1) of Section 10], shall apply to-
 - (a) clubs, hotels, boarding-houses, stalls and refreshment rooms at the railway stations;
 - (b) shops of barbers and hair-dressers;
 - (c) ⁹[establishments dealing exclusively in meat, fish, confectionery, poultry eggs, dairy produce (except ghee), bread, sweets, chocolates, ice, ice-cream, cooked food, fresh fruit, flowers or vegetables;]
 - (d) shops dealing ¹⁰[exclusively] in medicines or medical or surgical requisites or appliances and establishments for the treatment or care of the sick, infirm, destitute or mentally unfit;
 - (e) shops dealing in articles required for funerals, burials or cremations;
 - (f) ¹¹[shops dealing exclusively in] pans (betel leaves), biris or cigarettes, or liquid refreshments sold in retail for consumption on the premises;
 - (g) ¹²[shops dealing exclusively in] newspapers or periodicals; editing and dispatching sections of the newspaper offices and offices of the news agencies;
 - (h) ¹³[places of public entertainment except cinema houses;]
 - (i) Establishments for the retail sale of petrol and petroleum products used for transport;
 - (j) Shops in regimental institutes, garrison shops and troop canteens in cantonments;
 - (k) tanneries;
 - (l) ¹⁴[establishments engaged in] retail trade carried on at an exhibition or show; if such retail trade is subsidiary or ancillary only to the main purpose of the exhibition or show;
 - (m) oil mills not registered under the Factories Act, 1948;
 - (n) brick and lime kilns;

- (o) commercial establishments engaged in the manufacture of bronze and brass utensils so far as it is confined to the process of melting in furnaces¹⁵[*****];
 - (p) ¹⁶[salt pepper refineries;
 - (q) establishments of commercial colleges of short-hand or typewriting and other educational academies;
 - (r) booking offices of the passenger and goods transport companies;
 - (s) establishments dealing exclusively in green and dry fodder and chaff- cutting; and
 - (t) cycle stands, and cycle repairs shops.]
- (2) ¹⁷[Nothing in sub-section (1) of Section 10 shall apply to-
- (i) Establishments of cinema houses;
 - (ii) Establishments dealing in hides and skins;
 - (iii) ice factories;
 - (iv) establishments engaged exclusively in repairs of cycles or motor vehicles or the service of motor vehicles (not being an establishment dealing in cycles or motor vehicles or exclusively in spare parts thereof);
 - (v) establishments dealing exclusively in providing on hire tents, chhaldaries and other articles such as crockery, furniture, loud-speakers, gas lights and fans required for ceremonial purposes; and
 - (vi) establishments dealing exclusively in the retail sale of phullian, murmara, sugar-coated gram, reories or other similar commodities.]

5. Power of Government to extend the provisions of Act

- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in Section 3 or Section 4, Government may by notification declare that any class of establishments or persons specified therein shall not be exempt from the operation of such provisions of this Act as may be specified in the notification and that the provisions of this Act specified in such notification shall apply to such class of establishments or persons as the case maybe.
- (2) Every notification made under sub-section (1) shall as soon as possible after it is made, be laid before ¹⁸[] both houses of the State Legislature.

6. Conditions of employment for young persons

- (1) The total number of hours worked by a young person employed about the business of an establishment, exclusive of interval for meals and rest, shall not exceed thirty hours in any one week or five hours in any one day.

- (2) A young person employed about the business of an establishment shall not be employed continuously for more than three hours without an interval of at least half an hour for a meal or rest.
- (3) Government may prescribe further conditions in respect of the employment of young persons employed about the business of establishments or any class of them, including, if it thinks fit, conditions with respect to the daily period of employment of those persons, and no such person shall be employed otherwise than in accordance with those conditions.
- (4) In the case of any contravention of, or failure to comply with, the provisions of this section, the employer shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine which shall not be less than fifty rupees but which may extend to two hundred rupees.
- (5) Where, in proceedings for an offence under this section, the person in respect of whom the offence was committed was a young person, and he appears to the court to have been at the date of the commission of the offence a young person, he shall, for the purposes of this Act, be presumed at that date to have been a young person unless the contrary is proved.

