OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Preventive Measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 – Reopening of more activities - Regarding

The undersigned is directed to forward Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), New Delhi Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 30.09.2020 for information and compliance by DAE and its Constituent Units / PSUs / Aided Institutions. In addition to the above, the Constituent Units / PSUs / Aided Institutions may also adhere to the orders issued by the respective State Government / Union Territories / Local Authorities on the subject from time to time. A copy of Government of Maharashtra Order No. DMU/2020/CR.92/DisM-1 dated 30.09.2020 is also forwarded herewith for compliance by DAE and its Constituent Units / PSUs / Aided Institutions located in the State of Maharashtra.

2. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Encl: 17 pages.

(S.S. = )
Under Secretary (SCS)

All Heads of Constituent Units/PSUs/Aided Institutions of DAE

Copy to:
1. All Administrative Heads of Units/PSUs/Aided Institutions of DAE
2. Under Secretary (Adm.) DAE – For action in respect of DAE Secretariat.
3. Head, CISD – With a request to upload this communication in DAE website under SCS head.
4. All Officers and Sections in DAE Secretariat – through DARPAN
5. Secretary, Staff Side, DAE Departmental Council
ORDER

Whereas, an Order of even number dated 29.08.2020 was issued for containment of COVID-19 in the country, for a period upto 30.09.2020;

Whereas, in exercise of the powers under section 6(2)(i) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has directed the undersigned to issue an order to re-open more activities in areas outside the Containment Zones and to extend the lockdown in Containment Zones upto 31.10.2020;

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers, conferred under Section 10(2)(i) of the Disaster Management Act 2005, the undersigned hereby directs that guidelines for Re-opening, as annexed, will be in force upto 31.10.2020.

Union Home Secretary

and, Chairman, National Executive Committee (NEC)

To:

1. The Secretaries of Ministries/Departments of Government of India
2. The Chief Secretaries/Administrators of States/Union Territories
   (As per list attached)

Copy to:

i. All Members of the National Executive Committee
ii. Member Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority
Guidelines for Re-opening

[As per Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 30th September, 2020]

1. Activities permitted outside the Containment Zones

   In areas outside the Containment Zones, all activities will be permitted, except the following:

   (i) State/UT Governments may take a decision in respect of re-opening of schools and coaching institutions, after 15th October 2020, in a graded manner. The decision shall be taken in consultation with the respective school/ institution management, based on their assessment of the situation, and subject to the following conditions:

   a. Online/distance learning shall continue to be the preferred mode of teaching and shall be encouraged.

   b. Where schools are conducting online classes, and some students prefer to attend online classes rather than physically attend school, they may be permitted to do so.

   c. Students may attend schools/institutions only with the written consent of parents.

   d. Attendance must not be enforced, and must depend entirely on parental consent.

   e. States/UTs will prepare their own standard operating procedure (SOP) regarding health and safety precautions for reopening of schools/institutions based on the SOP to be issued by Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, Government of India, keeping local requirements in view.

   f. Schools, which are allowed to open, will have to mandatorily follow the SOP to be issued by Education Departments of States/UTs prepared as above.

(ii) Department of Higher Education (DHE), Ministry of Education may take a decision on the timing of the opening of Colleges/Higher Education Institutions, in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), based on the assessment of the situation. Online/distance learning shall continue to be the preferred mode of teaching and shall be encouraged.

   However, Higher Education Institutions only for research scholars (Ph.D) and post-graduate students in science and technology stream requiring laboratory/experimental works will be permitted to open from 15th October, 2020, as under:

   a. For Centrally Funded Higher Education Institutions, the Head of Institution will satisfy herself/himself that there is a genuine
requirement of research scholars (Ph.D) and post-graduate students in science and technology stream for laboratory/experimental works.

b. For all other Higher Education Institutions e.g. State Universities, Private Universities etc., they may open only for research scholars (Ph.D) and postgraduate students in science and technology stream requiring laboratory/experimental works as per decision to be taken by the respective State/UT Governments.

(iii) Swimming pools being used for training of sportspersons will be permitted to open with effect from 15th October, 2020, for which the SOP will be issued by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYA&S).

