

CHAPTER 362

PILGRIMAGES

Ordinances Nos. 13 of 1896, 51 of 1945.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE MAKING OF REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF PERSONS PROCEEDING ON PILGRIMAGES.

[12th December. 1896.]

Short title.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Pilgrimages Ordinance.

Minister empowered to make certain regulations and to appoint officers to enforce them.

2. It shall be lawful for the Minister, from time to time, in anticipation of any pilgrimage proposed to be made which in his judgment may probably occasion such a concourse of people as, in the absence of adequate regulation or restriction, to give rise to public inconvenience or be dangerous to the public health, by notification in the Gazette, to make regulations for any of the following purposes and to appoint officers to enforce the observance of such regulations:—

- (a) to restrict the number of persons who shall be allowed to proceed on any pilgrimage from the different parts of Sri Lanka, and the period of their stay at the place to which such pilgrimage is made;
- (b) to regulate the collection of people at such place and their march to and from such place, and at the different starting and halting places;
- (c) to impose such conditions and restrictions as may be necessary to prevent accidents, to promote cleanliness, and to check the breaking out and spread of infectious diseases:

Provided that, in respect of any place to which pilgrimages are made frequently, the Minister may, in lieu of making such regulations in anticipation of any specified pilgrimage to that place, make such regulations declared by him to be applicable to every pilgrimage to that place.

3. If any person shall disobey or contravene any regulation made under the provisions of the preceding section, or shall obstruct, hinder, or resist any officer appointed to enforce any such regulation, or any officer of the police force, or any grama seva niladhari, police, or peace officer aiding and assisting in enforcing any such regulation, he shall be guilty of an offence, and be liable on conviction thereof to a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees, or to rigorous or simple imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.

Disobedience of such orders or obstructing officers enforcing them made penal.

4. It shall be the duty of the officers appointed to enforce the regulations made under section 2, and of all officers of the police force, and of all grama seva niladhari, police, and peace officers generally, to aid and assist in the prevention of offences against this Ordinance or the regulations made thereunder; and every officer or grama seva niladhari who, being made cognizant of any such offence, shall fail to act promptly and vigorously thereupon, or who shall wantonly exceed or abuse his authority in the execution of any act or the exercise of any power under this Ordinance, or the regulations made thereunder, shall be guilty of an offence, and be liable on conviction thereof to a fine not exceeding five hundred rupees.

Officers to assist in enforcing regulations.

Liability of such officers.

5. It shall be lawful for a Magistrate's Court to make cognizance of any offence committed under this Ordinance or the regulations made thereunder, and to award in respect thereof so much of the punishment assigned thereto as Magistrates' Courts are empowered by law to award.

Case may be tried before Magistrates' Courts though otherwise out of their jurisdiction.