7. Hours of employment

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, no person shall be employed about the business of an establishment for more than forty-eight hours in any one week and nine hours in any one day.
- (2) On occasions of seasonal or exceptional pressure of work a person employed in an establishment may be employed about the business of the establishment in excess of the working hours specified in sub-section (1):

Provided that:

- (a) the total number of overtime hours worked by an employee does not exceed fifty within a period of ¹⁹[any one quarter]; and
- (b) the person employed overtime shall be paid remuneration at twice the rate of his normal wages calculated by the hour.

Explanation: "Normal Wages" for the purposes of proviso (b) means basic wages plus such allowances including the cash equivalent of the advantages accruing through the concessional sale to workers of food grains and other articles as the worker is for the time being entitled to, but does not include bonus.

- (3) No employer shall, on any day or in any week, employ about the business of the establishment any person who has been previously employed on that day or in that week in another establishment or a factory for a longer period than shall, together with the time during which he has been previously employed on that day or in that week in such other establishment or factory, exceed the number of hours permitted by this Act.

- (4) In any proceedings against the employer of the establishment for a contravention of the provisions of sub-section (3), it shall be a defence to prove that the employer did not know and could not with reasonable diligence ascertain that the person was previously employed by the employer of the other establishment or factory.
- (5) No person shall work about the business of an establishment or two or more establishments or an establishment and a factory in excess of the period during which he may be lawfully employed under this Act.

8. Intervals for rest or meal

- (1) ²⁰[Subject to the provisions of Section 6, no employee, except a chowkidar, watchman or guard, shall be allowed to work in an establishment for more than five hours before he has had an interval for rest of at least half an hour:

Provided that Government may by notification fix such interval for rest in respect of any class of establishments for the whole of the State or any part thereof as it may consider necessary.]

- (2) The period of work of an employee in an establishment shall be so fixed that, inclusive of his interval for rest, the spread-over shall not be more than ten hours in a day.

9. ²¹[Opening and closing hours

Government shall by notification fix the opening and closing hours of all classes of establishments, and different opening and closing hours may be fixed for different classes of establishments and for different areas:

Provided that Government may allow an establishment attached to a factory to observe such opening and closing hours as the Government may direct.]

10. Close day

- (1) Save as otherwise provided by this Act, every establishment shall remain closed on every Sunday:

Provided that, in the case of an establishment attached to a factory the employer may substitute the close day of such establishment so as to correspond to the substituted close day of the factory in the same manner and subject to the same conditions, as are laid down in this behalf in the Factories Act, 1948;

²²[Provided further that Government may by notification fix any other day to be the close day in respect of any class of establishments for the whole of the State or part thereof; and]

- (2)

- (i) The employer of an establishment shall in the prescribed form intimate to the prescribed authority ²³[the working hours, the day in a week referred to in clause (b) of Section 11] and the period of interval of the employed person within fifteen days of the date of registration of the establishment.

- (ii) The employer of an establishment may change the working hours and the period of interval once in a quarter of the year by giving intimation in the prescribed form to the prescribed authority at least fifteen days before the change is to take place.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the employer of an establishment may open his establishment on the close day if-
 - (a) such day happens to coincide with a festival; and
 - (b) employees required to work on that day are paid remuneration at double the rate of their normal wages calculated by the hour.

11. Employees' off day in a week

No employee shall be allowed or required to work:

- (a) on a close day, in any establishment which is required to observe a close day;
- (b) on one day in a week, in any other establishment; and
- (c) ²⁴[before the opening hour of the establishment and after the closing hour of the establishment:]

Provided that a watchman may be allowed or required to work on an off day under this section if he is allowed another off day in the week.

