



THE BANKS (NATIONALIZATION) ACT, 1974



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THE SCHEDULE.



THE PAKISTAN CODE

THE BANKS (NATIONALIZATION) ACT, 1974.

¹ACT No. XIX OF 1974

[4th March, 1974]

An Act to provide for the nationalization of banking business in Pakistan.

WHEREAS it is expedient in the public interest to provide for the nationalization of banking business in Pakistan;

It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. Short title, extent and commencement.— (1) This Act may be called the Banks (Nationalization) Act, 1974.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once and shall be deemed to have taken effect on the 1st day of January, 1974.

2. Act to override other laws. This Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force or in any agreement, contract, award, memorandum or articles of association or other instrument.

3. Definitions. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(1) “bank” means—

- (a) a company registered under the Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913.) and transacting, in or outside Pakistan, the business of banking as defined in clause (b) of section 5 of the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962 (LVII of 1962.) in respect of which no proceedings under Part III or Part IV of the said Ordinance have been taken or are pending immediately before the commencing day; and
- (b) a banking company incorporated by or under any law within the legislative competence of parliament, including the State Bank, the National Bank of Pakistan, the Industrial Development Bank of Pakistan and the Agricultural Development Bank of Pakistan, but does not include—
 - (i) a bank which is an enemy firm within the meaning of the Defence of Pakistan Rules, or
 - (ii) a banking company incorporated outside Pakistan and transacting banking business in Pakistan, or

¹For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Gaz. of P., 1974, Ext., Pt. III, P. 79.

- (iii) a cooperative bank registered under the Cooperative Societies Act, 1925 (VII of 1925.) or any other law for the time being in force relating to cooperative societies, not being a cooperative bank which is a scheduled bank, or
- (iv) a Government Savings Bank to which the Government Savings Bank Act, 1873 (V of 1873.) applies, or
- (v) a corporation or company owned or controlled by a Province and carrying on banking business only within that Province ¹[,or]
- ²[(vi) a corporation or company established in Pakistan in pursuance of an agreement between the Government of Pakistan and a foreign Government or institution for transacting banking business in or outside Pakistan;]

³[(1A) “Board” means Board of Directors constituted under this Act;]

(2) “commencing day” means the 1st day of January, 1974;

⁴[(3) * * * * *
(4) * * * * *]

⁵[(4A) “loans and advances” means “loans, advances and credit” as defined in the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962 (LVII of 1962.);]

(5) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(6) “State Bank” means the State Bank of Pakistan established under the State Bank of Pakistan Act, 1956 (XXXIII of 1956); and

(7) other words and expressions used but not defined in this Act shall have the same meaning as in the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962 (LVII of 1962).

4. Punishment for contravention of section 3, etc. *[Exclusive right to establish bank] omitted by the Banks (Nationalization) (Amdt.) Act 1997, (XVIII of 1997) s. 3.]*

5. Transfer and vesting of ownership, etc. of banks.— (1) The ownership, management and control of all banks shall stand transferred to, and vest in, the Federal Government on the commencing day.

(2) All shares in the capital of a bank held by persons other than the Federal Government, a Provincial Government, a corporation owned or controlled by the Federal Government or the State Bank shall stand transferred to, and vest in, the Federal Government on the Commencing day, free of all trusts, liabilities and encumbrances.

¹Subs. by the Banks (Nationalization) (Amdt.) Ordinance, 1977 (46 of 1977), s. 2, for full-stop.

²New sub-clause (vi) added *ibid.*,

³Ins. by the Banks (Nationalization) (Third Amdt.) Act, 1991 (15 of 1991), s. 2 (w.e.f. 30-6-1990).

⁴Sub-sections (3) and (4) omitted by the Banks (Nationalization) (Amdt.) Act 1997, (18 of 1997) s. 2, which was previously amended by Act (15 of 1991), s. 2.

⁵Ins. by the Banks (Nationalization) (Amdt.) Ordinance, 1980 (59 of 1980), s. 2.

¹[(2A) If any bank issues any additional share capital after the commencing day, then, without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (1), a Provincial Government, a corporation owned or controlled by the Federal Government and the State Bank may contribute to the share capital so issued.]

(3) The vesting of any shares in the Federal Government under sub-section (2) shall not effect the rights inter se of a shareholder and any other person who may have an interest in such shares and such other person shall be entitled to enforce his interest against the compensation awarded to the shareholder under section 6.

