

A.P. Scheduled Areas Money Lenders Regulation 1960 (Regulation I of 1960)

The Andhra Pradesh<sup>1</sup>(----)Scheduled Areas Money Lenders

Regulation 1960

(Regulation I of 1960)

( Arrangement of Sections)

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Received the assent of the President of 4 th January, 1960, Published in the Andhra Pradesh Gazette, Extraordinary, part IV-B, Page 9, dated (11 th February, 1960).

A regulation to control the business of Money lending in the Schedule Area in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

In exercise of the powers conferred by the clause (c) of Sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 5 of fifth Schedule to the assessment of the President, hereby makes the following regulation, namely:-

1. Short title, extent, and commencement:-

1) This regulation may be called the A.P. 1(----) Scheduled Areas Money-Lenders Regulation, 1960

2) It extends to the whole of the Schedule Areas [----] of the State of Andhra Pradesh.

3. (a) This section shall come into force at once.

(b) The Government may, from time to time, by notification in the Andhra Pradesh Gazette, direct that the remaining provisions of this Regulation shall come into force on such date as may be specified in the notification, which date shall not be earlier than three months from the date of publication of the notification; and may cancel or modify such notification.

## 2. Definitions:-

In this Regulation, unless the context otherwise require,-

1) <sup>2</sup>[-----]

2) 'Bank' means a banking company as defined in clause (c) of section 5 of the Banking 3 [Regulation] Act, 1949, (Central Act X of 1949);

3) 'Company' means any company as defined in section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 (Central Act I of 1956);

1. Words Andhra Region omitted by Regulation 11 of 1963.

2. Cl.(1) omitted by Regulation II of 1963.

3. Substituted for 'Companies' by A.P. Regulation 3 of 1970

4) 'Co-operative Society' means society registered or deemed to be registered under any law relating to Co-operative Societies for the time being in force in the State.

5) 'Court' includes a Court acting in the exercise of insolvency jurisdiction.

6) 'Debtor' means a person to whom a loan is advanced and includes a successor-in-charge-interest or surety;

7) 'Government' means the State Government;

8) 'Interest' includes any amount by whatever name called paid or payable to a lender in consideration of or otherwise in respect of a loan in excess of the principal but does not include any sum lawfully charged by a lender in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation or any other law for the time being in force or an account of costs, charges, or expenses;

9) 'Licence' means a money-lender's licence granted under this Regulation and 'licensed' shall be construed accordingly;

10) 'Loan' means an advance of money or articles, goods or materials for interest and includes any transaction which the Court finds in substance to amount to such an advance, but does not include-

(i) a deposit of money or other property in a Bank, Post Officer, Saving Bank, Company or Co-operative Society;

(ii) an advance made by a bank, company or co-operative society;

(iii) an advance made by the Government or by any person authorised by the Government to make advances in their behalf or by any local authority;

(iv) <sup>1</sup>[-----]

(v) and advance made by a landlord to his tenant, by a lessor to his lessee by one partner or co-sharer in cultivation to another for the purpose of carrying on agriculture

2 (11) 'Money-lender' means a person who advances loans, and includes a mandy merchant, a landlord lending grain as 'Namu' to his farm servant and a pawn-broker, but does not include a bank, company or Co-operative Society and the expression 'Money-lending' shall be construed accordingly.

1. Item (iv) in Cl. (10) omitted by Regulation I of 1968

Cl.(11) substituted by Regulation I of 1968

Explanation:- Where a money-lender who is not a resident of the Scheduled Areas advances money through his Agent who resides in such areas such Agent shall be deemed to be the money-lender in respect of the money so advanced.

(12) 'Mandy merchant' means a person who advances money on the security of any standing crop or produce;

(13) 'Pawn-broker' means a person who carries on the business of taking goods and chattels in pawn for a loan given by him;

Explanation:- Every person who keeps a shop for the purchase or sale of goods or chattels, or for taking in goods or chattels by way of security for money advanced thereon and who purchases, receives or takes in goods or chattels and pays, advances or lends

thereon any sum of money, with or under an agreement or understanding expressed or implied, that those goods or chattels may be afterwards redeemed or repurchased on any terms is a pawn-broker within the meaning of this clause.