12. ²⁵[Holidays

Every employee in an establishment shall be allowed:

- (a) a holiday with wages on the Independence Day, Republic Day and Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday; and
- (b) ²⁶[five] other holidays with wages in a year in connection with such festivals as Government may declare from time to time by notification:

Provided that an employee required to work on any such holiday shall be paid remuneration at double the rate of his normal wages calculated by the hour.]

13. Registration of establishments

- (1) Within the period specified in sub-section (3), the employer of every establishment shall send to the prescribed authority concerned a statement in the prescribed form:
 - (a) the name of the employer and the manager, if any;
 - (b) postal address of the establishment;
 - (c) the name, if any, of the establishment;
 - (d) number of persons employed ²⁷[in the establishment; and]
 - (e) such other particulars as may be prescribed.

(2)

- (i) On receipt of the statement ²⁸[and the prescribed fee,] the authority shall, on being satisfied about the correctness of the statement, register the establishment in the register of establishments in such a manner as may be prescribed and shall issue in a prescribed form a registration certificate to the employer. The registration certificate shall, on demand by the Inspector, be shown to him by the employer.
- (ii) The registration certificate shall be renewable by the 31st March after every three years. Thirty days grace time shall, however, be allowed for the renewal of the certificate.

(3) Within thirty days from the date mentioned in column 2 below in respect of the establishment in column 1, the statement shall be sent to the prescribed authority under sub-section (1).

Establishment	Date from which the period of 30 days is to commence.
(1)	(2)
(i) Establishments existing in areas to which this Act applies or where this Act is extended.	The date on which the Act comes into force or the date on which the Act is extended, as the case may be.
(ii) New establishments in such areas.	The date on which the establishment commences its work.

- (4) It shall be the duty of the employer to notify to the prescribed authority in the prescribed form any change in respect of any information contained in his statement under this section within seven days after the change has taken place. The authority shall on receiving such notice and on being satisfied about its correctness, make the change in the register of establishments in accordance with such notice and shall amend the registration certificate, if necessary.
- (5) The employer shall, within ten days of his closing the establishment, notify to the prescribed authority in writing accordingly. The authority shall, on receiving the information and being satisfied about the correctness, remove the name of such establishment from the register of establishments and cancel the registration certificate.

14. Leave

(1)

- (a) ²⁹[Every employee who has been in employment for not less than twenty days in a year shall be entitled to one day's earned leave for every such twentydays: Provided that a young person shall be entitled to one day's earned leave for every fifteen days of employment during the year.]
- (b) If an employee is discharged or dismissed from or leaves service during the course of the year he shall be entitled to leave with wages or wage in lieu of unavailed leave at the rates laid down in clause (a) ³⁰[-].
- (c) In calculating leave under this section, fraction of half a day or more shall be treated as one day's leave, and fraction of less than half a day shall be ignored.
- (d) If an employee does not in any one year take the whole of the leave allowed to him under clause (a), any leave not taken by him shall be added to the leave to be allowed to him in the succeeding year:

Provided that:

- (i) subject to any specific agreement between the employer and the employee, the total number of days of leave that may be carried forward to a succeeding year shall not exceed forty in the case of a young person or thirty in any other case;
 - (ii) the provisions of this section shall not operate to the prejudice of any rights to which an employee may be entitled under any other law or under the terms of any award, agreement or contract of service;
 - (iii) where such award, agreement or contract of service provides for a longer leave with wages or weekly holidays than those provided under this section, the employee shall be entitled to only such longer leave or weekly holidays as the case may be.
- (2) Leave provided in clause (a) of sub-section (1) shall, when applied for, be granted except for a valid reason to be communicated in writing by the employer to the employee within fifteen days of the application:

Provided that the leave so refused shall, if applied for again, be allowed during the year.

(3)

- (a) For the purpose of computing the period during which an employee has been in employment within the meaning of sub-section(1)(a), the period during which he was on leave ³¹[under this section and the off days in a week referredto in Section 11], shall be included.

(b) The unavailed leave of an employee shall not be taken into consideration in computing the period of any notice required to be given before discharge, removal or dismissal.

