

ORISSA ACT, 14 OF 1959

***THE ORISSA IRRIGATION ACT, 1959**

(Received the assent of the Governor on the 12th October 1959)

An act to consolidate and amend the laws relating to irrigation, assessment and levy of water rate and cess in force in different parts of the State of Orissa ¹[and to provide for the Regulation of use of water from Government source]

Whereas it is expedient to consolidate and amend the laws relating to irrigation, assessment and levy of water rate and cess in force in different parts of the State of Orissa; ¹[and to provide for the regulation of use of water from Government source];

It is hereby enacted by the Legislature of the State of Orissa in the Tenth Year of the Republic of India as, follows:

CHAPTER-I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title and extent - (1) This Act may be called the Orissa Irrigation Act, 1959.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Orissa.

2. Application- Section 1 shall come into force at once. The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, apply ^{**} the rest of the provisions of this Act, or any portion thereof to any local area or to any irrigation work or class of irrigation works, and may also, by a like notification subsequently exclude any portion of such local area or any such irrigation work or class of irrigation works from the operation of this Act, from such date as may be specified therein.

3. Repeal and Savings- On the date of application of this Act or any portion thereof to any local area or to any irrigation work or class of irrigation works by a notification under section 2, such of the Acts specified in the Schedule and the rules and orders made thereunder as were in force in the area to which they apply and all laws, rules or orders in force and applicable to the areas other than those mentioned in the Schedule and now forming part of the State of Orissa shall in respect of that area or areas or any irrigation work or class of irrigation works, stand repealed:

*Published vide Orissa Act 14 of 1959, Dt. 22.10.1959.

¹ Added vide Orissa Act 3 of 1994 published in O.G.E. No. 133 Dt. 2.2.1994, Notification No. 1769, Dt. 2.2.1994.

^{**} Sections 2 to 56 came into force with effect from 1.6.1961 in the whole of the State of Orissa except the area where water rates and cesses are being levied under the provisions of the Bengal Irrigation Act, 1876 (Ben. Act III of 1876) and the Madras Irrigation Cess Act, 1865 (Mad. Act VII of 1865), vide (a) Notification No. 24431/24.5.1961, published in the Orissa Gazette Extraordinary (No. 362) dated. 25.5.1961, (b) No. 35904, dated 30.5.1963, (c) No. 35096, dated 30.5.1963 and (d) No. 35098, dated.30.5.1963, published in the Orissa Gazette, Extraordinary, (No. 378) dated. 30.5.1963.

¹[6-a) “ Government water source” means any water source created naturally or otherwise by collection or deposit of water at a fixed place, any sub-soil water or water in a state of running such as rivers, nalas, springs, streams and the alike, which is other than an irrigation work and is the property of the Government.

(7) Irrigation Officer:- “Irrigation Officer” means an Officer appointed under this Act to exercise control or jurisdiction over an irrigation work or any part thereof and includes an Additional Irrigation Officer;

(8) Irrigation Revenue:- “Irrigation Revenue” includes all sums payable to Government for the use of or right to use of waste water from an irrigation work;

(9) “Irrigation work”:

Irrigation work includes:-

(a) all reservoirs, tanks, anicuts, dams, weirs, canals, barrages, channels, pipes, wells, tube-wells & artisan wells constructed, maintained or controlled wholly or mainly by the State Government or by any Panchayat Samiti, constituted under the Orissa Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad Act, 1959(Orissa Act 7 of 1960) on behalf of such Government for the supply or storage of water;

(b) all works, embankments, structures, supply and escape channels connected with such reservoirs, tanks, anicuts, dams, weirs, canals, barrages, channels, pipes, wells, tube-wells and Artisan wells and all roads constructed for the purpose of facilitating the construction or maintenance of such reservoirs, tanks, anicuts, dams, weirs, barrages, channels, pipes, wells, tube-wells and artisans wells;

(c) all water-courses and drainage works as herein defined;

(d) all lands occupied by the Government for the purpose of such reservoirs, tanks, anicuts, dams, weirs, canals, barrages, channels, pipes, wells, tube-wells and artisan wells and all buildings, machinery, fences, gates and other structures, occupied by or belonging to the State Government upon such lands;

(10) Lands under Irrigable Command:- “Lands under irrigable command” means such lands as are irrigated or capable of being irrigated by flow from an irrigation work being under its command and shall include also such cultivated lands which receive, in the opinion of the Irrigation Officer or the Collector, by percolation or otherwise from an irrigation work or by indirect flow, percolation or drainage from or through adjoining land, an advantage beneficial to and sufficient for the requirements of the crop;

²[(10-a) Minor Irrigation Work- “ Minor Irrigation Work” means an irrigation work having a culturable command area of not more than two thousand hectares.]

(11) Occupier:- “Occupier” includes an occupier of land or property who cultivates or possesses the same for time being;

(12) Outlet:- “Outlet” includes an opening, constructed by the State Government in an irrigation work through which water is delivered into a watercourse or directly on to any land;

¹ Inserted by Orissa Act 3 of 1994.

² Substituted by Orissa Act 17 of 1981.

(13) Owner:- “Owner” includes every person having interest in the ownership of land or property and all rights and obligations which attach to an owner under the provisions of this Act shall attach jointly and severally to every person having such joint interest in the ownership;

(14) Prescribed:-“Prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

¹[(14-a) Rabi Crop:- “Rabi Crop” means any Crop notified as such by the State Government and different crops may be notified in respect of different areas.]

