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PART IV

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA

LAW (B) DEPARTMENT

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

NOTIFICATION

The 22nd February, 2002.

No. LL(B). 11/99/91—The following Act of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly which received the assent of the President of India is hereby published for general information.

MEGHALAYA ACT 1 of 2002

The Meghalaya Lokayukta and Up-Lokayuktas Act, 2000

(As passed by the Assembly on the 13th April, 2000)

(Received the assent of the President on 15th February, 2002)

(Published in the Gazette of Meghalaya, Extra-Ordinary, dated 22nd February, 2002);

An

Act

to make provisions for appointment and functions of Lokayukta and Up-Lokayuktas in Meghalaya and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

WHEREAS, it is expedient to make provisions for the appointment of Lokayukta and Up-Lokayuktas in Meghalaya for the investigation of grievances and allegations against Ministers, Legislators and other public servants in certain cases and for matter connected therewith.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Meghalaya in the Fifty-first Year of the Republic of India as follows—

1. **Short title Extent and commencement**—(1) This Act may be called the Meghalaya Lokayukta and Up-Lokayuktas Act, 2000.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Meghalaya and applies also to the public servants posted outside Meghalaya in connection with the affairs of the State of Meghalaya.

3) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Definitions**—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

(a) "Act" means the Meghalaya Lokayukta and Up-Lokayuktas Act, 2000;

(b) "Action" means action taken by way of decision, recommendation or finding or in any other manner and includes failure to act, and all other expression connoting action shall be construed accordingly;

- (c) "allegation" in relation to a public servant, means any affirmation that such public servant.
- (i) has abused his position as such to obtain any gain or favour to himself or to any other person or to cause undue harm or hardship to any other person;
 - (ii) was actuated in the discharge of his functions as such public servant by personal interest or improper or corrupt motive; or
 - (iii) is guilty of corruption, or lack of integrity in his capacity as such public servant;
- (d) "competent authority" in relation to a public servant, means,
- (i) in the case of a Minister or Secretary or member of the Legislative Assembly—the Chief Minister,
 - (ii) in the case of any other public servant—such authority as may be prescribed;
- (e) "Governor" means the Governor of the State of Meghalaya;
- (f) "grievance" means a claim by a person that he sustained injustice or undue hardship in consequence of mal administration;
- (g) "Lokayukta" means a person appointed as the Lokayukta and "Up-Lokayukta" means a person appointed as an Up-Lokayukta under Section 3;
- (h) "mal administration" means action taken or purporting to have been taken in exercise of administrative functions in any case,
- (i) Where such action or the administrative procedure or practice governing such action is unreasonable, unjust, oppressive or improperly discriminatory, or
 - (ii) Where there has been negligence or undue delay in taking such action or the administrative procedure or practice governing such action involves undue delay.
- (i) "Minister" means a member (other than the Chief Minister) of the Council of Ministers by whatever name called, for the State of Meghalaya, that is to say a Minister, a Minister of State or a Deputy Minister and also includes Parliamentary Secretary,
- (j) "Officer" means a person appointed to a public service or post in connection with the affairs of the State of Meghalaya,
- (k) "Official Gazette" means the Gazette of Meghalaya,
- (l) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (m) "public servant" denotes a person falling under any of the following description and includes, subject to the provisions of sub-section (4) of Section 8, a person who at any time in the past fall under any of the following description, namely;
- (i) every Minister referred to in clause (i);
 - (ii) every member of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Meghalaya not being the Chief Minister or Minister referred to in clause (i).
 - (iii) every officer referred to in clause (j);
 - (iv) Chairman/Vice Chairman/and Ward Commissioners of Municipal Board or Town Committee;
 - (v) a non-official Chairman including every office bearer of that description by whatever name called or the Managing Director of a district level or official of a central society or of an apex society registered under any law relating to Co-operative Societies for the time being in force;
- Explanation—**In this sub-clause, "central society", means a co-operative society which includes in its membership other co-operative societies, and "apex society" means a State level central society;
- (vi) every person in the service or pay of (a) any local authority in the State of Meghalaya which is notified by the State Government in this behalf in the Official Gazette;

(vii) any corporation not being a local authority established by or under Meghalaya or Central Act and owned or controlled by the State Government, which is notified by the State Government in this behalf in the official Gazette.