(4)³²[Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing sub-sections, every employee in an establishment shall be allowed with wages seven days' casual leave and seven days' sick leave in a year.]

15. Wages for close days and during leave Period

(1)³³[Any person employed in or about an establishment for a period of fifteen days or more shall receive, for every off day in a week referred to in Section 11, wages at the rate of not less than the average daily wages earned by him for the days on which he worked during the week immediately preceding every such off day.]

(2) For the leave allowed to him under Section 14, an employee shall be paid at the rate equal to the daily average of his total full time earnings for the days on which he worked during the month immediately preceding his leave, exclusive of any overtime and bonus but inclusive of dearness allowance and the cash equivalent of the advantage accruing through the concessional sale to the employee of foodgrains and other articles.

(3) An employee who has been allowed leave for not less than five days in the case of a young person and four days in any other case shall, on demand, before his leave begins, be paid the wages due for the period of leave allowed.

16. Wage Period

(1) Every person responsible for the payment of wages to an employee shall fix a period in respect of which such wages shall be payable.

(2) No wage period shall exceed one month.

(3) The wages of every person employed shall be paid before the expiry of the seventh day from the date on which the wages became due.

(4) Where the employment of any person is terminated by or on behalf of the employer the wages earned by him and the remuneration in lieu of unavailed period of due leave shall be paid before the expiry of the second working day after such termination and where an employee quits his employment on or before the next pay day.

Provided that no claim under this section shall be entertained unless it is preferred within six months from the date of its accruing except under special circumstances at the discretion of the Chief Inspector of Shops and Commercial Establishments, Punjab.

17. Deduction from wages

The wages of an employee shall be paid to him without deductions of any kind except those authorized by or under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in so far as such

deductions are applicable to the employee and in such manner, to such extent and subject to such conditions as are specified in that Act.

18. Realisation of compensation

- (1) In case of contravention of the provisions of Section 16, if a ³⁴[Judicial Magistrate] is satisfied that the employee has not been paid his due wages, he shall direct the employer to pay the wages along with compensation not exceeding eight times the amount of wages withheld.
- (2) The amount of wages withheld and compensation payable under this section shall for the purposes of its recovery, be deemed to be a fine imposed under this Act in addition to the penalty imposed under Section 26 and shall be realized as such.

19. Enforcement and inspection

- (1) Government may, by notification, appoint such persons or such class of persons as it thinks fit to be inspecting officers for the purposes of this Act within such local limits as it may assign to them respectively.
- (2) Subject to any rules made by Government in this behalf, an inspecting officer may, within the local limits for which he is appointed –
 - (a) enter at all reasonable times and with such assistants, if any, being persons in the service of Government or of any local authority as he thinks fit, any place which is or which he has reasons to believe to be an establishment;
 - (b) make such examination of the premises and of any prescribed registers, records and notices and take on the spot or otherwise evidence of any persons as he may deem necessary for carrying out purposes of this Act;
 - (c) exercise such other powers as may be necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act:

Provided that no one shall be required under this section to answer any question or give any evidence tending to incriminate him.
- (3) Every inspecting officer appointed under this section shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of Section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

20. Records

- (1) The employer of every establishment shall, in the prescribed form and manner, keep exhibited in the establishment a notice setting forth the close day, the working hours and the period of interval of employed persons, if any, and such other particulars as may be prescribed.
- (2) The employer of every establishment, about the business of which persons are employed, shall in the prescribed form and manner, keep a record of the working hours, rest intervals and the amount of leave taken by every person employed about the business of an establishment and particulars of all overtime employment shall be separately entered in the record. ³⁵[-]

³⁶[(2A) The employer of every establishment, about the business of which persons are employed, shall mark the attendance of every employee in the register maintained for the purpose within one hour of the start of duty and in the case of overtime every entry regarding the commencement or closure of overtime shall respectively be made before or after such commencement or closure]

- (3) The employer of every establishment shall keep a photograph of each employee who has completed three months' continuous service in the establishment:

Provided that where such employee fails to supply such photograph to the employer within fifteen days of the completion of such service, his failure to do so shall be recorded by the employer under the signatures of the employee.

