

**THE PUNJAB CIVILIAN VICTIMS OF TERRORISM (RELIEF
AND REHABILITATION) ACT 2016
(XXXIX of 2016)**

CONTENTS

1. Short title, extent and commencement
2. Definitions
3. Right of civilian victims
4. Civilian Victims Fund
5. Ascertainment of a civilian victim
6. Healthcare of civilian victims
7. Rehabilitation of civilian victims
8. Mode of payments
9. Safeguard against discrimination
10. Appeal
11. Fake or fraudulent payments
12. Assistance
13. Performance audit
14. Act not in derogation of other laws
15. No legal liability
16. Training
17. Annual report
18. Rules
19. Repeal

SCHEDULE

TEXT

**'THE PUNJAB CIVILIAN VICTIMS OF TERRORISM (RELIEF AND
REHABILITATION) ACT 2016**

(XXXIX of 2016)

[2nd September 2016]

**An
Act**

*to provide for the institutionalized response to redress the hardship faced by the
civilian victims and their families owing to an act of terrorism.*

It is necessary to provide for timely recognition and assistance for civilian victims of acts of terrorism; recognizing the right of civilian victims to receive state assistance for relief, healthcare and rehabilitation; arranging for adequate funds for such assistance; establishing an effective mechanism to track, investigate and analyze harm to civilians in acts of terrorism; and, for other purposes.

Be it enacted by Provincial Assembly of the Punjab as follows:–

1. Short title, extent and commencement.– (1) This Act may be cited as the Punjab Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) Act 2016.

- (2) It extends to whole of the Punjab.
- (3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.– In this Act:

- (a) “civilian victim” means a person, not being a terrorist or a personnel of a law enforcement agency on duty, who suffers harm in body, mind or property owing to any act of terrorism and, in the event of death of the person, includes the spouse of the victim or, in absence of a spouse but in order of precedence, a child, mother, father, minor sibling or other legal heirs of the victim;
- (b) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of a Division;
- (c) “family member” means spouse, dependent child, dependent parent and a dependent sibling;
- (d) “Government” means Government of the Punjab;
- (e) “healthcare” includes diagnosis and treatment of an illness or trauma;
- (f) “law enforcement agency” means, police or any other law enforcement agency notified by the Government;
- (g) “notified officer” means the principal administrative officer of a district or any other person in the service of Pakistan notified by the Government under the Act;
- (h) “prescribed” means prescribed by the rules made under the Act;

¹This Act was passed by the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab on 29 August 2016; assented to by the Governor of the Punjab on 01 September 2016; and, was published in the Punjab Gazette (Extraordinary), dated: 02 September 2016, pp. 1505-1509.

- (i) "Schedule" means the Schedule appended to the Act;
- (j) "terrorism" means an unlawful act using any explosive, weapon or any other means of force or show of force by a terrorist against a person or property to intimidate or coerce public, a section of public, the Government, Federal Government or any agency or authority of a Government in furtherance of political, sectarian, religious, ethnic or social objectives and includes a suicide attack, sectarian violence and an armed conflict between a terrorist and a law enforcement agency; and
- (k) "terrorist" means a person who has committed, attempts to commit or is accused of the commission of terrorism.

3. Right of civilian victims.– (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, a civilian victim shall be entitled to the grant specified in the Schedule for the harm caused to body, mind or property owing to an act of terrorism.

(2) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, amend the Schedule to increase the amount of grant or add any other category of harm and fix the amount of grant for such harm.

4. Civilian Victims Fund.– The Government shall, by notification in the official Gazette, establish the Civilian Victims Fund, with a dedicated head of account, for timely payment of grants and other benefit to the civilian victims under the Act.

5. Ascertainment of a civilian victim.– (1) The notified officer shall, within reasonable time, preferably within thirty days of an act of terrorism, communicate to the Government the details of the act of terrorism and those of the civilian victims.