(iv) Cinemas/ theatres/ multiplexes will be permitted to open with upto 50% of their seating capacity, in areas outside the Containment Zones only, with effect from 15th October 2020, for which, SOP will be issued by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

(v) Entertainment parks and similar places will be permitted to open with effect from 15th October, 2020, for which the SOP will be issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW).

(vi) Business to Business (B2B) Exhibitions will be permitted to open, in areas outside the Containment Zones only, with effect from 15th October 2020, for which, SOP will be issued by the Department of Commerce.

(vii) Social/ academic/ sports/ entertainment/ cultural/ religious/ political functions and other congregations have already been permitted with a ceiling of 100 persons, outside Containment Zones only. Such gatherings beyond the limit of 100 persons may be permitted, outside Containment Zones, by State/ UT Governments only after 15th October 2020, and subject to the following conditions:

a. In closed spaces, a maximum of 50% of the hall capacity will be allowed, with a ceiling of 200 persons. Wearing of face masks, maintaining social distancing, provision for thermal scanning and use of hand wash or sanitizer will be mandatory.

b. In open spaces, keeping the size of the ground/ space in view, and with strict observance of social distancing, mandatory wearing of face masks, provision for thermal scanning and hand wash or sanitizer.

State/ UT Governments will issue detailed SOPs, to regulate such gatherings and strictly enforce the same.

(viii) International air travel of passengers, except as permitted by MHA.


National Directives for COVID-19 Management, as specified in Annexure I, shall continue to be followed throughout the country.
3. **Lockdown limited to Containment Zones**

(i) Lockdown shall remain in force in the Containment Zones till 31st October, 2020.

(ii) Containment Zones shall be demarcated by the District authorities at micro level after taking into consideration the guidelines of MoHFW with the objective of effectively breaking the chain of transmission. Strict containment measures will be enforced in these containment zones and only essential activities will be allowed. There shall be strict perimeter control to ensure that there is no movement of people in or out of these zones, except for medical emergencies and for maintaining supply of essential goods and services. In the Containment Zones, there shall be intensive contact tracing, house-to-house surveillance, and other clinical interventions, as required. Guidelines of MoHFW shall be effectively implemented for the above purpose.

(iii) These Containment Zones will be notified on the websites by the respective District Collectors and by the States/ UTs and information will be shared with MOHFW.

4. **State/ UT Governments shall not impose any local lockdown (State/ District/ sub-division/City level), outside the containment zones, without prior consultation with the Central Government.**

5. **No restriction on Inter-State and intra-State movement**

There shall be no restriction on inter-State and intra-State movement of persons and goods including those for cross land-border trade under Treaties with neighbouring countries. No separate permission/ approval/ e-permit will be required for such movements.

6. **Movement of persons with SOPs**

Movement by passenger trains; domestic passenger air travel; movement of persons on Vande Bharat and Air Transport Bubble flights; and sign-on and sign-off of Indian seafarers will continue to be regulated as per SOPs issued.

7. **Protection of vulnerable persons**

Persons above 65 years of age, persons with co-morbidities, pregnant women, and children below the age of 10 years are advised to stay at home, except for essential and health purposes.

8. **Use of Aarogya Setu**

(i) *Aarogya Setu* enables early identification of potential risk of infection, and thus acts as a shield for individuals and the community.

(ii) With a view to ensuring safety in offices and work places, employers on best effort basis should ensure that *Aarogya Setu* is installed by all employees having compatible mobile phones.

\[\text{\underline{Signature}}\]

30/09/2020
(iii) District authorities may advise individuals to install the Aarogya Setu application on compatible mobile phones and regularly update their health status on the app. This will facilitate timely provision of medical attention to those individuals who are at risk.

9. Strict enforcement of the guidelines
   (i) State/UT Governments shall not dilute these guidelines issued under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, in any manner.
   
   (ii) For the enforcement of social distancing, State/UT Governments may, as far as possible, use the provisions of Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) of 1973.
   
   (iii) All the District Magistrates shall strictly enforce the above measures.

10. Penal provisions
    Any person violating these measures will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, besides legal action under Section 188 of the IPC, and other legal provisions as applicable. Extracts of these penal provisions are at Annexure II.
ANNEXURE I

NATIONAL DIRECTIVES FOR COVID-19 MANAGEMENT

1. **Face coverings:** Wearing of face cover is compulsory in public places; in workplaces; and during transport.