(4) The safety of all deposits in banks shall stand guaranteed by the Federal Government.

(5) The provisions of this Act and the vesting of the shares of the banks in the Federal Government thereunder shall not in any way affect the status of the banks as bodies corporate under the Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913).

²[(6) The Federal Government or a corporation owned or controlled by the Federal Government may, from time to time, sell all or any of its shares in the capital of a bank, other than the State Bank, to such persons, and on such terms and conditions, as it may determine] ³[;and]

- ³[(a) where ⁴[upto forty-nine] of the shares in the capital of a bank are so sold, the application of the provisions of this Act, other than this sub-section, to such bank shall stand suspended for such period, and on such terms, as the Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, specify; and
- (b) where not less than fifty-one per cent of the shares are so sold, the provisions of this Act shall cease to apply to such bank.].

⁵[**5A. Sale of shares.** —(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the Federal Government or a corporation owned or controlled by the Federal Government may, from time to time sell all or any of its shares in the capital of a bank and transfer management and control of a bank other than the State Bank, to such persons, and on such terms and conditions, as the Federal Government may determine; and

- (a) where ⁴[upto forty-nine] of the shares in the capital of a bank are so sold, the application of the provisions of this Act, other than this sub-section, including provisions relating to ownership of shares and management and control of banks, to such bank shall stand suspended for such period, and on such terms, including terms guaranteeing the security of deposits and terms relating to sound management of the bank, as the Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, specify; and

¹ Ins. by the Banks (Nationalization) (Amdt.) Ordinance, 1981 (45 of 1981), s. 2.

² Added by the Finance Act, 1990 (7 of 1990) s. 14.

³ Subs. and added by the Banks (Nationalization) (Second Amdt.) Act, 1991 (4 of 1991), s. 2.

⁴ Subs. by Act No IV of 2007, s. 11.

⁵ Ins. by the Banks (Nationalization) (Third Amdt.) Act, 1991 (15 of 1991), s. 3, (w.e.f. 30.06.1990).

- (b) where not less than fifty-one percent of the shares are so sold, the provisions of this Act shall cease to apply to such bank.

(2) The Federal Government shall have, and be deemed always to have had, the power to determine and lay down the terms and conditions subject to which shares in the capital of a bank are to be sold and its management and control is to be transferred to any person under sub-section (1).

(3) The power referred to in sub-section (1) may be exercised by the Federal Government at any time either before or after a decision is taken by the Federal Government to sell the shares and transfer the management of a bank as aforementioned, and the Federal Government shall be competent to vary, modify, review or annul any or all of the terms and conditions referred to in sub-section (2) at any time it deems fit to do so in the public interest, until the sale of the shares and transfer of management and control are completed, and such variation, modification, review or annulment shall not be called in question in any Court, or before any authority, on any ground whatsoever.

5B. Section 5A to have effect notwithstanding any other law, etc. The provisions of section 5A shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, any agreement of contract, or any judgment of any Court.]

6. Compensation for transfer of ownership of shares in a bank.—(1) Every person who stands registered as the holder of any share of a bank the ownership, management and control of which stands transferred to the Federal Government by virtue of section 5 shall be entitled to receive from the Federal Government by way of compensation per share an amount determined in accordance with the provisions of section 7 in the form of bonds of the Federal Government, repayable at par at any time within a period of fifteen years in accordance with a redemption programme formulated by the Federal Government and bearing interest at the rate of one per cent above the bank rate notified by the State Bank from time to time:

Provided that, in formulating the redemption programme, the Federal Government may make provision for preferential redemption of the bonds of such class of persons who are of meagre means such as orphans, widows and pensioners, and the amount of compensation payable to whom does not exceed such maximum amount, as the Federal Government may deem fit:

Provided further that, where the amount so determined is not an exact multiple of one hundred rupees, the amount in excess of the nearest lower multiple of one hundred rupees shall be paid in cash.

- (2) The bonds shall be negotiable and eligible as security for advances.

¹**[6A. Registration of certain shares.**—(1) Any person who holds any share of a bank the ownership, management and control of which stands transferred to the Federal Government by virtue of section 5 which was bought by him on a recognised Stock Exchange in Pakistan before the first day of January, 1974, but was not registered in his name in the books of the company by that day may make an application for registration to such bank.

