

Punjab Women and Children Development and Welfare Corporation Act, 1979

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Act 19 of 1979

- Published on 23 November 1979
- Commenced on 23 November 1979
- [This is the version of this document from 23 November 1979.]
- [Note: The original publication document is not available and this content could not be verified.]

Punjab Women and Children Development and Welfare Corporation Act, 1979 Punjab Act No. 19 of 1979 Statement of Objects and Reasons. -There are several quasi-Government and Private agencies working in the field of Social Welfare, leading to a lot of over-lapping and avoidable duplication in their work, as most of them are running similar Projects namely; Balwadies, Creches, Crafts Centres etc. Besides the duplication and the consequent confusion, the impact of the programmes is not as effective as it should be, due to heavy overhead charges on staff, vehicles etc., of the different organisations. With a view to co-ordinating their activities, it has been felt necessary and desirable to establish a statutory corporation for the economic development of women and the welfare of women and children in the State. The Punjab Women and Children Development and Welfare Corporation would take steps to survey and assess the economic needs of women, define the field of economic activities suitable and appropriate for filing these needs, provide appropriate technology, training and financial assistance to draw the women into the field of economic life of the State thereby raising its productive potential for the development and welfare of women and children. Published vide Punjab Government Gazette Extraordinary dated 13.10.1979 page 1473-1474. Received the assent of the President of India on the 23rd November, 1979, and was published in the Punjab Gazette, (Extra), Legislative Supplement, Part I, dated November 28, 1979/Agrahayana 8, 1901. An Act to provide for the establishment of the Punjab Women and Children Development and Welfare Corporation. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the Thirtieth Year of the Republic of India, as follows :-

Chapter I

Preliminary

1. Short title and commencement.

(1) This Act may be called the Punjab Women and Children Development and Welfare Corporation Act, 1979. (2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 10th day of October, 1979.

2. Definitions.

- In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context, -(a) "bank" means -(i) a banking company as defined in clause (c) of section 5 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (Central Act 10 of 1949); (ii) the State Bank of India constituted under the State Bank of India Act, 1955 (Central Act 23 of 1956); (iii) a subsidiary bank as defined in the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 (Central Act 38 of 1959); (iv) a corresponding new bank constituted under section 3 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 (Central Act 5 of 1970); (v) a regional rural bank established under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 (Central Act 21 of 1976); (vi) the Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation established under section 3 of the Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation Act, 1963 (Central Act 10 of 1963); and (vii) the Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd., a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 (Central Act 1 of 1956); (b) "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Corporation; (c) "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Corporation; (d) "Corporation" means the Punjab Women and Children Development and Welfare Corporation; (e) "Government" means the Government of the State of Punjab; (f) "Managing Director" means the Managing Director of the Corporation; and (g) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

Chapter II

Incorporation of Punjab Women and Children Development and Welfare Corporation and Its Capital

3. Establishment of Punjab Women and Children Development and Welfare Corporation.

(1) With effect from such date as the Government may, by notification appoint, there shall be established for the purposes of this Act a Corporation to be known as the Punjab Women and Children Development and Welfare Corporation. (2) The Corporation shall be a body corporate with the name aforesaid having perpetual succession and a common seal with powers, subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire, hold and dispose of property and to contract, and may by that name, sue and be sued.

4. Head office and other offices of the Corporation.

(1) The Head Office of the Corporation shall be at Chandigarh or at such other place as the Government may, by notification, specify. (2) The Corporation may establish offices or agencies at

such places as it may think fit.

5. Authorised capital.

- The authorised capital of the Corporation shall be such sum not exceeding five crores of rupees as the Government may initially fix: Provided that where the capital initially fixed is less than five crores of rupees, the Government may, from time to time, increase the capital to such sum not exceeding five crores of rupees as it may think fit.

Chapter III

Management of the Corporation

6. Management.

- The general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs and the business of the Corporation shall vest in a Board of directors which may exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things as may be exercised or done by the Corporation.

