West Bengal Act XXXVIII of 1974

THE WEST BENGAL LABOUR WELFARE FUND ACT, 1974.

West Ben. Act XXIII of 1980.

AMENDED ..

.. West Ben. Acl XIX of 1988. West Ben. Act XVIH of 1997.

[30lh August, 1974.]

An Acl to provide for the constitution of a fund for promoting activities connected with the welfare of labour in West Bengal and for matters connected therewith

WHEREAS ii is expedient lo constitute a fund for promoting activities connected with the welfare of labour in West Bengal and for mailers connected therewith:

It is hereby cnacted in the Twenty-fifth Year of the Republic of India, by the Legislature of West Bengal, as follows:—

1. (I) This Act may be called the West Bengal Labour Welfare Short title.

cxicni and commence-

Fund Act, 1974.

- (2) It extends to the whole of West Bengal.
- (3) This section shall come into force at once and the remaining sections shall come into force on such date or dates and in such area or areas as the State Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, appoint and different dates may be appointed for different sections or for different areas.
 - 2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

Definitions.

- (1) "Board" means the West Bengal Labour Welfare Board constituted under section 4;
- (2) "contribution" means the sum of money payable lo the Board in accordance with (he provisions of section 9;
- (3) "employee" means any person who is employed for hire or reward lo do any work, skilled or unskilled, manual, clerical, supervisory or technical, in an establishment ^J[, and includes a sales promotion employee] but does not include any person—
 - (a) who is employed mainly in a managerial capacity, or

(Section 2.)

(b) who, being employed in supervisory capacity, draws wages exceeding '(sixteen hundred rupees] *per mensem* or exercises, either by Ihe nature of duties attached to the office, or by reason of the powers vested in tiini, functions mainly of a managerial nature.

'Hxpiantttian.—"Sales promotion employee" shall have the same meaning as in the Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976;

n of 1976.

- (4) "employer" means any person who employs either directly or through another person either on behalf of himself or any other person, one or more employees in an establishment and includes—
 - (i) in a factory, any person named under clause (f) of subsection (I) of section 7 or lite Factories Act, 1948, as I9-JS. the manager,
 - (ii) in any establishment, any person responsible to the owner for Ihe supervision and control of the employees or for the payment of wages;
- (5) "establishment" includes—
 - (i) a factory,
 - (ii) a tramway or motor transport undertaking, and
 - (iii) any commercial establishment within the meaning of clause (2) of section 2 of Ihe West Bengal Shops and vvesi Ben. Establishments Acl, 1963, which employs, or on any ^53°" working day during ihe preceding twelve months, employed len or more persons:

Provided that any such commercial establishment shall continue to be an establishment for the purposes of lliis Act notwithstanding that ihere was a reduction in the number of persons 10 less than len at any subsequent time.

Provided further lhat where for a continuous period of not loss than three months the number of persons employed therein has been less than ten, such commercial establishment shall cease 10 be an establishment for the purposes of this Act with effect from the beginning of the month following die expiry of the said period of three months, but the employer

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shall, within otic month from llie dnte of such cessation, intimate by registered post the fact thereof to such authority as the Start Government may specify in this behalf,

- (iv) any other class of establishments which the State Government may, after giving three months' notice of its intention of so doing, specify by notification in the Official Gai£ite\
- (6) "factory" means a factory as defined in clause (m) of section 1 of the Factories Act, 1948;
- (7) "Fund" means the Labour Welfare Fund constituted under section 3;
- '(8) "independent person" means a person who is not connected with the management of any establishment or who is not an employee, and includes the Welfare Commissioner or any officer of the State Government:
- (9) "Jnspcctor" means an Inspector appointed tinder section 16;
- (10) "motor transport undertaking" means a motor transport undertaking engaged in carrying passengers or goods or both hy road for hire or reward, and includes a private carrier;
- (11) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- '(1 La) "regulations" means regulations made by the Board under this Act;
 - (12) "unpaid accumulation" means all sums due to the employees but not actually paid to them within a period of three years from the date on which they became due whether before or after the commencement of this Acl including the wages, bonus and gratuity but not including the amount of contribution, if any, paid by an employer to a provident fund established under the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952;
 - (13) "wages" means wages as defined in clause (vi) of section 2 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, and includes bonus payable under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965;
 - (14) "Welfare Commissioner" means the Welfare Commissioner appointed under section 15;
 - (15) "welfare of labour" includes activities mentioned in subsection (2) of section 11,

The West Bengal Labour Welfare Fund Ad, 1974.