(viii) any Government company within the meaning of Section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956 (Central Act 1 of 1956) in which not less than fifty-one percent of the paid up share capital is held by the State Government or any company which is subsidiary of a company in which not less than fifty one percent of the paid-up share capital is held by the State Government and which is notified by the State Government in this behalf in the Official Gazette.

(xi) any society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, which is owned or controlled by the State Government and which is notified by that Government in this behalf in the Official Gazette.

(n) "Schedule" means the schedule appended to this Act.

(o) "Secretary" means Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary, Commissioner and Secretary, Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya and includes a Special Secretary, and Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, a Deputy Secretary, an Under Secretary and also an Officer on Special Duty to the State Government; and

"State Government," means the Government of the State of Meghalaya.

3. Appointment of Lokayukta and Up-Lokayuktas. (1) For the purpose of conducting investigations, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Governor shall, by warrant under his hand and seal, appoint a person to be known as the Lokayukta and one or more persons to be known as the Up-Lokayukta or Up-Lokayuktas.

Provided that—

(a) the Lokayuktas shall be appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, the Speaker and the leader of the Opposition in the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, and if there be no such leader a person elected in this behalf by the members of the opposition in that House in such manner as the Speaker may direct;

(b) the Up-Lokayukta or Up-Lokayuktas shall be appointed after consultation with the Lokayukta.

Provided further that where the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly is satisfied that circumstances exist on account of which it is not practicable to consult the leader of the opposition in accordance with clause (a) of the preceding proviso, he may intimate the Governor the name of any other member of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly who may be consulted under that clause instead of the Leader of the Opposition.

(2) The Lokayukta shall be a person who is or has been a judge of the Supreme Court, or a High Court, or a Civil servant of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India or Chief Secretary of a State.

(3) The Up-Lokayukta shall be a person who is or has been a District and Sessions Judge or, civil servant who has work as Secretary of the State Government.

(4) Every person appointed as the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta shall before entering upon his office, make and subscribe before the Governor, or some person appointed in that behalf by him, an oath or affirmation in the form set out for the purpose in the First Schedule,

(5) The Up-Lokayukta, shall be subject to the administrative control of the Lokayukta and in particular, for the purpose of convenient disposal of investigations under this Act, the Lokayukta may issue such general or special direction as he may consider necessary to the Up-Lokayukta:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall be construed to authorize the Lokayukta to question any finding, conclusion or recommendation of an Up-Lokayukta.

4. Lokayukta or Up-Lokayuktas to hold no other office—Th: Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta, as the case may be shall be a person who is not or never has been a member of Parliament or a member of Legislature of any State and shall not hold any office of trust or profit other than his office as the Lokayukta, or as the case may be, an

Up-Lokayukta or be connected with any political party or carry on any business or practice, any profession and accordingly before he enters upon his office, a person appointed as the Lokayukta or, as the case may be, an Up-Lokayukta, shall,

- (a) if he is a sitting judge or holds any other office of trust or profit, resign from such office; or
- (b) if he is connected with any political party, sever his connection with it; or
- (c) if he is carrying on any business sever his connection (short of divesting himself of ownership) with the conduct management of such business, or
- (d) if he is practicing any profession, suspend practice of such profession.

5. Term of office and other conditions of service of Lokayukta and Up-Lokayuktas.—(1) Every person appointed at the Lokayukta or Up-Lokayukta shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office or until he attain the age of 67 years whichever is earlier.

Provided that.—

- (a) the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta may, by writing by under his hand addressed to the Governor, resign his office;
- (b) the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta may be removed from office in the manner specified in section 6.

