

# **The Jammu and Kashmir State Official Secrets Act, Svt. 1977**

JAMMU & KASHMIR

India

## **The Jammu and Kashmir State Official Secrets Act, Svt. 1977**

### **Act 43 of 1920**

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Jammu And Kashmir State Official Secrets Act, Svt. 1977[Act No. 43 of 1977][16th June,1977]An Act to prevent the disclosure of official documents and information.Whereas it is expedient to prevent the disclosure of official documents and information; It is hereby enacted as follows :-

#### **1.**

(1)This Act may be called as the Jammu and Kashmir State Officials Secrets Act,1977.(2)It extends to the whole of the state.(3)It shall come into force at once.

#### **2.**

In this Act, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context :-(1)expression referring to communications includes any communication, whether in whole or in part, and whether the document, or information itself or the substance on effect thereof only be communicated;(2)“Document” includes part of a document;(3)“civil affairs” means affairs –(a)affecting the relations of the Government with the Government of India or the Government of any State within the Indian Union; or(b)relating to fiscal arrangements or other important matters of the state to whatever department they may pertain where the affairs are of such a confidential nature that the public interest would suffer by their disclosures.

#### **3.**

(1)(a)Where a person for the purpose of wrongfully obtaining information enters or is a part of the premises of any office of the state and either obtains or attempts to obtain any document or copy thereof or knowledge of any military or civil affairs of the Government which he is not entitled to

obtain;(b)Where a person knowingly having possession of or control over any document or knowledge as has been obtained or taken by means of any Act which constitutes an offence against this Act at any time willfully and without lawful authority communicates or attempts to communicate the same to any person to whom the same ought not, in the public interest, to be communicated at that time; or(c)Where a person after having been entrusted in confidence with any document or information relating to the military or civil affairs of the state willfully and in breach of such confidence communicates the same, when in the public interest it ought not to be communicated ; or(d)Where a person by means of his holding or having held an office under the state has lawfully or unlawfully either obtained possession of or control over any document or acquired any information and at any time corruptly or contrary to his official duty communicates or attempts to communicate that document or information to any to whom the same ought not, in the public interest, to be communicated at that time, he shall be punished with imprisonment with a term which may extend to one year or with fine or with both.(2)Where a person commits any act specified in clause(a) of sub-Section(1) without lawful authority or permission the court may presume that he has committed such act for the purpose of wrongfully obtaining information.

#### 4.

Clause (d) of section3 (1) shall also applied to a person holding a contract with any department of the state or with the holder of any office under the Government as such holder where such contract involves an obligation of secrecy and to any person employed by any person or body of persons holding such a contract who is under a like obligation of secrecy as if the person holding the contract and the person so employed were respectively holders of any office under the Government.

#### 5.

(1)Notwithstanding anything in the Code of Criminal Procedure, every offence against this Act committed in relation to military affairs of the state shall, for the purposes of the said Act, be deemed to be cognizable.(2)Every other offence against this Act shall be non- cognizable.

#### 6.

(1)Any person, being a Government servant as defined in the Ranbir Penal Code, may arrest any person who in his views commits any of the offences as described in section 5, sub-section(1) and any such person or any Police Officer to whom any person arrested on any such charge has been made over, shall take or send him before the officer for the time being in command or charge of the nearest military station or camp or before a Magistrate of the first class.(2)Where any person has been taken or sent before the commanding or other officer in accordance with sub-section(1), such officer may, if he thinks fit, discharge such person, but if he does not discharge him, shall without unnecessary delay, take or send him to the nearest police station or to any Magistrate of the first class.(3)Where any person has been taken or sent to a Police Station or to a Magistrate, under sub-section(2), the Procedure of the Code of the Criminal Procedure, shall save as otherwise provided by section 7, apply to him as though he had been taken to such a police station or Magistrate without being taken or sent before a commanding or other officer.

**7.**

(1) No Magistrate of the second or third class shall have jurisdiction to try any person for an offence against this Act. (2) No Court shall proceed to the trial of any person for an offence against this Act except with the consent of the Government.