



The Gazette of Meghalaya
EXTRAORDINARY
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 165

Shillong, Tuesday, September 27, 2022

5th Asvina, 1944 (S. E.)

PART-IV
GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
LAW (B) DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 27th September, 2022.

No.LL(B).34/2022/2.—The Meghalaya Ropeway Act, 2022 (Act No. 14 of 2022) is hereby published for general information.

MEGHALAYA ACT NO. 14 OF 2022

(As passed by the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly)

Received the assent of the Governor on the 23rd September, 2022.

Published in the Gazette of Meghalaya Extra-Ordinary issue dated 27th September, 2022.

THE MEGHALAYA ROPEWAY ACT, 2022

An

ACT

to authorise, facilitate and regulate the construction, operations and maintenance of ropeways in the State.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of Meghalaya in the Seventy Third Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

Short Title, Extent and Commencement.

CHAPTER 1 - PRELIMINARY

1. (1) This Act shall be called the Meghalaya Ropeway Act, 2022.
- (2) It shall extend to whole of the State of Meghalaya.
- (3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint in this behalf.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:-
 - (a) **“Applicable Law”** means all laws, brought into force and effect by the Government of India or the State Government including rules, regulations and notifications made thereunder and judgments, decrees, injunctions, writs and orders of any court of record, as may be in force in the State, from time to time;
 - (b) **“Authority”** means Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority;
 - (c) **“Carrier”** means any vehicle or receptacle hung or suspended from or hauled by a rope and used for the carriage of passengers or for any other purpose in connection with the operations of a ropeway;
 - (d) **“Chief Ropeways Inspector” and “Project Inspector”** mean the persons appointed under this Act respectively to be the Chief Inspector of Ropeways for the State and the Inspector of Ropeways for a Ropeways Project;
 - (e) **“Development fund”** means the receipt of the Authority under this Act;
 - (f) **“Entity”** means and includes a company, trust, society, firm or a body corporate or any other organization established in accordance with the applicable laws;
 - (g) **“Expert Committee”** means a Committee constituted under section 24 of this Act;
 - (h) **“Government” or “State Government”** means the Government of Meghalaya;
 - (i) **“Licence”** means a licence authorising the construction, operation and maintenance of a ropeway under this Act;

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- (j) **“Licensing Authority”** means an Empowered Committee having powers to grant licences under section 22 of this Act;
- (k) **“Local Authority”** means traditional tribal bodies which includes Nokma, Sordar, Syiem, Sirdar (Sardar), Doloi, Waheshnong, Wahadadar, Lyngdoh and Rangbah Shnong or any other such body constituted as per the traditions, customs and practices in the tribal areas and other authorities which may be notified by the Government in the Official Gazette;
- (l) **“Official Gazette”** means the Official Gazette of the State of Meghalaya;
- (m) **“Operator”** means an entity which has been authorised by the Promoter to operate and maintain the ropeway project under a written contract;
- (n) **“Person”** means a natural person;
- (o) **“Post”** means a post, trestle, standard, strut, stay or other contrivance or part of a contrivance for carrying, suspending or supporting a rope;
- (p) **“Prescribed”** means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (q) **“Promoter”** means:-
- (i) the State Government;
- (ii) any agency or department of the State Government;
- (iii) any person or entity which may be selected by the State Government as per Applicable Law;
- (iv) any body corporate, firm or any society registered under the provisions of any law for the time being in force;
- (v) any person or entity which is owning and or operating an existing ropeway on the date of coming into force of this Act.
- (r) **“PPP”** means and refers to Public Private Partnership;
- (s) **“Project Committee”** means a District Level Committee constituted under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner where the ropeway project is being developed as provided in section 34 of the Act;
- (t) **“Rate”** means and includes fare, charge or other payment for the carriage of passengers;
- (u) **“Rope”** includes any cable, wire, rail or way, whether flexible or rigid, used for suspending, carrying or hauling a carrier;
- (v) **“Ropeway”** means a ropeway used for public or private carriage of passengers and includes posts, ropes, carriers, stations, offices, warehouses, workshops, machinery and where the wheels of carriers are made to run on the rails laid on the surface of the earth, such rails as well as any such other works as are used for the purposes of, or in connection with, such ropeway and all land appurtenant thereto;

- (w) **“State”** means the State of Meghalaya;
- (x) **“Sinking Fund”** means the fund for repayment of money borrowed or floated or issuing debentures by the Authority under section 15 of the Act;
- (y) **“Undertaking”** means all movable and immovable property of the Promoter suitable to and used by him for the purposes of a ropeway.

