

ACT No. X OF 1911.<sup>1</sup>

[22nd March, 1911.]

An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the prevention of public meetings likely to promote sedition or to cause a disturbance of public tranquillity.

WHEREAS it is expedient to consolidate and amend the law relating to the prevention of public meetings likely to promote sedition or to cause a disturbance of public tranquillity; It is hereby enacted as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, 1911. Short title and extent.

(2) It extends to the whole of British India, but shall have operation only in such Provinces or parts of Provinces as the Governor General in Council may from time to time notify in the Gazette of India.

2. (1) The Local Government may, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, by notification in the local official Gazette, declare the whole or any part of a Province, in which this Act is for the time being in operation, to be a proclaimed area. Power of Local Government to notify proclaimed areas.

(2) A notification made under sub-section (1) shall not remain in force for more than six months, but nothing in this sub-section shall be deemed to prevent the Local Government, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, from making any further notifications in respect of the same area from time to time as it may think fit.

3. (1) In this Act, the expression " public meeting " means a meeting which is open to the public or any class or portion of the public. Definition.

(2) A meeting may be a public meeting notwithstanding that it is held in a private place and notwithstanding that admission thereto may have been restricted by ticket or otherwise.

4. (1) No public meeting for the furtherance or discussion of any subject likely to cause disturbance or public excitement, or for the exhibition or distribution of any writing or printed matter relating to any such subject, shall be held in any proclaimed area— Notice to be given of public meetings.

(a) unless written notice of the intention to hold such meeting and of the time and place of such meeting has been given to the

<sup>1</sup> For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Gazette of India, 1911, Pt. V, p. 100; for Report of Select Committee, see *ibid*, 1911, Pt. V, p. 100; and for Proceedings in Council, see *ibid*, 1911, Pt. VI, pp. 362 and 452.

District Magistrate or the Commissioner of Police, as the case may be, at least three days previously; or

(b) unless permission to hold such meeting has been obtained in writing from the District Magistrate or the Commissioner of Police, as the case may be.

**Power of Magistrate to cause report to be taken.**

(2) The District Magistrate or any Magistrate of the first class authorized by the District Magistrate in this behalf may, by order in writing, depute one or more Police-officers, not being below the rank of head constable, or other persons, to attend any such meeting for the purpose of causing a report to be taken of the proceedings.

**Exception.**

(3) Nothing in this section shall apply to any public meeting held under any statutory or other express legal authority, or to public meetings convened by a sheriff, or to any public meetings or class of public meetings exempted for that purpose by the Local Government by general or special order.

**Power to prohibit public meetings.**

5. The District Magistrate or the Commissioner of Police, as the case may be, may at any time, by order in writing, of which public notice shall forthwith be given, prohibit any public meeting in a proclaimed area, if, in his opinion, such meeting is likely to promote sedition or disaffection or to cause a disturbance of the public tranquillity.

**Penalties.**

6. (1) Any person concerned in the promotion or conduct of a public meeting held in a proclaimed area contrary to the provisions of section 4 shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.

(2) Any public meeting which has been prohibited under section 5 shall be deemed to be an unlawful assembly within the meaning of Chapter VIII of the Indian Penal Code and of Chapter IX of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

**XLV of 1860, V of 1898,**

**Penalty for delivery of speeches in public places.**

7. Whoever, in a proclaimed area, in a public place or a place of public resort, otherwise than at a public meeting held in accordance with, or exempted from, the provisions of section 4, without the permission in writing of the Magistrate of the District or of the Commissioner of Police, as the case may be, previously obtained, delivers any lecture, address or speech on any subject likely to cause disturbance or public excitement to persons then present, may be arrested without warrant, and shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.

8. No Court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or of a Cognizance of offences. Magistrate of the first class or Sub-divisional Magistrate shall try any offence against this Act.

9. [Repeals.] *Repealed by s. 2 and Schedule of the Repealing Act, 1927 (12 of 1927).*

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ACT No. XI OF 1911.<sup>1</sup>

[23rd March, 1911.]

An Act to amend the Indian Universities Act, 1904.

VIII of  
1904.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Indian Universities Act, 1904; It is hereby enacted as follows :—

1. This Act may be called the Indian Universities (Amendment) Act, Short title. 1911.

2. To section 6, sub-section (2), of the said Act, the following proviso Amendment of section 6, Act VIII of 1904. shall be added, namely :—

“ Provided that, in the case of the University of Allahabad, the Chancellor may direct that such number as he may specify of the ordinary fellows referred to in clause (a) shall be elected by the Senate, and the remainder by registered Graduates.”

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<sup>1</sup> For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Gazette of India, 1911, Pt. V, p. 87; and for Proceedings in Council, see *ibid.*, 1911, Pt. VI, pp. 185 and 501.