2. **Social distancing:** Individuals must maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet (2 gaz ki doori) in public places.

   Shops will ensure physical distancing among customers.

3. **Spitting in public places** will be punishable with fine, as may be prescribed by the State/ UT local authority in accordance with its laws, rules or regulations.

   *Additional directives for Work Places*

4. **Work from home (WfH):** As far as possible the practice of WfH should be followed.

5. **Staggering of work/ business hours** will be followed in offices, work places, shops, markets and industrial & commercial establishments.

6. **Screening & hygiene:** Provision for thermal scanning, hand wash or sanitizer will be made at all entry points and of hand wash or sanitizer at exit points and common areas.

7. **Frequent sanitization** of entire workplace, common facilities and all points which come into human contact e.g. door handles etc., will be ensured, including between shifts.

8. **Social distancing:** All persons in charge of work places will ensure adequate distance between workers, adequate gaps between shifts, staggering the lunch breaks of staff, etc.
Annexure II

Offences and Penalties for Violation of Lockdown Measures

A. Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005

51. Punishment for obstruction, etc.—Whoever, without reasonable cause—

(a) obstructs any officer or employee of the Central Government or the State Government, or a person authorised by the National Authority or State Authority or District Authority in the discharge of his functions under this Act; or

(b) refuses to comply with any direction given by or on behalf of the Central Government or the State Government or the National Executive Committee or the State Executive Committee or the District Authority under this Act,

shall on conviction be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine, or with both, and if such obstruction or refusal to comply with directions results in loss of lives or imminent danger thereof,

shall on conviction be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years.

52. Punishment for false claim.—Whoever knowingly makes a claim which he knows or has reason to believe to be false for obtaining any relief, assistance, repair, reconstruction or other benefits consequent to disaster from any officer of the Central Government, the State Government, the National Authority, the State Authority or the District Authority, shall, on conviction be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, and also with fine.

53. Punishment for misappropriation of money or materials, etc.—Whoever, being entrusted with any money or materials, or otherwise being, in custody of, or dominion over, any money or goods, meant for providing relief in any threatening disaster situation or disaster, misappropriates or appropriates for his own use or disposits of such money or materials or any part thereof or wilfully compels any other person so to do, shall on conviction be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, and also with fine.

54. Punishment for false warning.—Whoever makes or circulates a false alarm or warning as to disaster or its severity or magnitude, leading to panic, shall on conviction, be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to one year or with fine.

55. Offences by Departments of the Government.—(1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by any Department of the Government, the head of the Department shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.
unless he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he 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 Department of the Government 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 officer, other than the head of the Department, such officer shall be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

56. Failure of officer in duty or his connivance at the contravention of the provisions of this Act.—Any officer, on whom any duty has been imposed by or under this Act and who ceases or refuses to perform or withdraws himself from the duties of his office shall, unless he has obtained the express written permission of his official superior or has other lawful excuse for so doing, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine.

57. Penalty for contravention of any order regarding requisitioning.—If any person contravenes any order made under section 65, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine or with both.

58. Offence by companies.—(1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company or body corporate, 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 contravention and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly:

Provided that nothing 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 exercised 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 was 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 that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Explanation.—For the purpose of this section—

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

(b) “director”, in relation to a firm, means a partner in the firm.
59. Previous sanction for prosecution.—No prosecution for offences punishable under sections 55 and 56 shall be instituted except with the previous sanction of the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, or of any officer authorised in this behalf, by general or special order, by such Government.

60. Cognizance of offences.—No court shall take cognizance of an offence under this Act except on a complaint made by—

(a) the National Authority, the State Authority, the Central Government, the State Government, the District Authority or any other authority or officer authorised in this behalf by that Authority or Government, as the case may be; or

(b) any person who has given notice of not less than thirty days in the manner prescribed, of the alleged offence and his intention to make a complaint to the National Authority, the State Authority, the Central Government, the State Government, the District Authority or any other authority or officer authorised as aforesaid.

