

## **INDIAN SECURITIES ACT, 1920**

**10 of 1920**

**[11th March, 1920]**

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## **INDIAN SECURITIES ACT, 1920**

**10 of 1920**

**[11th March, 1920]**

An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities. WHEREAS it is expedient to consolidate and amend the

law relating to Government securities; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

### **1. Short title extent and commencement :-**

Section

(1) This Act may be called the Indian Securities Act, 1920;

(2) It extends.[This Act ceased to apply with effect from the 1st May, 1946, to certain Government securities and other matters, see the Public Dept.Act, 1944 (18 of 1944), section 29] to the whole of India except [The words " including British Baluchistan" Omitted by the A.O.1948]; and [Substituted by the Adaptation of Laws(No.3) Order, 1956, for" Part B States".] [the territories which, immediately before the 1st November, 1956, were comprised in Part B States]

(3) It shall come into force on the first day of April, 1920.

### **2. Definitions :-**

Section In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a) " Government security" means promissory notes(including treasury bills), stock-certificates, bearer bonds and all other securities issued [Substituted by by the Adaptation of Laws(No.3) Order, 1956, for "by the Central Government or by the Government of any Part A State"] [by the Central Government at any time or by the Government of any part A State before the 1st November, 1956, or by a State Government on or after that date] in respect of any loan contracted either before or after the passing of this Act, but does not include a currency- note ; and

(b) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act; [Inserted by the A.O.1937 ][(c)"the Government " or "Government "in relation to any loan or security, means the Government raising the loan or issuing the security.]

### **3. Notice of trust not receivable save as provided :-**

Section

(1) Save as otherwise provided in or under this Act, no notice of any trust in respect of any Government security shall be receivable by the Government.Notice of trust not receivable save as provided.

(2) The Government shall not be deemed to have received notice

any trust by reason only of the fact that it has recognized an indorsement on a Government security by an executor or administrator as such, nor shall it inquire into the terms of any will by which such executor or administrator may be bound, but on being satisfied of the due appointment of such executor or administrator it shall be entitled to treat him as the full owner of any Government security belonging to the estate of the person whom he represents. Right of survivors of joint or several payees of Government securities.

#### **4. Right of survivors of joint or several payees of Government securities :-**

Section

(1) Notwithstanding anything in section 45 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, (9 of 1872)--

(a) when a Government security is payable to two or more persons jointly and either or any of them dies, the security shall be payable to the survivor or survivors of those persons, and

(b) when a Government security is payable to two or more persons severally and either or any of them dies, the security shall be payable to the survivor or survivors of those persons or to the representative of the deceased, or to any of them.

(2) This section shall apply whether such death occurred or occurs before or after this Act come into force.

(3) Nothing herein contained shall affect any claim which any representative of a deceased person may have against the survivor or survivors under or in respect of any security to which sub-section (1) applies. [Inserted By Act 2 of 1928, section 2 ]

[(4) For the purpose of this section, a body incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 1913, [See now the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956).] (7 of 1913.) or the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912, (2 of 1912.) or any other enactment for the time being in force whether within or without [ Subs. By the A.O. 1950, for "the Provinces".] [India], relating to the incorporation of associations of individuals, shall be deemed to die when it is dissolved.]

#### **5. Indorsements to be made on security itself :-**

Section Notwithstanding anything in section 15 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, (26 of 1881.) no indorsement of a

Government promissory note shall be valid unless made by the signature of the holder inscribed on the back of the security itself.

## **6. Holding of Government securities by holders of public offices :-**

Section

(1) In the case of any public office to which the [Substituted By the A.O.1937, for "G.G.in C."].[Government] may by notification in the Official Gazette, declare this sub-section to apply, a Government security may be made or indorsed payable to or to the order of the holder of the office by the name of the office.

(2) When a Government security is made or indorsed as aforesaid, it shall be deemed to be transferred without any or further indorsement from each holder of the office to the succeeding holder of the office on and from the date on which the latter takes charge of the office.

(3) When the holder of the office indorses to a third party a Government security made or indorses as aforesaid, he shall subscribe the indorsement with his name and the name of the office.

(4) A writing on a Government security now or heretofore standing in the name of the holder of a public office, whereby the security has been or was made or indorsed payable to or to the order of the holder of the office by the name of the office, shall not be deemed to be or to have been invalid by reason only of the security having been so made or indorsed.

(5) This section applies as well to an office of which there are two or more joint holders as to an office of which there is a single holder.

