

THE DELHI SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT ACT, 1946

Contents

1. Short title and extent.....	2
[1A. Interpretation section.....	2
2. Constitution and powers of special police establishment.....	2
3. Offences to be investigated by special police establishment.....	2
[4. Superintendence and administration of Special Police Establishment	2
4A. Committee for appointment of Director	3
4B. Terms and conditions of service of Director	3
² [4BA. Director of Prosecution	4
4C. Appointment for posts of Superintendent of Police and above, extension and curtailment of their tenure, etc.— ³	4
5. Extension of powers and jurisdiction of special police establishment to other areas	4
[6. Consent of State Government to exercise of powers and jurisdiction	5
[6A. Approval of Central Government to conduct, inquiry or investigation	5
7. [Repeal of Ordinance 22 of 1946.].....	5

An Act to make provision for the constitution of a special police force ²[in Delhi for the investigation of certain offences in ³[the Union territories]] for the superintendence and administration of the said force and for the extension to other areas ⁴[***]¹ of the powers and jurisdiction of members of the said force in regard to the investigation of the said offences.

WHEREAS it is necessary to constitute a special police force ²[in Delhi for the investigation of certain offences in ³[the Union territories]] and to make provision for the superintendence and administration of the said force and for the extension to other area ⁴[***] of the powers and jurisdiction of the members of the said force in regard to the investigation of the said offences;

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1. The Act has been extended to the new Provinces and Merged States by the Merged States (Laws) Act, 1949 (59 of 1949), Sec. 3 (w.e.f. 1-1-1950) and to the Union Territories of Manipur, Tripura by the Union Territories (Laws) Act, 1950 (30 of 1950) sec. 3 (16-4-1950). Vindhya Pradesh, to which this Act was extended, now forms part of the State of Madhya Pradesh—See Act 37 of 1956, sec. 9(1)(c) (1-11-1956). Manipur and Tripura are also States now—see Act 81 of 1971. The Act has now been extended to the Union Territories of :-
 - i. Goa, Daman and Diu by Reg. 12 of 1962 (27-12-1962); Goa is now a State.
 - ii. Dadra and Nagar Haveli by Reg. of 1963 (1-7-1965);
 - iii. Pondicherry by Reg. 7 of 1963 (1-10-1963).
 - iv. Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands by Reg. 8 of 1965. Now known as Lakshadweep Islands—See Act 34 of 1973.The Act has been applied to the Union Territory of Himachal Pradesh with effect from 25-12-1948—See the Himachal Pradesh (Application of Laws) Order, 1948, published in the Gazette of India, Pt. I, p. 87; Himachal Pradesh is now a State—Act 53 of 1970
 2. Subs. By Act 26 of 1952, Sec. 2 for ‘for the State of Delhi for the Investigation of certain offences committed with matters concerning Departments of the Central Government’.
 3. Subs. by A.L.O 1956 for “Part C States”.

It is hereby enacted as follows: —

1. Short title and extent

(1) This Act may be called the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

(2) It extends to the whole of India ⁵[***].

⁷[1A. Interpretation section

Words and expressions used herein and not defined but defined in the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 (45 of 2003), shall have the meanings, respectively, assigned to them in that Act.]

2. Constitution and powers of special police establishment

(1) Notwithstanding anything in the Police Act, 1861 (5 of 1861), the Central Government may constitute a special police force to be called the Delhi Special Police Establishment ⁷[***] for the investigation ⁸[in any ⁹[Union territory]] of offences notified under section 3.

(2) Subject to any orders which the Central Government may make in this behalf, members of the said police establishment shall have throughout ¹⁰[any ⁹[Union territory]], in relation to the investigation of such offences and arrest of persons concerned in such offences, all the powers, duties, privileges and liabilities which police officers of ¹¹[that Union territory] have in connection with the investigation of offences committed therein.

(3) Any member of the said police establishment of or above the rank of Sub-Inspector may, subject to any orders which the Central Government may make in this behalf, exercise in ¹⁰[any ⁹[Union territory]]² any of the powers of the officer in charge of a police station in the area in which he is for the time being and when so exercising such powers shall, subject to any such orders as aforesaid, be deemed to be an officer in charge of a police station discharging functions of such an officer within the limits of his station.

