

(b) every agency or person or institutions or Universities involved in the research or statistical project makes a declaration to use the schedules disclosed to them only for *bona fide* research or statistical purposes; and

(c) the appropriate Government, making such disclosure is satisfied that the security of the schedules and any information contained therein shall not be impaired.

(3) The published results of any research or statistical project shall not divulge any more information than what the agency authorised for collection of statistics could publish under this Act.

(4) Every agency or person or institutions or universities to whom any individual return or information schedule is disclosed under this section shall comply with directions given by the agency authorised for collection of statistics making the disclosure relating to the schedules and any information contained therein.

12. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 9 of this Act, the appropriate Government may release such documents relating to information schedules, which in its opinion have attained historical importance.

Disclosure of historical documents

13. The statistics officer or any person or agency authorised for collection of statistics shall, while copying or recording any statistical information collected pursuant to this Act from individual returns, information schedules, worksheets or any other confidential source by means of cards, tapes, discs, film or any other method, whether using encoded or plain language symbols for processing, storage or reproduction of particulars, take and cause to take such steps as are necessary to ensure that the security provisions of this Act are complied with.

Security of recorded information.

14. Save as otherwise provided under this Act,—

Restrictions on use of information

(a) no information obtained pursuant to this Act and no copy of the information in the possession of any informant shall be disclosed or used as evidence in any proceedings whatsoever; and

(b) no person who has access to any information because of his official position in the collection of any statistics shall be compelled in any proceedings whatsoever to give oral testimony regarding the information or to produce any schedule, document, or record with respect to any information obtained in the course of administering this Act,

except in the manner provided under this Act.

#### CHAPTER IV

##### OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

15. (1) Whoever, fails to produce any books of accounts, vouchers, documents or other business records or whoever neglects or refuses to fill in and supply the particulars required in any information schedule or return given or sent to him or whoever neglects or refuses to answer any question or inquiry addressed to him as may be required under or for the purposes of any provision of this Act and the rules made thereunder, shall be punishable with a fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or, in the case of a company, with a fine which may extend to five thousand rupees.

Penalty for neglect or refusal to supply particulars

(2) The conviction of a person or company for an offence shall not relieve him or it of the obligations under sub-section (1) and if after the expiry of fourteen days from the date of conviction, he or it still fails to give the required particulars or continues to neglect or refuses to fill in and supply the particulars or to answer the question or inquiry, then he or it shall be punishable with a further fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or, in the case of a

company, with a fine which may extend to five thousand rupees, for each day after the first during which the failure continues.

Penalty for making false statement.

16. Whoever, wilfully makes any false or misleading statement or material omission in any information schedule or return filled in or supplied, or in answer to any question asked to him under this Act or the rules made thereunder, shall be punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with a fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or, in the case of a company, with a fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or with both.

Penalty for mutilation or defacement of information schedule.

17. Whoever, destroys, defaces, removes, or mutilates any information schedule, form, or other document containing particulars collected under this Act or requesting any such particulars, shall be punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with a fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or, in the case of a company with a fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both.

Penalty for obstruction of employees.

18. Whoever, interferes with, hinders, or obstructs any employee in the exercise of any power or duty conferred by this Act, shall be punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with a fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or, in the case of a company with a fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both.

Penalty for other offences.

19. Whoever---

(a) acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any provision of this Act or any requirement imposed under this Act; or

(b) wilfully deceives or attempts to deceive any statistics officer or any agency or any employee thereof,

shall be punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with a fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or, in the case of a company, with a fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both.

Penalty for failure to carry out duties and functions by employees.

20. If any person employed in the execution of any duty or functions under this Act,—

(a) omits without lawful excuse to carry out his duty, or knowingly makes any false declaration, statement or return; or

(b) pretends performance of his duties or obtains or seeks to obtain information which he is not authorised to obtain; or

(c) fails to keep inviolate the secrecy of the information gathered or entered in the information schedules collected pursuant to this Act and, except as permitted under this Act, divulges the contents of any schedule filled in or any information furnished by any informant under this Act,

shall be punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with a fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or, in the case of a company, with a fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both.

Penalty for impersonation of employee.

21. Whoever, not being authorised to collect statistics under the provisions of this Act, by words, conduct or demeanor pretends that he is authorised to do so, shall be punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with a fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or, in the case of a company, with a fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both.

General penalty.

22. Whoever, commits an offence under this Act for which no penalty is prescribed elsewhere than in this section, shall be punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with a fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or, in the case of a company, with a fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both.

23. (1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, every person who at the time the offence was committed was in charge of, and was responsible to, the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly:

Offences by companies.

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment provided in this Act, if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to, any neglect on the part of any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

*Explanation.*—For the purpose of this section—

(a) “company” means any body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals; and

(b) “Director”, in relation to a firm, means a partner in the firm.

24. No court shall take cognizance of any offence under this Act except on a complaint made by the appropriate Government or an officer authorised in this behalf by such appropriate Government or, as the case may be, the statistics officer, and no court inferior to that of a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Judicial Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence punishable under this Act.

Cognizance of offences.

25. No prosecution for an offence committed by any informant shall be instituted except by or with the sanction of the statistics officer, and no prosecution for an offence committed by persons other than informants shall be instituted except by or with the consent of the appropriate Government.

Sanction for prosecution for offence.

2 of 1974.

26. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, all offences under this Act shall be tried in a summary way by a Judicial Magistrate of the first class or by a Metropolitan Magistrate and the provisions of sections 262 to 265 (both inclusive) of the said Code shall, as far as may be, apply to such trial:

Power of court to try cases summarily.

Provided that when in the course of, a summary trial under this section it appears to the Magistrate that the nature of the case is such that it is, for any reason, undesirable to try the case summarily, the Magistrate shall after hearing the parties, record an order to that effect and thereafter recall any witness who may have been examined and proceed to hear or rehear the case in the manner provided by the said Code.

## CHAPTER V

### POWER IN RESPECT OF CORE STATISTICS

27. Without prejudice to the provisions contained in this Act, the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare from time to time any subject for the collection of statistics of national importance as ‘core statistics’ and make such arrangement, as it may consider necessary, for regulating the collection and dissemination of statistics on the subject so declared.

Power in respect of core statistics

## CHAPTER VI

### MISCELLANEOUS

28. The Central Government may give directions to any State Government or Union territory Administration or to any local government that is to say Panchayats or Municipalities, as to the carrying into execution of this Act in the State or Union territory or Panchayats or Municipalities, as the case may be.

Power to give directions.

29. Any statistics officer and any person authorised for the collection of statistics or preparation of official statistics under the provisions of this Act shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

Public servants.

45 of 1860.