(14) 'Pawner' means a person delivering an article for pawn to a pawn-broker;

(15) 'Pledge' means an article pawned with a pawn-broker;

(16) 'Prescribed' means prescribed by rules made under this Regulation;

(17) 'Principal' in relation to a loan means the amount actually lent to the debtor;

(18) 1['Scheduled areas means the areas which have been or may be declared to be Scheduled areas by the President under sub-paragraph (1) paragraph 6 of the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution.]

(19) 'Year, means the financial year.

3. Money-lender to obtain licence annually:-

No person shall, on or after the date on which the provisions other than Section 1 of this Regulation, come into force, carry on business of money-lending at any place in the Scheduled areas unless he has obtained a money-lender's licence under this Regulation.

2. Explanation 1:- Where a person has more than one shop or place of business of money-lending, whether in the same place, town or village or in different places, towns or villages, he shall obtain a separate money-lender's licence in respect of each shop or place of business.

1. Cl.(18) substituted by Regulation II of 1963

Explanation 2:- Where the business of money-lending is done by-

(a) a registered firm, the licence shall be obtained in the name of the firm; the manager described as such in the licence;

(b) an undivided Hindu family, the licence shall be obtained in the name of the manager as such in the licence;

(c) any other association of individuals, not required to be registered under Section 11 of the Companies Act, 1956 (Central Act 1 of 1956), a separate licence shall be obtained by each such individual in his name describing himself as a member of the association;

Provided that nothing contained in this Explanation shall affect the operation or section 69 of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932 (Central Act IX of 1932).

#### 4. Grant and refusal of licences:-

(1) (a) Every application for a money-lender's licence shall be made to the prescribed licensing authority

(b) Every such application shall be accompanied by such fee, not exceeding rupees one hundred, as the Government may, from time to time, by notification in the Andhra Pradesh Gazette, determine.

(c) The fee payable under this sub-section shall be paid in the manner prescribed.

(d) Where the licence applied for is refused, the fee paid under this sub-section shall be refunded in full and where the application for the licence is withdrawn by the applicant before the licence is actually granted, the fee paid less ten per cent thereof shall be refunded.

2) Every licence shall be granted in such form and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed;

3) The licensing authority may, by order in writing, refuse to grant a licence if such authority is satisfied-

(a) that the applicant has not complied with provisions of this Regulations or the rules made thereunder in respect of an application for the grant of a licence;

(b) that the applicant has knowingly acted in contravention of any requirement of this Regulation-

(c) that the application has,-

(i) knowingly participated in, or connived, at, any fraud or dishonesty in the conduct of, or in connection with, the business of money-lending; or

(ii) been found guilty of any offence under chapter XVI or Chapter XVII of the Indian Penal Code (Central Act XLV of 1860)

Provided that before passing an order refusing a licence on any of the grounds specified above other than the grounds specified in sub-clause (ii) of Clause (c), the applicant shall be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

4) The licensing authority shall, in the grant or refusal of licence, be subject to the control and direction of the Government or any other prescribed authority.

5) Any person aggrieved by an order of the licensing authority under sub-section (3) may, within one month from the date of communication of such order to him, appeal to the prescribed authority.

6) Every licence granted under this Regulation shall, subject to the provisions of sub-section (7), expire on the last day of the years for which it was granted.

7) A licence granted under sub-section (2) may be renewed from year to year and the provisions of sub-sections (1) to (6) shall apply in relation to the renewal of a licence as they apply in relation to the grant of a licence.

1 4-A. Advance of money to be in writing etc:-

No money-lenders shall advance any loan to a debtor otherwise than under an agreement in writing attested by two witnesses one of whom shall be a village officer or a Sarpanch of a gram panchayat, within whose jurisdiction the debtor resides and no court shall entertain any suit for the recovery of any loan advanced in contravention of the provisions of this section].