²[(14-b)] Staple cereal crop:-“Staple cereal crop” means any crop notified as such by the State Government and different crops may be notified in respect of different areas];

(15) Vessel:- “Vessel” includes boats, rafts, timber and other floating bodies;

(16) Water Cess:- “Water Cess” is the amount payable in respect of any land under the irrigable command of certain classes of irrigation works to be notified from time to time for the maintenance and repairs of such works.

(17) Water Course:- “Water course” means any channel or pipe not maintained at the cost of the State Government which is supplied with water from an irrigation work and includes all subsidiary works connected with any such channel or pipe, except the sluice or outlet through which water is supplied from an irrigation work to such channel or pipe;

(18) Water Rate:- “Water Rate” is the amount of revenue payable to Government for the supply of water for ³[any crop, other than staple cereal crop], ⁴[x x x] whether the water is used or not.

Explanation: When water rate is changed for irrigation, it shall be with reference to a single crop per acre of land.

CHAPTER – II

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF IRRIGATION WORK

5. **Power to enter and survey, etc. :-**(1) Any Irrigation Officer, or any person acting under the general or special order in writing of Irrigation Officer, may:-

(a) enter upon any lands adjacent to any irrigation work or water-course, or through which any irrigation work or water-course is to be made, and undertake surveys or levels thereon;

(b) dig and bore into sub-soil;

(c) make and set-up suitable land-marks, level marks, water-gauge and other apparatus.

1. Inserted by Orissa Act 17 of 1981

2. Renumbered by Orissa Act 17 of 1981

3. Substituted by Orissa Act 21 of 1974

4. Omitted by Orissa Act 24 of 1962

(d) do all other acts necessary for the proper prosecution of any inquiry relating to any existing or projected irrigation work or water-course under the charge of the said Irrigation Officer;

(e) whether otherwise such inquiry cannot be completed, cut down and clear away any part of standing crop, fence or jungle; and

(f) enter upon any land or building for the purpose of inspecting or regulating the use of the water supplied, or of measuring the lands irrigated thereby or chargeable with irrigation revenue and of doing all things necessary for the proper regulation and management of any irrigation work;

Provided that, if such Irrigation Officer or person proposes to enter into any building or any enclosed court attached to a dwelling house, he shall give the occupier of such building or court at least twenty-four hours notice in writing of his intention to do so.

(2) After entry under this section, the Irrigation Officer shall, before leaving, tender compensation to the owner or occupier of such land for any damage which may have been caused by any proceeding under this section, and, in case of dispute as to the sufficiency of the amount so tendered, he shall refer the matter for decision by the Collector. Such decision shall be final, and no suit shall lie in a Civil Court to have it set aside or modified.

(3) Whenever the State Government propose to construct any projected irrigation work they shall, after completion of the survey and enquiry as may be necessary, for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1), published in the prescribed manner the descriptions of the said work indicating situation there or and the area likely to be benefited or adversely affected thereby alongwith any further particulars as may be prescribed and call for objections or suggestions from persons interested to be filed before the prescribed authority within a time to be specified.

Every such objection or suggestion shall be heard and considered by the said authority in the prescribed manner, who shall after the close of the enquiry, submit the entire record of the proceedings along with his report and commendations to the State Government for their decision which shall be final:

¹[Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall apply in respect of any minor irrigation work and the procedure to be followed in the construction of any such work shall be as may be prescribed.

Explanation:- For such purposes of this sub-section 'construction of any projected irrigation work' shall include the extension improvement of any irrigation work if as a result of such extension or improvement-

- (a) the ayacut of such irrigation work is increased; or
- (b) such irrigation work is assigned a class higher than that to which it belonged.]

6. Power to enter for repairs and to prevent accidents-(1) In case of any accident happening or being apprehended to an irrigation work, any Irrigation Officer or any person acting under his general or special orders in writing in this behalf, may enter upon any lands adjacent to such irrigation work, and may execute all works which may

1. Added by Orissa Act 24 of 1962.

be necessary for the purpose of repairing the damages caused by or preventing such accident.

(2) In every such case the Irrigation Officer shall tender compensation within one month to the owner or occupier of the said lands for all damages caused thereto by the entry or by any works executed thereon. If such tender is not accepted, the Irrigation Officer shall refer the matter to the Collector, who shall thereupon give notice in writing to the person or persons interested in such land and to the Irrigation Officer requiring them to attend before him on a date to be fixed in the notice for the purpose of making enquiry as to the amount of compensation. The Collector shall after making such enquiry as he may deem necessary decide the amount of compensation payable to such person or persons.

7. Power to prohibit obstructions or to order their removal- Whenever it appears to the State Government that injury to any land or to the public health or public convenience has arisen or may arise from the obstruction of any river, spring, stream, irrigation work or drainage work, they may, by notification published in the Gazette, prohibit within limits to be defined in such notification, the formation of any obstruction, or may, within such limit order the removal or modification of such obstruction.

8. Power to remove obstructions-(1) The Collector or any Irrigation Officer authorised by the State Government in this behalf, may, after such publication, issue an order to the person causing or having control over any such obstruction to remove or modify it within a time fixed in the order.

(2) If, within the time so fixed, such person does not comply with the order, the Collector or the said Irrigation Officer may remove or modify the obstruction and the expenses incurred in such removal or modification shall be recoverable from the person concerned as arrears of land revenue:

Provided that the Collector or the Irrigation Officer authorised by the State Government may, in case of emergency, remove the obstruction before publication and the expenses incurred shall be recoverable in the same manner.

