

Contempt of Courts (CAT) Rules, 1992

CONTENTS

1. Short title and commencement
2. Definitions
3. Form of Motion
4. Parties to the Proceedings
5. Contents of the Petition
6. Taking cognizance
7. Initiation of proceedings
8. Preliminary hearing and Notice
9. Compelling attendance
10. Appearance of the Respondent
11. Reply by the Respondent
12. Right to be defended by an Advocate
13. Hearing of the case and trial
14. Assistance in the conduct of proceedings
15. Procedure for trial
16. Expenses of witnesses
17. Execution of sentence
18. Execution of processes
19. Procedure on forfeiture of the Bond
20. Apology at any stage of the proceedings
21. Costs
22. Application of other Rules of the Tribunal
23. Application to pending proceedings

Contempt of Courts (CAT) Rules, 1992

G.S.R.757(E), dated, 8th September, 1992. 1 In exercise of the powers conferred by Sec. 23 of the CONTEMPT OF COURTS ACT, 1971 (70 OF 1971), read with S.17 of the ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS ACT, 1985 and all other powers enabling it in this behalf and in supersession of all rules on the subject, the Central Administrative Tribunal hereby makes the following rules to regulate the proceedings under the said Act.

1. Short title and commencement :-

- (i) These rules may be called the 'Contempt of Courts (CAT) Rules, 1992.'
- (ii) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the

Official Gazette.

2. Definitions :-

In these Rules unless there is anything repugnant to the subject context:-

(a) 'Act' means the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 (Act 70 of 1971) ;

(b) 'Code' means the Code of Criminal Procedure;

(c) 'Form' means the form set out in the appendix to these rules ;

(d) 'Member' means a Member, whether 'Judicial' or Administrative' and includes Vice Chairman and Chairman;

(e) 'Registrar' means Registrar of the Central Administrative Tribunal or its Benches where the contempt proceedings are taken and shall include Joint Registrar and Deputy Registrar, and the Section Officer authorised to discharge the functions of the Registrar;

(f) 'Section' means a section of the Act;

(g) 'Tribunal ' means the Central Administrative Tribunal constituted under the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 or the Bench thereof, where the proceedings are taken cognizance of;

(h) Words and expressions not defined in these rules shall have the same meaning as defined in the Act.

3. Form of Motion :-

Every motion for initiating action for contempt of the Tribunal shall be in the form of a petition described as 'Contempt Petition (Civil)' in respect of Civil Contempt and 'Contempt Petition (Criminal)' in respect of Criminal Contempt.

4. Parties to the Proceedings :-

The party who presents the petition shall be described as the 'Petitioner' and the alleged contemner shall be described as the 'Respondent'.

5. Contents of the Petition :-

The petition shall set out the following particulars :-

(i)

(a) Name (including as far as possible the name of the

father/mother/husband) age, occupation and address of-

(i) the petitioner; and

(ii) the respondent.

(b) provisions of the Act invoked and the nature of the contempt, 'Civil' or Criminal';

(c) the grounds and material facts constituting the alleged contempt including the date of alleged contempt, divided into paragraphs, numbered consecutively, alongwith supporting documents or certified/photostat (attested) copies of the originals thereof;

(d) the nature of the order sought from the Tribunal ;

(e) if a petition has previously been made by him on the same facts, the details, particulars and the result thereof;

(f) the petition shall be supported by an affidavit verifying the facts relied upon except when the motion is by the Attorney General or the Solicitor General or the Additional Solicitor General;

(g) every petition shall be signed by the petitioner and his Advocate, if any, and shall show the place and date;

(h) draft charges shall be enclosed in a separate sheet;

(i) in the case of 'Civil Contempt' certified copy of the judgment, decree, order, writ or undertaking alleged to have been disobeyed shall be filed alongwith the petition;

(j) where the petitioner relies upon any other document/s in his possession, or power, he shall file them along with the petition;

(ii) in the case of 'Criminal Contempt' of the Tribunal other than a contempt referred to in Section 14 of the Act, the petitioner shall state whether he has obtained the consent of the Attorney General or the Solicitor General or the Additional Solicitor General and if so, produce the same, if not the reasons thereof;

(iii) The petitioner shall file three complete sets of the petition including the annexures in paper book form, duly indexed and paginated. Where the number of respondents is more than one, equal number of extra paper books shall be filed ;

(iv) No fee shall be payable on a petition or any document filed in

the proceedings.