B. Section 188 in the Indian Penal Code, 1860

188. Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant.—Whoever, knowing that, by an order promulgated by a public servant lawfully empowered to promulgate such order, he is directed to abstain from a certain act, or to take certain order with certain property in his possession or under his management, disobeys such direction, shall, if such disobedience causes or tends to cause obstruction, annoyance or injury, or risk of obstruction, annoyance or injury, to any person lawfully employed, be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees, or with both; and if such disobedience causes or tends to cause danger to human life, health or safety, or causes or tends to cause a riot or affray, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.

Explanation.—It is not necessary that the offender should intend to produce harm, or contemplate his disobedience as likely to produce harm. It is sufficient that he knows of the order which he disobeys, and that his disobedience produces, or is likely to produce, harm.

Illustration

An order is promulgated by a public servant lawfully empowered to promulgate such order, directing that a religious procession shall not pass down a certain street. A knowingly disobeys the order, and thereby causes danger of riot. A has committed the offence defined in this section.
GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Department of Revenue and Forest, Disaster Management, Relief and Rehabilitation, Mantralaya, Mumbai- 400 032
No: DMU/2020/CR. 92/DisM-1, Dated: 30th September, 2020

ORDER

Easing of Restrictions and Phase-wise opening of Lockdown. (MISSION BEGIN AGAIN)

Reference:

1) The Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897,
2) The Disaster Management Act, 2005

Whereas, in exercise of the powers, conferred under the Disaster Management Act 2005, the undersigned, in his capacity as Chairperson, State Executive Committee has issued an Order dated 31st August, 2020 to extend the lockdown measures up to 30th September, 2020 and issued revised consolidated guidelines from time to time vide above mentioned orders to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Whereas the State Government is satisfied that the State of Maharashtra is threatened with the spread of COVID-19 virus, and therefore to take certain emergency measures to prevent and contain the spread of virus, the Government in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, read with all other enabling provisions of The Disaster Management Act, 2005, it is expedient to extend the lockdown in the entire State of Maharashtra further till midnight of 31st October, 2020.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and the powers, conferred under The Disaster Management Act, 2005, the undersigned, in his capacity as Chairperson, State Executive Committee, hereby issues directions to extend the lockdown, with amendments, to operationalize MISSION BEGIN AGAIN for easing of restrictions and phase-wise opening, till 31st October, 2020 for
containment of COVID-19 epidemic in the State and all Departments of Government of Maharashtra shall strictly implement the guidelines issued earlier from time to time.

It is directed that the National Directives for COVID-19 management as specified in Annexure I shall be followed throughout the State. The activities already allowed and permitted from time to time and as mentioned in Annexure II shall be continued and all earlier orders shall be aligned with this order and shall remain in force up to 31st October, 2020. Further easing under MISSION BEGIN AGAIN will be notified in the due course.

Any person violating these measures, guidelines or SOPs etc. issued from time to time by the State Government will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 besides legal action under section 188 of the IPC, and other legal provisions as applicable. Extracts of these penal provisions are at Annexure III.

BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF MAHARASHTRA

(SITARAM KUNTE)
CHIEF SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

Copy to:
1. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, Mumbai.
2. Hon'ble Chairman, Maharashtra Legislative Council.
3. Hon'ble Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.
4. The Chairman, Railway Board, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Additional Chief Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Maharashtra.
6. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Maharashtra.
7. The Chief General Manager, Central Railway, CSMT, Mumbai.
8. The Chief General Manager, Western Railway, Churchgate, Mumbai.
9. Secretary to Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Maharashtra.
10. Private Secretary to Leader of Opposition, Legislative Council / Assembly.
11. Private Secretaries of All Hon'ble Minister/Minister of State, Mantralaya.
12. All Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of Govt of Maharashtra.
13. Director General of Police, Maharashtra State, Mumbai.
14. Principal Secretary, Public Health Department, Mantralaya.
15. Secretary, Medical Education, Mantralaya.
16. All Divisional Commissioners in the State
17. All Commissioners of Police in the State
18. All Commissioners of Municipal Corporations in the State
19. All District Collectors
20. All Chief Executive Officers, Zilla Parishad
21. All District Superintendents of Police in the State

MISSION BEGIN AGAIN
Annexure I

(MISSION BEGIN AGAIN: Department of Revenue and Forest, Disaster Management, Relief and Rehabilitation, Mantralaya, Mumbai- 400 032, No: DMU/2020/CR. 92/DisM-1, Dated: 30th September, 2020)

National Directives for COVID-19 Management

1) Face coverings – wearing of face cover is compulsory in public places, in work places and during transport.