## **7. Issue of securities to ruler of States in India :-**

Section Notwithstanding anything in the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, (26 of 1881.) the [Substituted by the A.O.1937 for "G.G.in C." ] [Government] may in respect of any loan, issue to the rulers of any [Substituted by the A.O.1948 for ' State in India".] [[The words "Acceding State other" omitted by the A.O.1950 Indian State] Government securities in such form and subject to such conditions as to negotiability, succession and other matters as may be prescribed.

## **8. Indorser of Government security not liable for amount thereof :-**

Section Notwithstanding anything in the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, (26 of 1881.) a person shall not, by reason only of his having indorsed a Government security, be liable to pay any money due, either as principal or as interest, thereunder.

## **9. Impression of signature on Government securities :-**

Section

(1) The signature of the person authorised to sign Government securities on behalf of the Government may be printed, engraved or lithographed, or impressed by such other mechanical process as the [Substituted by the A.O.1937 for " G.G.in C." ] [Government] may direct on the securities. Impression of signature on Government securities.

(2) A signature so printed, engraved, lithographed or otherwise impressed shall be as valid as if it had been inscribed in the proper handwriting of the person so authorised.

## **10. Issue of duplicate securities :-**

Section

(1) When a Government security is alleged to have been lost, [Inserted By Act 21 of 1927, section 2] [Stolen] or destroyed either wholly or in part, and a person claims to be the person to whom but for the loss, [Inserted By Act 21 of 1927, section 2] [theft] or destruction it would be payable, he may, on application to the prescribed [Substituted By Act 28 of 1937 , section 2, for "officer".] [authority], and on producing proof to [Substituted By section 2 ibid., for "his".][its] satisfaction of the loss, [Inserted By Act 21 of 1927, section 2] [theft] or destruction and of the justice of the claim and on payment of the prescribed fee, if any , obtain from [Substituted By section 2 , ibid., for " him ".][it] an order for

(a) the payment of interest in respect of the security said to be lost, 1434 [stolen] or destroyed pending the issue of a duplicate security; and

(b) the issue of a duplicate security payable to the applicant.

(2) An order shall not be passed under sub-section (1) until after the issue of the prescribed notification of the loss, [Inserted By Act 21 of 1927, section 2]] [theft] or destruction

(3) A list of the securities in respect of which an order is passed under after sub-section (1) shall be published in the prescribed manner. [Inserted By Act 21 of 1927, section 2] [(4) If at any time before the Government becomes discharged under the provisions of this Act from liability in respect of any security the whole of which is alleged to have been lost, stolen or destroyed, such security is found, any order passed in respect thereof under this section shall be cancelled.]

**11. Renewal of bearer bonds :-**

Section The holder of a bearer bond or other Government security payable to bearer, May on to the prescribed [Substituted By Act 28 of 1937, section 3 , for " officer ".] [authority], on delivery of the bearer bond or other security, and on payment of the prescribed fee, if any, obtain from such [Substituted By Act 28 of 1937, section 3 , for " officer ".] [authority] a renewed bearer bond or other security, as the case may be.

**12. Renewal of promissory notes :-**

Section

Subject to the provisions of section 13, a person claiming to be entitled to a Government promissory not, may, on applying to the prescribed {Substituted By section 4 By Act 28 of 1937, for "officer ".} [authority] and on satisfying Substituted By section 4 Act 28 of 1937 for " him ".][it] of the justice of his claim and delivering the promissory note receipted in the prescribed manner, and paying the prescribe fee.if any, obtain, from such [Substituted By Act 28 of 1937, section 4 for " officer".] [authority] a renewed promissory note payable to him: Provided that, when application is made for the renewal of a Government promissory note which appears to the prescribed [Substituted By Act 28 of 1937, section 4 for " officer".] [authority] to stand in the name of a deceased member of a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara law, a renewed promissory note shall not be issued to the applicant unless he furnish es a certificate signed by such authority and after such inquiry as may be prescribed to the effect that the deceased belonged to a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara law, that the promissory note formed part of the joint property of the family, and that the applicant is the managing or sole surviving male member of the family.

Explanation.-- The expression " Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara law" Shall, for the purpose of this section, be

deemed to include a Malabar taruad.

### **13. Renewal of promissory notes in case of dispute as to title :-**

Section

(1) Where there is a dispute as to the title to a Government promissory note in respect of which an application for renewal has been made, the prescribed {Substituted By section 5 , Act 28 of 1937, for " officer ".}[authority] may.-Renewal of promissory notes in case of dispute as to titles.

