

**THE SARAIS ACT, 1867**

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**THE SARAIS ACT, 1867**

**ACT NO. XXII OF 1867**

[15th March, 1867]

**An Act for the regulation of public Sarais and Puraos. \***

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the regulation of public Sarais and Puraos: Preamble

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. [Repealed by the Amending Act, 1891 (XII of 1891).]

2. In this Act, unless there be something repugnant in the subject or context,— Interpretation-clause

"sarai" means any building used for the shelter and accommodation of travellers, and includes, in any case in which only part of a building is used as a sarai, the part so used of such building. It also includes a purao so far as the provisions of this Act are applicable thereto. "Sarai"

"keeper of a sarai" includes the owner and any person having or acting in the care or management thereof: "Keeper of a sarai"

"Magistrate of the District" means the chief officer charged with the executive administration of a district in criminal matters whatever may be his designation: "Magistrate of the District"

3. Within six months after this Act shall come into operation, the Magistrate of the District in which any sarai to which this Act shall apply may be situate shall, and from time to time thereafter such Magistrate may, give to the keeper of every such sarai notice in writing of this Act, by leaving such notice for the keeper at the sarai; and shall by such notice require the keeper to register the sarai as by this Act provided. Notice of this Act to be given to keepers of sarais

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\* Throughout this Act, except otherwise provided, the words "Government" and "taka" were substituted, for the words "Provincial Government" and "rupees" respectively by section 3 and 2nd Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

Such notice may be in the form in the Schedule to this Act annexed or to the like effect.

Registers of  
sarais to be  
kept

4. The Magistrate of the District shall keep a register in which shall be entered by such Magistrate or such other person as he shall appoint in this behalf, the names and residences of the keepers of all sarais within his jurisdiction, and the situation of every such sarai.

No charge shall be made for making any such entry.

Lodgers, etc.,  
not to be  
received in  
sarais until  
registered

5. After one month after the giving of such notice to register as by this Act provided, the keeper of any sarai or any other person shall not receive any lodger or allow any person, cattle, sheep, elephant, camel or other animal, or any vehicle, to halt or be placed in such sarai until the same and the name and residence of the keeper thereof shall have been registered as by this Act provided.

Magistrate may  
refuse to  
register keeper  
not producing  
certificate of  
character

6. The Magistrate of the District may, if he shall think fit, refuse to register as the keeper of a sarai a person who does not produce a certificate of character in such form and signed by such person as the Government shall from time to time direct.

Duties of  
keepers of  
sarais

7. The keeper of a sarai shall be bound—

- (1) when any person in such sarai is ill of any infectious or contagious disease, or dies of such disease, to give immediate notice thereof to the nearest police station:
- (2) at all times when required by any Magistrate or any other person duly authorised by the Magistrate of the District in this behalf, to give him free access to the sarai and allow him to inspect the same or any part thereof:

- (3) to thoroughly cleanse the rooms and verandahs, and drains of the sarai, and the wells, tanks, or other sources from which water is obtained for the persons or animals using it, to the satisfaction of, and so often as shall be required by, the Magistrate of the District, or such person as he shall appoint in this behalf:
- (4) to remove all noxious vegetation on or near the sarai, and all trees and branches of trees capable of affording to thieves means of entering or leaving the sarai:
- (5) to keep the gates, walls, fences, roofs and drains of the sarai in repair:
- (6) to provide such number of watchmen as may, in the opinion of the Magistrate of the District, subject to such rules as the Government may prescribe in this behalf, be necessary for the safety and protection of persons and animals or vehicles lodging in, halting at or placed in the sarai; and
- (7) to exhibit a list of charges for the use of the sarai at such place and in such form and languages as the Magistrate of the District shall from time to time direct.

**8.** The keeper of a sarai shall from time to time, if required so to do by an order of the Magistrate of the District served upon him, report, either orally or in writing as may be directed by the Magistrate to such Magistrate or to such person as the Magistrate shall appoint, every person who resorted to such sarai during the preceding day or night.

Power to order reports from keepers of sarais

If written reports are required for any space of time exceeding a single day or night, schedules shall be furnished by the Magistrate of the District to the keeper.

The keeper shall from time to time fill up the said schedules with the information so required, and transmit them to the said Magistrate, in such manner and at such intervals as may from time to time be ordered by him.

Power to shut up, secure, clear and clean deserted sarais

**9.** If any sarai by reason of abandonment or of disputed ownership shall remain untenanted, and thereby become a resort of idle and disorderly persons, or fall in a filthy or unwholesome state, or be complained of by any two or more of the neighbours as nuisance, the Magistrate of the District, after due enquiry, may cause notice in writing to be given to the owner or to the person claiming to be the owner, if he be known and resident within the district, and may also cause such notice to be put on some conspicuous part of the sarai, requiring the persons concerned therein, whoever they may be, to secure, enclose, clean or clear the same;

and if such requisition shall not be complied with within eight days the Magistrate of the District may cause the necessary work to be executed, and all expenses thereby incurred shall be paid by the owner of the sarai, and shall be recoverable like penalties under this Act, or, in case of abandonment or disputed ownership of the sarai, by the sale of any material found therein.