2. If the office of the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta becomes vacant, or if the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta is by reason of absence or for any other reason whatsoever, unable to perform the duties of his office shall, until some other person appointed under Section 3 enters upon such office or, as the case may be, until the Lokayukta or such Up-Lokayukta resumes his duties, be performed.

- (a) where the office of the Lokayukta becomes vacant or where he is unable to perform the duties of his office, by the Up-Lokayukta or if there are two or more Up-Lokayuktas by such one of the Up-Lokayuktas as the Governor may by order direct;
- (b) where the office of the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta becomes vacant or where he is unable to perform the duties of his office, by the Up-Lokayukta himself or if the Lokayukta so directs, by the other Up-Lokayukta or as the case may be such one of the other Up-Lokayukta may be specified in the direction.

(3) On ceasing to hold office the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta shall be ineligible for further employment (where as the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta) or in any other capacity under the Government of Meghalaya or for any employment under, or office in any such local authority, corporation Government company or society as is referred to in sub clause (vi) of clause (m) of Section 2.

(4) The Lokayukta shall be entitled to such pay, allowances, pension privileges and other condition of service as may be admissible to the Judge of the Supreme Court or of the High Court as the case may be, from time to time.

(5) The Up-Lokayukta shall be entitled to such pay, allowances, pensions, privileges and other conditions of service as may be admissible to the District and Session Judge from time to time.

(6) The pay and allowances and pension, privileges and other conditions of service of the Lokayukta or the Up-Lokayukta shall not be varied to his disadvantage during the tenure of his office.

(7) If the Lokayukta or Up-Lokayukta at the time of his appointment is in receipt of a pension (other than a disability pension) in respect of any previous service rendered under the Government of India or any of its predecessor Government or under Government of any State or any of its predecessor Government of salary in respect of his service as Lokayukta or as the Up-Lokayukta as the case may be, shall be reduced.

- (a) by the amount of that pension; and
- (b) if he has before such appointment received in lieu of a portion of the pension due to him in respect of such previous service the commuted value thereof, by the amount of that portion of the pension; and
- (c) if he has before such appointment, receive a retirement gratuity in respect of such previous service, by the pension equivalent of that gratuity.

Removal of Lokayukta or Up-Lokayukta: (1) Subject to the provisions of 311 of the Constitution of India, the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta may be removed from his office by the Government on the ground of misbehaviour or incapacity on any other ground:

Provided that the inquiry required to be held under Clause (2) of Article 311 of the Constitution before such removal—

- (a) in respect of Lokayukta, shall only be held by a person appointed by the Governor being a person who is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or a Chief Justice of a High Court; and
 - (b) in respect of an Up-Lokayukta, shall be held by a person appointed by the Governor being a person who is or has been Judge of the Supreme Court or who is or has been a Judge of a High Court.
- (2) The person appointed under the proviso to sub-section (1) shall submit the report of his inquiry to the Governor who shall, as soon as may be, cause it to be laid before the State Legislature.
 - (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) the Governor shall not remove the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta unless a resolution by the State Legislature supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and a Majority of not less than two third of the members of that House present and voting, has been presented to the Governor in the same Session for such removal.

7. Matters which may be investigated by Lokayukta or Up Lokayukta—

(1) Subject to the Provisions of this Act and on a complaint involving a grievance or an allegation being made in that behalf, the Lokayukta may investigate any action which is taken by, or with the general or specific approval of,—

- (i) a Minister or a Secretary; and
 - (ii) any public servant referred to in Clause (m) of section (2); or
 - (iii) any other public servant being a public servant of a class or sub-class of public servants notified by the State Government in consultation with the Lokayukta, in this behalf.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Act and on a complaint involving a grievance or an allegation being made in that behalf an Up-Lokayukta may investigate any action which is taken by or with the general or specific approval of any public servant not being a Minister, Secretary or other public servant referred to in sub-section (1).
 - (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2), the Lokayukta may, for reasons to be recorded in writing investigate any action which may be investigated by an Up-Lokayukta under that sub-section.
 - (4) Where two or more Up-Lokayuktas are appointed under this Act, the Lokayukta may by general or special order, assign to each of them matters which may be investigated by them under this Act:

Provided that no investigation made by an Up-Lokayukta under this Act and no action taken or thing done by him in respect of such investigation shall be open to question on the ground only that such investigation related to a matter which is not assigned to him by such order.