- (4) The employer of every establishment shall for the purposes of this Act maintain such other records and registers and display such other notices as may be prescribed.
- (5) In the case of any contravention of the foregoing provisions of this section, the employer of an establishment shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding five hundred rupees for every day on which the contravention occurs or continues.
- (6) If any person with intent to deceive makes, or causes or allows to be made, in any such record, register or notice as aforesaid an entry which is to his knowledge false in any material particular, or wilfully omits or causes or allows to be omitted from any such record, register or notice an entry required to be made therein, he shall be liable, on conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to a fine which shall not be less than twenty-five rupees and may extend to two hundred rupees or both.

21. Inspection of registers and calling for information

- (1) It shall be the duty of every employer of an establishment to make available for inspection of such officer, as may be prescribed, all accounts or other records required to be kept for the purposes of this Act, and to give such officer any other information in connection therewith as may be required.
- (2) Whoever contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) or wilfully obstructs the inspecting authority in the exercise of the powers under this Act or conceals or prevents any employee in an establishment from appearing before or being examined by the authority, shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine which shall not be less than twenty-five rupees and may extend to two hundred rupees.

22. Notice of removal

- (1) No employee shall be removed from service unless and until one month's previous notice or pay in lieu thereof has been given to him:

Provided that:

- (a) no employee shall be entitled to the notice or pay in lieu thereof if he is removed on account of misconduct established on record;

- (b) no employee shall be entitled to one month's notice or notice pay unless and until he has been in the service of the employer continuously for a period of three months.
- (2) In any case instituted for a contravention of the provisions of sub-section (1), if a ³⁷[Judicial Magistrate] is satisfied that an employee has been removed without reasonable cause, the ³⁸[Judicial Magistrate] shall, for reasons to be recorded in writing, award compensation to the employee equivalent to two months' salary:
- Provided that no such claim shall be entertained unless it is preferred by the employee within six months from the date of his removal.
- (3) The amount payable as compensation under this section shall be in addition to, ³⁹[and recoverable as] fine payable under Section 26.
- (4) No person who has been awarded compensation under this section shall be entitled to bring a civil suit in respect of the same claim.

23. Notice by employee

- (1) No employee, who has been in the service of the employer continuously for a period of three months, shall terminate his employment unless he has given to his employer seven days' previous notice or pay in lieu thereof.
- (2) Where an employee contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1), his employer may forfeit his unpaid wages for a period not exceeding seven days.

24. ⁴⁰[* * * *]

25. Provisions as to trading elsewhere than in establishments

Save as otherwise provided by any law for the time being in force, it shall not be lawful in any locality to carry on in any place not being an establishment, retail trade or business of any class at any time if it is unlawful in that locality to keep an establishment open for the purpose of such retail trade or business, and, if any person carries on any trade or business in contravention of this section, this Act shall apply as if he were the employer of the establishment which was being kept open in contravention of this Act.

26. Penalties

Subject to the other provisions of this Act, whoever contravenes any of the provisions of this Act, or the rules made thereunder and no penalty has been provided for such contravention in this Act, shall be liable on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one hundred rupees for the first offence, and three hundred rupees for every subsequent offence:

Provided that the fine in respect of every subsequent offence within the same year shall not be less than one hundred rupees in any case.

⁴¹[26A. Power to compound offences

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or the rules framed thereunder, the compounding authority as may be notified by the Government in the Official Gazette, shall compound the offence committed under this Act or the rules framed thereunder. The said authority shall discharge the offender by recovering a sum of money not less than fifty percent of the maximum amount of fine prescribed under this Act or the rules framed thereunder. However, if the violation relates to registration of shops or commercial establishments, in that case the amount of fee as may be prescribed shall be recovered from the offender in full in addition to the amount of fine:

Provided that no offence of the same nature shall be compoundable if it is committed more than twice in a year.