¹ Ins. by the Banks (Nationalization) (Amdt.) Ordinance, 1978 (17 of 1978), s. 2.

(2) An application under sub-section (1) shall be made within such time and in such manner, and shall be accompanied by such documentary evidence, as may be prescribed.

(3) The bank to which an application is made may on being satisfied after such scrutiny or verification by such authority as may be prescribed, that the applicant is the holder of the share, register him as such; and a person so registered shall be entitled to receive the compensation provided for in sub-section (1) of section 6.]

7. Assessment of compensation. The amount of the compensation shall be the amount equal to the break-up value of the share as determined by an auditor appointed by the Federal Government from the balance sheet of the bank as on the 31st December, 1973, according to the principles laid down in rule 8 of the Wealth Tax Rules, 1963;

Provided that in case of a share of the State Bank the amount of the compensation shall be the average of the closing quotations during six working days immediately preceding the commencing day on the Karachi Stock Exchange:

Provided further that, in respect of any share obtained at par from the Federal Government by any directors of the Central Board of Directors of the State Bank or a member of the Local Board of that Bank under the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 13 of the State Bank of Pakistan Act, 1956 (XXXIII of 1956) the amount of compensation shall be calculated at the rate of one hundred rupees per share.

8. Removal of previous management.—(1) Every person holding office in any bank as chairman, director or chief executive by whatever name called, other than a person who holds such office by virtue of his appointment or nomination by the Federal Government or the State Bank, shall stand removed from his office on the commencing day and this removal shall not entitle him to any compensation and no such claim shall be entertained by any court, tribunal or other authority.

(2) The vacation of his office by a chairman, director or chief executive under sub-section (1) or otherwise shall not in any way absolve him of his liability, if any, under any law, contract or otherwise howsoever subsisting immediately before the commencing day or the day on which he ceases to hold such office.

(3) A chairman, director or chief executive by whatever name called ceasing to hold office under any of the aforesaid provisions shall entrust or cause to be entrusted to the person succeeding him in that office, intact and in as good order as they existed on the day immediately preceding the commencing day all properties, all books of accounts and other records and documents belonging to or in the custody or control or pertaining to the affairs, of the bank.

(4) Central Boards of the banks mentioned in the Schedule, and all local bodies, area boards, managing committees, executive committees and similar other bodies for the management of any bank shall stand dissolved, and all members of such bodies shall stand removed from office on the commencing day.

¹[(5) * * * * *]

²**[9. Dissolution of the Pakistan Banking Council.]**—(1) The Pakistan Banking Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) shall stand dissolved forthwith.

(2) All assets, properties and rights of the Council shall stand transferred to and vest in, and all liabilities and other encumbrances of the Council shall stand transferred to and become the liabilities and encumbrances of, the State Bank.

(3) Employees of the Council, including its members, —

- (a) who are on deputation or secondment from any public sector financial institution shall revert to, and continue to be employed by, their parent institutions on terms and conditions governing their employment in their parent institutions ; and
- (b) who do not fall in clause (a) shall become employees of the State Bank on terms and conditions governing their employment with the Council.

(4) Every contract or instrument to which the Council is a party shall continue to be in force and effective as if the State Bank had been a party thereto instead of the Council.

(5) Any legal proceedings or, as the case may be, any application pending before any authority by or against the Council may be continued by or against the State Bank.

(6) Where under any statute or statutory instrument, the Chairman or a member of the Council is nominated for a specified assignment or task, the vacancy caused by the operation of this section shall be filled by a person nominated by the State Bank.]

³**[10. Transfer and using of funds.]** All sums standing to the credit of the Council in the fund constituted heretofore shall stand transferred to, and vest in, the State Bank.]

⁴**[11. General provisions pertaining to management of banks.]**—(1) Subject to sub-section (2), a bank shall have a Board consisting of—

- (a) a President, who shall be its Chief Executive; and
- ⁵[(b) not less than five and not more than seven other members including one or more directors whose election by the private shareholders, removal and other matters shall be governed by the Companies Ordinance, 1984 (XLVII of 1984).]

(2) The Federal Government may, if it deems necessary, appoint a Chairman of the Board in respect of a bank.

¹Sub-section (5) omitted by the Banks (Nationalization) (Amdt.) Act, 1997, (18 of 1997), s. 4.