(a) where any party to the dispute has obtained a final decision from a Court of competent jurisdiction declaring him to be entitled to such note, issue a renewed note in note in favour of such party, or

(b) refuse to renew the note until such a decision has been obtained, or

(c) after such inquiry as is hereinafter provided and consideration of the result thereof declare by order in writing which of the parties is in [Substituted By section 5 , Act 28 of 1937, for "his ".][its] opinion entitled to such note and may, after the expiration of three months from the date of such declaration, issue a renewed note in favour of such party in accordance with the provisions of section 12, unless within that period [Substituted By section 5, Act 28 of 1937, for "he".] [it] has received notice that proceedings have been instituted by any person in a Court of competent jurisdiction for the purpose of establishing a title to such note. Explanation.- For the purpose of this sub-section the expression "final decision" means a decision which is not appealable or a decision which is appealable but against which no appeal has been filed within the period of limitation allowed by law.

(2) For purpose of the inquiry referred to in sub-section (1), the prescribed [Substituted by Act 28 of 1937, section 5, for "officer"] may [Subs.by section 5, Act 28 of 1937, for "himself"].[direct one of its officers to] record, or may request the District Magistrate to record or to have recorded, the whole or any part of such evidence as the parties may produce, when such request has been made to the District any Magistrate of , such Magistrate may himself record or may direct any Magistrate of the second-class subordinate to and empowered by general or special order of the [Substituted by the A.O.1937, for "L.G." ] [Government ] in this behalf, to this behalf,

to record the evidence, and shall forward a copy thereof to the prescribed [Substituted by Act 28 of 1937, section 5, for "officer"] [authority].

Explanation.-For the purposes of this sub-section, the District Magistrate means the District Magistrate having jurisdiction in the place where interest on the promissory note is payable and where interest is payable at a place in a Part B State, the Chief Presidency Magistrate [The words " or at a place in a Part B State, the Political Agent" omitted by the adaptation of Laws (No.3.) Order, 1956]

(3) [Substituted by Act 28 of 1937, 5, for " The prescribed Officer"] [The officer of the prescribed authority] or any Magistrate acting under this section may, if he thinks fit, record evidence on oath.

#### **14. Renewal of other securities :-**

Section Government securities other than those mentioned in sections 11 and 12 may be renewed in such circumstances and in such manner as may be prescribed.

#### **15. Issue of converted, etc., securities :-**

Section

(1) The prescribed Subs.by s.6, *ibid.*, for "officer".][authority] may, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, on the application of a person claiming to be entitled to a Government security or securities, on being satisfied of the justice of the claim and on delivery of the security or securities receipted in the prescribed manner and on payment of the prescribed fee, if any, convert, consolidate or sub-divide the securities or securities, and issue to the applicant a new security or accordingly.

(2) The conversion, consolidation, or sub-division referred to in sub-section (1) may be into a security or securities of the same or different classes or of the same or different loans

#### **16. Liability in respect of promissory note renewed, etc :-**

Section

(1) When a renewed Government promissory note has been issued under section 12, or a new Government promissory note has been issued upon conversion, consolidation or sub-division under section 15, in favour of any person, the note so issued shall be deemed to constitute a new contract between the Government and such person and all persons deriving title thereafter through him.

(2) No such renewal, conversion, consolidation or sub-division shall affect the rights as against the Government of any other person to the security or securities so renewed, converted, consolidated or sub-divided.

**17. Immediate discharge in certain cases :-**

Section

On payment by or on behalf of the Government to the holder of a bearer bond or other Government security payable to bearer of the amount expressed therein on or after the date when it becomes due, or on renewal of a bearer, bond or other security payable to bearer under section 11, or on renewal of a Government promissory note under section 13, or on conversion, consolidation or sub-division of a bearer bond or other security payable in the same way and to the same extent as if such bearer bond, promissory note other security were a promissory note payable to bearer:

Provided that in the case of a Government promissory note renewed under section 13, nothing in this section shall be deemed to bar a claim against the Government in respect of such note by any person who had no notice of the proceedings under that section, or who derives title through any such person.