- (2) The details of the act of terrorism may include:
 - (a) the time, date, place and nature of the act of terrorism;
 - (b) the device or devices used in the act of terrorism, such as bomb, explosive or inflammable substance, firearm or any other device;
 - (c) a statement, if possible, about the terrorist or terrorists involved in the act of terrorism and the aim of the act of terrorism;
 - (d) the name and details of the civilian victim;
 - (e) the nature of injuries as determined by Surgeon Medicolegal Punjab or the Standing Medical Board in the Punjab;
 - (f) the nature and details of harm caused to the property of the civilian victim;
 - (g) the name with details of the spouse and other family members of the civilian victim;
 - (h) the entitlement of the civilian victim to the payment of grant under section 3;
 - (i) additional or monthly grant which may be paid to a civilian victim with reasons for such recommendation; and

- (j) reports of a law enforcement agency, Health, Building and Livestock departments.

(3) The Government shall, within fifteen days from the receipt of communication from the notified officer and under intimation to the notified officer, transfer the requisite grant payable to the civilian victim in prescribed manner.

6. Healthcare of civilian victims.– (1) The notified officer shall ensure immediate free medical treatment of a civilian victim from a hospital, owned or controlled by the Government, local authority or any entity or agency of the Government.

(2) In case of non-availability of the treatment in a health facility mentioned in subsection (1), the hospital may refer the case to a private medical facility as per prevalent rules in this regard.

7. Rehabilitation of civilian victims.– (1) In addition to the medical treatment and payment of grant to the civilian victim, the notified officer may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, recommend measures to the Government for rehabilitation of the civilian victim.

(2) The measures under subsection (1) may include:

- (a) monthly grants to the civilian victim for a specified period;
- (b) education or vocational training of the civilian victim or his family members at Government's expense; and
- (c) continued healthcare of the civilian victim and his family members.

(3) If the Government receives any recommendation under this section, it may, wholly or partially, accept the recommendation of the notified officer or reject it, with reasons recorded and communicated in writing.

(4) The Government may, on its own motion, in the prescribed manner, direct the notified officer to undertake a scheme for the rehabilitation of a class of civilian victims and their family members with special emphasis on education of dependent children, provision of livelihood to the civilian victims and their family members and of continued healthcare.

8. Mode of payments.– (1) The Government may adopt any appropriate mode of payments that may have become available because of modern devices or techniques, for timely payment under the Act.

(2) The notified officer shall, in the prescribed form, maintain a detailed record of the payments made to the civilian victim or his family members and cost incurred on his treatment or rehabilitation.

9. Safeguard against discrimination.– No civilian victim otherwise eligible for any grant or other benefits under the Act shall be discriminated against in respect of any such grant or benefits on the ground only of age, religion, race, caste, sex, colour, residence or place of birth.

10. Appeal.– (1) A person aggrieved by any decision of the notified officer may, within thirty days from the date of communication of the decision, prefer an appeal to the Commissioner or any other officer notified for the purpose by the Government.

(2) The appellate authority shall afford an opportunity of hearing to any interested person and shall, through a speaking order, decide the appeal within thirty days from the date of filing of the appeal, and the decision of the appellate authority shall be final.

11. Fake or fraudulent payments.– (1) If, on account of any payment made under the Act, it transpires to the notified officer or the Commissioner that the payment has been made under the Act on the basis of any fraud or misrepresentation, the notified officer or the Commissioner may, initiate criminal proceedings under any law and recover the amount paid to the person who was not entitled to receive it after affording the person an opportunity of hearing.

(2) Any person, aggrieved by the decision of the notified officer or the Commissioner under subsection (1) may, within thirty days from the date of communication of the decision, prefer an appeal to the Commissioner or the Government.

(3) The Commissioner or the Government shall afford an opportunity of hearing to any interested person and shall, through a speaking order, decide the appeal within thirty days from the date of filing of the appeal, and the decision of the appellate authority shall be final.

