

ORISSA ACT XIV OF 1952

**THE PURI SHRI JAGANNATH TEMPLE
(ADMINISTRATION) ACT, 1952**

[Received the assent of the Governor on the 29th
July 1952, first published in an extraordinary
issue of the Orissa Gazette, dated the
31st July 1952]

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PURI
SHRI JAGANNATH TEMPLE PREVENTING MISMANAGE-
MENT OF THE TEMPLE AND ITS ENDOWMENTS BY
CONSOLIDATION OF THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF
SEVAKS, PUJARIS AND SUCH OTHER PERSONS
CONNECTED WITH THE SEVA PUJA AND
MANAGEMENT THEREOF

WHEREAS to facilitate proper administration of
the Puri Shri Jagannath Temple preventing mis-
management thereof and its Endowments, it is
expedient to provide for consolidation of the rights
and duties of the Sevaks, Pujaris and such other
persons connected with the Seva Puja and manage-
ment thereof ;

It is hereby enacted as follows :—

Short title
and com-
mencement

1. (1) This Act may be called the Puri Shri
Jagannath Temple (Administration) Act, 1952.

* (2) It shall come into force on such date as
the State Government may, by notification, appoint
in this behalf.

Definitions

2. In this Act unless there is anything repugnant
in the subject or context—

(a) 'endowment' means all property belonging
to or given or endowed for the support of the Temple
or given or endowed for the performance of any
service including the service of offerings to the deity
or charity connected therewith and includes the
institution concerned and also the premises thereof,
but does not include gifts of property made as
personal gifts to the Sevak, Pujari or other employee
of the Temple ;

* Came into force from the 5th September 1952 (Vide notification No. 6105—End.-63/52-End.,
dated the 5th September 1952, published in the *Orissa Gazette* extraordinary, dated the 5th
September 1952).

Explanation—Any gift, Inam or Maufi or Shebait or Jagir, granted to a Sevak, Pujari or other employee of the Temple or to any other person for the performance of any service including the service of offerings to the deity or charity in or connected with the Temple shall not be deemed to be a personal gift to the said Sevak, Pujari or other employee, but shall be deemed to be an endowment.

(b) 'prescribed' means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(c) 'specific endowment' means any property or money endowed for the performance of any specific service or charity in the Temple; and

(d) 'Temple' means the temple of Lord Jagannath at Puri, other temples within its premises, all their appurtenant and subordinate shrines, other sacred places and tanks and any additions which may be made thereto after the commencement of this Act.

Appoint-
ment of
Special
Officer

3. (1) The State Government may, by notification, appoint a Special Officer with prescribed qualifications and professing the Hindu religion for the preparation of a record in the prescribed manner consolidating the rights and duties of different Sevaks and Pujaris and such other persons connected with the Seva Puja or management of the Temple and its endowments and may appoint one or more officer with prescribed qualifications to assist him for the purpose.

(2) The Special Officer and other officers, if any, appointed under sub-section (1) shall receive such salary as may be prescribed.

Powers of
the Special
Officer

4. (1) With a view to prepare the record specified in section 3 the Special Officer or any person appointed to assist him in this behalf may, by a special notice, require such Sevaks, Pujaris or persons connected with the Seva Puja of the Temple or such other person as the Special Officer may deem fit to examine, to attend before him within a specified time which shall not be less than fifteen days after the service of notice at any place for the aforesaid purpose; and every person on whom such special notice may be served shall be legally bound to attend as required by the notice and to do any of the things mentioned in the said notice and to give any information or to produce any document which may be required so far as he may be able to do it.

(2) Such officer or person hereinbefore specified shall for the purpose of this Act have the same power as are vested in court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in respect of the following^v of 1908 matters, namely :—

(a) enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath or affirmation ;

(b) dealing with the production of documents ; and

(c) issuing commissions for examination of witnesses ; and any proceeding under this Act before such officer or person appointed shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of sections 193 and 228 and for the purpose of section 195 of the ^{XLV} of 1860 Indian Penal Code, 1860.

Hearing of objections

5. The record so prepared by the Special Officer under section 3 shall be published in the Gazette for a prescribed period and any objections which may be made to any entry therein or to any omission therefrom during the period of publication shall be received and considered by the District Judge having jurisdiction.

Final publication of the record

6. When such objections have been received, considered and disposed of by the said District Judge, the said record shall be finally published in the Gazette and it shall not be liable to be challenged in a court of law.

Power to make rules

7. (1) The State Government may, after previous publication, make rules to carry out all or any of the provisions of this Act and not inconsistent therewith.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, they shall have power to make rules with reference to the following matters :—

(a) the qualifications of the Special Officer and other officers to assist him, their salaries and the manner in which the record shall be prepared under section 3 ;

(b) the period during which objections may be received by the District Judge under section 5 ;

(c) all other matters required or allowed by this Act to be prescribed.

Penalties

8. Whoever without any reasonable cause fails to comply with the requirements of the special notice issued by the Special Officer in exercise of his powers under section 4 of this Act shall be punishable with fine not exceeding five hundred rupees and when the offence is a continued one with a daily fine not exceeding fifty rupees during the period of the continuance of the offence.

Power to remove difficulties

9. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act the State Government may, as occasion may require, by order, do anything which they deem proper and reasonable for the purpose of removing the difficulty.