2) Social distancing – Individuals must maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet (2 Giza Ki doori) in public places.

   Shops will ensure physical distancing among customers and will not allow more than five persons at one time.

3) Gatherings – large public gatherings / congregations continue to remain prohibited.

   Marriage related Gatherings – Number of guests not to exceed 50.

   Funeral / last rites related Gatherings – Number of persons not to exceed 20.

4) Spitting in public places will be punishable with fine, as may be prescribed by the concerned authority in accordance with its laws, rules or regulations.

5) Consumption of liquor, Paan, gutka, tobacco, etc in public places is prohibited.

Additional directives for work places.

6) Work from Home (WFH) – as far as possible the practice of WFH should be followed.

   Staggering of work / business hours will be followed in offices, workplaces, shops, markets and industrial & commercial establishments.

7) Screening and Hygiene – provision for thermal screening, hand wash and sanitizer will be made available at all entry and exit points and common areas.

8) Frequent sanitization of entire workplace, common facilities and all points which come into human contact e.g. door handles etc. will be ensured, including between shifts.

9) Social Distancing – all persons in charge of workplaces will ensure adequate distance between workers, adequate gaps between shifts, staggering the lunch breaks of staff etc.

**********
Annexure II

(MISSION BEGIN AGAIN: Department of Revenue and Forest, Disaster Management, Relief and Rehabilitation, Mantralaya, Mumbai- 400 032, No: DMU/2020/CR. 92/DisM-1, Dated: 30th September, 2020)

1. Containment Zones :-
   i. The Containment Zones in the State as categorised vide order dated 19th May, 2020 and 21st May, 2020 will remain in force till further orders.
   ii. The directions issued by the Central Government and State Government from time to time to demarcate the Containment Zones and operations therein will be in force till further orders.
   iii. Considering the local conditions, the concerned District Collector and the Commissioners of the Municipal Corporations in the State may enforce certain measures and necessary restrictions in specified local areas on the permitted non-essential activities and the movement of persons to contain the spread of the epidemic only with the prior written approval of Chief Secretary, Maharashtra.

2. Activities to remain prohibited across the State :-
   1) Schools, colleges, educational and coaching institutions will remain closed till 31st October, 2020. Online / distance learning shall continue to be permitted and shall be encouraged.
   2) Cinema halls, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres (including that in malls and market complexes), auditoriums, assembly halls and similar places.
   3) International Air travel of passengers, except as permitted by MHA.
   4) Metro Rail.
   5) Social /political/ Sports/ entertainment/ academic/ cultural/ religious functions and other large congregations.

3. All essential shops which are allowed to remain open before this order, shall continue to do so.

4. The activities already allowed and permitted from time to time shall be continued and all earlier orders shall be aligned with this order and shall remain in force up to 31st October, 2020.
5. The following activities will be allowed to operate:
   i. Hotels / Food Courts / Restaurants and Bars will be allowed to operate with effect from 5th October, 2020 with capacity not exceeding 50% or as may be prescribed by the local authorities. Separate SOP will be issued by the Tourism Department for necessary precautions to be taken while operating these establishments.
   ii. All industrial and manufacturing units of non-essential items in Mumbai Metropolitan Region would be allowed to operate.

6. There shall be free movement of oxygen carrying vehicles within and out of the State without any restrictions of timings. The competent authorities shall ensure the free movement of oxygen carrying vehicles and there shall be no restriction on oxygen manufacturers and suppliers.

7. All trains originating and ending their journey within the State to be restarted with immediate effect subject to the protocols regarding Covid-19 laid down by the State and Central Government from time to time.

8. The Railways to increase the frequency of the local trains in the MMR region to meet the increased demand subject to the protocols regarding Covid-19 laid down by the State and Central Government from time to time.

9. Dabbawalas in the MMR region to be allowed in the local trains after procuring of the QR codes from the office of the Commissioner of Police, Mumbai.

10. The local trains in Pune region to be resumed as per the protocols and procedure followed in MMR region. The Commissioner of Police, Pune will be the Nodal Officer to coordinate for the same.

