

SIND ACT No. XII OF 1940.<sup>1</sup>

[THE SIND HOLY QURAN ACT, 1940].

[16th May, 1940]

*An Act to prohibit the printing, publishing or sale of the Holy Quran by non-Muslims.*

WHEREAS it is expedient to prohibit the printing, publishing or sale of the Holy Quran by non-Muslims ; It is hereby enacted as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Sind Holy Quran Act, 1940.

Short title, commencement and extent.

(2) It shall come into force on such date<sup>2</sup> as the Provincial Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, appoint.

(3) It shall extend to the whole of ~~the Province of Sind.~~

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

Definition.

“ Holy Quran ” means the Quran or any part of the Quran written or printed in Arabic but shall not include any translation of the Quran or any verse or verses printed or published for purposes of quotation or reference.

Subs. see *regs 5*

[3. (1) Whoever not being a Muslim prints, publishes or sells or whosoever causes to be printed, published or sold the Holy Quran otherwise than through Muslim agency shall be punished with fine not exceeding one thousand rupees:

Penalty for printing etc., of the Holy Quran by non-Muslims.

Provided that no person shall be punished with fine exceeding fifty rupees for the first offence under this section.]

3(2) \* \* \* \* \*

3(3) \* \* \* \* \*

3(4) \* \* \* \* \*

4. (1) No court, other than that of a District Magistrate, shall take cognizance of an offence under this Act.

Cognizance and trial of offences.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, no court inferior to that of a Magistrate of the first class shall try an offence under this Act.

<sup>1</sup> For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see S. G. G., 1940, Pt. IV, pp. 79-80; and for proceedings in Assembly see S. L. A. Debates, 1940, Vol. X—Book No. 13, pp. 101-114 and Vol. XI—Book No. 2, pp. 30-32.

<sup>2</sup> Came into force w. e. f. the 1st August, 1940, vide, G. N., H. D., No. 353, H.(S.), dated the 10th July, 1940, see S. G. G., 1940, Pt. I, p. 1773.

<sup>3</sup> Sub-sections (2), (3) and (4), rep. by the Sind Laws (Adaptation, Revision, Repeal and Declaration) Ordinance, 1955 (Sind 5 of 1955), s. 6, Sch. II.