

**THE NATURALIZATION ACT, 1926**

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**THE NATURALIZATION ACT, 1926**

ACT NO. VII OF 1926

[26th February, 1926]

**An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the naturalization in Bangladesh of aliens resident therein;\***

WHEREAS it is expedient to consolidate and amend the law relating to the naturalization in Bangladesh of aliens resident therein;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. (1) This act may be called the Naturalization Act, 1926. Short title, extent and commencement

(2) It extends to the whole of Bangladesh.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint.

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

<sup>1</sup>[\* \* \*]

(b) "certificate of naturalization" means a certificate of naturalization granted under this Act; and

(c) "minor" means, notwithstanding anything in the Majority Act, 1875, any person who has not completed his age of twenty-one years.

3. (1) The Government may grant a certificate of naturalization to any person who makes an application in this Grant of certificate of naturalization

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\* Throughout this Act, except otherwise provided, the words "Bangladesh", "Government", "Penal Code" and "Taka" were substituted, for the words "Pakistan", "Central Government", "Pakistan Penal Code" and "rupees" respectively by section 3 and 2nd Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

<sup>1</sup> Clause (a) was omitted by section 2 of the Naturalization (Amendment) Act, 1952 (Act No. LXI of 1952).

behalf and satisfies the Government—

- (a) that he is not a minor;
- (b) that he is neither a citizen of Bangladesh nor a subject of any state of which a citizen of Bangladesh is prevented by or under any law from becoming a subject by naturalization;
- (c) that he has resided in Bangladesh throughout the period of twelve months immediately preceding the date of the application, and has, during the seven years immediately preceding the said period of twelve months, resided in Bangladesh for a period amounting in the aggregate to not less than four years;
- (d) that he is of good character;
- (e) that he has an adequate knowledge of <sup>1</sup>[Bengali]; and
- (f) that he intends, if the application is granted, to reside in Bangladesh or to enter or to continue in the service of the <sup>2</sup>[Republic] in Bangladesh:

Provided that nothing in clause (c) or clause (f) shall apply in the case of a woman who was a citizen of Bangladesh previously to her marriage to a person not citizen of Bangladesh and whose husband has died or whose marriage has been dissolved.

(2) [Omitted by the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973), section 3 and 2nd Schedule.]

Contents and  
form of  
application

**4.** (1) Every application for a certificate of naturalization shall be in writing and shall state, to the best of the knowledge and belief of the applicant,—

- (a) his age;

<sup>1</sup> The word "Bengali" was substituted, for the words and commas "a language which has been declared by the Central Government, by notification in the official Gazette, to be one of the principal vernaculars of Pakistan" by section 3 and 2nd Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

<sup>2</sup> The word "Republic" was substituted, for the word "State" by section 3 and 2nd Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

- (b) his place of birth;
- (c) his place of residence;
- (d) his profession, trade, or occupation;
- (e) full particulars regarding his qualifications in respect of the matters referred to in clauses (a) to (f) of sub-section (1) of section 3;
- (f) whether he has at any time previously applied for the grant of a certificate of naturalization under <sup>1</sup>[\*\*\*] this Act;
- (g) whether any such application has been rejected;
- (h) whether any such certificate has been granted to him; and
- (i) whether any such certificate granted to him has been revoked or whether he has been deprived of his citizenship under the <sup>2</sup>[\*\*\*] Citizenship Act, 1951.

(2) Every such application shall be signed by the applicant and shall be accompanied by an affidavit sworn by him verifying that the statements contained there in are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

(3) The Government shall satisfy itself as to the truth of the statements contained in the application, and for this purpose may cause to be made such further inquiry, if any, and may require such further evidence, if any, either by affidavit or otherwise as it thinks necessary.

**5.** (1) If the Government is satisfied that the applicant is qualified under section 3 for the grant of a certificate of naturalization and is otherwise a fit person for the grant of such

Grant of  
certificate

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<sup>1</sup> The words, commas and figures "the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914, or the Indian Naturalization Act, 1852, or" were omitted by section 3 and 2nd Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

<sup>2</sup> The word "Pakistan" was omitted by section 3 and 2nd Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

certificate, it may grant a certificate reciting the qualifications of the applicant for such grant and conferring upon him all the rights, privileges and capacities of naturalization under this Act, except such rights, privileges or capacities, if any, as may specifically be withheld by the certificate.

(2) Any such certificate may, if the applicant so requests, include the name of any minor child of the applicant, not being by birth a citizen of Bangladesh who was born before the date of the certificate and is for the time being resident in Bangladesh and under the control of the applicant; and shall grant to any child so included all the rights, privileges and capacities of naturalization under this Act, except such rights, privileges or capacities, if any, as may specifically be withheld by the certificate.

(3) The grant of a certificate of naturalization shall be in the absolute discretion of the Government, and no appeal shall lie from any refusal to grant any such certificate or to include in any such grant any particular right, privilege or capacity.

