CHAPTER 93 OF THE LAWS

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1959.
CHAPTER 93.
SIKIVIDHI PREVENTION.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

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TO PREVENT THE SPREADING OF THE WHEAT PEST KNOWN AS SIRIVIDHI.

1949, Cap. 161.

[9th June, 1897.]

1. This Law may be cited as the Sirividhi Law.

2. In this Law—
   "winter cereals" means and includes wheat, barley, oats and rye.

3. The Governor, upon the petition of the inhabitants of any village praying that the provisions of this Law may be applied to their village, and upon the certificate of the mukhtar that the persons signing the petition form a majority of the owners and occupiers of the cultivated arable land in the village, may order that the provisions of this Law shall be applied to the village; and where the provisions of this Law have been applied to any village the Governor, with the advice of the Agricultural Board, may declare any village or area adjacent thereto to be infected with the disease of sirividhi, and thereupon the provisions of this Law shall apply to that village or area.
4. Every certificate given by the mukhtar under the last preceding section shall—
   (a) state the number of owners and occupiers of cultivated arable land in the village;
   (b) name four resident cultivators who shall form a committee to carry out the provisions of this Law.

5. As soon as may be practicable after the publication of an order under section 3, the Committee, under the supervision of the Commissioner, shall divide all the arable land in the village as nearly as may be into two equal sections and shall decide in which of the sections the planting of winter cereals shall first be prohibited.

   The Committee shall prepare and transmit to the Commissioner a statement in writing showing the lands assigned to each section and specifying the section in which the planting of winter cereals shall first be prohibited, which section is referred to in this Law as "the first section."

   Three copies of the statement shall be posted in conspicuous places in the village.

6. During a period of three years from the 1st of September next following the publication of the notice required by the last preceding section, it shall be unlawful to plant any winter cereals in the lands assigned to the first section; and after the expiration of the above-mentioned period and during a further period of three years, the prohibition to grow winter cereals shall cease to be in force as regards the first section, but shall be in force as regards the other section; and so that the prohibition shall apply in turn to the two sections for alternate periods of three years.

7. Whoever plants winter cereals in contravention of this Law shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds; and the Court may order that a portion of the fine inflicted, not exceeding one-half, shall be paid to any witness or to any person who has given information of the commission of the offence.

8. When this Law has been applied to a village for a continuous period of three years the Governor may, upon the petition of the inhabitants, order that it shall cease to be applied to that village.
9. The Commissioner may destroy any winter cereals which have been planted in contravention of this Law, and the costs incurred in such destruction shall in the first instance be paid from the agricultural fund and may be recovered by the Commissioner by civil process from the person who has planted the cereals.