

[8th May, 1955]

An Act to prescribe punishment for the ¹[preaching and practice of - "Untouchability"] for the enforcement of any disability arising therefrom for matters connected therewith.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

1. Short title, extent and commencement

1. This Act may be called ²[the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955].
2. It extends ³to the whole of India.
3. It shall come into force on such date⁴ as the Central Government may by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, -

⁵[(a) "civil rights" means any right accruing to a person by reason of the abolition of "untouchability" by article 17 of the Constitution]

⁶[(aa)] "hotel" includes a refreshment room, a boarding house, a lodging house, a coffee house and a cafe

⁷[(b)] "place" includes a house, building and other structure on premises; and also includes a tent, vehicle and vessel

(c) "place of public entertainment" includes any place to which the public are admitted and in which an entertainment is provided or held.

Explanation: "Entertainment" includes any exhibition, performance, game, sport and any other form of amusement.

(d) "place of public worship" means a place, by whatever name known, which is used as a place of public religious worship or which is dedicated generally to, or is used generally by, persons professing any religion or belonging to any religious denomination or any section

1. Subs. by Act 106 of 1976, s. 2, for "practice of Untouchability" (w.e.f. 19-11-1976).

2. Subs. by s. 3, *ibid.*, for "the Untouchability (Offences) Act" (w.e.f. 19-11-1976).

3. Extended to Goa, Daman and Diu with modification by Regulation 12 of 1962, section 3 and Schedule to Dadra and Nagar Haveli by Regulation 6 of 1963, section 2 and Schedule I (with effect from 1st July, 1965) and to Pondicherry by Regulation 7 of 1963, section 3 and Schedule I (with effect from 1st October, 1963).

4. 1st June, 1955, vide Notification No. S.R.O. 1109, dated the 23rd May, 1955. Gazette of India, 1955, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Page 1971.

5. Ins. by Act 106 of 1976, s 4 (w.e.f. 19-11-1976).

6. Clause (a) was relettered as clause (aa) by s. 4, *ibid.*, (w.e.f.19-11-1976)