Chapter - II

Establishment and Constitution of Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority

Establishment of Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority.

3. (1) The State Government shall for the purpose of this Act establish and constitute, by notification in the Official Gazette, under Department of Tourism of the State Government, an authority called ‘Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority’, which shall be the State nodal agency for development of ropeways with jurisdiction over Ropeway Development Area, either on its own or under PPP or through any Promoter.
- (2) With a view to ensure the success of the ropeway developmental process, the Authority, in discussion with the stakeholders, at the developmental planning stage would facilitate the formulation of a Vision Paper, in consultation with the Local Authority.

Declaration of Ropeway Development Area.

4. (1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare an area with specified limits covered by the ropeway alignment, stations and any other area contiguous to such area meant for tourism purposes, to be the Ropeway Development Area.
- (2) The State Government may, if it thinks fit, by notification in the Official Gazette, enlarge, curtail, or modify the Ropeway Development Area or any part thereof.

Constitution of the Authority.

5. The Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority shall be a body corporate by the name aforesaid, having perpetual succession and a common seal with power to acquire, hold, manage and dispose off moveable and immovable property and to contract and may sue or be sued by its corporate name.

Composition of the Authority.

6. (1) The Authority shall consist of a Chairperson, not below the rank of Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya and such other members as the State Government may determine and notify from time to time.
- (2) The Authority shall have a ‘Technical Cell’ to be headed by a person not below the rank of Chief Engineer, for handling all technical matters related to the development, operations and maintenance of the ropeway projects.
- (3) The Authority may also appoint other subordinate officers with such designations and assign to them such powers, duties and functions as may be necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Powers and Functions of the Authority.

7. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder and any direction which the State Government may give from time to time, the Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority shall be in charge of planning, coordinating, promoting, securing the development, safe operations and maintenance of ropeways and the associated Ropeway Development Area activities.
- (2) All Ropeway Development Area activities shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the respective Applicable Law as may be in force in the State, from time to time.
- (3) Without prejudice to the generality of the functions specified in sub-section (1), the Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority shall have the following powers and functions:—
- (a) to carry out or cause to be carried out survey(s) of the Ropeway Development Area and to prepare report(s) of such survey(s);
- (b) to prepare, enforce and execute the Ropeway Development Area plan;
- (c) to prepare and execute Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode of development of ropeways;
- (d) to co-ordinate development activities of all departments and agencies of the State Government or other authorities operating within the Ropeway Development Area;
- (e) to carry out or cause to be carried out such works as are contemplated in the Ropeway Development Area plan;
- (f) to acquire, hold and manage such property, both movable and immovable, as the Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority may deem necessary for the purposes of any of its activities and to lease, sell or otherwise transfer any property held by it;
- (g) to purchase any land and to erect thereon such buildings or structures and to carry out such operations as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying on its undertakings;
- (h) to enter into or perform such contracts as may be necessary for the performance of its duties and for exercise of its powers under this Act;
- (i) to perform any other function which is supplemental, incidental or consequential to any of the functions aforesaid or which may be prescribed by the State Government from time to time.

Transaction of Business of the Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority.

8. The Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority shall be governed by the transaction of business rules including procedure for conduct of its meetings, as may be prescribed.

Power of the Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority to give directions.

9. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority may give such directions with regards to the implementation, operation and maintenance of any ropeway and Ropeway Area Development project, as it may deem fit.
- (2) The Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority shall so exercise the powers of supervision referred to under this Act as may be necessary to ensure that each ropeway and Ropeway Development Area project is executed in the interest of the overall development of the Ropeway Development Area and in accordance with the approved plan for the Ropeway Development Area.

Power of Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority to execute any plan.