Oath of  
allegiance

**6.** Every person to whom a certificate of naturalization has been granted shall, within thirty days from the date of the grant thereof, take and subscribe the following oath, namely:—

"I, A. B., of

do hereby swear(*or* affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to <sup>1</sup>[the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh]:

Provided that the Government may extend the time allowed under this section in any case in which it is satisfied that failure to take and subscribe the oath within that time was due to sufficient cause.

Effect of grant  
of certificate  
and taking of  
oath

**7. (1)** No certificate of naturalization shall have effect until the person to whom it is granted has taken and subscribed the oath prescribed by section 6, but upon the taking and subscribing of such oath such person, and any child of any such person who

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<sup>1</sup> The words "the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh" were substituted, for the words "the constitution of Pakistan" by section 3 and 2nd Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

has been included in the certificate under sub-section (2) of section 5, shall be deemed to be citizens of Bangladesh and be entitled to all the rights, privileges and capacities of a citizen of Bangladesh born within Bangladesh, except such rights, privileges or capacities, if any, as may have been withheld from them respectively by the certificate, and shall within Bangladesh be subject to all the obligations, duties and liabilities of a citizen of Bangladesh; and the any such person to whom a certificate of naturalization is granted<sup>1</sup>[\* \* \*] shall, if not already a citizen of Bangladesh, in like manner to be so deemed and be so entitled and so subject, if within one year, or such longer period as the Government may in special circumstances allow, from the date of the taking and subscribing of such oath by her husband, she makes to the Government a declaration that she desires to be deemed to be a citizen of Bangladesh, and if she is an alien as defined in the<sup>2</sup>[Citizenship Act, 1951,] obtains a certificate of domicile under that Act, and takes and subscribe the oath prescribed by section 6 of this Act.

(2) When the person to whom a certificate of naturalization has been granted has taken and subscribed the oath prescribed by section 6, any wife thereafter married by, and any child thereafter born to, such person shall, if she or he is not a citizen of Bangladesh and if such person aforesaid at the date of the marriage or birth, as the case may be, retains any rights, privileges or capacities of a citizen of Bangladesh under this Act, be entitled, subject, in the case of a wife, to her making to the Government a declaration as provided in sub-section (1) and, if necessary, upon obtaining the certificate of domicile and making and subscribing the oath as further provided in that sub-section, to the same rights, privileges and

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<sup>1</sup> The words, comma, brackets and figure "after the commencement of the Indian Naturalization (Amendment) Act, 1935" were omitted by section 3 and 2nd Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

<sup>2</sup> The words, commas and figure "Citizenship Act, 1951," were substituted, for the words, commas and figure "Pakistan Citizenship Act, 1951," by section 3 and 2nd Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

capacities, and be subject to the same obligations, duties and liabilities, to which such person aforesaid was at the date entitled and subject.

Revocation of  
certificate

**8.** (1) Where the Government is satisfied that a certificate of naturalization granted under this Act <sup>1</sup>[\* \* \*] was obtained by false representation or fraud or by concealment of material circumstances, or that the person to whom the certificate has been granted has shown himself by act or speech to be disaffected or disloyal to Bangladesh, the Government shall, by order in writing, revoke the certificate.

(2) Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions, the Government shall by order in writing, revoke such a certificate of naturalization as aforesaid in any case in which it is satisfied that the person to whom the certificate was granted—

- (a) has, during any war in which Bangladesh is engaged unlawfully traded or communicated with the enemy, or with a subject of an enemy state, or been engaged in, or associated with, any business which is to his knowledge carried on in such a manner as to assist the enemy in such war; or
- (b) has, within five years of the date of the grant of the certificate, been sentenced by any Court in Bangladesh <sup>2</sup>[\*\*\*] to transportation or to penal servitude, or to imprisonment for a term not less than twelve months, or to pay a fine not less than one thousand Taka; or
- (c) was not of good character at the date of the grant of the certificate; or
- (d) has since the grant of the certificate been, for a period of not less than seven years, ordinarily resident out of Bangladesh otherwise than as a representative of a citizen of Bangladesh, or of a Bangladesh firm or company or a Bangladesh

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<sup>1</sup> The semi-colon, words, commas and figure "; or the Indian Naturalization Act, 1852," were omitted by section 3 and 2nd Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

<sup>2</sup> The words "or in His Majesty's dominions" were omitted by section 3 and 2nd Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

institution, or in the service of <sup>1</sup>[the Republic] or in the armed forces of Bangladesh, and has not maintained substantial connection with Bangladesh; or

- (e) remains, according to the law of a state at war with Bangladesh, a subject of that state; and that the continuance of the certificate is not conducive to the public good.

(3) [*Omitted by the Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937.*]

(4) The Government may, if it thinks fit, before making an order under this section, refer the case for such inquiry as he hereinafter specified, and, in any case to which sub-section (1) or clause (a), clause (c) or clause (e) of sub-section (2) applies, the Government shall, by notice given to, or sent by post to the last known address of, the holder of the certificate, give him an opportunity of claiming that the case be referred for such inquiry, and, if the holder so claims, in accordance with the notice, the Government shall refer the case for inquiry accordingly.

(5) An inquiry under this section shall be held by such person or persons and in such manner as the Government may direct in each case.

