

ASSAM ACT IX OF 1951

*THE ASSAM PROHIBITION OF SMOKING IN SHOW HOUSES ACT,
1951

[Published in the "Assam Gazette", dated the 18th April 1951]

An Act to prohibit smoking in cinema halls and other show houses in Assam

Whereas it is expedient to prohibit smoking in show houses in Assam :

It is hereby enacted as follows :—

1. **Short title, extent and commencement.**—(1) This Act may be called the Assam Prohibition of Smoking in Show Houses Act, 1951.
- (2) It extends to the whole of Assam.

*For Statement of Objects and Reasons see "Assam Gazette", 1951, Part V,
page 43.

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

2. **Definition.**—In this Act,—

“show house” means any building, tent, or any roofed and enclosed structure, used ordinarily or occasionally for the demonstration or exhibition to the public, whether on payment or otherwise, of cinematographic films, dramatical or musical performances, dances, physical feats of human beings or animals conjuring tricks or sleights of hand, or any other indoor amusement whatsoever, but does not include such building or tent or roofed or enclosed structure in which meals are served along with the demonstration or exhibition.

3. **Penalty for smoking in show houses.**—Whoever smokes, during a demonstration, or exhibition, in any part of a show house reserved for the audience or the spectators shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees.

Explanation.—For the purpose of this section “demonstration or exhibition” shall be deemed to commence when the audience or the spectators or any part of them have entered the show house to witness a show therein and to continue until they have left the house after the close of the show.

4. **Power to arrest without warrant.**—Any police officer not below the rank of Sub-Inspector may arrest without warrant any person committing an offence under section 3 in his presence.

5. **Management to post notices or exhibit slides.**—(1) Every person responsible for the management of a demonstration or exhibition in a show house shall bring to the notice of the audience or the spectators, by posting notices prominently or by exhibiting slides, that any person smoking during a demonstration or exhibition, in any part of such house reserved for the audience or spectators shall be liable to arrest without warrant and to fine.

(2) Whoever contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

6. **Power to exclude from the operation of the Act.**—The State Government or any officer of the State Government authorised in this behalf may, by general or special order in writing, direct that the provisions of this Act shall not apply in respect of any show house or any demonstration or exhibition therein.