5. Change of place of business by money lender:-

No money lender shall change his place of business without previous notice to the licensing authority and without getting the address of the new place of business duly endorsed on his licence.

1. Sec. 4-A inserted by Regulation I of 1968

6. Money lenders to exhibit their names over shops:-

1) Every money-lender shall always keep exhibited in large characters over the outer door of his shop or place of business his name with the word 'money-lender' in the chief language of the locality.

Provided that in the case of a pawn-broker, the word 'pawn-broker' shall be exhibited in lieu of word 'money-lender'".

2) If the money-lender is a pawn-broker, he shall always keep placed in a conspicuous part of his shop or place of business so as to be legible for every person pawning or redeeming pledges the same information as is by rules made under this Regulation required to be printed on pawn-tickets in the chief language of the locality.

3) Every money lenders shall always keep exhibited over the outer door of his shop or place of business a board specifying the name of the debt collector, if any, employed under section 11, the date of the week and the hours during which the shop or place shall be kept open for business and shall be bound to keep the shop or place open during the said days and hours for the transaction of business.

#### 7. Interest and charges allowed to money-lender-

(1) No money-lender shall charge interest on any loan advanced on a pledge at a rate exceeding-

(a) nine and three-eight per cent per annum simple interest, where the amount of the loan does not exceed twenty-five rupees; and

(b) six and a quarter per cent, per annum simple interest where the amount of the loan exceeds twenty five rupees.

(2) No money-lender shall charge interest on any loan advanced otherwise than on a pledge, at a rate exceeding-

(a) nine per cent annum simple interest, where the loan is secured; and

(b) twelve per cent per annum simple interest, where the loan is not secured;

(3) The month or year used for the calculation of interest shall be a month or year of the British Calendar.

(4) A money-lender may demand and take from the debtor such charges as may be prescribed.

(5) A money-lender shall not demand or take from the debtor any interest in excess of that payable under sub-section (1) and (2) or any charge in excess of that prescribed under sub-section (4)

#### 8. Pawn-ticket to be given to pawner:-

Every pawn broker shall on taking pledge in pawn give to the pawner a pawn-ticket in the prescribed form, and no pawn-broker shall take a pledge in pawn unless the pawner takes the pawn-ticket.

#### 9. Conditions relating to redemption of pledge:-

(1) In the absence of a decree or order of a Civil Court or of an order of a Magistrate or an order of Police not below the rank of Sub-Inspector prohibiting the delivery by the pawn-broker of the pawn-ticket and on payment of the sum legally payable in respect thereof entitled to the delivery of the pledge.

(2) On a declaration being made in the prescribed form by the pawner (hereafter in this sub-section referred to as the transferor) that the right to redeemed the pledge has been transferred to, or is vested in, some other person (hereafter in this sub-section referred to as the transferee) and on a declaration being made by the transferee that he is in possession of the pawn-ticket and that he is entitled to endorsement to be made on the pawn-ticket shall cause an endorsement to be made on the pawn-ticket and pawn-book to that effect and there upon the transferor's right to redeem the pledge shall be extinguished and the transferee shall be deemed to be the pawner for the purpose of this section.

(3) Where a person claiming to be the messenger or agent of the pawner produces the pawn-ticket and officers to redeem the pledge, the pawnbroker may after obtaining from the person so claiming, a declaration in the prescribed form, allow redemption of the pawnbroker is satisfied that the person who claims to be such messenger or agent is in fact such messenger or agent.