**18. Discharge in other cases :-**

Section

Save as otherwise provided in this Act –

(i) on payment of the amount due on a Government security on or after the date on which payment becomes due, or Discharge in other cases

(ii) When a duplicate security has been issued under section 10, or

(iii) When a renewed renewed security has been issued under section 12 or section 13, or a new security or has or have been issued upon conversion, consolidation or sub-division under section 15 ,the Government shall be discharged from all liability in respect of the security or securities so paid or in place of which a duplicate, renewed, or new securities has or have been issued:

(a) in the case of payment- after the lapse of six years from the date on which payment was due;

(b) in years a duplicate security- after the lapse of six years from

the date of publication under sub - section (3) of section 10 of the list in which the security is first mentioned, or from the date of the last payment of interest on the original security, whichever date is later;

(c) in the case of a renewed security or of a new security issued upon conversion , consolidation or sub- division after the lapse of six years from the date of the issue thereof. [Ins.By Act 21 of 1927, s.3]

**18A. Discharge in respect of interest :-**

Section Save as otherwise expressly provided in the terms of a Government security, no person shall entitled to claim interest on any such security in respect of any period which has elapsed after the earliest date on which demand could have been made for the payment of the amount due on such security.]

**19. Procedure on death of holder of securities not exceeding an aggregate value of five thousand rupees :-**

Section Summary procedure in certain cases

(1) If within six months of the death of a person who was entitled to a Government security or securities (other than a security payable to bearer ) the nominal or face value of which does not in the aggregate exceed five thousand rupees, probate of the will or letters of administration of the estate of such person or a certificate granted under the [ See now the Indian Succession Act, 1925 ( 39 of 1925 )] Succession Certificate Act, 1889, (7 of 1889.) is not produced to the prescribed [ Subs.By Act 28 of 1937 , s.6 for "officer" ] [authority] , such [ Subs.By Act 28 of 1937 , s.6 for "officer" ] [authority] may, after inquiry in the manner

provided in the sub - sections (2) and (3) of section 13 , determine who is the person entitled to the security or securities or to administer the estate of the deceased , and may-

(a) in the case of any such security relating to a loan due for repayment , authorise payment of the amount due thereon to such person ; and

(b) in the case of any such security relating to a loan not due for repayment , authorise , in the case of a promissory note, the renewal of such person , or, in the case of stock , the registration of the name of such person in substitution for the name of the deceased; and

(2) Upon the payment or renewal of any promissory note in accordance with sub-section (1), the Government shall be discharged from all liability in respect of the note so paid or renewed ; and any substitution of names made in accordance with clause (b) of sub-section (1) shall, for the purposes of any claim against the government , be deemed to have effected a valid transfer of the stock in respect of which it was made.

(3) Any creditor or claimant against the estate of the deceased may recover his debt or claim out of money paid to any person under sub-section (1) and remaining in his hands unadministered in the same manner and to the same extent as if the said person had obtained letters of administration of the estate of the deceased , and nothing in this section shall affect any claim of an executor or administrator or other representative of the deceased against such person other than a claim to recover amounts lawfully paid by him a in due course of administration of the estate of the deceased.

## **20. Payment in case of securities held by minors and lunatics :-**

Section Where a Government security stands in the name of or is held by a minor or a person who is insane and incapable of managing his affairs, the interest accruing thereon, or the capital sum payable in respect thereof on the maturity or discharge of the loan, shall, where, in the case of interest payable, the nominal value of the security, or in other cases the sum payable, does not exceed five thousand rupees, be paid in such manner as may be prescribed, and on any payment being so made, the Government shall, notwithstanding any provision of any enactment to the contrary, be discharged from all liability in respect thereof.

## **21. Indemnity :-**

Section

Notwithstanding anything in section 10, 12, 13, or 15, the prescribed [Substituted by Act 28 of 1937, section 6, for "officer".] [authority] may in any case arising under any of those sections

(i) issue a duplicate or renewed security or convert, consolidate or sub-divide a security or securities upon the applicant giving the prescribed indemnity against the claims of all persons claiming under the original security or under the security or securities so renewed , converted , consolidated or sub - divided, as the case may be, or

(ii) refuse to issue a duplicate or renewed security or to convert, consolidate or sub-divide a security or securities unless such indemnity is given.

## **22. Inspection of registers, books and documents :-**

Section No person shall be entitled to inspect, or to receive information derived from, any Government security in the possession of the Government or from any book, register or other document kept or maintained by or on behalf of Government in relation to Government securities or any Government security save in such circumstances and manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.

## **23. Penalty :-**

Section

(1) If any person, for the purpose of obtaining for himself or for any other person payment of interest or of the capital sum due in respect of any Government security, or the issue of a duplicate security or the renewal conversion, consolidation or sub-division of a Government security or security, makes to any authority under this Act a statement which is false and which he either knows to be false or does not believe to be true, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.