7. Constitution of Board.

(1) The Board of directors shall consist of a Chairman, a Managing Director and the following other directors, namely :-(a) the Secretary to Government in the Department of Welfare or an officer of that Department nominated by him, ex officio; (b) the Secretary to Government in the Department of Finance or an officer of that Department nominated by him, ex officio; (c) the Secretary to Government in the Department of Industries or an officer of that Department nominated by him, ex officio; (d) the Secretary to Government in the Department of Rural Development and Panchayats or an officer of that Department nominated by him, ex officio; (e) the Director, Social Welfare, Punjab, ex-officio; (f) four other directors to be nominated by the Government from amongst women social workers of whom at least one shall be from Scheduled Castes and one from Backward Classes. (2) The Chairman and the Managing Director shall be appointed by the Government : Provided that no person who is not a Government officer shall be appointed or shall continue as Managing Director. (3) The terms and conditions of service including salaries and allowances of the Chairman, the Managing Director and the other directors referred to in clause (f) of sub-section (1) shall be such as may be prescribed. (4) The term of office of the Chairman, the Managing Director and the directors referred to in clause (f) of sub-section (1) shall be three years and they shall be eligible for reappointment : Provided that no Chairman, Managing Director or Director shall continue in office after he has attained the age of fifty-eight years or such age of superannuation instead of fifty-eight as may be fixed by the Government : Provided further that the term of office of an officer of the Government sent on deputation shall be such as may be fixed by the Government in each case but shall not exceed three years or the age of his superannuation whichever is earlier. (5) The circumstances under which the Chairman, Managing Director and other directors referred to in clause (f) of sub-section (1) shall be removable during the term of their office shall be such as may be

prescribed.

8. Disqualifications.

(1) A person shall be disqualified for being appointed or nominated, or for continuing, as a director of the Corporation - (a) if he is, or at any time has been, adjudicated insolvent or has suspended payment of his debts or has compounded with his creditors; (b) if he is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court; (c) if he is or has been convicted of any offence which in the opinion of the Government involves moral turpitude; (d) if he, having held any office under the State Government or Central Government, any local authority, any Government Company or any corporate body owned or controlled by the State Government or Central Government, has been removed or dismissed; or (e) if he has been removed from the office of director of the Corporation by the Government. (2) If a director becomes subject to any Disqualification specified in sub-section (1), his seat shall thereupon become vacant.

9. Casual vacancy.

(1) The Chairman, the Managing Director or any Director referred to in clause (f) of sub-section (1) of section 7 may, at any time, resign his office by giving a notice in writing to the Government and on such resignation being accepted he shall be deemed to have vacated his office. (2) If the office of the Chairman, the Managing Director or any director referred to in clause (f) of sub-section (1) of Section 7 falls vacant by reason of his death, resignation or otherwise, the vacancy shall be filled by the Government by appointment or nomination, as the case may be.

10. Powers of Managing Director.

(1) The Managing Director who shall be whole time officer of the Corporation shall - (a) be its Chief Executive Officer; (b) be responsible for the operational management of the Corporation and implementation of the general policies approved by the Corporation; (c) perform such duties as the Corporation may, by regulation or otherwise, assign to him. (2) If the Managing Director is by infirmity or otherwise rendered incapable of carrying out his duties or is absent on leave or otherwise, in circumstances involving the vacation of his appointment, the Government may appoint another person to act in his place during his absence.

11. Staff of the Corporation.

- The Corporation may appoint such officers and employees as it may consider necessary for the efficient performance of its functions and determine, with the prior approval of the Government, the terms and conditions of their service.

12. Committees.

- Subject to the rules made in this behalf, the Board may, from time to time, appoint one or more Committees for the purpose of securing the efficient discharge of its functions.

13. Meetings of the Board.

(1)The Board or any Committee appointed by it shall meet at such times and places and shall observe such rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings as may be provided by the regulations made by the Corporation under this Act.(2)The Chairman or if for any reason he is unable to attend any meeting, any other director elected by the directors present at the meeting shall preside at the meeting of the Board.(3)Five directors shall form a quorum for the meetings of the Board :Provided that no quorum shall be necessary for adjourned meetings.(4)All questions which come up before any meeting of the Board shall be decided by a majority of votes of the directors present and voting and in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman or in his absence, the director presiding, shall have and exercise a second or casting vote.