8. Matters not subject to investigation—(1) Save as hereinafter provided, the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta shall not conduct any investigation under this Act,—

- (a) except on a complaint made under and in accordance with Section 9; or
- (b) in the case of a complaint involving a grievance in respect of any action—
 - (i) if such, action relates to any matter specified in the second schedule; or
 - (ii) if the complaint has or had any remedy by way of proceeding before any Tribunal or Court of Law:

Provided that nothing in clause (b) (ii) shall prevent the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta from conducting an investigation if he is satisfied that such person could not or cannot, for sufficient cause, have recourse to a remedy referred to in that sub-clause.

- (2) the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta shall not investigate to any action—
 - (a) in respect of which a formal and public inquiry has been ordered under the Public Servants (Inquiries) Act, 1850 (Central Act 37 of 1850), by the Government of India or by the State Government; or
 - (b) in respect of a matter which has been referred for inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 (Central Act 60 of 1952), by the Government of India or by the State Government.
- (3) The Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta shall not investigate to any complain which is excluded from his jurisdiction by virtue of a notification issued under Section 19.
- (4) The Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta shall not investigate—
 - (a) any complain involving a grievance if the complaint is made after the expiry of twelve months from the date on which the action complained against becomes known to complainant;
 - (b) any complaint involving an allegation, if the complaint is made after the expiry of five years from the date on which the action complained against is alleged to have taken place:

Provided that the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta may entertain complaint referred to in sub-clause (a), if the complainant satisfied him that he had sufficient cause for not making the complaint within the period specified in that clause.

(5) In the case of any complaint involving a grievance, nothing in this Act shall be construed as empowering the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta to question any administrative action involving the exercise of a discretion except where he is satisfied that the elements involved in the exercise of the discretion are absent to such and extent that the discretion cannot be regarded as having been properly exercised.

(6) The Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta shall not investigate any complaint involving a grievance against a public servant referred to in clause (m) of Section 2.

9. Provisions relating to complaints: (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a complaint may be under this Act to the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta.—

- (a) in the case of a grievance, by the person aggrieved other than a public servant;
- (b) in the case of an allegation by any person other than a public servant:

Provided that, where the person aggrieved is dead or is for any reason unable to act for himself, the complaint may be made by any person who in law represents his estate or, as the case may be, by any person who is authorised by him in this behalf.

(2) Every complaint shall be accompanied by the complainant's own affidavit in support thereof and also affidavits of all persons from whom he claims to have received information of facts relating to the accusation, verified before a Magistrate of First Class together with all documents in his possession or power pertaining to the accusation.

(3) Every complaint and affidavit under this section as well as annexures attached thereto shall be verified in the manner laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 for the verification of pleadings and affidavits respectively.

(4) Not less than three copies of the complaint as well as of each of its annexures shall be submitted by the complainant.

(5) A complaint which does not comply with any of the foregoing provisions shall not be entertained.

(6) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-sections (1) to (5) or in any other enactment any letter written to the Lokayukta or Up-Lokayukta by a person in police custody, or in a goal or in any asylum or other place for insane persons, shall be forwarded to the addressee un-opened and without delay by the police officer or other persons in charge of such goal, asylum or other place, and the Lokayukta or Up-Lokayukta, as the case may be, may entertain it and treat it as a complaint, but no action in respect of such complaint shall be taken unless it is accompanied or subsequently supported by an affidavit under sub-section (2).