10. (1) Where the Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority is satisfied that any direction given by it under sub-section (1) of Section 9 with regards to any ropeway and Ropeway Development Area project has not been carried out by such Promoter or any other entity referred to therein or they are unable to fully implement any scheme undertaken by them for the development of any part of the Ropeway Development Area, the Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority may itself undertake the works and incur any expenditure for the execution of such development project, as the case may be, with the approval of State Government.
- (2) The Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority may undertake any works or schemes in the Ropeway Development Area. It may also undertake such works as may be directed by the State Government and may incur such expenditure as may be necessary for the execution of such works or schemes.

Fund of the Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority.

11. (1) The Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority shall have and maintain its own fund to which shall be credited:-
- (a) all money received by the Authority from the State Government by way of grants, loans, advances or otherwise;
- (b) all development charges or other fees received by the Authority under this Act or rules or bye-laws made thereunder; and
- (c) all money received by the Authority from any other source(s).
- (2) The Authority may, in any nationalised or other bank(s) approved by the State Government in this behalf, open any number of accounts and keep such portions of each fund as may be prescribed; and any money in excess of the said sum shall be invested in such manner as may be approved by the State Government.

Grants, advances and loans by State Government.

12. The State Government may make such grants, advances, and loans to the Authority as it may deem necessary for the performance of the functions under this Act and all such grants, advances and loans made shall be utilized on such

terms and conditions as the State Government may determine.

- Powers to borrow money and issue debentures.** 13. The Authority may, from time to time, borrow by way of loans from such sources or issue debentures at such rate of interest and for such period and upon terms, as the State Government may approve.
- Development Fund.** 14. The receipt of the Authority under this Act shall form a separate development fund and all expenditure under this Act or any development scheme thereunder, shall be defrayed out of such fund. No portion of the fund shall, except with the sanction of the State Government, be expended for purposes not provided by this Act.
- Sinking Fund.** 15. (1) The Authority shall maintain a Sinking Fund for the repayment of money borrowed or floated or issuing debentures by it.
- (2) The money paid into the Sinking Fund shall be invested in such a manner and in such securities as may be prescribed by the State Government.
- (3) The Sinking Fund or any part thereof shall be applied as per rules in or towards the discharge of the loan or part thereof for which such fund is created and until such loan or part thereof is wholly discharged, the money standing to the credit of the fund shall be applied for no other purpose.
- Budget of the Authority.** 16. The Authority shall prepare every year in such form as provided, the budget of the Authority in respect of the next financial year showing the estimated receipt and expenditure under revenue head and capital head separately, and submit it to the State Government.
- Accounts and Audit.** 17. (1) The Authority shall maintain proper accounts, other relevant records and prepare annual statement of accounts including the balance-sheet in such form as may be approved by the State Government.
- (2) The accounts of the Authority shall be subject to an annual audit, the report of which will be placed before the State Legislature.
- Annual Reports.** 18. As soon as may be after the close of a year, the Authority shall prepare an annual report of each activity during the preceding year and submit it to the State Government in such form on or before such date as may be prescribed by the State Government.
- Validation of acts and proceedings.** 19. (1) No act done or proceeding taken under this Act shall be questioned on the ground merely of :-
- (a) The existence of any vacancy, initial or subsequent, or any defect in the constitution of the Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority;
- (b) Any person having ceased to be a member;
- (c) The failure to serve a notice on any person, where no substantial injustice has resulted from such failure; or
- (d) Any omission, defect or irregularity not affecting the merit of the case.

- (2) Every meeting of the Authority shall be presumed to have been duly convened and to be free from all defects and irregularities.

Finalty of orders. 20. Save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, every order passed or direction issued by the Authority shall be final and shall not be questioned in any suit or other legal proceeding.

Powers to delegate. 21. The Authority may, by resolution, direct that any power exercisable by it under this Act or rules or bye-laws made, may also be exercised by any agency of the State Government or any officers with the previous consent of the State Government.

Chapter - III

Licensing Authority and Establishment

Licensing Authority. 22. (1) An Empowered Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya with representation from other State Government departments including Tourism, Forest & Environment, Home (Police), Transport, Urban Affairs and Public Works, shall be the Licensing Authority having powers to grant licences under this Act. The Chief Inspector of Ropeways shall be the Member Secretary of the Empowered Committee.

