

THE WEST PAKISTAN MATERNITY BENEFIT  
ORDINANCE, 1958

(W.P. Ord. XXXII of 1958)

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THE WEST PAKISTAN MATERNITY BENEFIT  
ORDINANCE, 1958

(W.P. Ord. XXXII of 1958)

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This Ord. was promulgated by the Governor of W.P. on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 1958; published In the W.P. Gazette (Extraordinary), d

December, 1958, pages 1715-21; saved and given permanent effect by Article 225 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic (1962).

[224 December, 1958]

An Ordinance to consolidate the law relating to employment of women in [establishments] in the Province of West Pakistan.

Preamble. WHEREAS it is expedient to consolidate the law relating to employment of women in [establishments] in the Province of West Pakistan;

NOW, THEREFORE, in pursuance of the Presidential Proclamation of the 7th day of October, 1958, and in exercise of all powers enabling him in that behalf the Governor of West Pakistan is pleased to make and promulgate the following

Ordinance:—

Short title and 1. () This Ordinance may be called the West Pakistan extent. Maternity Benefit Ordinance, 1958.

21(2) It extends to the whole of \*[Pakistan] 4.

Definitions. 2. () In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions shall have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say—

(a) "child" includes a still-born child;

5[(b) "Director of Labour Welfare" means the head of the Labour Welfare Directorate of the Province, by whatever name called;]

(c) "employer" means any person who has ultimate control over the appointment of

a woman;

[(d) "Establishment" means an organisation, whether industrial, commercial, or otherwise;]

(e) "Government" means the [Provincial Government];

(f) "Inspector of Factories" means a person

Subs. for the word "factories" by the Federal Act XI 1994; passed by Majlis-e-Shoora and received the assent of the President June, 1994; and published in the Gazette of Pakistan on 29" June, 1994 at pages 224-235.

Subs. by W.P. Ord. VII of 1964.

Subs. for the words "the Province of West Pakistan, except the Tribal Areas", by P.O. 4 of 1975. Extended to the Tribal Areas of Balochistan by Balochistan Regulation III of 1974.

Subs. by P.O. 4 of 1975.

Subs. for the definition of the word "factory", by Fed. Act XI of 1994.

Subs, for "Government of West Pakistan", by P.O. 4 of 1975.

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Employment of, or work by, women in factories prohibited during certain period.

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ie. Act XXV of 1934.

appointed as Inspector of Factories under section 10 of the Factories Act, 1934';

(g) "maternity benefit" means the amount payable under the provisions of this Ordinance to a woman employed in ?[an establishment];

(h) "medical practitioner" means a medical practitioner nominated for the purposes of this Ordinance by the employer with the approval of the Inspector of Factories;

(i) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Ordinance;

Gg) "still-born child" means any child which has issued forth from its mother after the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy and which did not at any time after being completely expelled from its mother, breathe or show any other signs of life;

(k) "wages" means wages as defined in clause (vi) of section 2 of the Payment of Wages Act, 19363; and

(1) "woman" means a woman worker.

(2) Expressions used in this Ordinance but not defined herein shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Factories Act, 1934+.

3. No employer shall knowingly employ a woman and no woman shall engage in employment in any \*[establishment] during the six weeks following the date on which she is delivered of a child.

Subs. for the words "a factory", by Fed Act XI of 1994.

ie. Act IV of 1936.

ie. Act XXV of 1934.

Subs. for the word "factory" by Fed. Act XI of 1994; passed by Majlis-e-Shoora and received the assent of the President on 1994; and published in the Gazette of Pakistan on 29" June, 1994 at pages 224-235.

Right to and  
liability for  
payment of  
maternity  
benefit.

Procedure  
regarding  
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maternity  
benefit.

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Subs. ibid, for sub-section (1).

7 Sub-section (2) omitted, ibid.

4. §((1) Subject to the provisions of this Ordinance,  
every woman employed in an establishment shall be entitled to,  
and her employer shall be liable for, the payment of maternity  
benefit at the rate of her wages last paid during the period of six  
weeks immediately preceding and including the days on which  
she delivers the child and for each day of the six weeks  
succeeding that day:

Provided that a woman shall not be entitled to maternity  
benefit unless she has been employed in the establishment of  
the employer from whom she claims maternity benefit for a  
period of not less than four months immediately preceding the  
day on which she delivers the child.]