14. Delegation of powers to the Chairman, the Managing Director and other officers and employees.

- The Board may by a general or special order, delegate to the Chairman, the Managing Director or any Committee appointed by it or any other officer or employee of the Corporation, subject to such conditions and limitations, if any, as may be specified, such of its powers and duties under this Act, except the power to make regulations, as it may deem necessary.

Chapter IV

Functions and Funds of the Corporation

15. Functions of the Corporation.

(1)Subject to the provisions of this Act, the functions of the Corporation shall be to provide for the economic welfare of women and children in the State.(2)Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision, the Corporation may take such steps as it may think necessary -(i)to survey and assess the economic needs of women and welfare needs of women and children, specially those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in the State;(ii)to define the field of economic activities suitable and appropriate for women of fulfilling their needs;(iii)to draw the women into the field of economic life of the State, thereby raising the productive potential women force;(iv)to help and develop appropriate technology for occupations and vocations in which women can be engaged;(v)to establish education and training projects and schemes to improve the economic welfare of women and the social welfare of women and children;(vi)to prepare project reports and to study the feasibility of economic activities by women and women's organisations;(vii)to establish and maintain work centres and handicraft centres at various places

for the benefit, development and welfare of women and children;(viii)to develop, aid, assist, initiate, promote, organise and finance women organisations engaged in the field of industry, trade, commerce, agriculture, manufacturing, marketing, processing, ware-housing or cold storage;(ix)to provide financial assistance in any from whatsoever to women and organisations engaged in the development and welfare of women and children for starting, expanding or modernising any commercial or industrial activity;(x)to carry on the business of marketing, processing, branding, investigation, market research, storing, warehousing, cold storage, distribution and rendering assistance and services of any description in relation to articles of food, running canteens, knitting, embroidery, tailoring, clothing, readymade garments, handicrafts, assembly work, poultry, piggery, cottage industries, Khadi industries, village industries, milk products, sweet meats, cane work, chalk making, printing and binding;(xi)to set up and carry on the business of refining, preparing, buying, importing, exporting, distributing and dealing in all items in which the Corporation deals;(xii)for attaining the objects mentioned earlier, to aid, assist and provide employment to women;(xiii)to give grants and subsidies to and to guarantee loans taken by women or organisations of women; and(xiv)to discharge such other functions as may be prescribed or as are incidental, supplemental or consequential to any of the functions conferred on it under this Act.(3)In discharging its functions, the Corporation shall have due regard to public interest, its solvency and development and welfare of women and children.

16. Capital of the Corporation and its power to borrow or issue bonds and debentures etc.

(1)For the purpose of carrying out its functions under this Act, the Corporation may -(a)be provided with capital by the State Government on such terms and conditions as the Government may specify, or by any person or association of persons interested in or dealing with the development and welfare of women and children on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon between the Corporation and such person or association of persons;(b)be provided with capital by the Central Government on such terms and conditions consistent with the provisions of this Act as that Government may specify;(c)with the previous approval of, and subject to the directions of the Government, borrow money from any bank or other financial institution or any other authority or organisation;(d)issue bonds and debentures or draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue promissory notes, bills of exchange, hundies, bills, warrants, debentures and other negotiable instruments.(2)The Government may guarantee the repayment of the moneys borrowed by the Corporation under sub-section (1) and the payment of interest thereon.

17. Women and Children Development and Welfare Corporation Fund.

(1)The Corporation shall maintain a Fund called the Women and Children Development and Welfare Corporation Fund (hereinafter referred to as the Fund) to which shall be credited -(a)all moneys received by it from the State Government or Central Government or from any person or association of persons interested in or dealing with the development and welfare of women and children;(b)such sums of money as may, from time to time, be realized by way of repayment of loans made from the Fund or from interest, on loans;(c)all moneys borrowed under section 16; and(d)all moneys received by it from any other source.(2)The moneys in the Fund shall be applied by the

Corporation for carrying out its functions under this Act.(3)All moneys in the Fund shall be deposited in a bank for the time being included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, or in a Government Treasury, as may be decided by the Corporation :Provided that the Corporation may invest or deposit its surplus funds in the Government securities or in such other manner as it may decide.

