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ASSAM ACT XXVIII OF 1948

THE ASSAM FAMINE RELIEF AND INSURANCE
FUND ACT, 1948

(Passed by the Assembly)

[Received the assent of the Governor on the 21st
December 1948]

[Published in the *Assam Gazette* of the 29th December 1948]

An

*Act to provide for the establishment and maintenance in the Province
of Assam of a Fund called the Assam Famine Relief
and Insurance Fund.*

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the establishment and maintenance in the Province of Assam of a fund for expenditure upon relief of, and insurance against, distress caused by serious drought, flood, earthquake, fire, cyclone and other natural calamities in the said Province ;

It is hereby enacted as follows :—

Short title,
extent and
commence-
ment.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Assam Famine Relief and Insurance Fund Act, 1948.

(2) It extends to the whole of Assam.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Provincial Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint.

Definition.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—“Fund” means the Assam Famine Relief and Insurance Fund established under section 3.

Establish-
ment of the
Assam
Famine
Relief and
Insurance
Fund.

3. On the commencement of this Act, the Provincial Government shall establish in and for the Province of Assam a Fund called the “Assam Famine Relief and Insurance Fund”.

The Fund shall consist of :—

(i) the contribution by the Provincial Government under section 4 ;

(ii) any contribution by the Government of India ;

(iii) such other sums as the Provincial Government may transfer from the unspent balance of the budget provision of any year under section 4 ; and

(iv) donations, if any, by the public or by any institution or association for the purposes mentioned in section 5.

Initial con-
tribution to
the Assam
Famine
Relief and
Insurance
Fund.

4. As soon as may be after the commencement of this Act, the Provincial Government shall make an initial contribution to the Fund of the sum of three lakhs of rupees provided under “54-A.—Famine Relief” in the Budget for the year 1948-49 or the unspent balance thereof on the date of creation of the Fund and thereafter make an annual contribution of not less than rupees one lakh.

Price 1 anna or 1 d.

Purpose for which the Fund may be utilized.

5. Expenditure from the Fund shall not be incurred except upon the relief of, and insurance against, famine and distress caused by drought, flood, earthquake, fire, cyclone or other natural calamities in the said Province ;

Provided that, if at any time, the total amount of the Fund exceeds twenty lakhs of rupees, the excess may be utilized on protective irrigation works and other works for the prevention of famine or flood in the said Province.

Investment and re-investment of the amount not required.

6. The Provincial Government shall, from time to time, invest or re-invest in Government securities all amounts and the interest accrued thereon to the credit of the Fund, which may not be immediately required for any of the purposes mentioned in section 5.

Accounts of the Fund and making up of the deficiency in the Fund.

7. (1) The accounts of the Fund shall be made up at the end of each financial year in a *pro forma* account which will be prescribed.

(2) If the accounts so made up in respect of any year show that the balance at the credit of the Fund has reached a total of ten lakhs of rupees, and if in respect of any year thereafter the balance falls short of that amount the deficiency shall be made up by contribution from the revenues of the Province :

Provided that if the deficiency exceeds one lakh of rupees it may be made up in annual instalments not exceeding one lakh each.

Powers to make rules.

8. The Provincial Government may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.