3. Offences to be investigated by special police establishment

The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify the offences or classes of offences ¹[***] which are to be investigated by the Delhi Special Police Establishment.

⁴[4. Superintendence and administration of Special Police Establishment

(1) The superintendence of the Delhi Special Police Establishment in so far as it relates to investigation of offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (49 of 1988), shall vest in the Commission.

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1. The words “in the States” omitted by Act 3 of 1951, Sec. 2 and Sch. (w.e.f. 1-4-1951).
 2. Subs. by Act 26 of 1952, Sec. 2 for “for the State of Delhi for the investigation of certain offences committed in connection with matters concerning Departments of the Central Government”.
 3. Subs. by A.L.O. 1956. For “Part C States”.
 4. The words “in the States” omitted by Act 3 of 1951, Sec. 2 and Sch. (w.e.f. 1-4-1951)
 5. Subs. by A.L.O. 1950, for “all the Provinces of India”.
 6. Subs. by Act 3 of 1951 and omitted by Act 62 of 1956, Sec. 2 and Sch.
 7. Ins. by Act 45 of 2003. Sec. 26 (w.e.f. 11-9-2003).
 8. The words “for the State of Delhi” omitted by Act 26 of 1952, Sec. 3, (w.e.f. 6-3-1952).
 9. Subs. by Act 26 of 1952, Sec. 3 for “in that state” (w.e.f. 6-3-1952)
 10. Subs. by A.L.O. 1956, for “Part C State”.
 11. Subs. by A.L.O. 1956, for “the State of Delhi”.
 12. Subs. by A.L.O. 1956, for “Part C State”.
 13. Subs. by A.L.O. 1956, for “the State”.

(2) Save as otherwise provided in sub-section (1), the superintendence of the said police establishment in all other matters shall vest in the Central Government.

(3) The administration of the said police establishment shall vest in an officer appointed in this behalf by the Central Government (hereinafter referred to as the Director) who shall exercise in respect of that police establishment such of the powers exercisable by an Inspector-General of Police in respect of the police force in a State as the Central Government may specify in this behalf.

4A. Committee for appointment of Director

[(1) The Central Government shall appoint the Director on the recommendation of the Committee consisting of—

(a) the Prime Minister — Chairperson;

[(b) the Leader of Opposition recognised Member;] as such in the House of the People or where there is no such Leader of Opposition, then the Leader of the single largest Opposition Party in that House

(c) the Chief Justice of India or Judge of the Supreme — Member.] Court nominated by him 5 [(2) No appointment of a Director shall be invalid merely by reason of any vacancy or absence of a Member in the Committee.]

(3) The Committee shall recommend a panel of officers—

(a) on the basis of seniority, integrity and experience in the investigation of anti-corruption cases; and

(b) chosen from amongst officers belonging to the Indian Police Service constituted under the All-India Services Act, 1951 (61 of 1951), for being considered for appointment as the Director.

4B. Terms and conditions of service of Director

(1) The Director shall, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the rules relating to his conditions of service, continue to hold office for a period of not less than two years from the date on which he assumes office.

¹[Provided That the period for which the Director holds the office on his initial appointment may, in public interest, on the recommendation of the Committee under sub-section (1) of section 4A and for the reasons to be recorded in writing, Be extended up to one year at a time³ :

Provided further that no such extension shall be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total including the period mentioned in the initial appointment.]

1. Subs. by A.L.O. 1956, for “the State of Delhi”.

2. Subs. by A.L.O. 1956 for “Part C State”.

3. The words “committed in connection with matters concerning Departments of the Central Government” omitted by Act 26 of 1952, Sec. 5 (w.e.f. 6-3-1952).

4. Subs. by Act 45 of 2003, Sec. 26 (w.e.f. 11-9-2003)

5. Subs. by Delhi Act No. 20 of 2006, Sec. 2, dated 6th April 2006.

(2) The Director shall not be transferred except with the previous consent of the Committee referred to in sub-section (1) of section 4A.