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(Section J.)

- 3. (1) Tlie Stale Government shall constitute a fund to be called Ihe Labour Welfare Fund.
 - (2) The fund shall consist or—
 - (a) all unpaid accumulations paid to the Board at such intervals and in such manner as may be prescribed;
 - (b) all fines realised from the employees;
 - (c) all Fines imposed on employers by courts for contravention of the provisions of— $\,$

(i)	lite Industrial Disputes Act, 1947,	MaCi947 ,
(ii)	the Factories Act, 1948,	63of]94S.
(iii)	the Minimum Wages Act, L948,	it of I9ia,
(iv)	the Payment of Wages Act, 1936,	4 of 1036.
(v)	the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1940,	20 of 1946.

- (vi) the West Bengal Shops and Establishments Act, 1963; Vest Ben, Act xiit or 1963.
- (d) any contribution paid under section 9;
- (e) any penal interest paid under section 10;
- (0 any voluntary donations;
- (g) any fund transferred under sub-section (5) of section 11;
- (h) any loan, grant-in-aid or subsidy paid by the Centra) or Stale Government or any local authority;
- '(hh) any sum paid by the Central Government or the Stale Government or any local authority for implementation of any scheme for the welfare of labour not employed in any establishment;
- (i) any sum borrowed under section 12.
- (3) The sums specified in sub-section (2) shall be paid or collected by such agencies, at sucli intervals and in such manner as may be prescribed.
- (4) The accounts of the fund shall be maintained and audited in such manner as may be prescribed.

(Seel ion 4.)

- 4. '(I) The State Government shall, by notification in [lie *Official Board*.
 "Gazette, consLiiuie for Ihe Stale of West Bengal; i Board to be called the West
 Bengal Labour Welfare Board. The Board shall consist of—
 - (a) the Minister-in-charge of the Labour Department, Government of West Bengal, who shall be the ex officio Chairman of the Board,
 - (b) a Vice-Chairman to be nominated by the Stale Government,
 - (c) the Secretary, Labour Department, Government of West Bengal, who shall be an ex officio member of the Board,
 - (d) the Welfare Commissioner, who shall be an *ex officio* member of the Board,
 - (e) six persons representing employers to be nominated by ihe Stale Government in consultation with the employers' associations,
 - (0 six persons representing employees to he nominated by the Slate Government in consultation with the employees' associations, and
 - (g) six independent persons, other than the persons referred to in clauses (c) and (d), of whom at least one shall be a woman, to be nominated by the Slate Government.
- ³(2) Save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, the members of the Board referred lo in clauses (e) and (f) of sub-seciion (1) shall hold office for a term of three years commencing on the date on which their names are noli fled in the *Official Gazelle*:

Provided liiat notwithstanding (he expiry of the term of office of any such member, he sluill continue to hold office until the nomination of his successor is notified in ihc *Official Gazette*,

- '(3) The members of the Board referred to in clauses (b) and (g) of subsection (1) shall hold office during the pleasure of the State Government.
- (4) The allowances, if any, payable lo the members of the Board shall be such as may be prescribed.
- (5) The Board shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power lo acquire, hold and dispose of property,

both movable and immovable, and shall by the said name sue and be sued.

(6) The Board shall conduct its business in such manner as may be prescribed.

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(Sections 5-8.)

Disqualification!; and removal.

- 5. ([) No person shall be chosen as, or continue to be, a member of the Board who— $\,$
 - '(a) is a salaried official of Ihe Board other than ihe Welfare Commissioner:
 - (b) is or at any time has been adjudged insolvent; or
 - (c) is found to be a lunatic or becomes of unsound mind; or
 - (d) is or lias been convicted of any offence involving moral turpitude; or
 - (e) is an employer or the representative of an employer, if Ihe employer is u defaulter in paying contribution under the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952, or under the Employees' Smle Insurance Act, 1948.

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(2) The Slate Government may remove from office any member who-

- (a) is or has become subject lo any of the disqualifications mentioned in sub-section (1); or
- (b) is absent without leave of the Board from three consecutive meetings of the Board.

Resignatio
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vacancies.

- 6. (I) A member may resign hisoffice by giving notice, in writing, to the State Government, and on such resignation being accepted he shall be deemed to have vacated his office.
- (2) A casual vacancy in Lhe office of a member shall be filled up, as soon as possible, by the Slate Government and a member so appointed shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of office of lhe member whose place he fills.
- (3) No Act or proceeding of the Board shall be invalid on lhe ground merely of the existence of any vacancy in, or any delect in the constitution of, the Board.