9. State Government to provide means of crossing canals-(1) There shall be provided, at the cost of the State Government, suitable means of crossing canals constructed or maintained at the cost of the State Government at such places as the State Government think necessary for the reasonable convenience of the inhabitants of the adjacent lands.

(2) On receiving a statement in writing, signed by not less than five persons who may be owner or occupiers of such lands, to the effect that suitable crossings have not been provided on any canal, the Collector shall cause an enquiry to be made in the matter and if he thinks that the statement requires favourable consideration, he shall report his opinion thereon for the consideration of the State Government, and the State Government shall cause to be taken such measures in reference thereto in the prescribed manner.

10. Power to impress labour in emergency-(1) Whenever it appears to the Irrigation Officer or any officer acting under his general or special orders in this behalf, that, unless some work is immediately executed such serious damage shall happen or continue to happen to any irrigation work as is likely to cause or continue to cause serious

public injury or serious interruption of the normal course of irrigation and that labour necessary for the proper execution thereof cannot be obtained in the ordinary manner in time to prevent such injury or interruption or to remedy it within a reasonable time, the Irrigation Officer or any officer acting under the said orders, may by public proclamation by beat of drum, require every owner and occupier of irrigable land resident in any village within five miles of the place where the work is to be executed, and every agricultural labourer employed by them, to attend in person at such place and to carry out such duties as he may allot to them in connection with the execution of the work necessary for the safety of the particular irrigation work.

(2) If the Irrigation Officer, or any officer acting under his orders is of opinion that amount of labour likely to attend in pursuance of an order under sub-section (1) is not sufficient, he may at anytime, in like manner and subject to the same conditions as laid down in sub-section (1) issue a like order requiring the attendance of all cultivators or of all agricultural labourers or of both resident within five miles of the place where the work is to be executed.

(3) The rates of wages to be paid for such work shall be at the approved rates of the Works Department for labour or services performed during day time and at double such rates for any labour or services performed during night time, and any person attending in compliance with the proclamation shall be paid for the whole period during which he is thereby prevented from following his ordinary avocation.

(4) No person shall be required to carry out any duties under this section for which such person is unfitted by reason of age, sex, health or bodily infirmity.

CHAPTER-III

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER-COURSES

11. Construction of water-courses:- For the purpose of making use of the water of an irrigation work, the water-courses shall be constructed by the persons to be benefited at their own cost.

12. Construction, extension, improvement or alteration of a water course on the application of person interested:- (1) Any owner of land desiring the construction, extension, improvement or alteration of a water course may apply in writing to the Irrigation Officer, and the said Officer may, after giving such notice and causing such enquiries as may be prescribed either permit the applicant to construct, extend, improve or alter the said water-course or, if the applicant so desires, have it constructed, extended, improved or altered through Government agency on such terms and conditions to be fixed by the Irrigation Officer as regards payment of costs, mode of execution, time of completion, facilities to be afforded by the applicant to safeguard other interests or to benefit other lands whose owners may apply for the same, and other matters as may be relevant in each case or may reject the application.

(2) Any person aggrieved by an order under sub-section (1) may within thirty days from the date of intimation of the order, appeal to the Collector and his decision thereon shall be final.

(3) If it is necessary to acquire any land for the purpose of sub-section (1) the Collector may on application for the said purpose proceed to acquire the same under the

provisions of the Orissa Development of Industries, Irrigation, Agriculture, Capital Construction and Resettlement of Displaced Persons (Land Acquisition) Act, 1948 (Orissa Act 18 of 1948); or any other law for the acquisition of land for the time being in force.

13. No alteration of water-course except with the consent of Irrigation Officer- No water-course constructed, extended, improved or altered under the provisions of section 12 shall be altered without the consent of the Irrigation Officer.

14. Obligations of owners of land receiving supply from water-course- All owners and occupiers of land receiving supply of water from a specified water-course shall be bound-

- (a) to maintain such water-course in a fit state of repair;
- (b) to allow the use of it to any person entitled to the same by reason of an order passed under section 12 or otherwise;
- (c) to construct and maintain all works necessary for the passage across such water-course of canals, water-courses, drainage, channels and public roads existing at the time of such construction and of the drainage intercepted by it, and for affording proper communications across it for the convenience of the occupants of the neighbouring lands.

15. Enforcement of said obligations- (1) If the said owners and occupiers of lands receiving supply of water from a specified water-course fail to fulfil any obligation imposed on them by clauses (a) & (c) of section 14, the Irrigation Officer may require them by public notice to execute the necessary work or repair within such period as may be prescribed not being less than five days from the date of the said notice and in case of their default the Irrigation Officer may execute the same on their behalf.

(2) The expenses incurred by the Irrigation Officer on any work or repair under sub-section (1) shall be recoverable *pro rata* on the basis of the acreage of land benefited by the water-course from the defaulters as arrears of land revenue.

16. Settlement of disputes concerning water-courses- Whenever a dispute arises between two or more persons in regard to their mutual right or liabilities in respect of the use, construction or maintenance of water course, or among joint owners of a water-course as to their respective shares of the expenses of constructing or maintaining such water-course as to the amount severally to be contributed by them towards such expenses or as to failure on the part of any owner to contribute his share, any person interested in the matter of such dispute may apply in writing to the Irrigation Officer stating the matter in dispute.

