

DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ACT, 1957

- This Act elaborates on various powers and functionaries of Delhi Municipal Corporation through various sections. This act has described in detail about sanitation and public health in Chapter XVII. Provision for daily cleansing of streets and removal of rubbish and filth (Sec 35) polluted and obnoxious matter from general public latrines, urinals and cesspools (Sec 355) which is the property of corporation (Sec 351), can be stored in receptacles, depots and places specified by the commissioner (Sec 352). It is the duty of owners and occupiers to collect and deposit rubbish, etc. of any premises in specified depots (Sec 353) and from factories and workshops (Sec 356) a written permission from the commissioner is must. No rubbish will be allowed for more than 24 hours other than receptacle approved by the commissioners (Sec 357). Construction of latrines, urinals for general public, markets, or private need to seek permission from commissioner in written. Commissioner has power to get it cleaned or scavenged if he feels so and can recover the expenses from the owner or occupier (Sec 358).
- Commissioner has power to remove (Sec 365) or demolish (Sec 367) any congested building unfit for human habitation or may give notice to get it improved (Sec 366). The building should be inspected on the following matters: 1) need repair, 2) stability, 3) freedom from dump, 4) natural light and air, 5) water supply, 6) drainage and sanitary conveniences, and 7) facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of rubbish, filth and other polluted matter. No washerman wash the clothes on any place except the place specified by the commissioners (Sec 370).
- Medical practitioners have to inform Municipal Health Officer about the person whom he/she is treating and known to possess any dangerous disease which may cause suffering to the public or other individuals (Sec 371). Commissioner or any other authorised person may remove such person suffering from dangerous disease to the infectious disease hospital or specified hospitals. They have power to disinfect building and articles (Sec 372) or destroy infectious huts and shed (Sec 374). It is the duty of such infected person not to risk other healthy individual(s). In case of epidemic of dangerous disease the commissioner can give public notice to control and person breaching such direction may be liable for punishment under Indian Penal Code Sec 188. No person shall without previous disinfection of the infected article give, lend, sell, transmit or otherwise dispose of to another person and no infected person shall make, carry or offer for sale or take any part in making of food, or drink or any medicine or drug or cloth, bedding for human consumption or use (Sec 382). Commissioner has power to restrict or prohibit sale of food or drink in any epidemic or outbreak or in threatened conditions (Sec 383).
- In case of birth of a child the parent (s) shall inform chief registrar appoint for this purpose within 21 days after such birth. Similarly the death shall be registered on the information provided by any nearest relative who is aware of the cause of death. If the death or birth as occurred in hospital, it is the duty of medical officer in charge of the hospital within 24 hours to send the information (Sec 394-396).
- No person shall cause nuisances like disposing, storing rubbish, filth, polluted matter, or cowdung, nightsoil, open defecating, burning corpse, beating drum, singing, screaming or shouting, using amplifier, using loudspeaker, letting loose any animal that can cause injury, or net preventing the child (<12 yrs) to ease himself in any

public street or public place (Sec 397). Dog registration can be done under the Section 399. License for running eating place, hawking article, theater, circus, public amusement etc are also mandatory under this Act. Contravenes of any provision of any sections or clauses shall be punishable with fine and imprisonment according to the table-the Twelfth scheduled (extending Rs. 50 to Rs. 10,000 and imprisonment extend to 3 years).

Reference

The Delhi Municipal Corporation Act 1957. Akalank Publications Delhi: Morigate