² Subs. by the Banks (Nationalization) (Amdt.) Act, 1997, (18 of 1997), s. 5, for section 9, which was previously amended by various enactments.

³ Subs. *ibid.* s. 6, for section 10.

⁴ Subs. by the Banks (Nationalization) (Amdt.) Act, 1997, (18 of 1997), s. 7, for section 11, which was previously amended by various enactments.

⁵Subs. by Act, 2016 (41 of 2016), s. 2.

(3) The Chairman, the President, and other members of the Board ¹[representing the Federal Government's direct and indirect shareholding].—

- (a) shall be appointed by the Federal Government, in consultation with the State Bank, for a term of three years, on such terms and conditions as may be fixed by the General Meeting of the bank: provided that the Chairman and the President shall be appointed from amongst professional bankers whose names are included in a panel of bankers qualified to be the Chairman or the President, which panel shall be determined, maintained and varied, from time to time, by the State Bank ;
- (b) may be removed for misconduct or physical and mental incapacity before the expiry of the three years term by the Federal Government in consultation with the State Bank;
- (c) shall stand removed if he becomes ineligible on any of the grounds specified in sub-section (12); and
- ¹[(d) may be re-appointed for second and final term by the Federal Government, in consultation with the State Bank of Pakistan, for a further period of three years.]

(4) The general direction and superintendence of the affairs and business of a bank, and overall policy making in respect of its operations, shall vest in its Board.

(5) The Board shall determine—

- (i) the credit policies of the banks ;
- (ii) evaluation criteria for the performance of the employees of the bank other than the President;
- (iii) personnel policies of the bank, including appointment and removal of officers and employees ;
- (iv) guidelines for entering into any compromise with borrowers and other customers of the bank ; and
- (v) any other policy matter.

(6) The Chief Executive and other officers of the bank shall act in accordance with the policies, criteria and guidelines determined by the Board.

(7) The Board shall appoint committees from amongst the executives of the bank, and determine the powers, functions and duties of such committees.

(8) Where the Federal Government has appointed a Chairman, he shall preside over the meetings of the Board, and in case a Chairman has not been appointed, then the President shall preside over the meetings of Board. In the absence of the Chairman or the President, as the case may be, the directors may elect one of the member to preside over the meetings.

¹Added and Subs. by Act, 2016 (41 of 2016), s. 2.

(9) The President, subject to the control and directions of the Board, shall exercise powers of management of the affairs of the bank.

(10) All selections, promotions and transfer of employee of banks except the President and decisions as to their remuneration and benefits shall be made by the President in accordance with the evaluation criteria and personnel policies determined by the Board.

(11) The Board, the President and other officers shall exercise their powers and discharge their duties in accordance with sound banking principles and prudent banking practices and shall ensure compliance with regulations and directions that may be issued by the State Bank from time to time.

(12) No person shall be eligible for appointment as the Chairman, the President, or a member of the Board if—

- (a) he is or has at any time been adjudged insolvent or has suspended payment or has compounded with his creditors ; or
- (b) he is a minor or is found a lunatic or of unsound mind ; or
- (c) he is not citizen of Pakistan ; or
- (d) he was at any time in the service of the Federal Government or a corporation controlled by any such Government or in the service of a bank and was dismissed ; or
- (e) he is a person against whom any action has been taken or any proceedings are pending under section 412 of the Companies Ordinance, 1984, (XLVII of 1984) or section 83 of the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962 (LVII of 1962) ; or
- (f) he is, or has been, convicted for tax evasion under any law for the time being in force ; or
- (g) he is a member of the Senate, National Assembly, any Provincial Assembly or an elected Member of a local council constituted under any law relating to local councils ; or
- (h) he is holding an office in a political party.]

¹[**11A. Provisions pertaining to management of banks to apply to certain financial institutions.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other law for the time being in force, or in any agreement, contract, award, memorandum and article of associations or any other instruments, the provision of section 11 shall apply to—

- ²[(i)* * * * *
- (ii)* * * * *]

¹New section 11A ins. by the Banks (Nationalization) (Amdt.) Act, 1997 (18 of 1997), s. 8.

²Clauses (i and ii) omitted by Act, 2011 (24 of 2011), s. 2.