(6) Where a certificate is revoked under this section, the revocation shall have effect from such date as may be directed by the Government, and thereupon the certificate shall be given up and cancelled; and any person who, without reasonable cause the burden of proving which shall lie upon him, fails to give up his certificate within one month from the aforesaid date, shall be punishable with fine, which may extend to one thousand Taka.

(7) For the purpose of this section, any person who has acquired any of the rights, privileges or capacities of naturalization under sub-section (2) of section 5 or sub-section (2) of section 7 by reason of the grant to his parent of a certificate of naturalization, may, after he has attained majority, be deemed to be a person to whom a certificate of naturalization has been granted.

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<sup>1</sup> The words "the Republic" were substituted, for the words "a Government in Pakistan" by section 3 and 2nd Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).



Effect of  
revocation of  
certificate

**9.** (1) Where a certificate is revoked under section 8, the former holder of there of shall cease to be deemed to be a citizen of Bangladesh.

(2) On such revocation, the Government may, by order in writing, direct that the wife and minor children (or any of them) of the person whose certificate is revoked shall cease to be deemed to be citizens of Bangladesh; but where no such direction is made, the status of the wife and the minor children of the person, whose certificate is revoked shall not be affected by the revocation:

Provided that no such order shall be made in the case of a wife unless by reason of the acquisition by her husband of a new nationality she has also acquired that nationality:

Provided further that, in the case of a wife who was, or, if the <sup>1</sup>[Citizenship Act, 1951], had been in force at the date of her birth, would have been, by birth a citizen of Bangladesh, no such order as aforesaid shall be made, unless the Government is satisfied that, if she had held a certificate of naturalization in her own right, the certificate could properly have been revoked under section 8, and the provisions of that section as to referring cases for inquiry shall apply to the making of any such order as they apply to the revocation of a certificate.

Declaration of  
alienage

**10.** (1) A declaration of alienage in such manner as may be prescribed by rules made under this Act may be made,—

- (a) within one year of his attaining majority, by any child who has acquired any of the rights, privileges or capacities of naturalization under sub-section (2) of section 5, or sub-section (2) of section 7; or
- (b) within six months from the date of the revocation of a certificate under section 8, or of the death of, or of the dissolution of her marriage with, the holder of any such certificate as is therein referred to, by the wife of the person whose certificate has been revoked, or who has died, or whose marriage to her has been dissolved, as the case may be.

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<sup>1</sup> The words, comma and figure "Citizenship Act, 1951" were substituted, for the words, comma and figure "Pakistan Citizenship Act, 1951" by section 3 and 2nd Schedule of the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973).

(2) Where a declaration of alienage has been made in the manner aforesaid, the person making the same, and the wife of any such person, and any children of any such person who are minors and are not by birth citizens of Bangladesh, shall cease to be deemed to be citizens of Bangladesh:

Provided that the wife of any such person shall not cease to be deemed to be a citizen of Bangladesh under this sub-section, unless by reason of the acquisition by her husband of a new nationality she has also acquired that nationality.

**11.** Every person making an inquiry under the orders of the Government under sub-section (3) of section 4, and every person appointed to hold an inquiry under sub-section (5) of section 8, shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of the Penal Code, and shall for the purposes of such inquiry have the same powers as are vested in a Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, when trying a suit, in respect of the following matters:—

Inquiries

- (i) enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;
- (ii) compelling the production of documents and material objects; and
- (iii) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses; and every such inquiry shall be deemed to be judicial proceeding within the meaning of sections 193 and 228 of the Penal Code.

**12.** (1) All oaths and affidavits for the purposes of this Act shall be sworn before a Magistrate or such other person as may be appointed in this behalf by the Government.

Oaths and affidavits

(2) The Magistrate or other person by whom an oath of allegiance is administered under section 6 shall grant to the person making the same a certificate in writing of his having taken and subscribed such oath and of the date of his taking and subscribing the same, and shall forward to the Government the oath so taken and subscribed, together with a copy of such certificate.

Power to make rules

**13.** (1) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules to give effect to the provisions of this Act.

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

- (a) the form or forms in which certificates of naturalization shall be granted, and the manner in which they shall be recorded;
- (b) the manner in which declarations of alienage shall be made and recorded;
- (c) the recording of oaths of allegiance; and
- (d) the fees which may be imposed for the issue of any certificate, whether of naturalization or otherwise, granted under this Act.

Limitation to the grant of naturalization under this Act

**14.** Nothing contained in this Act shall be deemed to entitle to any of the rights, privileges or capacities of a citizen of Bangladesh the child of any person who is himself so entitled by reason only of the inclusion of his name in a certificate of naturalization under sub-section (2) of section 5 or of the grant of a certificate of naturalization to his parent.

**14A - 14C.** [*Omitted by the by the Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) Act, 1973 (Act No. VIII of 1973), section 3 and 2nd Schedule.*]

**15.** [*Repealed by the Repealing Act, 1927 (Act No. XII of 1927), section 2 and Schedule.*]

**THE SCHEDULE.**—[*Repealed by the Repealing Act, 1927 (Act No. XII of 1927), section 2 and Schedule.*]

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