

Copy of P.G. Letter No. 6888-G-55/16642, dated the 15th June, 1955, from the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab, to all Heads of Departments, etc.

Subject :—The Punjab Departmental Enquiries (Powers) Act, 1955.

I am directed to forward a copy of the Act cited as subject for information and guidance and to say that one of the important causes of delay in the conduct of departmental enquiries against Government servants was the difficulty in securing the attendance of witnesses. The Enquiry Officer had no authority under the Punjab Civil Services (Punishment and Appeal) Rules, 1952, to compel the attendance of any witness and it frequently happened that witnesses were unwilling to appear in departmental proceedings. This Act empowers the enquiring officer or authority to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents in departmental proceedings on the lines of Section 8 of the Public Servants (Inquiries) Act, 1850.

THE PUNJAB DEPARTMENTAL, ENQUIRIES (POWERS) ACT, 1955

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ACT

to confer certain powers on the officers conducting enquiries under the Punjab Civil Services (Punishment and Appeal) Rules

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the sixth year of the Republic of India as follows :—

Short title, extent and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Punjab Departmental Enquiries (Powers) Act, 1955.
- (2) It shall extend to the whole of the State of Punjab.
- (3) It shall come into force at once.

Summoning of Witnesses and production of documents.

2. For the purposes of an enquiry under the Punjab Civil Services (Punishment and Appeal) Rules, for the time being in force, the officer conducting such an enquiry shall be competent to exercise the same powers for the summoning of witnesses and for compelling the production of documents as are exercisable by a commission appointed for an enquiry under the Public Servants (Inquiries) Act, 1850 (Act XXXVII of 1850), and all persons disobeying any process issued by such officer in this behalf shall be liable to the same penalties as if the same had issued from a court.