Chapter V

Loans

18. Power to impose conditions for loans.

- In making any loan authorised by this Act, the Corporation may impose such conditions as it may think necessary or expedient for protecting the interests of the Corporation :Provided that interest on such loans shall be chargeable at such concessional rate as may, from time to time, be fixed by the Corporation with the prior approval of the Government.

19. Power to call repayment before agreed period.

- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any agreement, the Corporation may, by notice in writing, require any debtor to discharge forthwith in full his liabilities to the Corporation,-(a)if it appears to the Corporation that any false or misleading information or particular was given in the application for loan;(b)if the debtor has failed to comply with any of the terms of the agreement entered into by him with the Corporation;(c)if there is a reasonable apprehension that the debtor is unable to pay the money due from him; or(d)if for any other reason it is necessary to do so to protect the interests of the Corporation.

20. Recovery of money due to the Corporation.

(1)Where any amount is due to the Corporation from any person, including the surety of a debtor, in respect of loans or advances or other financial accommodation granted by it, such amount shall, on a certificate being granted by the Managing Director in the prescribed form, be recoverable as arrears of land revenue by the Collector of the District in which the person from whom the amount is due resides or carries on business or owns any property.(2)Before issuing the certificate referred to in sub-section (1) the Managing Director shall make an application to such officer, unconnected with the business of the Corporation, as may be empowered by the Government in this behalf and that officer shall by an order determine the amount due to the Corporation after giving an opportunity of being heard to the person concerned and communicate the same to the Managing Director.(3)The officer empowered under sub-section (2) shall follow such procedure as may be prescribed.(4)The certificate issued by the Managing Director under sub-section (1) shall be final and conclusive and shall not be called in question before any authority or court.(5)For the purpose of recovering any amount due to the Corporation in respect of a loan it shall not be necessary to proceed against the principal before proceeding against his surety.

21. First charge of Corporation's loans on debtor's property.

- Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, but subject to the provisions relating to priority of charges in any law made by Parliament and to any prior charge of a bank or of a prescribed financing institution or any prior claim of the Government in respect of land revenue or any money recoverable by it as arrears of land revenue, a loan advanced by the Corporation under this Act together with interest accrued thereon and costs of its recovery, shall be first charge on the property of the debtor.

Chapter VI

Accounts and Audit

22. Accounts.

(1)The balance-sheet and accounts including the profit and loss account of the Corporation shall be prepared and maintained in such form and manner as may be prescribed.(2)The Corporation shall cause its books and accounts to be balanced and closed on the thirty-first day of March each year.

23. Audit.

(1)The accounts of the Corporation shall be audited once in every financial year by auditors duly qualified to act as auditors under sub-section (1) of section 226 of the Companies Act, 1956, who shall be appointed by the Corporation and shall receive such remuneration from the Corporation as it may fix.(2)The auditors shall be supplied with a copy of the annual balance-sheet and the profit and loss account of the Corporation and it shall be their duty to examine them together with the accounts and vouchers relating thereto, and they shall have a list delivered to them of all books kept by the Corporation and shall at all reasonable times have access to the books, accounts and other documents of the Corporation and may require from any officer of the Corporation such information as the auditors may think necessary for the performance of their duties as auditors.(3)The auditors shall make a report to the Corporation upon the annual balance sheet and accounts examined by them and in every such report they shall state whether, in their opinion, the balance sheet is a full and fair balance-sheet containing all necessary particulars and properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Corporation.(4)The Corporation shall furnish to the Government within four months from the date on which its accounts are closed and balanced, a copy of its balance-sheet and accounts together with a copy of the auditor's report, and a report on the working of the Corporation during the relevant year.(5)Without prejudice to anything contained in the preceding sub-sections, the Government may, at any time, appoint any other authority to examine and report upon the accounts of the Corporation and any expenditure incurred in connection with such examination and report shall be payable by the Corporation to such authority.(6)Copies of the reports referred to in sub-sections (4) and (5) shall be laid by the Government, as soon as may be, before the State Legislature.