²[4BA. Director of Prosecution

(1) There shall be a Directorate of Prosecution headed by a Director who shall be an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India, for conducting prosecution of cases under this Act.

(2) The Director of Prosecution shall function under the overall supervision and control of the Director.

(3) The Central Government shall appoint the Director of Prosecution on the recommendation of the Central Vigilance Commission.

(4) The Director of Prosecution shall notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the rules relating to his conditions of service, continue to hold office for a period of not less than two years from the date on which he assumes office.]

4C. Appointment for posts of Superintendent of Police and above, extension and curtailment of their tenure, etc.—³

[(1) The Central Government shall appoint officers to the posts of the level of Superintendent of Police and above except Director, and also recommend the extension or curtailment of the tenure of such officers in the Delhi Special Police Establishment, on the recommendation of a committee consisting of : —

- (a) the Central Vigilance Commissioner —Chairperson;
- (b) Vigilance Commissioners —Members;
- (c) Secretary to the Government of India in —Members;
Charge of the Ministry of Home
- (d) Secretary to the Government of India in charge of the —Members:
Department of Personnel

Provided that the Committee shall consult the Director before submitting its recommendation to the Central Government.]

(2) On receipt of the recommendation under sub-section (1), the Central Government shall pass such orders as it thinks fit to give effect to the said recommendation.]

5. Extension of powers and jurisdiction of special police establishment to other areas

1) The Central Government may by order extend to any area (including Railway areas) ⁴[in ⁵[a State, not being a Union territory]]⁴ the powers and jurisdiction of members of the Delhi Special Police Establishment for the investigation of any offences or classes of offences specified in a notification under section 3.

(2) When by an order under sub-section (1) the powers and jurisdiction of members of the said police establishment are extended to any such area, a member thereof may, subject to any orders which the Central Government may make in this behalf, discharge the functions of a

1. Subs. by Act 26 of 1952, Sec. 5 for “in Indian outside the State of Delhi” (w.e.f. 6-3-1952).
2. Subs. by A.L.O. 1956, for “a Part of A State of a Part B state”.
3. Ins. by Act 40 of 1964, Sec. 5 (w.e.f. 18.12.1964)

police officer in that area and shall, while so discharging such functions, be deemed to be a member of the police force of that area and be vested with the powers, functions and privileges and be subject to the liabilities of a police officer belonging to that police force.

³[(3) Where any such order under sub-section (1) is made relation to any area, then, without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (2), any member of the Delhi Special Police Establishment of or above the rank of Sub-Inspector may, subject to any orders which the Central Government may make in this behalf, exercise the powers of the officer in charge of a police station in that area and when so exercising such powers, shall be deemed to be an officer in charge of a police station discharging the functions of such an officer within the limits of his station.]

¹[6. Consent of State Government to exercise of powers and jurisdiction

Nothing contained in section 5 shall be deemed to enable any member of the Delhi Special Police Establishment to exercise powers and jurisdiction in any area in 3[a State, not being a Union territory or railway area], without the consent of the Government of that State.]

³[6A. Approval of Central Government to conduct, inquiry or investigation

(1) The Delhi Special Police Establishment shall not conduct any inquiry or investigation into any offence alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (49 of 1988) except with the previous approval of the Central Government where such allegation relates to—

- (a) the employees of the Central Government of the level of Joint Secretary and above;
- and
- (b) such officers as are appointed by the Central Government in corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by that Government.⁵

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), no such approval shall be necessary for cases involving arrest of a person on the spot on the charge of accepting or attempting to accept any gratification other than legal remuneration referred to in clause (c) of the Explanation to section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (49 of 1988)].

7. [Repeal of Ordinance 22 of 1946.]

Rep. by the Repealing and Amending Act, 1950 (35 of 1950), s. 2 and Sch. I.

1. Subs. by Act 26 of 1952, Sec. 6 for section 6 (w.e.f. 6.3.1952).
2. Subs. by A.L.O. 1956, for "a Part A State or a Part B State not being a railway area".
3. Ins. by Act 45 of 2003, Sec. 26 (w.e.f. 11.09.2003).