10. **Procedure in respect of investigations:** (1) Where the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta proposes (after making such preliminary inquiry, if any, as he deems fit) to conduct any investigation under this Act, he, -

- (a) shall forward a copy of the complaint to the public servant concerned and the competent authority concerned;
- (b) shall afford to the public servant concerned an opportunity to offer his comments on such complaint; and
- (c) may make such orders as to the safe custody of documents relevant to the investigation as he deems fit.

(2) Every such investigation shall be conducted in private, and in particular, the identity of the complainant and of the public servant affected by the investigation shall not be disclosed to the public or the press whether before, during or after the investigation:

Provided that, the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta may conduct any investigation relating to a matter of definite public importance in public, if he, for reasons to be recorded in writing, thinks fit to do so.

(3) Save as aforesaid, the procedure for conducting any such investigation shall be such as the Lokayukta or, as the case may be the Up-Lokayukta considers appropriate in the circumstances of the case.

(4) The Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta may, in his discretion, refuse to investigate or cease to investigate any complaint involving a grievance or, an allegation, if in his opinion-

- (a) the complaint is frivolous or vexatious, or is not made in good faith; or
- (b) there are no sufficient grounds for investigating or, as the case may be, for continuing the investigation; or
- (c) other remedies are available to the complainant and in the circumstances of the case it would be more proper for the complainant to avail of such remedies.

(5) In any case where the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta decides not to entertain a complaint or to discontinue any investigation in respect of a complaint, he shall record his reasons therefore and communicate the same to the complainant and the public servant concerned.

(6) The conduct of an investigation under this Act in respect of any action shall not affect such action or any power or duty of any public servant to take further action with respect to any matter subject to the investigation.

(7) The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 or any other law for the time being in force.

(8) If the Lokayukta declines to inquire into any matter against any person who may be his close relation and in case there is no Up-Lokayukta in the Lokayukta Organisation, in that event the Lokayukta shall submit a report to the Governor with a request to refer the matter in dispute to the Chief Justice of the High Court of the State for his opinion and to decide the dispute in conformity with such opinion.

11. **Produce of evidence, documents and information.** (1) Subject to the provisions of this Section, for the purpose of any investigation (including the preliminary inquiry, if any, before such investigation) under this Act, the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta may require any public servant or any other person who in his opinion is able to furnish information or produce document relevant to the investigation to furnish such information or produce any such documents.

(2) For the purpose of any such investigation, (including the preliminary enquiry) the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta shall have all the powers of a Civil Court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil procedure, in 1908, in respect of the following matters, namely,

- (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;
- (b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;
- (c) receiving evidence on affidavits;

- (d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;
- (e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;
- (f) such other matters as may be prescribed.

(3) Any proceeding before the Lokayukta or Up-Lokayukta shall be deemed to be a Judicial proceeding within the meaning of Section 193 of the Indian Penal Code 1860.

(4) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (5), no obligation to maintain secrecy or other restriction upon the disclosure of information obtained by or furnished to the State Government or any public servant, whether imposed by any enactment or by any rule of law shall apply to the disclosure of information for the purpose of any investigation under this act and the State Government or any public servant shall not be entitled in relation to any such investigation to any such privilege in respect of the production of document or the giving of evidence as is allowed by any enactment or by any rule of law in legal proceedings.

(5) No person shall be required or authorized virtue of this Act to furnish any such information or answer any such question or produce so much of any document.

(a) as may prejudice the security of the State or the defence or international relations of India (including India's relations with the Government of any other country or with any international organisation) or the investigation of detection of crime; or.

(b) as may involve the disclosure of proceedings of the Cabinet of the State Government or any committee of that Cabinet.

and for the purpose of this sub-section a certificate issued by the Chief Secretary certifying that any information, answer or portion of a document is of the nature specified in clause (a) or clause (b), shall be binding and conclusive.

(6) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (4), no person shall be compelled for the purpose of investigation under this Act to give any evidence or produce any document which he could not be compelled to give or produce in proceedings before a Court.