Such Officer shall thereupon proceed to make a summary enquiry into the matter in the manner prescribed and pass order thereon.

Against the said order of the Irrigation Officer an appeal shall lie to the Collector within thirty days from the date of communication of the said order and the decision of the Collector in appeal shall be final unless set aside by a decree of a Civil Court.

17. Use of land acquired for water-course for other purpose- No land acquired under this Chapter for a water-course shall be used for any other purpose without the previous consent in writing of the Collector.

18. Construction of water-course by Government and recovery of cost incurred- Notwithstanding the provision contained in sections 12 & 13 of this Chapter if the State Government consider it expedient to construct the water-courses pertaining to any irrigation work, they may lay out, construct and maintain at the cost of Government in the first instance, the entire system of water-courses or a substantial section of it and effect recovery of the cost so incurred from the owners and occupiers of the lands other than the tenants protected under the Orissa Tenants' Relief Act, 1955 (Orissa Act V of 1955) benefited thereby in the form of a general enhancement of the ¹[compulsory basic water-rate or water cess or by the] imposition of a special rate per acre in the manner prescribed:

19. Special provision for recovery of past expenses incurred by Government:- All expenses incurred by the State Government in connection with the construction and maintenance of water-courses and acquisition of lands thereof before the coming into force of this Act under any irrigation works including the Hirakud Dam Project shall be recovered from the owners and occupiers of the land other than the tenants protected under the Orissa Tenant's Relief Act, 1955 (Orissa Act V of 1955), benefited or to be benefited by such water-courses ²[in the form of general enhancement of the compulsory basic water rate or by the] imposition of a special rate per acre in the manner prescribed under section 18:

Provided that in consideration of any special circumstances the State Government may exempt such owners and occupiers either wholly or partly from payment of such ³[water rate or special rate, as the case may be].

CHAPTER-IV SUPPLY OF WATER

20. Water supply to be subject to rules:- All supply of water from an irrigation work shall be subject to such rules or orders as may be prescribed or issued by the State Government from time to time with respect to rates, conditions or any other matter.

⁴[**20.-A. Regulation and use of water from Government water source-**(1)The State Government may, in the public interest, regulate the use, diversion, collection or consumption of water from Government water source for industrial and commercial purpose other than agriculture.

(2) On and after commencement of the Orissa Irrigation (Amendment) Act, 1993, no person shall use, divert, collect or consume water from Government water source for any industry or commercial establishment except in accordance with a licence granted under this Act.

(3) The licence referred to in Sub-section (1) shall be subject to such terms and conditions, and shall be obtained from such authority, in such manner, and subject to payment of such fees, as may be prescribed.

1. Substituted by Orissa Act 21 of 1974.

2. Substituted by *ibid*

3. Substituted by *ibid*

4. Inserted a vide OGE No. 133 dtd. 2.2.1994/ Orissa Act 3 of 1994.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in Sub-section (1) or in any subsisting contract, any person using, diverting, collecting or consuming water from Government water source for any industry or commercial establishment immediately before the commencement of the Orissa irrigation (Amendment) Act, 1993 may continue to do so and shall be deemed to have been granted a licence under this Act-

- (i) for a period of three months from the date of such commencement ; or
- (ii) if an application for the required licence is duly made in the prescribed manner to the appropriate authority within the period specified in clause (i), till the disposal of such application.

(5) Any person who uses, diverts, collects or consumes water from Government water source in contravention of the provisions of this section, shall on conviction, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees, or with both and where any such person after being convicted under this sub-section for the offence continues to commit the offence or commits it for second or any subsequent time he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees, or with both.

(6) (a) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a Company, every person who, at the time the offence was committed, was in charge of, and was responsible to, the Company for the conduct of the business of the Company, as well as the Company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment, if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(b) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where an offence under this Act has been committed by a Company and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(7) The rules that may be made for the purpose of this section may provide that the State Government may, in any case or class of cases, exempt in part or in full the payment of the required licence fee for any specified period in the interest of industrial and commercial developments in the State.

Explanation:- For the purpose of this section,-

- (a) "Commercial establishment" shall have the same meaning as defined in the Orissa shops and Commercial Establishment Act, 1956.
- (b) "Company" means a body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals;
- (c) "Director" in relation to a firm, means a partner in the firm ; and

(d) “Industry” shall have the same meaning as defined in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.”

21. **Water to be supplied on written application:-** (1) Any person desiring to have supply of water from an irrigation work shall submit a written application to that effect to the Officer duly empowered to receive such applications within such date, in such form and in such manner as shall from time to time be prescribed by the State Government in this behalf.

¹[Provided that no such application shall be necessary for irrigation of the crop or crops for which a compulsory basic water rate is levied by the State Government under section 28 ²[or for irrigation of any rabi crop]

³[(1-a) The supply of water for rabi crops shall be made and regulated in such manner and shall be subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.]

(2) *Water supply for purposes other than those of irrigation:-* If the application be for a supply of water to be used for purposes other than those of irrigation, the Officer duly empowered may, subject to the rules to be made under this Act, give permission for water to be taken for such purpose under such special conditions and restriction as to the limitation, control and measurement of the supply as may be imposed in each case and subject to such special rates as may be fixed for the purpose.