(4) Where a person producing a pawn-ticket claims to be the messenger or agent of the pawner and offer to redeem the pledge the pawn broker may send a notice in the prescribed form by registered post to the pawner to the address given by the pawner to the pawnbroker and if the pawnbroker does not hear to the contrary from the pawner, within two weeks after the date on which the notice would in the usual course of post reach the pawner the pawnbroker may after the expiry of the said two weeks and after obtaining from the person claiming to be such messenger or agent, a declaration in the prescribed form allow the person so claiming to redeem the pledge and shall, in that event, be exonerated from further liability to the pawner but without prejudice to any right in respect of that pledge, which the pawner may be entitled by due process of law to enforce against the person who was allowed by the pawnbroker to redeem the pledge.

(5) (a) Where the pawner is dead and a person who produces the pawn-ticket claims to be the legal representative of the pawner and offers to redeem the pledge, the pawn broker may after obtaining from such person a declaration in the prescribed form and after sending a notice to every other person who claims to be entitled to redeem the pledge, permit such redemption if the pawnbroker is satisfied that such person is in fact the nearest legal representative of the pawner.

Provided that the pawnbroker may decline to permit redemption of the pledge by such person unless it is declared by competent Court that such person is entitled to redeem the pledge.

(b) Where the pawn-broker permits redemption of the pledge under clause (a) without

declaration of a competent Court, he shall not be exonerated from liability to the nearest legal representative of the deceased pawner, if such legal representative be a person other than a person who was permitted by the pawn-broker to redeem.

(6) (a) Where the pawner alleges that the pawn-ticket has been lost or destroyed and claims redemption of the pledge, the pawn broker shall, after obtaining from the pawner a declaration in the prescribed form, allow such redemption.

Provided that if any other person who is in possession of the pawn ticket and who is entitled to redeem the pledge objects to the redemption, of the pledge by the pawner and claims the right of redemption the pawn broker may decline to permit redemption of the pledge by the pawner or such person unless it is declared by a Competent Court that the pawner or such person is entitled to redeem the pledge.

(b) Before allowing redemption under clause (a) the pawnbroker may insist on indemnity being given by the pawner against a claim by any other person.

(7) (a) Where a person claims to be the owner of a pledge and alleges that it was pawned without his knowledge or authority the pawn-broker shall take a declaration from such person in the prescribed form and send a notice in the prescribed form by registered post to the pawner to the address given to the pawnbroker by the pawner and similarly to every other claimant, if any, and if the pawnbroker does not receive any communication in writing from the pawner or any other claimant objecting to the delivery of the pledge to the alleged owner within two weeks from the date on which the letter would in the usual course of post reach the addressee, the pawn-broker may allow the alleged owner to redeem the pledge and pawnbroker is thereafter exonerated from further liability to the pawner or any other claimant but without prejudice to any right in respect of that pledge to which the pawner or any other claimant may be entitled by due process of law to enforce against the alleged owner who was allowed by the pledge.

(b) If, on receiving notice, the pawner or any other claimant objects to the delivery of the pledge to the alleged owner, the Pawn-broker may decline to permit redemption of the pledge by the alleged owner unless it is declared by a competent Court that the alleged owner is entitled to redeem the pledge.

10. Money-lender to keep books, give receipts etc:-

(1) Every money-lender shall-

a) regularly record and maintain or cause to be recorded and maintained, an account

showing for each debtor separately-

(i) the date of the loan, the amount of the principal of the loan and the rate of interest charged on the loan;

(ii) the amount of every payment received by the money-lender in respect of the loan, and the date of such payment; and

(iii) if articles are taken in pawn-

(iv) a full and detailed description of the article or each of the articles taken in pawn;

(2) The time agreed upon for the redemption of the pawn; and

(3) The name and address of the pawner, where the pawner is not the owner of the article or of any of the articles pawned, the name and address of the owner thereof.