6. Taking cognizance :-

Every proceeding for contempt shall be dealt with by a Bench of not less than two Members : Provided where the contempt is alleged to have been committed in view of, presence or bearing of the Member/(s), the same shall be dealt with by the Member/(s) in accordance with Section 14 of the Act.

7. Initiation of proceedings :-

(i) Every petition for 'Civil Contempt' made in accordance with these rules shall be scrutinised by the Registrar, registered and numbered in the Registry and then placed before the Bench for preliminary hearing.

(ii) Every petition for 'Criminal Contempt' made in accordance with these rules and every information other than a petition, for initiating action for criminal contempt under the Act on being scrutinised by the Registrar shall be placed on the administrative side before the Chairman in the case of the Principal Bench and the concerned Vice Chairman in the case of other Benches or such other Member as may be designated by him for this purpose and he considers it expedient and proper to take action under the Act, the said petition or information shall be registered and numbered in the Registry and placed before the Bench for preliminary hearing.

(iii) When suo motu action is taken, the statement of facts constituting the alleged contempt and copy of the draft charges shall be prepared and signed by the Registrar before placing them for preliminary hearing.

8. Preliminary hearing and Notice :-

(i) The Bench if satisfied that a prima facie case has been made out, may direct issue of notice to the respondent; otherwise, it shall dismiss the petition or drop the proceedings.

(ii) The notice shall be in Form No. I and shall be accompanied by a copy of the petition or information, and annexures if, any thereto.

(iii) Service of notice shall be effected in the manner specified in the Central Administrative Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1987 or in such other manner as may be directed by the Bench.

9. Compelling attendance :-

(i) The Tribunal may, if it has reason to believe, that the respondent is absconding or is otherwise evading service of notice, or has failed to appear in person in pursuance of the notice, direct a warrant, bailable or non-bailable, for his arrest, addressed to one or more Police Officers or may order attachment of property belonging to such person. The warrant and the writ of attachment shall be issued under the signature of the Registrar. The warrant shall be in Form No. II and shall be executed as far as may be, in the manner provided, for execution of warrants under the Code.

(ii) The warrant shall be executed by the Officer or Officers to whom it is directed and may also be executed by any other Police Officer whose name is endorsed upon the warrant by the Officer to whom it is directed or endorsed.

(iii) Every person who is arrested and detained shall, if he cannot be produced before the Tribunal within twenty-four hours of arrest excluding the time necessary for the journey from the place of arrest to the Tribunal, be produced before the nearest Magistrate within the said period, who may authorise detention till such person is produced before the Tribunal.

(iv) Every person who is arrested and detained when produced before the Tribunal, may be released on bail on a bond for such a sum of money as the Tribunal thinks sufficient with or without sureties, with the condition that the person so released shall attend the Tribunal at the time and place mentioned in the bond and shall continue to so attend until otherwise directed by the Tribunal : Provided that the Tribunal may, if it thinks fit instead of taking bail from such person, release him on personal bond for his attendance. The Provisions of the Code shall, so far as may be, apply to all arrests made and bonds executed under the Rules.

10. Appearance of the Respondent :-

Unless ordered otherwise by the Tribunal, whenever a notice is issued under these rules, the Respondent shall appear in person in the case of 'criminal contempt' and in person or through an advocate in the case of 'civil contempt', at the time and place specified in the notice and continue to attend on subsequent dates to which the petition is posted.

11. Reply by the Respondent :-

The Respondent may file his reply duly supported by an affidavit on or before the first date of hearing or within such extended time as

may be granted by the Tribunal.

12. Right to be defended by an Advocate :-

Every person against whom proceedings are initiated under the Act, may as of right be defended by an Advocate of his choice.

13. Hearing of the case and trial :-

Upon consideration of the reply filed by the Respondent and after hearing the parties,-

(a) if the respondent has tendered an unconditional apology after admitting that he has committed the contempt, the Tribunal may proceed to pass such orders as it deems fit;

(b) if the respondent does not admit that he has committed contempt, the Tribunal may-

(i) if it is satisfied that there is a prima facie case proceed to frame the charges in Form No. III (subject to modification or addition by the Tribunal at any time); or

(ii) drop the proceedings and discharge the respondent, if it is satisfied that there is no prima facie case, or that it is not expedient to proceed.