⁴[(iii) * * * * *]

¹[(iv) * * * * *]

⁴[(v) * * * * *]

(vi) * * * * *

(vii) First Women Bank Limited, and

²[(viii) Agricultural Development Bank of Pakistan (ADBP).

(ix) Industrial Development Bank of Pakistan (IDBP).]

Such other financial institutions as the Federal Government may, by notification in the official gazette, specify.]

12. Fidelity and secrecy.—(1) The Chairman and members of the Council, every bank, ³[the President, members of the Board, and members of the Executive Committee] and chief executive, by whatever name called, shall observe, except as otherwise required by law, the practices and usages customary among bankers and, in particular, shall not divulge any information relating to the affairs of its constituents except in circumstances in which it is, in accordance with law or practice and usages customary among bankers, necessary or appropriate for a bank to divulge such information.

(2) The Chairman and members of the Council, ³[the President, members of the Board, and members of the executive committee] of every bank, every administrator, auditor, adviser, officer or other employee of the Council or a bank shall, before entering upon his office, make a declaration of fidelity and secrecy in such form as may be prescribed.

Explanation.—In the case of any such person employed in connection with the affairs of a bank as is not required by any provision of this Act to vacate any office held by him, the requirements of this sub-section shall be deemed to be satisfied if such person has already filed with the bank a declaration more or less to the effect of the prescribed form.

³[(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-sections (1) and (2), every balance sheet and profit and loss account prepared by a bank under any law for the time being in force shall include a statement in the form and manner specified by the State Bank of written off loans or any other financial relief of five hundred thousand rupees or above allowed to a person.

¹ Clauses (iv), omitted by Act, 2011 (24 of 2011), s. 2.

² Added by Notification. No. F. 1 (3)/Inv-II/81-91, dt. 13-1-2001, Pt.- III Ext. Ibd- P. 11.

³ Subs. and added by the Banks (Nationalization (Third Amdt.) Act, 1991 (15 of 1991), s. 6, (w.e.f 30.06.1990).

⁴ Clauses (iii, v and vi), omitted by Act (IX of 2020), s.2.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-sections (1) and (2), the State Bank shall prepare, and submit to the Federal Government, a special report every year on cases of write off of loans, mark-up and other dues, or financial relief through rescheduling and restructuring of loans and subsidized loans provided by the nationalized commercial banks, in which established banking practices or authorized procedures have been departed from with a view to causing wrongful loss to the bank or conferring wrongful gain on any constituent or such departure has caused wrongful loss to the bank or conferred wrongful gain on any constituent. If the matters raised in the report relate to public interest, the Federal Government may submit the report, or such part of it as relates to public interest, to the Parliament or to the Standing Committee or a House of Parliament dealing with Finance.]

13. Provisions regarding staff. —(1) Save as otherwise provided in this Act, all officers and other employees of a bank shall continue in their respective offices and employments on the same terms and conditions, including remuneration and rights as to pension and gratuity, as were applicable to them immediately before the commencing day.

(2) Notwithstanding any law or any provision contained in a contract, agreement, letter of appointment rules or regulations of a bank, every officer and employee of a bank shall be liable to transfer to any of its branches in or outside Pakistan or to any other bank:

Provided that his status and emoluments shall not be adversely affected.

14. Certain claims for compensation barred. No person including a chairman, director, chief executive by whatever name called, a shareholder, a constituent or an officer or employee of a bank shall have any right, whether in contract or otherwise, to any compensation other than that expressly provided for by this Act, for any loss or damage directly or indirectly incurred by reason of the operation of any of the provisions of this Act or any rule or order made or direction issued thereunder.

15. *[Schemes for reorganisation of banks, etc.] omitted by the Banks (Nationalization) (Amdt.) Act 1997, (XVIII of 1997) s.9.*

16. Removal of doubts. For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that—

- (a) all assets, rights, powers, authorities and privileges and all property, movable or immovable, cash balances, reserve funds, investments and all other rights and interests arising out of such property as were immediately before the commencing day in the ownership, possession, power or control of a bank, whether within or outside Pakistan, shall ¹[* * *] continue to vest in that bank, and all borrowings, liabilities, including contingent liabilities, and obligations of a bank of whatever kind subsisting immediately before the commencing day shall, unless other provisions as aforesaid are made for their discharge or performance, continue to be the borrowings, liabilities and obligations of that bank ;
- (b) all contracts, deeds, bonds, agreements, powers of attorney, other than those in favour of a person vacating his office under this Act, grant of legal representation and other instruments of whatever kind subsisting or having effect immediately before the commencing day to which a bank is a party or which are in favour of a bank shall be of as full force and effect against or in favour of a bank as they were immediately before the commencing day; and

¹The Certain words omitted by the Banks (Nationalization) (Amdt.) Act, 1997 (18 of 1997), s. 10.