Power lo, appoint CoruroUlecs. 7. For the purpose of advising the Baord in lhe discharge of its functions and also Tor carrying into effect any of the mailers specified in sub-section (2) of section 11, the Board may constitute one or more Committees, of which at least one member shall be a member of the Board.

Unpaid
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8. (1) Any unpaid accumulation paid lo the Board shall, on such payment, discharge an employer of his liability to make payment to an employee in respect thereof and the liability to niake payment to the employee to the ex ten I aforesaid shall, subject to the succeeding provisions of this section, be deemed to be transferred to the Board.

XXXVIII or 1974.]

(Section S.)

- (2) As soon as possible after the payment or any unpaid accumulation is made to ihe Board, the Board shall by notice (containing such particulars as may be prescribed) exhibited on ihe notice-board of the factory or establishment in which the unpaid accumulation was earned and also published in any two newspapers circulating, and in the language commonly understood, in the area in which the factory or establishment in which the unpaid accumulation was earned is situated, or in such other manner as may be prescribed, regard being had to the amount of the claim, invite claims by employees for any paymeni due to them. The notice shall be inserted in the manner aforesaid in June and December of every year, for a period of three years from ihc date of the payment of the unpaid accumulation to the Board.
- (3) If any question arises whether the notice referred to in subsection (2) was given, as required by the sub-section, a certificate of the Board lhat it was so given shall be conclusive.
- (4) If a claim is received whether in answer lo ihe notice or otherwise, within a period of four years from the date of first publication of the notice in respect of such claim, the Board shall transfer such claim to the authority appointed under section 15 of the Paymeni of Wages Act, 4 of 1936. 1936, having jurisdiction in the area in which the factory or establishment is situated, and ihe authority shall proceed lo adjudicate upon, and decide, such claim. In hearing such claim, the authority shall have the same powers and shall follows the same proceedure as far as they are applicable, as are conferred by and laid down in ihe Payment of Wages Act, 1936.
- (5) If the authorily aforesaid is satisfied that any such claim or a portion of it is valid so that the righl to receive payment is established, il shall order the Board lo pay ihe amount found due and ihe Board shall make payment accordingly:

Provided that Ihe Board shall not be liable lo pay any sum in excess of that paid under clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 3 to the Board as unpaid accumulations.

- (6) If a claim for payment is refused, the employee shall have a righl of appeal in Calcutta Lo the City Civil Court and elsewhere to the District Judge and ihe Board shall comply with any order made in appeal. An appeal shall lie within sixty days of the decision or the authority.
- (7) The decision of the authority subject to the appeal aforesaid and the decision in appeal of the City Civil Court, or, as the case may be, of the District Judge shall be final and conclusive as to the right 10 receive payment, the liability of the Board to pay and also as to the amount, if any.

(Section 9.)

(8) If no claim is made within Lhe lime specified in sub-section (4), "" or a claim lias been refused as a Tore said by lhe authority or in appeal

by the City Civil Court or the District Judge, as the case may be, then lhe unpaid accumulation in respect of such claim shall vest in the State and shall stand transferred to and from part of the fund.

- 9. (1) The contribution payable under this Acl shall comprise Comribucontribuion payable by an employer (hereinafter referred to as "the employer's contribution"), contribution payable by an employee (hereinafter referred to as "lhe employee's contribution") and the contribution payable by lhe Stale Government, and shall be paid to the Board and Form part of the fund.
- '(2) For each employee whose name stands on the register of an establishment,— $\,$
 - (a) the employer's contribuiion shall be two rupees, and
 - (b) the employee's contribution shall be one rupee, both payable every six months ending on the thirtieth day of June, and lhe thirty-first day of December, each year.
- ²(3) Every employer shall pay lo the Board both the employer's contribution and the employee's contribution before the 15th day of July and Lhe 15th day of January of every year.
- (4) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law bui subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, the employer shall be entitled to recover from each employee Lhe employee's contribution by deduction from his wages and such deduction shall be deemed to be a deduction authorised by or under lhe Payment of Wages

"i «r 1936. Act, 1936:

Provided that no such deduction shall be made from lie wages of an employee other lian the wages for lie months of June and December of every year:

Provided further that if through inadvertence or olherwise no deduction is made from the wages of an employee for the months aforesaid, such deduction may be made for any subsequent month or months will like permission in writing of the Inspector.