Keep and use in his business, if he is a pawnbroker, the following documents and books in the prescribed form and entered therein from time to time, as occasion requires, in a fair and legible manner, such particulars and in accordance with such directions, as may be prescribed- -

(i) pawn –ticket

(ii) sale book of pledges;

(iii) declaration under section 9; and

(iv) receipt on redemption of pledge;

(c) given to the debtor or his agent a receipt for every amount paid by him, duly signed and if necessary, stamped at the time of such payments;

(d) on requisition in writing made by the debtor, furnish to him or, if he so requires, to any person mentioned by him in that behalf in his requisition, a statement of account signed by himself or his agent showing the particulars referred to in Clause )a) and also the amount which remains outstanding on account of the principal and interest, and charge such sum as the Government may prescribe as fee therefor;

Provided that no such statement shall be required to be furnished to a debtor if he is supplied by the money-lender with a pass book in the prescribed form containing an up-to-date account of the money-lender's transaction with the debtor; and

(e) submit such returns relating to the loans advanced by him to such authority, in such manner and at such times as may be prescribed.

(2) All record and entries made in the books, accounts and documents referred to in sub-section (a) shall be either in English or in such language of the locality as may be prescribed.

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (Central Act I of 1872), a copy of the account referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (a), certified in such manner as may be prescribed, shall be admissible in evidence in the same manner and to the same extent as the original account.

(2) A debtor to whom a statement of account has been furnished under clause (b) of sub-section (1) and who fails to object to the correctness of the account shall not by such failure alone, be deemed to have admitted the correctness of the account.

(3) In the receipt to be given under clause (c) sub-section (1) or in the statement of account to be furnished under clause (d) of that sub-section or in the pawn-ticket furnished to the pawner, the figure shall be entered only in Arabic numerals.

(4) In any suit or proceeding relating to a loan, if the Court finds that a money-lender has not maintained an account as required by clause (a) of sub-section (1), it shall disallow his costs.

(5) If any money-lender fails to give to the debtor or his agent a receipt as required by clause (c) of sub-section (1) or to furnish on a requisition made under clause (d) of that sub-section a statement of accounts as required therein within one month after such requisition has been made, or a pawn-broker fails to deliver to the pawner a pawn-ticket as required by section 8, he shall not be entitled to any interest for the period of his default.

#### 11. Employment of debt Collectors:-

(1) No person shall be employed by any money-lender for the purpose of demanding or recovering any loan due to him unless such person is in possession of a certificate authorising him to act as debt collector granted under this section.

(2) Every application for such a certificate shall be made to such authority and shall be in such form and shall contain such particulars, as may be prescribed and before a certificate is granted to him, the applicant shall satisfy such authority that he bears a good character.

(3) The certificate shall be in such form and for such period and shall contain such particulars, as may be prescribed.

## 12. Appointment of Inspectors and their powers:-

(1) The Government or any authority or officer empowered by them may by notification in the Andhra Pradesh Gazette appoint one or more persons to be Inspectors for the purpose of this Regulation and may specify in such notification the local limits of their jurisdiction.

(2) Every Inspector shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code (Central Act XLV of 1966).

(3) (a) An Inspector may, at any time, with such assistance as he thinks necessary, enter any premises within his jurisdiction in which any person carried on business as a licensed money-lender and inspect the books, accounts, records, files, documents, safes, vaults and pledges in such premises.

(b) A Magistrate of the first class on receiving a report from an Inspector that he has reason to believe that a person is carrying on without a licence the business of money-lending at any place within the jurisdiction of such Magistrate, may issue a warrant empowering the inspector to enter such place with such assistance as such Magistrate considers necessary and to inspect the books, accounts, records, files, documents safes, vaults and pledges in such premises.

(c) On an inspection made under clause (a) or Clause (b), the Inspector may take to his office for further investigation, of such books, accounts, records, files and documents as he considers necessary.

(d) If the Inspector removes from the premises any books, accounts, records, files and documents he shall give to the person in charge of the place from whose custody they were removed, a receipt describing the books, accounts records, files and documents so removed by him.

(e) The Inspector shall within twenty four hours of the removal of the books, accounts records, files and documents from the premises, either return them to the person from whose custody they were removed or produce them in the Court of the Magistrate who issued the warrant. Such Magistrate may return the books, accounts, records, files and documents, or any of them to the person from whose custody they were removed by the inspector, after taking from such person such security as the Magistrate considers necessary for the production of the books, accounts, record, files and documents when required whether by the Inspector or by the Court, or may pass such other orders as to their disposal as appears just or necessary.