22. **Power to stop water supply:-** ⁴[(1) The supply of water to any water-course or to any person who is entitled to such supply shall not be stopped except under such circumstances and subject to such limitations as are specified below, namely:

- (a) whenever and so long as it is necessary to stop such supply for the purpose of executing any work ordered by a competent authority;
- (b) whenever and so long as any water-course by which such supply is received is not maintained in such repair as to prevent the wasteful escape of water therefrom;
- (c) whenever and so long as it is necessary to do so in order to supply in rotation the legitimate demand of other persons entitled to water;
- (d) whenever and so long as it may be necessary to do so in order to prevent the wastage or misuse of water;
- (e) within periods fixed from time to time by an Officer duly empowered in this behalf, of which due notice shall be given;
- (f) whenever and so long as it is necessary to stop such supply pending a change in the source thereof by an Officer duly empowered in this behalf.

⁵[(2) x x x x]

-
- 1. Substituted by Orissa Act 21 of 1974.
 - 2. Inserted by Orissa Act 17 of 1981.
 - 3. Inserted by *ibid*.
 - 4. Renumbered by Orissa Act 10 of 1968.
 - 5. Omitted by Orissa Act 21 of 1974.

23. Duration of supply:- When water is supplied for the irrigation of one or more crops, the permission to use such water shall be deemed to continue only during the period such crop or crops come to maturity.

24. Right to supply of water transferable along with property in respect of which supply given:- Every right to the supply of water for agricultural purposes to any land or other immovable property shall be attached thereto and shall be presumed to have been so transferred whenever a transfer of such land or other immovable property takes place.

Right to use of water not transferable in other cases without permission of Officer duly empowered- No person entitled to the use of any water or land appertaining to any irrigation work, except in the case where an agreement has been executed in the manner prescribed, shall be entitled to use the water of the said irrigation work for the purpose of selling or sub-letting, or otherwise transferring his right to such use without the permission of an Officer duly empowered to grant such permission.

25. No claim against State Government:- (1) No claim other than by way of remission of water rates shall lie against the State Government in respect of loss caused by the failure or stoppage of water of an irrigation work by reason of any cause beyond the control of the State Government or of any repair, alteration or addition to the irrigation work, or of any measures taken for regulating the proper flow of water therein, or for maintaining the established course of irrigation which is considered necessary.

(2) *Claims on account of interruption from other causes:-* If the supply of water to any land irrigated from an irrigation work be interrupted otherwise than in the manner specified in the preceding sub-section, the Collector may on application allow such remission as may be considered reasonable and his decision in this regard shall be final.

26. Owner and occupier to afford free passage of water over their lands-
(1) For the purpose of irrigation or drainage on lands under the irrigable command of an irrigation work the owners and occupiers of such lands shall be bound to afford free passage of water through or over all lands in their possession or under their control without causing unnecessary loss or damage to their lands.

(2) If the owner or occupier refuses to allow free passage for water through or over lands in his possession or control, the Irrigation Officer may take such expeditious steps as he thinks necessary to allow such passage and recover the cost in that behalf, if any, in the manner prescribed.

CHAPTER-V

LEVY OF WATER RATE AND CESS

27. Classification of Irrigation work- ¹[All irrigation works belonging to or constructed by or on behalf of the State Government shall be classified into such number of classes as the State Government may determine having regard to the cost of construction of the work, the duration of supply of water and the amount of water supplied from such works and the compulsory basic water rate, water rate, water-cess

1.Substituted by Orissa Act 24 of 1962.

shall be levied in respect of each such class of irrigation work in any district or specified area at such rates as may be fixed by the State Government in the prescribed manner.]

28. Levy of water rates and compulsory basic water rates- The Irrigation Officer or such officer duly empowered by the State Government shall thereupon in the prescribed manner fix ¹[the compulsory basic water rate and] the water rate payable in respect of each such work in any district or in any specified area according to the classification and the rates as finally determined under section 27;

Provided that levy of ²[compulsory basic water-rate] shall not be made in respect of low lands which are ordinarily liable to be water logged, the particulars whereof shall be, as may be prescribed:

Provided further that such levy with respect to low lands which do not ordinarily require irrigation except in years of drought shall be at such concessional rates as may be prescribed:

Provided also that such levy with respect to areas where lift irrigation is allowed to be provided at the expense of the owners and occupiers shall be at such reduced rate as may be prescribed:

Provided further that in respect of lands which are already under irrigation from private sources, the ³[basic water rate] to be levied shall be the difference between the ⁴[compulsory basis water rate] of the irrigation works which is provided and the estimated rate for the existing source of irrigation.

Explanation- The said estimated rate shall be, as may be determined in the prescribed manner.

⁵[**28-A. Reassessment of water rate after consolidation of holdings-** (1). After closure of consolidation operation carried on in any area under the Orissa Consolidation of Holdings and Prevention of Fragmentation of Land Act, 1972, the officer empowered in that behalf by the State Government shall reassess the water-rate or compulsory basic water rate, as the case may be, in respect of the lands situate in the said area.

(2) In reassessing the rates as aforesaid, the officer shall as far as may be, follow the procedure prescribed for fixation of the rates under section 28.

28-B. Review- An order under section 28 or section 28-A may, after giving notice to all persons concerned, be reviewed within the prescribed period by the officer who passed the order or by his successor in office either on his own motion or on an application made by an aggrieved person, on the ground of any clerical mistake or error in the course of proceedings under the said section.]

-
1. Inserted by Orissa Act 21 of 1974.
 2. Substituted by *ibid.*
 3. Substituted by *ibid.*
 4. Substituted by *ibid.*
 5. Inserted by Orissa Act 17 of 1981.

