

**THE AZAD GOVT. OF THE STATE OF JAMMU & KASHMIR,
LAW & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT,
MUZAFFARABAD.**

Dated: the 25 February, 1978.

No 580/SL/78. The following Ordinance made by the President on the 25th day of February, 1978, is hereby published for general information:-

(ORDINANCE VII OF 1978)

AN

ORDINANCE

to provide for law relating to the punishment for withholding informations required by the Government for efficient conduct of an inquiry

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for law relating to the punishment for withholding informations required by the Government for efficient conduct of an inquiry, in the manner hereinafter appearing;

AND WHEREAS the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub section (1) of Section 41 of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution Act, 1974, the President is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance :-

1. **Short title, extent and commencement:-** (1) This Ordinance may be called the Conduct of Inquiry (Punishment for withholding Information) Ordinance, 1978.
 - (2) It extends to the whole of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and shall apply to all State Subjects wherever they may be.
 - (3) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Definitions:-** In this Ordinance, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-
 - (a) 'Chief Executive' means the Chief Executive of Azad Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) 'Government' means the Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) 'Order' includes directions and letters of any kind;

3. **Power to obtain information:-** (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force the Government, or a person authorised by it in this behalf, may by order require any person to furnish or produce to any specified authority or person any such information or document in his possession or under his control as may be specified in the order being information or document which the Government or the person authorised by it considers it necessary or expedient for efficient conduct of inquiry by an Inquiry Commission.

(2) If any person withholds or fails to furnish any information or document in compliance with an order made under sub-section (1), he shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

False statement:- If any person,-

(i) when required by or under the provisions of this Ordinance to make any statement or furnish any information makes any statement or furnishes any information which he knows or has reasonable cause to believe to be false, or not true, in any material particular, or

(ii) makes any such statement as aforesaid in any account, declaration or other document which he is required by or under the provisions of this Ordinance to furnish, he shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine or with both.

4. **Power to require production of books, etc:-** (1) Where any person is required by or under any of the provisions of this Ordinance to make any statement or furnish any statement or furnish any information to any authority that authority made order, with a view to verifying the statement may be or the information furnished by such person, further require him to produce any books, accounts or other documents relating thereto which may be in his possession or under his control.

(2) If any person fails to produce any books, accounts or other documents in compliance with an order made under sub-

section (1), he shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

5. **Cognizance of contraventions of the provisions of this ordinance:-** (1) No Court or Tribunal shall take cognizance of any contravention of the provisions of this Ordinance or of any Order made thereunder except on a report in writing of the facts constituting such contravention, made by the Chief Executive.
- (2) Offences under this Ordinance shall be non cognizable and bailable and shall be triable by a Magistrate of the first class under the Code of Criminal Procedure.
6. **Indemnity.-** No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person in respect of anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Ordinance.
7. **Power to make rules.-** The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules to carry out the purposes of this Ordinance.

(Mohammad Ibrahim Khan)
President,
Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Sd/- (Sardar Aftab Ahmed Khan)
Secretary Law.