(f) An inspector shall have authority to require any person whose testimony he may

require regarding any loan or any money-lending business, to appear before him or to produce or cause to be produced any document and to examine such person on oath.

(4) An Inspector may apply for assistance to any officer incharge of police-station and take police aid in performing the duties under the Regulation.

### 13. Redemption of pledge:-

(1) Notwithstanding any agreement between the pawn-broker and the pawner that a pledge shall be redeemed within a specified period which is less than one year, it shall be lawful for the pawner to redeem the pledge within one year from the date of pawning, exclusive of that day, and there shall be added to that year of redemption seven days of grace within which every pledge shall continue to be redeemable.

(2) Where the contract between the pawnbroker and pawner provides a period longer than one year for redemption there shall be added to such period of redemption seven days of grace within which the pledge shall continue to be redeemable.

(3) If a pledge is not redeemed before the expiry of the period of redemption and the days of grace, the pledge shall be disposed of by the pawnbroker in accordance with the provisions of Section 14.

### 14. Sale of pledge and inspection of sale book:-

(1) An underdeemed pledge shall be disposed of by the pawnbroker only by sale at a public auction. The sale shall be conducted in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) Where the highest bid at such sale is the bid of the pawnbroker, the sale shall not become absolute unless the bid is for a sum exceeding the sum payable on the pawn inclusive of interest and charges and that sale is confirmed by the inspector as appointed under sub-section (1) of Section 12.

(3) At any time within one year from the date of public auction, the holder of the pawn-ticket may inspect the entry relating to the sale either in the sale book of pledges or in such lists of the auction as may be prescribed.

(4) (a) If the pledge was sold for more than the amount of the loan and the interest and the interest and charges due at the time of the sale, the pawn broker shall pay to the holder of the pawn ticket the excess amount after deducting therefrom the necessary costs and charges of the sale.

(b) If within twelve months before such sale, sale of any other pledge belonging to the same person has resulted in a deficit, the pawnbroker may set off the deficit against such excess amount and shall be liable to pay only the balance, if any.

15. Liability of pawnbroker in case of fire etc:-

(1) Where a pledge is damaged, destroyed or lost by or in consequence of fire, or otherwise the pawn-broker shall nevertheless be liable to pay the value of the pledge as noted in the pawn book after deducting the amount of the principal and interest or other charges due to him.

(2) A pawnbroker shall be entitled to issue to the extent of the value so noted in the pawn book

16. Punishment for advancing smaller amount or receiving higher interest than that specified in the accounts or other documents:-

(1) Any money-lender, 1[-----]

(a) who actually advanced an amount less than the amount shown in this accounts, registers, pawn-ticket or other documents relating to the loan; or

(b) who receives interest or other charges at a rate higher than the rate shown in the accounts registers, pawn-tickets other documents shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to one thousand and five hundred rupees or with both.

(2) If a money-lender is convicted of an offence under sub-section (1) after having been previously convicted of such an offence, the Court convicting him on the subsequent occasion may cancel his licence as a money-lender;

Provided that such cancellation shall not affect the right of a money lender to realise loans advanced by him in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation prior to the cancellation of this licence.

17. Cognizance of offences:-

No court shall take cognizance of an offence punishable under this Regulation or the rules made thereunder except on a complaint in writing made by the Inspector appointed under sub-section (1) of Section 12 or such other officer or authority s may be prescribed.

