

CHAPTER 67

PRISONERS' WELFARE FUND

Law No. 18 of 1973, Act No. 54 of-1979. A LAW TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRISONERS' WELFARE FUND, FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF MONEYS THEREFROM FOR THE GENERAL WELFARE OF PRISONERS ; AND TO PROVIDE FOR ALL MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO.

[9th May, 1973.]

Short title. **1.** This Law may be cited as the Department of Prisons Prisoners* Welfare Fund Law.

Establishment of the Department of Prisons— Prisoners' Welfare Fund. **2.** (1) For the purposes of this Law there shall be established a fund called the Department of Prisons— Prisoners' Welfare Fund (hereinafter referred to as " the Fund ").

(2) A general account of the Fund shall be maintained in such manner as the Secretary to the Ministry charged with the subject of Finance may direct.

Control and management of the Fund. **3.** The control and management of the fund shall be vested in the Commissioner of Prisons.

Payments to the Fund. **4.** The following moneys shall be credited to the account of the Fund :—

(a) all moneys lying to the credit of the " General Deposit Account— Prisoners' Welfare Fund " as shown in the books of accounts of the Department of Prisons, on the date on which this Law comes into operation ;

(aa) any such sum of moneys lying to the credit of any prisoner in the General Deposit—Prisoners' Wages and Private Cash Accounts, as remains unclaimed for a period of not less than one year from the date of release of such prisoner ;

(b) such part of the net proceeds of the sale of hobby articles, as may be determined from time to time by the Secretary ;

(c) the compulsory levy made on the wages of prisoners ;

(d) -any public donations made towards the welfare of prisoners ;

(e) any sums recovered by way of charges levied on Government Departments and other institutions for the supply of prison labour ;

(f) any unauthorized cash found in the possession of prisoners ;

(g) any cash found in prison premises without proof of ownership ;

(h) net profits from—

(i) the sales room run by the Department of Prisons,

(ii) exhibitions of hobby articles made by prisoners, and

(iii) canteens run in prisons ; and

(i) such other contributions to the Fund as may be approved by the Secretary to the Ministry charged with the subject of Finance.

5. The Commissioner of Prisons shall, subject to such instructions as may be issued to him from time to time by the Secretary, have the power to expend moneys lying to the credit of the Fund for any of the following purposes :—

(a) spiritual and religious welfare of prisoners ;

(b) educational welfare of prisoners ;

(c) provision of recreational facilities and other amenities to prisoners ;

(d) payment of rewards to prisoners ;

(e) payment of repayable advances for organizing exhibitions and the maintenance of canteens for prisoners ;

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(f) such after-care services as would help in the rehabilitation of prisoners after their discharge from prison,

(2) The Commissioner of Prisons shall submit to the Minister as soon as practicable after the close of each financial year a full statement showing the working of the Fund and containing full particulars of all transactions connected with the working of the Fund, together with a copy of the Auditor-General's report. Such report shall, as soon as may be convenient, be placed before Parliament by the Minister.

Financial year. **6.** The financial year for the purposes of the Fund shall be the year commencing on 1st January and ending on 31st December.

8. In this Law, " Secretary " means the Interpretation. Secretary to the Ministry charged with the subject of Prisons-

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audit,

7. (1) The accounts of the Fund shall be audited by the Auditor-General,