11. Any other allowed and permitted activity by any specific/ general order would continue to operate.

12. Easing of Restrictions and opening up of the activities which remain prohibited across the State will be done in phased manner along with Standard Operating Procedures / Guidelines.

*************
A. Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005

51. Punishment for obstruction, etc.—Whoever, without reasonable cause—

(a) obstructs any officer or employee of the Central Government or the State Government, or a person authorised by the National Authority or State Authority or District Authority in the discharge of his functions under this Act, or

(b) refuses to comply with any direction given by or on behalf of the Central Government or the State Government or the National Executive Committee or the State Executive Committee or the District Authority under this Act.

shall on conviction be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine, or with both, and if such obstruction or refusal to comply with directions results in loss of lives or imminent danger thereof, shall on conviction be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years.

52. Punishment for false claim.—Whoever knowingly makes a claim which he knows or has reason to believe to be false for obtaining any relief, assistance, repair, reconstruction or other benefits consequent to disaster from any officer of the Central Government, the State Government, the National Authority, the State Authority or the District Authority, shall, on conviction be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, and also with fine.

53. Punishment for misappropriation of money or materials, etc.—Whoever, being entrusted with any money or materials, or otherwise being, in custody of, or dominion over, any money or goods, meant for providing relief in any threatening disaster situation or disaster, misappropriates or appropriates for his own use or disposes of such money or materials or any part thereof or willfully compels any other person so to do, shall on conviction be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, and also with fine.

54. Punishment for false warning.—Whoever makes or circulates a false alarm or warning as to disaster or its severity or magnitude, leading to panic, shall on conviction, be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to one year or with fine.

55. Offences by Departments of the Government.—(1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by any Department of the Government, the head of the Department shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly unless he proves that the offence was
committed without his knowledge or that he 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 Department of the Government 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 officer, other than the head of the Department, such officer shall be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

56. Failure of officer in duty or his connivance at the contravention of the provisions of this Act.—Any officer, on whom any duty has been imposed by or under this Act and who ceases or refuses to perform or withdraws himself from the duties of his office shall, unless he has obtained the express written permission of his official superior or has other lawful excuse for so doing, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine.

57. Penalty for contravention of any order regarding requisitioning.—If any person contravenes any order made under section 65, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine or with both.

58. Offence by companies.—(1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company or body corporate, 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 contravention and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly: Provided that nothing 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 exercised 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 was 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 that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Explanation.—For the purpose of this section— (a) “company” means anybody corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals; and (b) “director”, in relation to a firm, means a partner in the firm.

59. Previous sanction for prosecution.—No prosecution for offences punishable under sections 55 and 56 shall be instituted except with the previous sanction of the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, or of any officer authorised in this behalf, by general or special order, by such Government.

60. Cognizance of offences.—No court shall take cognizance of an offence under this Act except on a complaint made by— (a) the National Authority, the State Authority,
the Central Government, the State Government, the District Authority or any other authority or officer authorised in this behalf by that Authority or Government, as the case may be; or (b) any person who has given notice of not less than thirty days in the manner prescribed, of the alleged offence and his intention to make a complaint to the National Authority, the State Authority, the Central Government, the State Government, the District Authority or any other authority or officer authorized as aforesaid.

B. Section 188 in the Indian Penal Code, 1860

188. Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant.—Whoever, knowing that, by an order promulgated by a public servant lawfully empowered to promulgate such order, he is directed to abstain from a certain act, or to take certain order with certain property in his possession or under his management, disobeys such direction, shall, if such disobedience causes or tends to cause obstruction, annoyance or injury, or risk of obstruction, annoyance or injury, to any person lawfully employed, be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees, or with both; and if such disobedience causes or tends to cause danger to human life, health or safety, or causes or tends to cause a riot or affray, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.

Explanation.—It is not necessary that the offender should intend to produce harm, or contemplate his disobedience as likely to produce harm. It is sufficient that he knows of the order which he disobeys, and that his disobedience produces, or is likely to produce, harm.

Illustration

An order is promulgated by a public servant lawfully empowered to promulgate such order, directing that a religious procession shall not pass down a certain street. A knowingly disobeys the order, and thereby causes danger of riot. A has committed the offence defined in this section.

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