¹[**29. Appeal** - (1) Any person aggrieved by any order made under section 28 or section 28-A or section 28-B may prefer an appeal in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed period to the Sub-divisional officer having jurisdiction.

(2) The Sub-divisional Officer having jurisdiction may also on his own motion annul or modify any such order as aforesaid:

Provided that no proceedings under this sub-section shall be initiated after expiry of the prescribed period and no orders shall be passed thereunder without giving the parties concerned a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

29-A. Revision-Any person aggrieved by an order passed by the S.D.O. under sub-section (1) or subsection (2) of section 29 may file an application in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed period before the Collector for revision of such order.]

30. Levy of water cess:- In addition to, or in lieu of the water rates payable under the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, levy a water cess at such rates and in such manner as shall be prescribed by the State Government from time to time.

²[Provided that no water cess shall be levied in addition to the compulsory basic water rate.]

31. Unauthorised use of water- Water is said to be used in an unauthorized manner when it is taken from any irrigation work, outlet or water course in contravention of any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder or of any order passed by an Irrigation Officer thereunder and its use gives rise to, or may be expected to give rise to benefits of any kind.

32. Liability of occupiers of lands benefiting from unauthorised use of water- (1) If water used in an unauthorised manner and if the person by whose act or neglect such use has occurred can not be identified, the occupiers of the lands on which such water has flowed, if such lands have received benefit therefrom, shall be liable to the charges made for such use.

(2) If water supplied through a water course for a specific purpose be suffered to run to waste, and if, after inquiry by the Irrigation Officer, the person through whose act or neglect such water was suffered to run to waste cannot be discovered, the person or persons chargeable in respect of the water supplied for the purpose shall be individually or jointly liable as the case may be for the charges made in respect of the water so wasted.

All questions arising under this section shall be decided by the Irrigation Officer.

(3) The levy of rates for unauthorized use or for wastage shall not bar a prosecution for any offence connected with such use or wastage.

(4) The decision made by an Irrigation Officer under this section shall subject to any order passed by the Collector on appeal from such decision, if any, shall be final.

(5) Rules may be made under this Act regulating the procedure of Irrigation Officers in imposing liability for, and in assessing irrigation revenue payable under this section.

1. Substituted by Orissa Act 17 of 1981.

2. Inserted by Orissa Act 21 of 1974.

33. Dates of payment of charges and mode of recovery of arrears- (a) The State Government shall prescribe the dates for the payment of charges of ¹[compulsory basic water rate], water-rate and water-cess.

(b) All charges recoverable under the Act remaining unpaid after the due date shall be recoverable with interest at 6 per cent per annum as arrears of land revenue.

34. Amount payable under this Act to be a charge on the land benefited- The water rate and cess and other charges payable by any person under this Act in connection with irrigation shall be a charge on the lands benefited and the crops raised thereon.

35. Persons liable to pay the charges under the Act and the extent of such liability- Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force the water-rate and cess shall be recoverable from the owner and occupier in such proportion as may prescribed:

Provided that where such charges remain arrear either the owner or the occupier may deposit the arrear dues in order to save the land and crop thereon from attachment or sale and seek redress in a Civil Court for the recovery of the amount deposited on behalf of the other party.

36. Concession to the people who have contributed to the cost of execution of an irrigation work- Where the people of a local area have contributed to the cost of construction of an irrigation work, a rebate in water rate or cess may be allowed by the State Government for a specified number of years to the persons who had contributed towards such construction. The rebate shall be in the same ratio as the value of such contribution bears to the total cost of construction of such irrigation work. The procedure to be followed for fixation of the annual rate of such rebate and the number of years for which such rebate will continue to be allowed in any district or any specified area shall be fixed in the prescribed manner and the same shall be final.

37. Exemption of water rate and compulsory basic water rate in full or in part- ²[(1) The State Government may, direct exemption and recovery of the water rates and cess recoverable under this Act in the prescribed proportion and manner every year as will appear to them fair and equitable].

³[(2) The State Government may by order and subject to such terms and conditions as may be specified therein, delegate their powers under sub-section (1) ⁴[to the Sub-Divisional Officer] to be exercised by him in relation to the local area within his jurisdiction:]

⁵["Provided that no order shall be made in exercise of the power, so delegated without the prior approval of –

-
1. Inserted by Orissa Act 21 of 1974.
 2. Renumbered by Orissa Act 11 of 1975.
 3. Inserted by *ibid*.
 4. Substituted by Orissa Act 17 of 1981.
 5. Substituted by Orissa Act 17 of 1981.

(i) Where the amount of water rate or cess involved in any case exceed five hundred rupees, but does not exceed one thousand rupees, the Collector of the district having jurisdiction, and

(ii) Where such amount exceeds one thousand rupees the Commissioner having jurisdiction”]

¹[**38. Meaning of the term “water rate” used in this Chapter:-** For the purposes of this Chapter, the term “water rate” shall mean “compulsory basic water rate” or “water rate” as the case may be].