(5) Notwithstanding any contract to the contrary no employer shall deduct the employer's contribution from the wages payable to an employee or otherwise recover if from such employee.

'Sub-scciion (2) was firci substituted for lhe original sub-section by s. 6(a) of the Weil Bengal Labour Welfare Fund (AmendmenIQ Act. 1980 (West Ben. Ael XXIII of 1980).

Thereafter, [he same was res uhsli luted by s. 2 of (he West Bengal Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Aei. 1997 {Wesi Ben. Acl XVIII or 1997}.

"Sub-vection (3) was substituted for the original sub-section hy s. 6(b) of lhe West Bengal Labour Welfare Fund (Amtindmiml) Acl. 1980 (West Hen, Acl XXIII or iQism

[Sections JO, 11.)

- (6) Ah employer shall pay (he employer's and employee's contribution to the Board by cheque or money order or in cash and shall bear the expenses of remitting to the board such contributions.
- '(7) The Welfare Commissioner shall submit lo the Siaic Government as soon as possible after the end of July and January every year a statement of the total receipts along with such other information as may be prescribed. On receipt of such statement, the Slate Government shall pay to the Board a contribution of an amouni equal lo the employers' contribution for every six months ending on the thirtieth June and the thirty-first December.
- 10. (I) ir ^{an} employer does not pay to the Board any amount of unpaid accumulation or fine realised from an employee or the amount of employer's or employee's contributions under section 9, within Ihe due time the Welfare Commissioner may cause Lo be served a notice on such employer to pay the amount willin such time as may be mentioned in the notice,
- (2) If the employer fails without sufficient cause to pay such amount within the period specified in the notice, he shall, in addition to thai amount, pay to ihe Board simple interest— -
 - (a) for the first three months at one *percent*, of the said amount for each complete month after the last dale by which he should have paid it according to the notice, and
 - (b) at one and half per cent, of that amount for each complete month thereafter:

Provided that the Welfare Commissioner may, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, remit the whole or any part of penally in respect of any period.

- 11. (1) The fund shall vest in the Board as Trustees and shall be applied for promoting any of the activities connected with the Welfare of Labour referred to in sub-section (2).
- (2) Without prejudice lo the generality of powers in this behalf the fund may be applied by the Board in connection with the following activities, namely:—
 - (a) community and social education centres including reading rooms and libraries,
 - (b) panics and sports,
 - (c) excursions, lours and holiday homes,
 - (d) entertainment and other forms of recreations,
 - (e) home industries and subsidiary occupations for women and unemployed persons,
 - (0 corporate activities of social nature,

This sub-section was substituted for ihe original sub-section (7) by s, 6(c) tir ihe Wesl **Rnnoit I nhnnr** Wrlf-w Fnnii (**AmirnlfTiL-ntl** Acl. 1980 (We«i Ben. Acl XXIII of 1980).

Jiilcresi OTT unpaid nccumula- lions ur fines or corn ri bullous after jiolice of **demand.**

Veiling unit application of fund.

(Sections 12-14.)

- '(fO implementation of any scheme for ihe welfare of labour not femployed in any establishment out of the sum referred to in clause (hh) of sub-section (2) of scciion 3;
- (g) cost of administering the Act including ihe salaries anil allowances of the staff appointed for the purposes of this Acl, and
- (h) such other objects as would in the opinion of the State Government improve the standured of living ameliorate the social conditions of labour.

Provided that the fund shall not be applied in financing any activity which ihe employer is required under any law for the lime being in force lo carry out.

- (3) The Board may, with the approval of the State Government, make a grant out of the fund to any employer, any local authority or any other body in aid of any activity for welfare of labour,
- (4) If any question arises whether any particular expenditure is or is not debatable to the fund, (he matter shall be referred to the Slate Government and the decisior of the Slate Government thereon shall be final.
- (5) It shall be lawful for the Board lo continue any activity financed from the labour welfare fund of any establishment, if Ihe said fund is duly transferred lo the Board.

Power of Board lo bornw.

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12. The Board may from Lime to time with the previous sanction of Hie State Government and subject losuch conditions as may be specified in this behalf borrow any sum required for the purposes of (his Acl.

I LLVCS 1,1) OIL of fund.

13. If (he fund or any portion thereof cannot be applied at an early date for carrying out any of Lhe activities referred to in this Act, Ihe Board shall invest the same in any of the sectirilies specified in clauses (a) to (d) and (0 of section 20 of the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.