Chapter VII

Miscellaneous

24. Dissolution of Corporation.

- No provision of law other than this Act, relating to the winding up, dissolution or liquidation of the companies or Corporations shall apply to the Corporation.

25. Directors not to participate in certain cases.

- A director who has any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any matter coming up for consideration at a meeting of the Board or a Committee thereof shall, as soon as possible, after the relevant circumstances have come to his knowledge, disclose the nature of his interest at such meeting and the disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board or the Committee, as the case may be, and the director shall not take any part in any deliberation or decision of the Board or the Committee with respect to that matter.

26. Bar of jurisdiction.

- Save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, no civil court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceeding in respect of any matter which the Corporation or any officer or authority appointed under this Act is empowered by or under this Act to determine, and no injunction shall be granted by any court or other authority in respect of any action taken or to be taken in pursuance of any power conferred by or under this Act.

27. Protection of action taken in good faith.

- No suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Corporation or any director or any officer or employee or any other person authorised by the Board to discharge any function under this Act for any loss or damage caused or likely to be caused by any thing which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act.

28. Indemnity of director.

(1) Every director shall be indemnified by the Corporation against all losses and expenses incurred by him in the discharge of his duties, except such as are caused by his own wilful act of default. (2) A director shall not be responsible for any other director, or for any officer or other employee of the corporation or for any loss or expenses resulting to the Corporation from the insufficiency or deficiency of value of or title to, any property or security acquired or taken on behalf of the Corporation in good faith, or by the insolvency or wrongful act of any debtor or any person under obligation to the Corporation, or anything done in good faith, in the execution of the duties of his office or in relation thereto.

29. Exemption from registration fee and stamp duty.

- All documents executed by or on behalf of the Corporation in the course of discharge of its functions under this Act shall be exempt from payment of stamp duty and registration fee: Provided that exemption from payment of stamp duty shall apply to those documents in relation to rates of stamp duty whereof the State Legislature is competent to legislate.

30. Power of Government to give directions.

- The Corporation shall carry out such directions as may, from time to time, be issued to it by the Government for the efficient administration of this Act.

31. Power to make regulations.

(1) The Corporation may, with the previous approval of the Government, make regulations not inconsistent with this Act and the rules framed thereunder to provide for all matters for which provision is necessary or expedient 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 regulations may provide for - (a) the duties which the Chairman and the Managing Director shall perform; (b) the time and places of meetings of the Board and the Committee appointed by it and the procedure to be followed in relation to such meetings; (c) the conditions which may be imposed and the procedure which may be followed in granting loans or entering into other arrangements by the Corporation; (d) the duties and conduct of the officers and other employees of the Corporation; (e) the establishment and maintenance of provident fund and other benefit funds for the officers and other employees of the Corporation; and (f) generally, the efficient conduct of the officers of the Corporation. (3) No regulations made under this Act shall have effect until they are published in the Official Gazette.

32. Power to make rules.

(1) The Government may, by notification, make rules to carry out all or any of the purposes 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 terms and conditions of appointment, including salary and allowances, of the Chairman and the Managing Director; (b) the terms and conditions of appointment, including salary and allowances, of the directors referred to in clause (f) of sub-section (1) of section 7; (c) the circumstances under which the Chairman or the Managing Director or a director referred to in clause (f) of sub-section (1) of section 7 shall be removable during the term of his office; (d) other functions which the Corporation may discharge in addition to those mentioned in sub-section (2) of section 15; (e) the form in which the certificate shall be granted by the Managing Director under section 20 and the procedure that shall be observed for determining the amount; (f) the financing institutions for the purpose of priority of charge under section 21; (g) the form and manner in which accounts shall be maintained and the balance-sheet and profit and loss account shall be prepared; and (h) any other matter which is required to be or may be

prescribed.(3)Every rule made under this section shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made before the House of the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of ten days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions and if before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the successive sessions aforesaid, the House agrees in making any modification in the rule or the House agrees that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

33. Repeal and saving.

(1)The Punjab Women and Children Development and Welfare Ordinance, 1979 (Punjab Ordinance No. 3 of 1979) is hereby repealed.(2)Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done to taken under this Act.