

# **The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1948 (East Bengal Act)**

## **( ACT NO. XIV OF 1948 )**

**An Act to provide for preventing the disposal or concealment of money or other property procured by means of certain offences committed in Bangladesh.<sup>1♣</sup>**

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for preventing the disposal or concealment of money or other property procured by means of certain offences committed in Bangladesh;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

### **Short title and extent**

1. (1) This Act may be called the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1948.
- (2) It extends to the whole of Bangladesh.

### **Definition**

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-  
“scheduled offence” means an offence specified in the Schedule to this Act.

### **Interpretation**

3. For the purposes of this Act the date of the termination of criminal proceedings shall be deemed to be-  
  
(a) where such proceedings are taken to the High Court Division, whether in appeal or on revision, the date on which the High Court Division passes its final orders in such appeal or revision, or  
  
(b) where such proceedings are not taken to the High Court Division, the day immediately following the expiry of sixty days from the date of the last judgment or order of a criminal court in the proceedings.

### **Application for attachment of property**

4. (1) Where the Government has reason to believe that any person has committed (whether after or before the commencement of this Act) any scheduled offence, the Government may, whether or not any Court has

taken cognizance of the offence, authorise the making of an application to the District Judge within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the said person ordinarily resides or carries on his business, for the attachment under this Act of the money or other property which the Government believes the said person to have procured by means of the offence, or if such money or other property cannot for any reason be attached, of other property of the said person of value as nearly as may be equivalent to that of the aforesaid money or other property.

(2) The provisions of Order XXVII of the First Schedule to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, shall apply to proceedings for an order of attachment under this Act as they apply to suits by the Government.

(3) An application under sub-section (1) shall be accompanied by one or more affidavits stating the grounds on which the belief that the said person has committed any scheduled offence is founded, and the amount of money or the value of other property believed to have been procured by means of the offence. The application shall also furnish-

(a) any information available as to the location for the time being of any such money or other property, and shall, if necessary, give particulars, including the estimated value, of other property of the said person; and

(b) the names and addresses of any other persons believed to have, or to be likely to claim, any interest or title in the property of the said person.

#### **Ad interim attachment**

5. (1) Upon receipt of an application under section 4, the District Judge shall, unless for reasons to be recorded in writing he is of opinion that there exist no prima facie grounds for believing that the person in respect of whom the application is made has committed any scheduled offence or that he has procured thereby any money or other property, pass without delay an ad interim order attaching the money or other property alleged to have been so procured, or if it transpires that such money or other property is not available for attachment, such other property of the said person of equivalent value as the District Judge may think fit:

Provided that the District Judge may if he thinks fit before passing such order, and shall before refusing to pass such order, examine the person or persons making the affidavits accompanying the application.

(2) At the same time as he passes an order under sub-section (1), the District Judge shall issue to the person whose money or other property is being attached a notice, accompanied by copies of the order, the application and affidavits and of the evidence, if any, recorded, calling upon him to show cause on a date to be specified in the notice why the order of attachment should not be made absolute.

(3) The District Judge shall also issue notices, accompanied by copies of the documents accompanying the notice under sub-section (2), to all persons represented to him as having, or being likely to claim, any interest or title in the property of the person to whom notice is issued under the said sub-section, calling upon each such person to appear on the same date as that specified in the notice under the said sub-section and make objection if he so desires to the attachment of the property or any portion thereof on the ground that he has an interest in such property or portion thereof.

(4) Any other person claiming an interest in the attached property or any portion thereof may, notwithstanding that no notice has been served upon him under this section, make an objection as aforesaid to the District Judge at any time before an order is passed under sub-section (1) or sub-section (3), as the case may be, of section 6.

**Investigation  
of  
objections  
to  
attachment**

6. (1) If no cause is shown and no objections are made under section 5 on or before the specified date, the District Judge shall forthwith pass an order making the ad interim order of attachment absolute.

(2) If cause is shown or any objections are made as aforesaid, the District Judge shall proceed to investigate the same, and in so doing, as regards the examination of the parties and in all other respects he shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, follow the procedure and exercise all the powers of a Court in hearing a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908; and

any person making an objection under section 5 shall be required to adduce evidence to show that at the date of the attachment he had some interest in the property attached.

(3) After investigation under sub-section (2), the District Judge shall pass an order either making the ad interim order of attachment absolute or varying it by releasing a portion of the property from attachment or withdrawing the order:

Provided that the District Judge shall not -

(a) release from attachment any interest which he is satisfied that the person believed to have committed a scheduled offence has in the property, unless he is also satisfied that there will remain under attachment an amount of the said person's property of value not less than that of the property believed to have been procured by the said person by means of the offence, or

(b) withdraw the order of attachment unless he is satisfied that the said person has not by means of the said offence procured any money or other property.

#### **Attachment of property of mala fide transferees**

7. (1) Where the assets available for attachment of a person believed to have committed a scheduled offence are found to be less than the amount or value which he is believed to have procured by means of such offence, and where the District Judge is satisfied, by affidavit or otherwise, that there is reasonable cause for believing that the said person has, after the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed, transferred (whether after the commencement of this Act or not) any of his property otherwise than in good faith and for consideration, the District Judge may by notice require any transferee of such property (whether or not he received the property directly from the said person) to appear on a date to be specified in the notice and show cause why so much of the transferee's property as is equivalent to the proper value of the property transferred should not be attached.