(c) the respondent shall be furnished with a copy of the charge framed, which shall be read over and explained to the respondent. The Tribunal shall then record his plea, if any;

(d) if the respondent pleads guilty, the Tribunal may adjudge him guilty and proceed to pass such sentence as it deems fit;

(e) if the respondent pleads not guilty, the case may be taken up for trial on the same day or posted to any subsequent date as may be directed by the Tribunal.

14. Assistance in the conduct of proceedings :-

The Attorney General/Solicitor General/Addl. Solicitor General, or any other Advocate as maybe designated by the Tribunal shall appear and assist the Tribunal in the conduct of the proceedings against the respondent.

15. Procedure for trial :-

(i) Except as otherwise provided in the Act and these rules, the procedure prescribed for summary trials under Chapter XXI of the Code shall as far as practicable be followed in the trial of cases for

contempt

(ii) The Tribunal may, at its discretion, direct that evidence be produced in the form of affidavits.

(iii) The Tribunal may, either suo motu or on motion made for that purpose, order the attendance for cross-examination of a person whose affidavit has been filed in the matter.

(iv) The Tribunal may, at its discretion, direct any person to be examined as Tribunal witness.

(v) The Tribunal may make such order as it deems fit for the purpose of securing the attendance of any person to be examined as a witness and for discovery or production of any document.

16. Expenses of witnesses :-

(i) Where any person is summoned by the Tribunal to appear as a witness in any proceedings under the Act the expenses of such witness as may be determined by the Tribunal shall be borne by the party who has cited him as a witness.

(ii) Where the Tribunal summons any witness other than the witnesses cited by the parties, his expenses as determined by the Tribunal shall be paid by the Registrar from the funds for contingencies.

17. Execution of sentence :-

(i) If the respondent is found guilty and is sentenced to imprisonment other than imprisonment till rising of the Tribunal, a warrant of commitment and detention shall be made out in Form No. IV under the signature of the Registrar. Every such warrant shall remain in force until it is executed or cancelled by order of the Tribunal. The Superintendent of Jail specified in the order shall, in pursuance of the warrant detain the contemner in custody for the period specified therein subject to such further direction as the Tribunal may give.

(ii) When the Tribunal awards a sentence of fine and the fine amount is not paid at once or within such time as may be granted by the Tribunal, the Registrar shall take action in any one of the ways provided in S.421 of the Code of civil procedure, 1908.

(iii) Warrants to be issued under sub-rule (ii) shall be in Form No. V and VI, as the case may be.

(iv) The report of the action taken by the Superintendent of the Jail or the Police Officer or District Collector to whom the warrant under subrule (iii) might have been addressed shall be filed in the records of the case.

18. Execution of processes :-

Processes issued by the Tribunal shall, except as otherwise specifically provided, be executed by the Superintendent of Police/Commissioner of Police, as the case may be.

19. Procedure on forfeiture of the Bond :-

If any bond given for appearance of the Respondent is forfeited due to his absence, the Tribunal may, after giving opportunity to the Respondent or the surety, as the case may be, levy the whole or any part of the amount mentioned in the surety bond, as penalty and direct the same to be recovered as if it were a fine imposed on the Respondent/surety under the Code.

20. Apology at any stage of the proceedings :-

(i) If at any time during the pendency of the proceedings, the contemner tenders an apology, the same shall be placed expeditiously for orders of the bench.

(ii) If the Tribunal accepts the apology, further proceedings shall be dropped.

21. Costs :-

(i) The Tribunal may award costs as it deems fit in the circumstances of the case.

(ii) The costs so awarded shall be recovered in the same manner as a fine imposed under the Code.

22. Application of other Rules of the Tribunal :-

In matters not specifically provided for in these rules, the procedure prescribed in the relevant rules of the Tribunal as amended from time to time shall mutatis mutandis apply to proceedings under these rules.

23. Application to pending proceedings :-

These rules shall as far as practicable be applicable to pending proceedings.