18. Certain other acts of pawnbrokers to be punishable:-

A pawn broker 1[-----] who \_\_\_\_

- (1) takes an article in pawn from any person obviously appearing to be under the age of eighteen years or to be of unsound mind or intoxicated; or
- (2) purchases or takes in pawn or exchanges a pawn-ticket issued by another pawnbroker; or
- (3) employs any person under the age of eighteen years to take pledges in pawn; or
- (4) under any pretence purchases except at a public auction any pledge while in pawn with him; or
- (5) permits any pledge while in pawn with him to be redeemed with a view to his purchasing it; or
- (6) makes any contract or agreement with any person pawning or offering to pawn any article, or with the owner thereof, for the purchase, sale or disposition thereof within the time of redemption; or
- (7) sells or otherwise disposes of any pledge pawned with him except at such time and in such manner as is authorised by or under this Regulation or the rules made thereunder.

shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to one thousand and five hundred rupees or with both.

#### 19. Certain acts of pawner to be punishable- -

(1) Any person who-

- (a) offers by way of pawn to a pawnbroker any article of which he is unable or refuses to give a satisfactory account of the means by which he became possessed of the article; or
  - (b) wilfully or knowingly gives false information to a pawnbrokers as to the ownership of the article to be pawned or as to the genuiness thereof or as to his name and address of the owner of the article; or
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#### 1. Words “whether licensed or not” omitted by Regulation 3 of 1970

- (c) not being entitled to redeem a pledge attempts or endeavors to redeem the same;
  - (d) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees or with both
- (2) In every case falling under sub-section (1) and in any case, where on an article being offered in pawn, for sale, or otherwise, to a pawnbroker, the pawnbroker reasonably suspects that it has been stolen or otherwise illegally or clandestinely obtained; he shall in

the absence of reasonable excuse, enquire into the name and address of the person concerned and seize and detain the article and forthwith communicate to the nearest police station the facts of the case and shall deliver the articles seized to the police.

(3) A list of stolen properties may be delivered by the police to any pawn-broker licenced under this Regulation and thereupon it shall be the duty of such pawnbroker.

(a) if any article answering the description of any of the properties set forth in any such list is offered to him in pawn, for sale or otherwise, to proceed in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (2); and

(b) if any such article is already in his possession, to communicate to the nearest police station forthwith the facts of the case (including full particulars as to the name and address of the person who delivered the articles to the pawnbroker) and, if so required by the police, to deliver the article to them.

20 Penalty for molestation of debtor:-

(1) Whoever molests or abets the molestation of any debtor for the recovery of any loan shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both.

Explanation:- For the purposes, of this section and Section 21, a person who, with intent to causes another person to abstain from doing any act which he has a right to do or not to do any Act which he has a right to abstain from doing.

(a) obstructs or uses violence to or intimidates such other person, or

(b) persistently follows such other person from place to place or interferes with any property owned or used by him or deprives him of, or hinders him in the use by him or deprives him of, or hinders him in the use thereof, shall be deemed to molest such other person;

Provided that a person who attend a person who attends at or near such house, building or place for the purpose only of making a formal demand for repayment of a loan due or obtaining or communicating information shall not be deemed to molest.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Central Act V of 1898), and offence under this section shall be cognizable and bailable.

21. Power to suspend or cancel licences:-

(1) The licensing authority may, at any time during the term of any licence, suspend it for such period as that authority may deem fit or cancel it by an order in writing-

(a) if the license carries on the business in contravention of the provisions of this Regulation or the rules made thereunder or of the conditions of the licence; or

(b) if any reason for which the licensing authority could have refused to grant the licence to the money lender under sub-section (3) of Section 4, is brought to the notice of that authority after the grant of the licence; or

(c) if license is convicted by a Criminal Court under section 20 or for an offence involving moral turpitude; or

(d) if the licensee maintains false accounts;

(e) if he obstructs or wilfully refuses facilities to an Inspector appointed under sub-section (1) of Section 12 or other authority appointed under this Regulation in the performance of his or its duties under this Regulation or the rules made thereunder.

(2) Before suspending or cancelling a licence under sub-section (1); the licensing authority shall give the licensee a notice in writing stating the grounds on which it is proposed to take action and requiring him to show cause against it within such time as may be specified in the notice.