12 Reports of Lokayuktas and Up-Lokayuktas: (1) If, after investigation of any action in respect of which a complaint involving a grievance has been made, the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta is satisfied that such action has resulted in injustice or undue hardship to the complainant or any other person, the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta shall by a report in writing recommend to the competent authority concerned that such injustice or undue hardship shall be remedied or redressed in such manner and within such time as may be specified in the report.

(2) The competent authority to whom a report is sent under sub-section (1), shall within one month of the expiry of the time specified in the report, intimate or cause to be intimated to the Lokayukta, or as the case may be, the Up-Lokayukta, the action taken for compliance with the report.

(3) If, after investigation of any action in respect of which a complaint involving an allegation has been made, the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta is satisfied that such allegation can be substantiated either wholly or partly, he shall by report in writing communicate his findings and recommendations alongwith the relevant documents materials and other evidence to the competent authority.

(4) The competent authority shall intimate within three months of the date of receipt of the report the Lokayukta or, as the case may be the Up-Lokayukta, the action taken on the basis of the report.

(5) If the Lokayukta or the Up-Lokayukta is satisfied with the action taken on his recommendations or findings referred to in sub-sections (1) and (3), he shall close the case under information to the complainant, the public servant and the competent authority concerned, but where he is not so satisfied and if he considers that the case so deserves he may make a special report upon the case to the Governor and also inform the complainant concerned.

(6) The Lokayukta and the Up-Lokayukta shall present annually a consolidated report on the performance of their functions under this Act to the Governor.

(7) On receipt of a special report under sub-section (5) or the annual report under sub-section (6), the Governor shall cause a copy thereof together with an explanatory memorandum to be laid before the Meghalaya State Legislature.

(8) Subject to the provision of Sub-Section (2) of Section 10, the Lokayukta may, in his discretion, make available, from time to time, the substance of cases closed or otherwise disposed of by him or by an Up-Lokayukta which may appear to him to be of general, public, academic or professional interest, in such manner and to such persons as he may deem appropriate.

13. (1) **Action in the case of false complaint**—Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provision of this Act every person who willfully or maliciously makes any false complaint under this Act shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine.

(2) No Court except a Court of Session, in the case of a complaint investigated by the Lokayukta or a Court of Magistrate First Class in the case of a complaint investigated by an Up-Lokayukta shall take cognizance of the offence under sub-section (1).

(3) No such Court shall take cognizance of such offence as aforesaid except on a complaint in writing made by the public prosecutor at the direction of the Lokayukta or Up-Lokayukta, as the case may be and the Court of Session may be take cognizance of the offence on such a complaint without the case being committed to it.

(4) Such Court, on conviction of a person making false complaint may award, out of the amount of fine to the complainant such amount of compensation as it thinks fit.

(5) If at any stage of a proceeding under this Act before the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta it appears to him that any person appearing in such proceeding or any person who filed an affidavit in support of a complaint made under this Act had knowingly or willfully given false evidence or had fabricated false evidence with the intention that such evidence should be used in such proceedings, the Lokayukta or Up-Lokayukta as the case may be, may if satisfied that it is necessary and expedient in the interest of justice, that the person should be tried summarily for giving or fabricating, as the case may be false evidence, takes cognizance of the offence and may, after giving the offender a reasonable opportunity of showing cause why he should not be punished for such offence, try such offender summarily, so far as may be, in accordance with the procedure prescribed for summary trials under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and sentence him to imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees, or with both.

(6) When any such offence as described in section 175, 178, 179 or, section 180 of the Indian Penal Code is committed in the view or presence of the Lokayukta, or Up-Lokayukta, he may cause the offender to be detained in custody and may, at any time on the same day take cognizance of the offence and after giving the offender a reasonable opportunity of showing cause why he should not be punished under this section, sentence the offender to simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.

(7) In every case tried under sub-section (6), the Lokayukta or Up-Lokayukta, as the case may be shall record the facts constituting the offence with the statement (if any) made by the offender as well as the finding and the sentence.