- (2) The composition of the Licensing Authority shall be decided and notified from time to time by the State Government by publication in the Official Gazette.

Appointment of Inspectors and Subordinate Officers and their powers and duties. 23. (1) The State Government may appoint such person to be the Chief Ropeways Inspector as it deems fit.

(2) The Chief Ropeways Inspector and the Project Inspector shall exercise such powers and perform such functions and duties as may be provided by or under the provisions of this Act. It shall also be the duty of any such Inspector from time to time and at least once a year in the case of the Chief Ropeways Inspector and once a quarter in the case of the Project Inspector, to inspect the ropeways and to determine whether they are maintained in a fit condition and working with due regard to the convenience and safety of the persons using them and of the general public, and consistently with the provisions of this Act.

- (3) The Chief Ropeways Inspector and the Project Inspectors shall, for the purpose of any of the duties which they are authorised or required to perform under this Act, be deemed to be public servants as defined in the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Central Act 45 of 1860).

Appointment of an Expert Committee. 24. (1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette constitute one or more Expert Committees consisting of such number of persons, having such knowledge and experience in design, setting up and operating ropeways, and at such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

- (2) It shall be the duty of the Expert Committee to aid and advise the State Government, Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority, Licensing Authority, Chief Ropeway Inspector and the Project Inspector in regard to any matter connected with the administration of the Act, and also in regard to:-
- (a) design, erection or position of any ropeway or of any work appertaining thereto;
 - (b) the addition to or the alteration or closure of a ropeway;
 - (c) the variation of the character of any ropeway or of the mode of use thereof.

Facilities to be afforded to Inspectors and Expert Committee.

25. The Promoter and his agents shall afford to the Chief Ropeways Inspector, Project Inspector or, as the case may be, to the members of the Expert Committee all reasonable facilities for performing the duties, and exercising the powers imposed and conferred upon him by this Act or by rules made thereunder.

Chapter-IV

Procedure and Preliminary Investigation

Unauthorised Construction, Operation, Maintenance etc. of Ropeways prohibited.

26. No ropeway for tourism or other purposes shall be constructed, opened, operated or maintained, except in accordance with the provisions of this Act in the notified Ropeway Development Area.

Application for permission to undertake investigation.

27. Any Promoter of a Ropeway Project, who seeks to undertake an investigation for setting up of a ropeway, shall first apply for a sanction for the same to the Licensing Authority with the recommendation of the Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority.

Sanction to preliminary.

28. (1) The Licensing Authority or, where the immovable properties not belonging to the intending Promoter are involved, the State Government may, accord sanction to the intending Promoter to make such surveys as may be necessary, which survey shall be carried out at the risk and cost of the Promoter itself.
- (2) Before according sanction under sub-section (1), the Licensing Authority or, as the case may be, the State Government may also require the intending Promoter to submit such information as it may think necessary for the full consideration of the proposal.
- (3) The intending Promoter shall not be entitled to claim any compensation from the State Government for any expense incurred under this section in the event of his application being rejected.

Chapter - V

Licence Authorizing Construction of Ropeway

Publication of proposed licence authorising construction and contents of such licence.

29. (1) The Licensing Authority may, on an application being made by any intending Promoter, and after due consideration of the details supplied in accordance with sub-section (2) of section 28, publish in at least one widely circulated local newspaper and one widely circulated national newspaper in the State, a draft of the proposed licence authorising the construction by, or on behalf of, such Promoter, subject to

such restrictions and conditions as the Licensing Authority may think proper, of a ropeway within any Ropeway Development Area or along any route specified in such licence for the carriage of passenger for tourism purposes.

- (2) A notice shall be published with the draft licence stating that any objection or suggestion which any person may desire to make with respect to the proposed licence will, if submitted to the Licensing Authority, within a period of thirty days from the date of the notice, be received and considered by it.
- (3) The Licensing Authority shall also cause public notice of the intention to grant the licence to be given at conspicuous places within the said area or along the said route, and shall, so far as may be possible cause a like notice to be served on every owner or occupier of land over which such route lies, and shall consider any objection or suggestion, with respect to the proposed licence, which may be received from any person within the period specified in sub-section (2) and take decision thereon.
- (4) The draft of the proposed licence shall contain such details of the proposed ropeway as may be prescribed.