CHAPTER-VI

PENALTIES

39. For damaging irrigation works, etc.- Whoever voluntarily and without proper authority-

- (1) damages, alters, enlarges, reduces or obstructs any irrigation work;
- (2) interferes with, or increases or diminishes the supply of water in, or the flow of water from, through, over or under any irrigation work or by any means raises or lowers the level of the water in any irrigation work;
- (3) corrupts or fouls water of any irrigation work so as to render it less fit for which it is ordinarily used;
- (4) interferes with or alters the flow of water in any river, spring or stream, so as to endanger, damage or render less useful any irrigation work;
- (5) destroys, defaces or moves any land or level mark or water gauge fixed by the authority of a public servant;
- (6) destroys, tampers with, or removes, any apparatus, or any part thereof meant for controlling, regulating or measuring the flow of water in any irrigation work;
- (7) passes, or causes animals or vehicles to pass in or across any of the works, banks or channels of an irrigation work contrary to rules made under this Act, after such passage has been prohibited;
- (8) causes or knowingly and willfully permits cattle to graze upon any canal or flood embankment, or tethers or causes or knowingly and willfully permits cattle to be tethered, upon any such canal or embankment, or roots up any grass or other vegetation growing on any such canal or embankment, or removes, cuts or in any way injures, or causes to be removed, cut or otherwise injured any tree, bush, grass or hedge intended for the protection of such canal or embankment;
- (9) neglects, without reasonable cause, to assist or to continue to assist in the execution of any repair, clearance or work, when lawfully bound so to do under section 10;
- (10) violates any rule made under this Act, for breach whereof the State Government in such rule, direct that a penalty may be imposed;
- (11) causes any vessel to enter or navigate in any canal contrary to the rules for the time being prescribed by the State Government for entering or navigating such canal;

1. Inserted by Orissa Act 21 of 1974

(12) while navigating any canal neglects to take proper precautions for the safety of the canal and of vessels thereon; or

(13) being responsible for the maintenance of a water-course, or using a water course neglects to take proper precautions for the prevention of waste of the water thereof, or interferes with the authorised distribution of the water therefrom, or uses such water in unauthorised manner or prevents or interferes with the lawful use of such water-course by any person authorised to use the same;

shall, when such act shall not amount to the offence of committing mischief within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860) on conviction before a Magistrate, be punished for each such offence with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees, or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or with both.

40. For endangering stability of irrigation work, etc. :- Whoever without proper authority-

- (1) pierces or cuts through, or attempts to pierce or cut through, or otherwise to damage, destroy or endanger the stability of any irrigation works;
- (2) opens, shuts or obstructs, or attempts to open, shut or obstruct any sluice of any irrigation work;
- (3) makes any dam or obstruction for the purpose of diverting or opposing the current of a river, spring, stream or canal on the bank whereof there is a flood embankment, or refuses or neglects to remove any such dam or obstruction when lawfully required so to do;

shall, when such act shall not amount to the offence of committing mischief within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860) on conviction before a Magistrate of the first or second class, be punished for each such offence with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with both.

41. Obstruction to be removed and damage repaired- Whenever any person is convicted under either of the last two preceding sections, the convicting Magistrate may order that he shall remove the obstruction or repair the damage in respect of which the conviction is made within a period to be fixed in such order. If such person neglects or refuses to obey such order within the period so fixed, any Irrigation Officer duly empowered in this behalf may remove such obstruction or repair such damage, and the cost of such removal or repair, as certified by the said officer, shall be realised from such person by the Collector as an arrear of land revenue.

42. Persons employed on canal may take offenders into custody:- Any person in charge of or employed upon, any irrigation work may remove from the lands or buildings thereto, or may take into custody without a warrant any person who in his view-

- (1) willfully damages, obstructs or fouls any irrigation work; or
- (2) without proper authority interferes with the supply or flow of water, in or from any irrigation work, or any river, spring or stream so as to endanger, damage, make dangerous or render less useful any irrigation work.

and upon so taking him into custody shall produce him forthwith before a Magistrate or at the nearest police-station, to be dealt with according to law.

43. Saving of prosecution under other laws- Nothing herein contained shall prevent any person from being prosecuted under any other law for any act or omission made punishable by this Act:

Provided that no person shall be punished more than once in respect of one and the same act or omission.

44. Payment of fine as award to information:- Whenever any person is fined for an offence under this Act, the Court which imposes such fine, or which confirms in appeal, or revision a sentence of such fine, or a sentence of which such fine forms part may direct that the whole or any part of such fine or any portion of it may be paid by way of reward to any person who gave information leading to the detection of such offence or to the conviction of the offender.

If the fine be so awarded by a Court whose decision is subject to appeal or revision, the amount awarded shall not be paid until the period prescribed for presentation of the appeal or revision has elapsed, or if an appeal or revision be present till after the decision of the appeal or revision.

45. Composition of offences:- (1) Any Irrigation Officer may accept, from any person, against whom a reasonable belief exists that he has committed an offence punishable under this Act or the rules made thereunder, a sum of money not exceeding two hundred rupees, by way of composition for such offence.

(2) On payment of such sum of money, the said person if in custody, shall be discharged, and no further proceedings shall be taken against him in regard to the offence so compounded.

(3) Rules may be made under this Act regulating the procedure to be adopted in compounding an offence.

CHAPTER-VII

MISCELLANEOUS

46. Appointment of Officer and Inspection of Irrigation works:- (1) The State Government, or subject to such rules as may be made under this Act, any officer so empowered in this behalf, may-

(a) appoint such officers with such designations, define the local limits of jurisdiction of such officers and assign to them respectively such powers and duties under this Act, as the State Government or such Officer, may deem fit;

(b) invest any Government Officer in any department, either personally or in right of his office, or any other persons, with such powers, and impose upon him such duties, under this Act, as the State Government or such officer, may deem fit;

Provided that any assignment of, or investment with powers or duties made under this section may at any time be cancelled or varied by the authority who made it.