(2) An appeal against the order of the compounding authority shall lie within thirty days from the date of the order of the compounding authority before the appellate authority as may be notified by the Government and whose decision shall be final: Provided that no appeal shall be maintainable unless the amount of fine is deposited with the said authority.

(3) No penalty shall be imposed unless the person concerned is given a notice in writing informing him of the grounds on which it is proposed to impose a penalty.

(4) The compounding authority and the appellate authority shall have all the powers of a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Act 5 of 1908), while exercising any powers under this section, in respect of the following matters, namely:-

(i) summoning and enforcing the attendance of witnesses;

(ii) requiring the discovery and production of any document;

(iii) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;

(iv) receiving evidence on affidavit; and

(v) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents].

27. Protection of officers and their agents from personal liability

No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any public servant or any other person in the service of the Central or State Government, acting under direction of any such public servant, for anything in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of the provisions of this Act or of any rule made thereunder.

28. Power to grant exemptions

⁴²[Government or any officer empowered by the Government in this behalf may], by notification in the official Gazette, exempt from the operation of all or any of the provisions of this Act for any period it considers desirable any establishment or any class thereof or any employer or employee or class of employers or employees to whom this Act applies on such conditions as it may think fit.

29. Prohibition of employment of children

No child who has not completed the age of fourteen years shall be employed in any establishment.

30. Conditions of employment of women

- (1) No woman shall be required or allowed to work whether as an employee or otherwise in any establishment during night:

⁴³[Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall apply to an establishment which is engaged in the treatment or care of the sick, the infirm, the destitute or the mentally unfit.]

- (2) No employer of any establishment shall knowingly employ a woman and no woman shall engage in employment in any establishment during six weeks following the day of her confinement or miscarriage.
- (3) Government may prescribe further conditions in respect of employment of women employed about the business of establishments or any class of them, including if it thinks fit, conditions with respect to the daily period of employment, leave, and other matters and no woman shall be employed otherwise than in accordance with these conditions.

31. Maternity Benefit

- (1) Every woman employed in an establishment who has been continuously employed in that establishment or in establishments belonging to the employer of that establishment for a period of not less than six months preceding the date of her delivery shall be entitled to receive, and the employer shall be liable to make to her, a payment of a maternity benefit which shall be prescribed by the Government for every day during the six weeks immediately preceding and including the day of her delivery and for each day of the six weeks following her delivery:

Provided that no such payment shall be made for any day on which she attends work and receives payment thereof during the six weeks preceding her delivery.

- (2) The manner in which the maternity benefit shall be payable may be prescribed by the Government.

32. Bar of Legal Practitioners in certain proceedings

Notwithstanding anything contained in the law relating to legal practitioners for the time being in force, no legal practitioner shall be permitted to appear, plead or act for the employer or the employee in any proceedings, before a court between an employer and an employee, arising out of the contravention of any of the provisions of this Act.

33. Saving of certain rights and privileges

Nothing in this Act shall affect any rights or privileges to which an employee in any establishment is entitled on the date this Act comes into force, under any other law, contract, custom or usage applicable to such establishment or any award, settlement or agreement binding on the employer and the employee in such establishment, if such rights or privileges are more favourable to him than those to which he would be entitled under this Act.

⁴⁴**33A. Cognizance of offences**

No Court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act or any rule made thereunder or of the abetment of or attempt to commit such offence, save on a complaint made by the employee concerned or by such officer as may be authorised in writing in this behalf by the Government.]