(8) Any person, convicted on a trial held under sub-section (5) or (6) may appeal to the High Court, and the provisions of Chapter XXIX of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, shall, so far as they are applicable, apply to appeals under this sub-section, and the Appellate Court may alter or reverse the finding or reduce or reverse the sentence appealed against.

(9) The provisions of sub-section (5), (6), (7) and (8) shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, but nothing in these sub-section shall effect the power of the Lokayukta or Up-Lokayukta, as the case may be, to proceed under sub-section (3) in respect of any offence, where it does not choose to proceed under sub-section (2), (6) and (7).

14 **Staff of Lokayukta and Up-Lokayukta**—(1) The Lokayukta may appoint, or authorize an Up-Lokayukta or any officer subordinate to the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta to appoint officers and other employees to assist the Lokayukta and the Up-Lokayukta in the discharge of their functions under this act:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall be construed to prevent any person who hold a post under the Central or the State Government from being appointed on deputation with the consent of the State Government.

(2) The number and categories of officers and employees who may be appointed under sub-section (1); their salaries allowances and other conditions of service and the administrative powers of the Lokayukta and Up-Lokayukta shall be such as may be determined by general or special order of the State Government made after consultation with the Lokayukta.

(3) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (1), the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta may, for the purpose of conducting investigation under this Act, utilize the services of—

- (i) any officer or investigation agency of the State or Central Government with the concurrence of the State Government.
- (ii) any other person or agency.

15. Secrecy of information (1)—Any information obtained by the Lokayukta or the Up-Lokayukta or members of their staff in the course of or for the purpose of any investigation under this Act and any evidence recorded or collected in connection with such information, shall, subject to the provisions of the proviso to sub-section (2) of Section 10, be treated as confidential and notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, no Court shall be entitled to compel the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta or any public servant to give evidence relating to such information or produce the evidence so recorded or collected.

(2) Nothing in sub-section (1) shall apply to the disclosure of any informations or particulars.

- (a) for purposes of the investigation or in any report to be made thereon or for any action or proceedings to be taken on such a report; or
- (b) for purposes of any proceedings for an offence under the Official Secrets Act 1923, or an offence of giving or fabricating false evidence under the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Central Act 45 of 1860) or for purposes of any trial of an offence under section 13 or any proceedings under section 16; or
- (c) for such other purposes as may be prescribed.

(3) An officer or other authority prescribed in this behalf may give notice in writing to the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta, as the case may be, with respect to any documents or information specified in the notice or any class of documents or information so specified that in the opinion of the State Government the disclosure of the documents or information or of documents or information of that class would be contrary to public interest, and where such notice is given, nothing in this act; shall be construed as authorising or requiring the Lokayukta, and the Up-Lokayukta or any members of their staff, unless the Lokayukta or the Up-Lokayukta, for the reason to be recorded, is of the opinion that disclosure of such document or information involves no public interest, to communicate to any person any document or information specified in the notice or any documents or information of a class so specified.

16. Intentional insult or Interruption to, or bringing into disrepute, Lokayukta or Up-Lokayukta:—(1) Whoever intentionally offers any insults, or causes any interruption to the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta while the Lokayukta or the Up-Lokayukta is conducting any investigation under this Act, shall, on conviction, be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine, or with both.

(2) Whoever, by words spoken or intended to be read, makes or publishes any statements or does any other act, which is calculated to bring Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta into this disrepute, shall on conviction, be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine or with both.

(3) The provisions of sub-section (2) to (6) of Section 199 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, shall apply a relation to an offence under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) as they apply in relation to an offence referred to in sub-section (2) of the said section 199 subject to the modification that no complain in respect of such offence shall be made by the public prosecutor except with the provisos sanction.

- (a) in the case of an offence against the Lokayukta of the Lokayukta;
- (b) in the case of an offence against an Up-Lokayukta of the Up-Lokayukta concerned.

17. Protection of action taken in good faith:—(1) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta or against any officers, employee, agency or person referred to in Section 14 in respect of anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act, or any rule or order made thereunder.