(2) The State Government shall have the power to direct in the manner prescribed the annual inspection of and submission of reports on all irrigation works in respect of their proper maintenance and repair.

47. Appeals- Save as provided for this Act and rules made thereunder an appeal shall lie against every order passed by an Irrigation Officer or any officer duly authorised by such Irrigation Officer or the Collector under Chapters II, III, IV and V of this Act or the Commissioner respectively within thirty days of the date of the order appealed against.

48. Powers of Revision:-(1) The Board of Revenue or the Commissioner in the prescribed manner may call for and examine the records of the proceedings under this Act of any Officer subordinate to him for the purpose of satisfying himself as to the correctness, legality or propriety of any decision or order passed and the regularity of the proceedings of such officer.

(2) When on examining the records of any case, the Board of Revenue or the Commissioner considers that the order or the decision of such Officer should be revised, he may reverse or alter such order or decision or pass such other order as he may think fit:

Provided that no order adversely affecting any party shall be passed unless the said party is given an opportunity of being heard.

49. Offences under the Act to be cognizable – Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (5 of 1898), all offences punishable under this Act shall be cognizable.

50. Power to summon and examine witnesses:- Any Officer empowered under this Act to conduct any enquiry, may exercise all such powers connected with the summoning and examining the witnesses and production of documents as are conferred on a Civil Court by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908) and every such enquiry shall be deemed to be judicial proceeding.

51. Manner of serving notices:- Service of any notice under this Act shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

52. Jurisdiction of Civil Courts barred:- No Civil Court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit relating to this Act except as provided in sections 16 & 35 of this Act.

53. Power to make rules:- (1) The State Government may, after previous publication, make rules not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act to carry out all or any of the provisions or purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power such rules may provide for any matter which has to be or may be prescribed under this Act.

(3) All rules made under this section shall be laid before the Legislative Assembly as soon as possible after they are made for a total period of fourteen days which may be comprised in one or more sessions and shall be subject to such modifications as the Assembly may make during the said period:

Provided that no rule with respect to rates as specified in Section 20 shall be deemed to have been made until the expiry of the said period.

¹[**54. Revision of record of rights:-** (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other law for the time being in force or in any contract, custom, practice or usage, the State Government may in respect of any land during the currency of a rent settlement direct any Revenue Officer specially empowered by them in that behalf to take action in accordance with any one or both of the following provisions, namely:-

(a) to assign such land, in consultation with the Irrigation Officer having jurisdiction, an irrigation source different from what was obtaining previously; and

(b) where irrigation charges are included in the rent payable in respect of such land to separate such charges from the said rent.

(2) The Revenue Officer after taking action under sub-section (1) shall amend the record-of-rights in respect of land accordingly and inform the same to the Irrigation Officer having jurisdiction who shall thereupon be competent to levy the irrigation charges in accordance with such amendment and the provisions of this Act.

(3) After effecting the amendment the Revenue Officer may reassess the rent of the land in accordance with the law in force.

(4) No final order under this section shall be passed by the Revenue Officer unless a reasonable opportunity of being heard has been given to the persons interested.

(5) An appeal shall, if presented within thirty days from the date of the order, lie from every order passed by the Revenue Officer under this Section to the prescribed authority.]

55. Protection of persons acting in good faith and limitation for suit or prosecution:- (1) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall be instituted against any public servant or officer or person duly authorised under this Act in respect of anything in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or the rules or orders made thereunder.

(2) No suit or prosecution shall be instituted against any public servant or officer or person duly authorised under this Act in respect of anything done or intended to be done under this Act, unless the suit or prosecution has been instituted within six months from the date of commission of the act complained of.

56. Power to remove difficulties:- If any difficulty arise in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may, as occasion may require, by order, do anything, not inconsistent with this Act or the Rules made thereunder, which appear to them necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty.

SCHEDULE*(See section 3)*

Number and year 1	Short title 2	Extent of application 3
Bengal Act III of 1876	The Bengal Irrigation Act, 1876	The old districts of Cuttack, Puri and Balasore as constituted prior to merger of States and Khondmals subdivision of Phulbani district.
Central Povinces Act III of 1931.	The Central Provinces Irrigation Act, 1931.	Ex-C.P. area of Nawapara sub-division of Kalahandi district and ex-C.P. area in Sadar sub-division of Sambalpur district (Mahadeb pali P.S.area).
Central Act VIII of 1873	The Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873.	The District of Sambalpur excluding ex-State areas and ex-C.P. area transferred to Orissa in 1936.
Madras Act VII of 1865	The Madras Irrigation Cess Act, 1865	The district of Ganjam and Koraput and Baliguda subdivision of Phulbani district.

ANNEXURE*Provisions of Amending Act not incorporated in the original Act***The Orissa Irrigation (Amendment) Act, 1974****(Orissa Act 21 of 1984)**

12. Savings: - Where in respect of any lands within any Block as constituted prior to the date of coming into force of this Act, an agreement has been executed in pursuance of the proviso to Section 21 of the principal Act as it existed prior to the said date, the provisions of the principal Act as amended by this Act shall not apply to the lands within such Block till the expiry of the period for which the agreement has been entered into and all such agreements shall continue in force during the aforesaid period.