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Directions 14, The State Government may give the Board such directions as $G^{\text{ovamm-rii}}$ opinion are necessary or expedient in connection with expenditure to tins Uojrit. $f_{\text{rom L}}^{\text{e}}$ fund or for carrying out of any Ihe purposes or this Act. It shall be the duty of the Board to comply with such directions.

^{&#}x27;Clause (ft"} was inserted by < 7 of the Wosi Bangui Libour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Act. 1980 (West Bc». Acl XXJI1 of IPSO),

(Sections 15-17.)

- 15. (1) There shall be a Welfare Commissioner to be appointed by the Stale Government subject to such terms and conditions or his scrvice as may be prescribed.
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 powers of
 Welfare

Appoint-

Mtiner.

- (2) The Welfare Commissioner shall be the principal executive officer at" the Board.
- (3) It shall be the duly of the Welfare Commissioner lo ensure that the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder are duly earned out and for (his purpose lie shall have the power lo issue such orders not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder as he deems fit including any order implementing the decisions taken by the Board under this Act or the rules made thereunder.
- 16. (I) The State Government may appoint Inspectors for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
- (2) The terms and conditions of service of such Inspectors shall be such as may be prescribed.
 - (3) Any Inspector may—
 - (a) with such assistants, if any, as he considers necessary being persons in the service of the Government, enter at all reasonable hours any premises or place for inspecting any records, registers, documents and notices required Lo be maintained and kept under this Act or the rules made thereunder and require the production thereof for inspection and for taking copies, if necessary, and
 - (b) exercise such other powers us may be prescribed.
- 17. The Board shall take over and employ such of lie existing staff under the control of the Labour Commissioner, West Bengal, as the Stale Government may direct and every person so taken over and employed shall be subject to die provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder:

Absorption of the existing smff of Labour **Commis-**

sioner.

Provided that—

- (a) during (he period or such employment all matters relating to pay, leave, allowances, pensions, provident fund and all other conditions of service of the said staff shall be regulated by the rules of the State Government Tor the time being in force or such other rules as may from lime to lime be made by the State Government;
- (b) every person so taken over shall have a right of appeal lo lhe Slate Government against any order of reduction, dismissal or removal from scrvice or fine or any other npnnllv imnr\sr>rl hv rbp Rnnri'?¹

Appointment of Inspectors

and tlieir powers.

[Seelions IS-21.)

Provided further thai any person so taken over may elect within lhe prescribed period that lie desires to be governed by the regulation¹: made under lliis Act in respect of [lie conditions of service of lhe staff appointed by ilie Board under this Act and on his electing ro do so lhe provisions of lhe first proviso shall cease lo apply lo him.

Appoint- 18. (|) The Board shall appoint such number of officers and other by Board. employees as may be necessary for carrying out its functions under this Act.

(2) The Board shall, with ihe approval of ihe Slale Government, make regulations regarding the method of recruitment, pay and allowances, antl '.ill other conditions of service of lhe members of its stuff appointed under this section:

Provided that until regulations are so made, the conditions of service of sucftsiarf shall be governed by the rules made by like Slate Government in this behalf.

Powvr oT State Government ur authorised officec to l nJI for records, etc. Mode ot reiovcty sums payable

- 19. The State Government or any officer authorised by ihe Slate Government in this behalf may call for the records of lhe Board, inspect the same and supervise lhe working of the Board.
- 20. Any sum payable to lie Board or into the fund under ihis Act shall, without prejudice lo any oilier mode of recovery, be recoverable as un arrcur of land revenue.

to I he Board, clc.
Penalties.

- 21. (0 Any po.rson who wilfully obstructs un Inspector in the exercise of his powers or discharge of his duties under ihis Act or fails lo produce for inspection on demand by an Inspector any registers, records or other documents maintained in pursuance of lhe provisions of this Acl or the rules made thereunder or to supply to him on demand irue copies of any such documents, shall, on conviction, be punished—
 - (a) for the first offence, with imprisonment for a term which may extend to Ihree months, or with fine which may extend lo five hundred rupees, or with both: and
 - (h) for a second or subsequent offerees, with imprisonment Tor a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both:

Provided Lhul in uny ease where the offender is sentenced 10 fine only, the amount of fine shall not be less ih;m fii"tv nmwt

(See I ions 22-24.)