(3) Any person aggrieved by an order of the licensing authority suspending or cancelling a licence may, within one month of the date of communication of such order to him appeal to the prescribe authority.

22. Publication of order of suspension or cancellation:-

Every order of suspension or cancellation of a licence under this Regulation shall be notified in the District Gazette and at the police station having jurisdiction over the area to which the licence relates and also on the notice board of the office of the licensing authority.

23. No compensation for suspension or cancellation of licence:-

A person whose license is suspended or cancelled under Section 21 shall not be entitled to any compensation in respect of such suspension or cancellation or to the refund of any fee paid in respect of such licence.

24. Penalty for carrying on business without licence:

Whoever carries on the business of money-lending without a licence of otherwise than in conformity with the terms and conditions of a licence shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both.

25. Other penalties:-

(1) Whoever contravenes any of the provisions of this Regulation or of any rule made there under or of any terms or conditions of a licence granted there under or makes a claim or a statement or furnishes a declaration under Section 9 which is false or which he does not believe to be true shall, if no other penalty is elsewhere provided for in this Regulation for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to one thousand and five hundred rupees or with both.

Explanation:- The suspension or cancellation of a licence under Section 21 shall not be deemed to be a penalty for the purposes of this sub-section

2) Where a contravention of any of the provisions of this Regulation or of any rule made thereunder of which a person is convicted consists of mere omission to do a thing the Magistrate may, while convicting the offender, direct him to do the thing before an appointed day may on the failure of the offender to do the thing before the said day, pass an order suspending or cancelling his licence.

26. Jurisdiction to try offences:-

No Court inferior to that of a Magistrate of the Second Class shall try any offence punishable under this Regulation.

27. Contract not be void on account of offence: \_

Where a money lender is guilty of an offence punishable under this Regulation any contract of pawn or other contract made by him in relation to his business of money-lending shall not be void by reason only of that offence nor shall he by reason only of offence lose his lien on his right to the pledge, or his right to the loan and the interest and other charges, if any payable in respect thereof.

28. Power to make rules:-

(1) The Government may after previous publication, make rules to carry out the purposes of this Regulation;

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:

(a) the form of and the particulars to be contained in application for a licence and the authority to whom such application shall be made under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of Section 4;

(b) the manner in which the licence fee payable under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of Section 4 shall be paid.

(c) the form of the licence, and the terms and conditions subject to which it may be granted under sub-section (2) of Section 4;

(d) the other authority referred to in sub-section (4) of Section 4 subject to whose control and direction authority shall grant or refuse the licence:

(e) the authority referred to in sub-section (5) of Section 4 to whom an appeal shall lie against the order of the licensing authority passed under sub-section (3) of Section 4;

(f) the charges which may be demanded by a money lender under sub-section (4) of Section 7;

(g) the form of the pawn-ticket to be given to the pawner under Section 8;

(h) the forms of declarations under Section 9;

(i) the form of notices to be given under Section 9;

(j) the form and the language of the locality in which books, accounts, and documents specified in this Regulation shall be maintained, kept or used;

(k) the authority to whom the manner in which and times at which, the returns relating to the loans shall be submitted under clause (e) of sub-section (1) of Section 10;

(l) the authority to whom an application shall be made for the grant of a certificate under sub-section (2) of Section 11 and the form of, and the particulars to be contained in, such application;

(m) the form in which and the period for which the certificate referred to in sub-section (3) of Section 11 may be granted and the particulars which such certificate shall contain;

(n) the procedure which shall be followed and the powers which may be exercised, by the authorities exercising functions, holding inquiries and hearing appeal under this Regulation;

(o) any other matter which is to be, or may be, prescribed under this Regulation

(3) All rules made under this section shall be published in the Andhra Pradesh Gazette and on such publication shall have effect as if enacted in this Regulation.

29. Power to remove difficulties:-

If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Regulation, the Government may, as occasion may require, by order, do anything which appears to them to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of removing the difficulty.