Taking down or repairing ruinous sarais

**10.** If a sarai or any part thereof be deemed by the Magistrate of the District to be in a ruinous state, or likely to fall, or in any way be dangerous to the persons or animals lodging in or halting at the sarai, he shall give notice in writing to the keeper of the sarai requiring him forthwith to take down, repair or secure (as the case may be) the sarai or such part thereof as the case may require.

If the keeper does not begin to take down, repair or secure the sarai, or such part as aforesaid within three days after such notice, and complete such work with due diligence, the Magistrate shall cause all or so much of the sarai as he shall think necessary to be taken down, repaired or otherwise secured.

All the expenses so incurred by the Magistrate shall be paid by the keeper of the sarai, and shall be recoverable from him as hereinafter mentioned.

**11.** If any such sarai or any part thereof be taken down by virtue of the powers aforesaid, the Magistrate of the District may sell the materials thereof, or so much of the same as shall be taken down under the provisions of the last preceding section, and apply the proceeds of such sale in payment of the expenses incurred, and shall restore the surplus (if any) arising from such sale to the owner of such sarai on demand, and may recover the deficiency (if any) as if the amount thereof were a penalty under this Act.

Sale of materials of ruinous sarais

**12.** Whoever, being the keeper of any sarai, suffers the same to be in a filthy and unwholesome state, or overgrown with vegetation, or after the expiration of two days from the time of his receiving notice in writing from the Magistrate of the District to cleanse or clear the same, or after he shall have been convicted of suffering the same to be in such a state or so overgrown as aforesaid, shall allow the same to continue in such state, or so overgrown shall be liable to the penalties provided in section 14 of this Act:

Penalty for permitting sarais to be filthy or overgrown

Provided that the Magistrate of the District may, in lieu of enforcing such daily penalty, enter on and cleanse or clear the said sarai, and the expense incurred by the Magistrate in respect thereof shall be paid to him by the keeper, and shall be recoverable as by this Act provided in the case of penalties.

**13.** The Government may from time to time make regulations for the better attainment of the objects of this Act, provided that such rules be not inconsistent with this Act or with any other law for the time being in force, and may from time to time repeal, alter and add to the same.

Power of Government to make regulations

All regulations made under this Act and repeals thereof, and alterations and additions thereto, shall be published in the official Gazette.

Penalty for infringing Act or regulations

**14.** If the keeper of a sarai offend against any of the provisions of this Act or any of the regulations made in pursuance of this Act, he shall for every such offence be liable on conviction before any Magistrate to a penalty not exceeding twenty taka, and to a further penalty not exceeding one taka a day for every day during which the offence continues:

Provided always that this Act shall not exempt any person from any penalty or other liability to which he may be subject, irrespective of this Act.

All penalties imposed under this Act may be recovered in the same manner as fines may be recovered under section 61 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Conviction for third offence to disqualify persons from keeping sarais

**15.** Where a keeper of a sarai is convicted of a third offence under this Act, he shall not afterwards act as keeper of a sarai without the license in writing of the Magistrate of the District, who may either withhold such license or grant the same on such terms and conditions as he may think fit.

Nothing in Act to apply to certain sarais

**16.** No part of this Act, except section 8, shall apply to any sarai which may be under the direct management of the Government or of any Municipal Committee.

Application

<sup>1</sup>[**17.** This Act shall not apply to <sup>2</sup>[a Metropolitan Area]].

Short title

**18.** This Act may be called the Sarais Act, 1867.

<sup>1</sup> Section 17 was substituted, for section 17 by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Amendment) Ordinance, 1976 (Ordinance No. LXIX of 1976), Schedule.

<sup>2</sup> The words "a Metropolitan Area" were substituted, for the words "the Dhaka Metropolitan Area" by Schedule III of the Chittagong Metropolitan Police Ordinance, 1978 (Ordinance No. XLVIII of 1978).

**SCHEDULE**

## FORM OF NOTICE

Take notice that on the day      of      1867, an Act called the Sarais Act, 1867, was passed, and that, before the      day of      , you, being keeper of sarai [*or purao*] within [*here state that the district over which the jurisdiction of the Magistrate giving the notice extends*], must have your sarai [*or purao*] registered, and that the register is to be kept at [*here state where the register is to be kept*] and that, if you do not have your sarai [*or purao*] so registered, you will be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty taka, and to a further penalty not exceeding one taka a day for every day during which the offence continues, and that on your applying to [*here give the name and address of the person to keep the register*] he will register your sarai [*or purao*] free of all charge to you.

Dated the      day of      18 .

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