5. qd) Any woman entitled to maternity benefit,—

(a) who is pregnant may, give notice either  
orally in person or in writing in the  
prescribed form to the employer that

she expects to be confined within six  
weeks next following and may therein  
nominate a person for the purposes of  
section 6;

(b) who has not given the notice referred to  
in clause (a) and has been delivered of a  
child, shall within seven days, give  
similar notice that she has been delivered  
of a child.

(2) When such notice is received, the employer shall  
permit the woman to absent herself from the factory from the  
date following the date of notice in the case mentioned in clause

(a) of sub-section (1) and from the day of delivery in the case mentioned in clause (b) thereof, until six weeks after the day of delivery.

(3) An employer shall pay maternity benefit for twelve weeks to a woman entitled thereto in any of following ways selected by the woman, namely:—

(i) for six weeks before delivery within forty-eight hours of the production of a certificate signed by the medical

Payment of a  
maternity  
benefit in case  
of a woman's  
death.

1 subs. by Fed. Act VIII of 1985.

practitioner stating that the woman is

expected to be confined within six

weeks of the date of the certificate, and  
for the remainder of the period for  
entitled to maternity  
benefit within forty-eight hours of the  
production of the proof that she has been

which she is

delivered of a child; or

(ii) for the period of six weeks before  
delivery and including the day of  
delivery, within forty-eight hours of the  
production of proof that she has been  
delivered of a child and, for the  
remainder of the said period, within six  
weeks of the production of such proof; or

(iii) for the whole of the said period of twelve  
weeks, within forty-eight hours of the  
production of proof that she has been  
delivered of a child:

Provided that a woman shall not  
be entitled to any maternity benefit or any  
part thereof, the payment of which is  
dependent upon the production of proof  
under this sub-section that she has been  
delivered of a child, unless such proof is  
produced within of the  
delivery.

six months

(4) The proof required to be produced under sub-  
section (3) shall be either a certified extract from a birth register  
or a certificate signed by the medical practitioner or such other  
proof as may be accepted by the employer.

6. qd) If a woman entitled to maternity benefit under this Ordinance dies on the day she is delivered of a child or during the period thereafter for which she is entitled to the maternity benefit, the employer's liability under sub-section (1) of section 4 shall not, by reason of her death, be discharged, and he shall pay the amount of maternity benefit due, '[to the person nominated by her under sub-section (1) of section 5 for the benefit of all her legal representatives, or, if she has made no such nomination, to all her legal representatives].

No notice of

dismissal to be  
given to a  
woman in  
certain cases.

Penalty for working

for payment  
during  
permitted  
period of  
absence.

Penalty for

contravention  
of this  
Ordinance by  
an employer  
and application

(2) If a woman dies during the period for which she is entitled to maternity benefit but before she is delivered of a child, the employer shall be liable only for the period upto and including the day of her death, provided that any sum already paid to her in excess of such liability under clause (i) of sub-section (3) of section 5 shall not be recoverable from her legal representative; and any amount due at the woman's death shall be paid to the person nominated by her under sub-section (1) of section 5, [for the benefit of all her legal representatives, or, if she has made no such nomination, to all her legal representatives].

7. (1)

accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance, it shall not be lawful for her employer to give her notice of dismissal during such absence or on such a day that the notice will expire during such absence.

(2) (a) No notice of dismissal given without sufficient cause by an employer to a woman within a period of six months before delivery shall have the effect of depriving her of any maternity benefit to which but for such notice she may have become entitled under this Ordinance.

When a woman absents herself from work in

(b) If any question arises as to whether any notice of dismissal is one to which clause (a) applies, such question shall be referred to the Inspector of Factories; and an appeal from the Inspector's decision shall, within sixty days

thereof, lie to the Director of Labour Welfare whose decision shall be final.

8. If a woman does any work in any \*[establishment] for which she receives payment in cash or kind after she has been permitted by her employer to absent herself under the provisions of section 5, she shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten rupees.

9. (1)  
this Ordinance, he shall be liable to a fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

If any employer contravenes any provision of

(2) Whenever a Court imposes a fine under this section or confirms in appeal, revision or otherwise such a

1 Subs. by the Fed. Act VIII of 1985, for the words and commas "or, if she has made no such nomination, to her legal represe

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Subs. for the word "factory" by Fed. Act XI of 1994.

of fine in  
payment of  
compensation.