- (2) If any employer—
 - (a) fails to pay any contribution which under this Acl, he is liable to pay, or
 - (b) is guilty of any contravention or or non-compliance with any of ihe requirements of this Act or the rules made thereunder, in respect of which no penalty is provided,

he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend Co two thousand rupees or with both.

- 22. (1) No Court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence punishable under section 21.
- (2) No prosecution Tor such offence shall be instituted except by.an Inspector with the previous sanction of the Welfare Commissioner.
- (3) No Court shall take cognizance or such offence, unless complaint thereof is made within six months of the date on which Ihe offence is alleged co have been committed.
- 23. (1) If the Slate Government is satisfied that the Board has made default in performing any of the duties imposed on it by or under this Act or has abused its power, the State Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazelle*, supersede the Board:

Supersession of

Provisions relating

jurisdiction.

Provided that before issuing the notification under this sub-section, the Slate Government shall give a reasonable opportunity to the Board Lo show cause why it shall not be superseded and shall consider the explanation, if any, of the Board.

- (2) After the supersession of the Board and until it is reconstituted, the powers, duties and functions of the Board under this Acl shall be exercised or performed by such officer or officers, as the Slate Government may appoint for this purpose.
- 24. (1) The State Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazetie* and subject to the condition of previous publication, make rules for carrying otil the purposes of this Act.
- (2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may be made for all or any of the following matters, namely:—
 - (a) the intervals at which or the period within which any of the sums referred to in section 3 shall be paid to the fund, the manner of making such payment and the agency for paying or called inr> nnv such sum:

Rules.

[West Ben. Act

(Sections 24A, 25.)

- (b) ihe manner in which the accounts of Ihe fund shall be maintained and audited under sub-section (4) of section 3;
- (c) the procedure for defraying expenditure out of the fund;
- (d) ihe allowances, payable)o the members of Ihe Board under subsection (4) of section 4;
- (e) the manner referred to in sub-section (6) of section 4 in which the Board shall conduct its business;
- (f) ihe particulars Lo be contained in the notice and ihe other manner in which such notice is to be displayed under subsection (2) of section 8:
- (g) the form for submission of statement under sub-section (7) of section 9;
- (h) the condition subject lo which penally may be remitted under the proviso to sub-section (2) of section 10;
- (i) the terms and conditions nT service of the Welfare Commissioner referred to in sub-section (1) of section 15;
- (j) the lerms and conditions of service of the Inspectors and their powers referred lo in section 16;
- (k) delegation of powers and functions of the Bouid to the Welfare Commissioner and the conditions and Limitations subject to which such powers may be exercised or functions discharged;
- (I) Lhc registers and records to be maintained and returns to be sent to the State Government by the Board under this Act;
- (m) rhe publication oT (he report of [he activities financed from the hind together with a statement of receipts und expenditure of the fund and a statement of accounts;
- (n) any other matter which under this Acl is required to be or may be prescribed.

Power io imke regulations

'24A. The Board may, with Iht previous approval of the State Government, by notification irt lhc *Official Gazette*, make regulations, not inconsistent with ihe provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder, for discharging its functions under this Act,

Members ot Bcitd, Welfare Com mis- si cner. TnspcCLO n. and all officers and employees

public servants. 25. The members of the Board, ihe Welfare Commissioner, the Inspectors and all other officers and other employees of the Board shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the 45 of Indian Penal Code.

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(Sections 26-28.)

26. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against Protection to any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act. $P^{1}**^{1}$

27. The Stale Government may, by notification in the *Official Gnzetie, Exemptions*, exempt any class oF establishments from all or any of the provisions of this Acl subject to such conditions as may be specified in the notification.

28. In section S of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936. in its application
lo Wesl Bengal, to sub-section (S), the following proviso shall be added
before the Explanation, namely:—

1936.

"Provided that in lhe case of any establishment lo which the West Bengal

 1 Sect ion 14 A was i nscried by s. H of l h c West Ben gal Liibo u r Wcl fine l'u nd (A n icnd mc n 0 $$\rm Ar^*\,lORfl\,W>ci$ Win sr ».M>r^

Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1974, applies, all such realisations shall be paid into the fund constituted under lhe said Act.".

For Statement of Objects anil Reasons, see (lie Calcutta Gillette, Extraordinary. Pan JV, of the 6lli March, 1974, page 498; Tor proceedings of (he West Bengal Legislative Assembly, *see* the proceedings of the meeting of thai Assembly held oil the 3rd April. 1974.
The words williin the square brackets were inserted by s. 2(a) of the West Bengal