(2) No proceedings of the Lokayukta or the Up-Lokayukta shall be held bad for want of form and except on the ground of jurisdiction no proceedings or decision of the Lokayukta or the Up-Lokayukta shall be liable to be challenged, reviewed quashed or called in question in any court.

18. Conferment of additional functions of Lokayukta and Up-Lokayukta etc—(1) The State Government may, by notification published in the Official Gazette and after consultation with the Lokayukta, confer on the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta as the case may be, such additional functions in relation to the eradication of corruption as may be specified in the notification.

(2) The State Government may, by order in writing and after consultation with the Lokayukta, confer on the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta such powers of a supervisory nature over agencies, authorities or officers set-up, constituted or appointed by the State Government for the eradication of corruption.

(3) The State Government may, by order in writing and subject to such conditions and limitations as may be specified in the order, require the Lokayukta to investigate any action being an action in respect of which a complaint may be made under this Act, to the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta and notwithstanding anything contained in this Act the Lokayukta shall comply with such order:

Provided that the Lokayukta may entrust investigation of any such action (being action in respect of which a complaint may be made under this Act to an Up-Lokayukta) or an Up-Lokayukta.

When any additional functions are conferred on the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta under sub-section (1) or when the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta is to investigate any action under sub-section (3), the Lokayukta or Up-Lokayukta shall exercise the same powers and discharge the same functions as he would in the case of any investigation made on a complaint involving an allegation and the provisions of this Act shall apply accordingly.

(19) Power to exclude complaints against certain classes of public servants:—(1) The State Government may in consultation with the Lokayukta and on being satisfied that it is necessary or expedient in the public interest so to do, exclude, by notification in the official Gazette, complaints involving a grievance or an allegation against persons belonging to any class of public servant specified in the notification, from the jurisdiction of the Lokayukta or, as the case may be, Up-Lokayukta:

Provided that no such notification shall be issued in respect of public servants holding posts carrying a minimum salary (excluding allowances) of three thousand Rupees or less.

(2) Every notification issued under sub-section (1) shall be laid, as soon as may be, after it is issued, before the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in more than one successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the said period the House agrees in making any modification in the notification or the House agrees that the notification should be annulled and notifies such decision in the Official Gazette, the notification shall from the date of publication of such decision 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 by virtue of that notification.

20. Delegation of powers and duties.—The Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta may, by a general or special order in writing, direct that any powers conferred or duties imposed on him by or under this Act (except the powers to make reports to the Governor under Section 12) may also be exercised or discharged by such of the officers, employees or agencies referred to in Section 14 as may be specified in the order.

21. **Power to make rules.**—(1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette make rules for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice the generality of the foregoing provisions, such rules may provide for—

- (a) the authorities for the purpose required to be prescribed under sub-clause (ii) of clause (d) of Section 2;
- (b) The allowances and pension payable to and other conditions of service of the Lokayukta and Up-Lokayukta;
- (c) the form, in which, complaints may be made and the fees, if any, which may be charged and the security, for costs of the person against whom an allegation is made which may be required to be furnished in respect thereof;
- (d) the powers of a Civil Court which may be exercised by the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta;
- (e) any other matter which is to be or may be prescribed or in respect of which this Act makes no provision or makes insufficient provision and provision is in the opinion of the State Government necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

(3) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid as soon as may be, after it is made, before the State Legislature.

22. **Removal of doubts.**—For the removal of doubts it is hereby declared that nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the Lokayukta or an Up-Lokayukta to investigate any allegation against—

- (a) the Chief Justice or any Judge of the High Court.
- (b) any officer or servant of High Court;

23. **Removal of difficulties.**—If any difficulty arise in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may make such order not inconsistent with the provision of the Act, as may appear to it to be necessary for purpose of removing the difficulty:

Provided that no such power shall be exercised after the expiry of a period of two years from the commencement of this Act.

S. DYKES,
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Law (B) Department.