(2) No Court shall take cognizance of any offence under sub-section (1) save on the complaint of the authority to whom the false statement was made.

## **24. Power to make rules :-**

Section

(1) The [Substituted By the A.O.1937, for "g.G.in C."] [Government ] may after previous publication make rules [For such rules, see Gazette of India, dated the 2nd March, 1935.] to carry out the purpose of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:-

(a) the manner in which payment of interest in respect of Government securities is to be made and acknowledged;

(b) the circumstances in which Government securities must be

renewed before further payment of interest thereon can be claimed;

(c) the form in which and the condition subject to which Government securities may be issued to the rulers of States in India ;

(d) the fees to be paid in respect of the issue of duplicate securities and of the renewal, conversion, consolidation and sub-division of Government securities.

(e) the proof which is to be produced by persons applying for duplicate securities;

(f) the form and manner of publication of the notification mentioned in sub-section (2) of section 10 and the manner of publication of the list mentioned in sub-division (3) of that section;

(m) the [Substituted by Act 28 of 1937 of , section 7, for " officer who"] [authority which] is to exercise all or any of the powers and to perform all or any of the duties referred to in sections 10,11,12,13,15,19 and 21;

(g) the manner of making the inquiry mentioned in the proviso to section 12

(i) the circumstances and the manner in which securities other than securities payable to bearer or promissory notes are to be renewed;

(j) the form in which securities delivered for discharge, renewal, conversion, consolidation or sub-division are to be receipted;

(k) the conditions subject to which securities may be converted, consolidated or sub-divided;

(l) the person to whom and the manner in which payment are to be made in respect of Government securities standing in the name of, or held by, minors or persons who are insane and incapable of managing their affairs;

(m) the taking of indemnities against adverse claims of third parties from persons who receive payment of interest or of the capital sum due in respect of Government securities, or who obtain duplicate, renewed, converted, consolidated or sub-divided securities;

(n) the manner in which any document relating to Government

securities or any indorsement on a Government promissory note may, on the demand of any person who from any cause is unable to write, be executed on his behalf;

(o) enabling holders of Government stock to be described in the registers of such stock as trustees, and either as trustees of such stock as trustees, and either as trustees of any particular trust or as trustees without qualification, and for the recognition of powers of attorney granted by holders of stock so described.

(p) the holding of Government stock by the holders of offices other than public offices and the manner in which and the conditions subject to which stock so held may be transferred;

(q) the mode of attestation of documents relating to Government stock;

(r) generally all matters connected with the grant of duplicate, renewed, converted, consolidated and sub-divided securities; and

(s) the circumstances and the manner in which and the conditions subject to which inspection of securities, books, registers and other documents may be allowed or information therefrom may be given under section 22.

(3) Nothing in any rules made under clauses (o) and (p) shall, as between any trustees or as between any trustees and the beneficiaries under a trust, be deemed to authorise the trustees to act otherwise than in accordance with the rules of law applying to the trust and the terms of the instrument constituting the trust, and neither the Government nor any person holding or acquiring any interest in any Government stock shall, by reason only of any entry in any register maintained by or on behalf of the Government in relation to any Government stock or any stockholder, or of anything in any document relating to Government stock, be affected with notice of any trust or of the fiduciary character of any stockholder or of any fiduciary obligation attaching to the holding of any Government stock.

(4) Rules made under this section shall be published in the Official Gazette, and shall thereupon have effect as if enacted in this Act.

<sup>1</sup> [(5) Every rule made by the Central Government under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or

more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule. (6) Every rule made by the State Government under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before the State Legislature. ]

pb1. In the THE INDIAN SECURITIES ACT, 1920 in sec. 24, sub-section (5) shall be Inserted by Delegated Legislation Provisions (Amendment) Act 1986 ( 4 of 1986) w.e.f 15-5-1986.

### **25. Repeals :-**

Section [ ] Rep.By the Repealing Act, 1927 (12 of 1927 ), s.2 and Sch.[ Ins.By the A.O.1937.]

### **26. Provision as to Indian Securities :-**

Section For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that the rights of all persons in relation to Indian securities are to be determined, in connection with all such questions as are dealt with] by this Act in relation to Government securities, by the law [Substituted By the A.O.1950, for " of the Provinces of India ".The words " the Provinces of India " were Substituted By the A.O.1948 for " British India.] [in force in [Subs.by the Adaptation of Laws (No.3) Order, 1956, .For " Part A States and Part C States ".] [the territories to which this Act extends].]]