

# The National Service Ordinance, 1970

( Ordinance NO. XXII OF 1970 )

## An Ordinance to introduce compulsory national service in Bangladesh.<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS it is expedient to introduce compulsory national service in Bangladesh and to provide for matters ancillary thereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, in pursuance of the Proclamation of the 25th day of March, 1969, read with the Provisional Constitution Order, and in exercise of all powers enabling him in that behalf, the President is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance :-

**Short title,  
extent,  
application  
and  
commencement**

1. (1) This Ordinance may be called the <sup>2</sup>[\* \* \*] National Service Ordinance, 1970.

(2) It extends to the whole of Bangladesh and applies to all citizens of Bangladesh wherever they may be.

(3) It shall come into force on such day as the Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint in this behalf.

**Definitions**

2. In this Ordinance, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a) “emoluments”, in relation to a person, includes the pay, allowances, gratuity, fees, commissions, perquisites and profits which such person is entitled to receive from his employer for his services;

(b) “employer” means any person or body of persons, whether incorporated or not, who or which employs another person for hire or reward, either directly or through a contractor, whether the terms of employment be express or implied and includes, in the case of an establishment, the person responsible for the management, supervision and control of the establishment;

(c) “essential service” means any service which the Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, declare to be essential for securing the defence or the security of Bangladesh or of any part thereof or for the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community;

(d) “establishment” means any office, firm, industrial unit, undertaking, shop or premises in which persons are employed for the purpose of carrying on any manufacturing process, business, trade or service;

(e) “matriculate” means a person who has passed the Matriculation Examination or Secondary School Leaving Certificate Examination, or any other equivalent examination, of a board or other authority set up by Government or by or under any law and includes a person who has passed such other examination as the Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, declare to be equivalent of such examination;

(f) “national service” means the service required to be rendered under subsection (4) of section 5; and

(g) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Ordinance.

**National  
service  
liability, etc.**

3. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, every male citizen of Bangladesh who has attained the age of eighteen years and has not attained the age of twenty years and possesses educational qualifications not below that of a matriculate shall be liable to render national service.

(2) Every male citizen of Bangladesh who, at the commencement of this Ordinance, has attained the age of eighteen years and has not attained the age of twenty years and possesses educational qualifications not below that of a matriculate shall, not later than one month from such commencement, offer himself for national service in such manner and to such authority as may be prescribed.

(3) Every male citizen of Bangladesh who, at any time after the commencement of this Ordinance,-

(a) being a matriculate, attains the age of eighteen years, or

(b) having attained the age of eighteen years, becomes a matriculate,

shall, not later than one month from the date on which he attains the age of eighteen years or, as the case may be, becomes a matriculate, offer himself for national service in such manner and to such authority as may be prescribed.

(4) Nothing in sub-section (1), sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) shall apply to persons-

(a) who are members of any of the Defence Services or civilian armed forces of, or any police force in, Bangladesh or are employed in any of the ordnance factories in Bangladesh; or

(b) who, being engaged in any essential service or being students of any medical, engineering or veterinary institution, are declared by the Government, by notification in the official Gazette, to be exempt from the liability to render national service.

**Deferment  
of liability  
to render  
national  
service**

4. (1) The liability to render national service of any person who is a student of any institution may, on an application made in this behalf to the prescribed authority, be deferred for such period as the authority may deem fit having regard to the duration of the course of studies taken up by such person.

(2) Where the liability of any person to render national service has been deferred for any period under sub-section (1), the age up to which he is liable to be called up for such service shall be deemed to be extended by that period.

**Selection  
and  
enrolment,  
etc.**

5. (1) An officer or authority prescribed in this behalf may, by a notice in writing, require any person liable to render national service to report in person to such authority and at such time and place as may be specified in the notice and the person to whom a notice has been issued shall report accordingly.

(2) A person who has reported in pursuance of a notice under sub-section (1) shall be selected for national service unless-

(a) his liability to render national service has for the time being been deferred under section 4; or

(b) he is exempted after medical examination from the requirement of rendering national service; or

(c) he is exempted from the requirement of rendering national service in accordance with rules made under this Ordinance.

(3) A person selected under sub-section (2) shall report to such authority and at such time and place as may be specified by the authority by whom he is so selected for the purpose of being enrolled in the Bangladesh Army, the Bangladesh Navy or, as the case may be, the Bangladesh Air Force.

(4) A person who has reported under sub-section (3) shall, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance and the rules made thereunder, render national service for a period of one year in the Bangladesh Army, the Bangladesh Navy or, as the case may be, the Bangladesh Air Force in which he shall be enrolled for that period.

(5) Save as otherwise provided in the rules made under this Ordinance, a person, while he is rendering national service, shall-

(a) be subject to the service law of the Defence Service in which he is enrolled for such service; and

(b) receive such honorarium per month as may be prescribed and be entitled to such other facilities and privileges, other than salary, as are admissible to a person enrolled in the Bangladesh Army, the Bangladesh Navy or, as the case may be, the Bangladesh Air Force.

**National  
Service  
Reserve**

6. A person who has completed national service shall be placed on the National Service Reserve created for the purposes of this Ordinance and shall, until he has attained the age of thirty-five years, be liable to be called up -

(a) for refresher training every year; and