- (c) if, on the commencing day, any suit, appeal or other legal proceeding of whatever nature which is by or against the bank or to which the bank is a party is pending in any court or before a tribunal or other authority, the same shall not abate, be discontinued or be in any way, prejudicially affected by any provision of this Act.

17. Disposal of profits. Subject to the provisions of the law by or under which a bank has been established and the provisions of the State Bank Act, 1956 (XXXIII of 1956), and the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962 (LVII of 1962), a bank shall not declare any dividend on its share capital unless—

- (a) it has drawn up its annual balance sheet and profit and loss account and has its accounts audited by an auditor qualified to act as such under the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962 (LVII of 1962);
- (b) it has made adequate provision for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in assets, contributions to staff and superannuation funds and all other contingencies for which provision is necessary under any law or which are usually provided for by bankers; and
- (c) a copy of the balance sheet and profit and loss account along with the audit report has been supplied to the State Bank and the Federal Government and the latter has approved the declaration of such dividend:

Provided that, before according such approval, the Federal Government may, of its own motion or on the recommendation of the State Bank, order a second audit of the accounts of the bank and appoint such auditor for the purpose as it thinks fit.

¹[**18. Indemnity.** No suit, prosecution, or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Federal Government, the State Bank, the President or directors of the Board, of a bank or any officer of the Federal Government or the State Bank or a bank for anything in good faith done or purporting to be done under this Act or any rule or order made or direction issued thereunder or for any damage caused or likely to be caused by anything done or purporting to be done as aforesaid.]

19. Bar of jurisdiction. No provision of this Act or of any rule or order made or direction issued thereunder shall be called in question by or before any court or other authority.

20. Power to make rules. The Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules² to provide for all matters for which provision is necessary or expedient for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

¹Subs. by the Banks (Nationalization) (Amdt.) Act, 1997 (18 of 1997), s. 11, for section 18, which was previously subs. by Act 15 of 1991 s. 7.

²For the Banks (Nationalization) (Payment of Compensation) Rules, 1974 see S.R.O. No. 1284(I)/74, dated 7-10-1974. Gaz. of P., 1974, Ext., (Islamabad), Pt. II. pp. 1800—1803.

21. Adaptation of laws. Any court, tribunal or authority required or empowered to enforce the ¹[Companies Ordinance, 1984] or the memorandum or articles of association of a bank registered thereunder, or any other law for the time being in force shall construe the said Act, memorandum or articles of association or such other law with such adaptations as are necessary to bring the same into accord with the provisions of this Act.

22. Penalty. —(1) Whoever contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine or with both.

(2) No person shall be prosecuted under this Act except with the sanction of the Federal Government or an officer authorised by it in this behalf.

23. Removal of difficulties. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any provision of this Act the Federal Government may make such order not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to it to be necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty.

24. *[Repeal of Ordinance I of 1974.] Omitted by the Federal Laws (Revision and Declaration) Ordinance, 1981 (XXVII of 1981), s. 3 and Sch., II.*



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[See sections 8 and 9]

- (1) Australasia Bank Limited.
- (2) Bank of Bahawalpur Limited.
- (3) Commerce Bank Limited.
- (4) Habib Bank Limited.
- (5) Lahore Commercial Bank Limited.
- (6) Muslim Commercial Bank Limited.
- (7) National Bank of Pakistan.
- (8) ²* * * * *
- (9) Standard Bank Limited.
- (10) United Bank Limited.
- (11) Sarhad Bank Limited.
- (12) Premier Bank Limited.
- (13) Pak Bank Limited.
- (14) Habib Bank (Overseas) Limited.

¹Subs. by the Finance Act, 1990 (7 of 1990), s. 14.

² Entry (8) omitted by the Federal Bank for Cooperatives and Regulation of Cooperative Banking Act, 1977 (9 of 1977), s. 49.