12. Assistance.– (1) All officers and agencies of the Government in the district or division shall assist the Commissioner and the notified officer in the performance of their functions under the Act.

(2) In the performance of their functions under the Act, the Commissioner or the notified officer may call for any information from any agency of the Government and such agency shall immediately provide the requisite information.

13. Performance audit.– (1) The Government may conduct or cause to be conducted the performance audit of the services rendered and payments made on periodic basis under the Act.

(2) The performance audit shall include, among others, the details of the quality of services provided by the notified officers, Commissioners and the Government to the civilian victims, the identification of weaknesses or lapses and the recommendations for improvement.

14. Act not in derogation of other laws.– (1) Save as otherwise provided in the Act, the provisions of the Act are in addition to and not in derogation of any other law.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Act, the right to compensation of any person shall not be extinguished or varied and the Government or any of its functionaries shall not be absolved from any liability under any other law.

15. No legal liability.– Notwithstanding anything contained in any law, any payment made to a civilian victim under the Act shall not be construed as admission of any wrong on the part of the Government or any functionary of the Government.

16. Training.– The Government shall, at regular intervals, arrange training of the notified officers, Commissioners and personnel of law enforcement agencies, Health, Building and Livestock departments for achieving the purposes of the Act.

17. Annual report.— (1) The Government shall, within three months of the close of a financial year, submit to the Provincial Assembly an annual report.

- (2) The annual report shall consist of:
 - (a) the details of the civilian victims and a comprehensive statement of the payments made during the preceding financial year;
 - (b) reasons for delay, if any, in making payments to the civilian victims and proposed solutions;
 - (c) the salient features of the performance audit report, if any; and
 - (d) any other matters considered appropriate by the Government or as may be prescribed.

18. Rules.— (1) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Act.

- (2) In particular, the rules may provide for any of the following matters:
 - (a) submission of application to a notified officer;
 - (b) mode, manner and periodicity of the payments made to a civilian victim or any of his family members;
 - (c) repair or construction of a dwelling unit of a civilian victim;
 - (d) compensation for loss of livestock or business establishment of a civilian victim;
 - (e) details of communications between the notified officers and the Government for timely payment to the civilian victim and authenticity of communication;
 - (f) rehabilitation of the civilian victim and his family members;
 - (g) medical treatment of the civilian victim;
 - (h) maintenance of records and publication of information under the Act;
 - (i) procedure for decision of applications and appeals under the Act; and
 - (j) maintenance of accounts.

19. Repeal.— The Punjab Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) Ordinance 2016 (X of 2016) is hereby repealed.

SCHEDULE

Sr. #	Nature of harm	Mode of Assessment	Extent of harm	Amount of grant in rupees
1	Death			One million
2	Grievous Injury	On the report of Surgeon Medicolegal, Punjab or the Standing Medical Board	Amputation or incapacitation of a limb	0.5 million
3	Substantial Injury	-do-	Inability to work because of harm for a period of more than two weeks	0.1 million
4	Dwelling Unit	On the report of Building Department	Complete destruction	0.5 million
			Partial destruction	0.1 million
5	Shop, kiosk or any other business establishment	-do-	Complete destruction	0.5 million
			Partial destruction	0.1 million
			Loss of commodities	25% compensation of the cost of commodities assessed by the notified officer which shall not exceed one million rupees
6	Vehicle	On the report of Motor Vehicle Examiner	Bus, Truck or other heavy vehicle:	
			(a) severe damage	(a) 0.5 million
			(b) minor damage	(b) 0.08 million
			Car, Jeep or other four or three wheeler; and	
			(a) severe damage	(a) 0.2.million
			(b) minor damage	(b) 0.04 million
			Motor cycle or scooter, in case of severe damage	0.02 million

7	Loss of Livestock	On the report of Livestock Department	Each buffalo, cow, bull, horse or donkey	0.10 million
			Each sheep or goat	0.02 million