34. Power to make rules

- (1) Government may make ⁴⁵rules for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Act.
- (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:
 - (a) the manner and form in which the registers and notices shall be kept;
 - (b) the officers who may be empowered to inspect registers and call for information as required by this Act;
 - (c) the agency by which and the manner in which the prosecution shall be instituted;
 - (d) the form of submitting a statement, the particulars under sub-section (1) of Section 13, the manner in which registration of establishments is to be made and the form of registration certificate under sub-Section (2) and the form for notifying a change under sub-section (4) of Section 13;
 - (e) the authority to and the manner in which any notice required by this Act shall be given;
 - (f) the conditions subject to which any exemption under this Act may be granted;
 - (g) the manner in which the employer of an establishment shall keep exhibited in the premises the close day, closing and opening hours and such other particulars as may be prescribed; and
 - (h) to safeguard health, safety and welfare of the employees while on duty.
- (3) All rules made under this section shall, as soon as possible after they are made, be laid before both houses of the State Legislature.

35. Repeal

The Punjab Trade Employees Act, 1940, is hereby repealed,

Provided that:

- (a) every appointment, order, rule, bye-law, regulation, notification or notice made, issued or given under the provisions of the Act so repealed shall in so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, be deemed to have been made, issued or given under the provisions of this Act, unless and until superseded by any other appointment, order, rule, by-laws, regulation, notification or notice made, issued or given under this Act;

- (b) any proceeding relating to the trial of any offence punishable under the provisions of the Act so repealed, shall be continued and completed as if the said Act has not been repealed, but has continued in operation, and any penalty imposed in such proceeding shall be recovered under the Act so repealed.

1 Declared by Punjab Govt. Notification dated 1.6.1958.
2 Substituted for the words "Punjab" Haryana Adaptation of Laws Order, 1968.
3 Substituted by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
4 Added by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
5 Added by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
6 Clause (h) added by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
7 Renumbered as sub-section (1) of Section 4 by Act No. 1 of 1964.
8 Substituted for the words and figures "Section 9 and Section 10" by Punjab Act, 1964.
9 Substituted by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
10 Substituted for the word "mainly" by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
11 Substituted for the words "shops dealing in" by Punjab Act, No. 1 of 1964.
12 Substituted for the words "shops dealing in" by Punjab Act, No. 1 of 1964.
13 Substituted for Clause (h) by Punjab Act, No. 1 of 1964.
14 Added by Punjab Act, No.1 of 1964.
15 Omitted by Punjab Act, No. 1 of 1964.
16 New clauses (p), (q), (r), (s) and (t) added by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
17 Sub-section (2) added by Punjab Act, No. 1 of 1964.
18 Omitted by the Punjab Adaptation of Laws Order, 1970.
19 Substituted for the words "three months" by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
20 Substituted by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
21 Substituted by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
22 Second Proviso added by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
23 Substituted for the words "working hours" by Punjab Act, No. 1 of 1964.
24 New clause added by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
25 Substituted by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
26 Substituted for the word "three" by Haryana amending Act No. 21 of 2004 vide Notification 2nd November, 2004
27 Substituted by the Haryana Act No. 1 of 1997.
28 Inserted by Haryana Act No. 1 of 1997.
29 Substituted by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
30 The words "even if he has not worked for the entire period specified in the said clause entitling him to earned leave" omitted by Punjab Act, No. 1 of 1964.
31 Substituted by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
32 Substituted by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
33 Substituted by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
34 Substituted for the word "Magistrate" by Punjab Act No. 25 of 1964.
35 The words "such entries for the day shall be made while the employee is at the disposal of the employer" omitted by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
36 Inserted by Punjab Act, No. 1 of 1964.
37 Substituted for the word "Magistrate" by Punjab Act No. 25 of 1964.
38 Substituted for the word "Magistrate" by Punjab Act No. 25 of 1964.
39 Substituted for the word "or recoverable as" by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
40 Omitted by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
41 Added by Haryana amending Act no. 21 of 2004 vide Notification dated 2nd November, 2004.
42 Substituted for the words "Government may" by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
43 Added by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
44 New Section 33-A added by Punjab Act No. 1 of 1964.
45 For rules see Punjab Government Notification No. 6089/5544-C-Lab-58, 13.5.1958, published in Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary) 1958, pages 1353-1361.