Cognizance of  
offences.

Appeal against  
refusal to  
prosecute or  
grant sanction  
thereto.

Limitation.

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2 Subs. for "employer or a woman". ibid

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Ins. by Fed. Act VIII of 1985.

Ins. by Fed. Act VIII of 1985.

sentence, it may, when passing judgment order the whole or any part of the fine recovered to be applied in the payment of compensation to the woman concerned for any loss or damage caused to her.

10. () No prosecution under this Ordinance shall be instituted except by, or with, the previous sanction of the Inspector of Factories and no such prosecution shall be instituted until the expiry of the period of appeal under sub-section (2) or, if such an appeal is preferred, unless the Director of Labour Welfare by his order thereon, sanctions a prosecution.

(2) Where the Inspector of Factories decides either to institute a prosecution under this Ordinance or to grant sanction thereto, he shall forthwith communicate his order to the person complained against, who may, within thirty days of the date of the said order, appeal to the Director of Labour Welfare against such decision; and the decision of the Director of Labour Welfare on such appeal shall be final and shall not be liable to be contested by suit or otherwise.

(3) No Court inferior to that of a magistrate of the first class shall try any offence against this Ordinance or any rule made thereunder.

11. Where on an application by an employer or a woman, 'or the person nominated by her or any of her legal representatives] the Inspector of Factories refuses either to institute a prosecution under this Ordinance, or to grant sanction thereto, he shall without delay communicate to the applicant his order of refusal, and an [applicant) aggrieved by such order may, within thirty days of the date thereof appeal to the Director of Labour Welfare against such order; and the decision of the Director of Labour Welfare on such appeal 3[, which shall be taken after affording to the applicant an opportunity of being heard,] shall be final.

12. No Court shall take cognizance of any offence against this Ordinance or any rule made thereunder unless complaint thereof has been made to the Inspector of Factories within six months of the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed.

Rules. 13. () Government may make rules to carry out the purposes of this Ordinance.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for—

(a)

(b)

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the preparation and maintenance of a

muster roll or register or combined

muster roll and register and the particulars to be entered in such muster roll, register or combined

muster roll and register or in the register kept or deemed to have been kept under section 41 of the

Factories Act, 1934';

the inspection of \*[establishments] for the purposes of this Ordinance by the Inspector of Factories;

the exercise of powers and \_ the performance of duties by the Inspector of Factories for the purposes of this Ordinance;

the method of payment of maternity benefit in so far as provision has not been made in this Ordinance;

the forms of notice under clause (a) and clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 5; and

procedure to be observed in the disposal of appeals under sub- section (2) of section 7 or sub-section (2) of section 10 or section 11.

(3) Any such rule may provide that a contravention

thereof shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred and fifty rupees.

(4) All rules made under this Ordinance shall be laid before the 3[\* \* \*] Provincial Assembly, as soon as may be after they are made, and if the Assembly within next subsequent seven days on which the Assembly has sat after any such rule

+ ie. Act XXV of 1934

2 Subs. for the word "factories", by Fed. Act XI of 1994.

3 The words "West Pakistan", del. by P.O. 4 or 1975.

has been laid before it, resolves that the rule shall be annulled, the rule shall forthwith be void, but without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done thereunder or to the making of a new rule.

Exhibition of 14. An abstract of the provisions of this Ordinance and the extracts. rules thereunder in the regional language shall be exhibited in a conspicuous manner by the employer in every part of the

‘Establishments] in which women are employed.

Repeal and savings. 15. qd) The following enactments are hereby repealed:-

[(a) the Sind Maternity Benefit Act, 1929°;

(aa) the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, as applicable in the District of Karachi;]

(b) the Punjab Maternity Benefit Act, 19434.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal of the enactments mentioned in sub-section (1), everything done, action taken, obligation, liability, penalty or punishment incurred, inquiry or proceeding commenced, officer appointed or person authorised, jurisdiction or power conferred, rule made and order issued under any of the provisions of the said enactments shall, if not inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, continue in force and, so far as may be, be deemed to have been respectively done, taken, incurred, commenced, appointed, authorised, conferred, made or issued under this Ordinance.

Subs. for the word “factory”, by Fed. Act XI of 1994,

Subs. for clause (a), by W.P. Ord. VII of 1964.

i.e. ie. Sind Act VII of 1929.

ie. Pb. Act VI of 1943.

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