Grant of Licence.

30. (1) If, after considering any objections or suggestions, which may have been made in respect to the draft before the expiry of the period specified in sub-section (2) of section 29, the Licensing Authority is of the opinion that the application should be granted with or without modifications, or subject to any restrictions or conditions, it shall grant a licence accordingly.
- (2) The Promoter can undertake all preparatory activities including tendering and onboarding of contractors but shall have to obtain a licence under this section before the commencement of construction.
- (3) Every licence authorising the construction of a ropeway granted under sub-section (1) shall, in such form as may be prescribed, be uploaded on the website of the State Government.

Cessation of powers given by licence under Section 30.

31. (1) If a Promoter authorised by a licence to construct a ropeway does not, within the time specified in the licence:-
 - (a) succeed in raising the full amount of capital required for the completion of the ropeway;
 - (b) make, in the opinion of the State Government, substantial progress with the construction of the ropeway; or
 - (c) complete the construction thereof;
 the powers given to the Promoter by such licence shall, unless the Licensing Authority extends the time so specified, cease to be exercised.

Revocation of licence and grant of a further licence.

32. The Licensing Authority may, on the application of the Promoter, revoke, amend, or extend the terms and conditions of the licence.

Chapter-VI

Inspection of Ropeway

Inspection of Ropeway before opening.

33. (1) No ropeway shall be opened for any kind of traffic until the Licensing Authority has, by order, sanctioned the opening thereof for that purpose. The sanction of the Licensing Authority under this section shall not be given until the Chief Ropeways Inspector has reported in writing to the Licensing Authority :-

- (a) that he has made a careful inspection of the ropeway and appurtenances;
 - (b) that the moving and fixed dimensions and such other conditions, as may be prescribed, have been complied with;
 - (c) that the ropeway is sufficiently equipped for the traffic for which it is intended;
 - (d) that due compliance of the rules and conditions of licence has been made;
 - (e) that in his opinion sufficient measures have been taken to prevent and control the pollution caused or likely to be caused by the working of the ropeway; and
 - (f) that in his opinion the ropeway is fit for traffic and can be used without danger to those using it, or to the persons employed thereon, or to the general public.
- (2) The provisions of sub-section (1) shall extend to the opening of additional sections of the ropeway, to deviation lines, and to any alteration or reconstruction materially affecting the structural character or any work to which the provisions of sub-section (1) apply or are extended by this sub-section.

Chapter-VII

Construction and Maintenance of Ropeway

Constitution of Project Committee.

- 34.** (1) A District Level 'Project Committee' shall be constituted under the chairmanship of the concerned Deputy Commissioner where the Ropeway Project is being developed. The Project Committee may have representation from concerned State Government departments including Tourism, Forest and Environment, Transport and Public Works. The Project Committee may consist of Members from the Local Community of the area in which the project is implemented.
- (2) The composition of the Project Committee shall be decided and notified from time to time by the State Government by publication in the Official Gazette.

Functions of the Project Committee.

- 35.** With regards to the ropeway projects being implemented by the State Government or any of its departments or agency or by any entity or person selected by or on behalf of the State Government, in case a ropeway project is being implemented on PPP basis, the committee shall discharge following functions, or as may be prescribed by the State Government:-
- (a) to assist in forest land diversion and clearance process;
 - (b) to assist in land acquisition, procurement and land registration;
 - (c) to assist in procuring clearance from State Pollution Control Board;
 - (d) to assist in getting supply of electricity and water to the ropeway projects;
 - (e) to assist in the diversion of transmission lines, electric poles, pipelines, etc. falling along the route alignment;
 - (f) to assist in resolution of relocation and rehabilitation issues, if any, involved in the project;
 - (g) to act as a single window for providing district level clearances to the Promoter;

- (h) to review the progress on the ropeway projects on bi-monthly basis; and
- (i) any other activity as decided by the Authority or State Government.

Authority of the Promoter to execute works.

- 36. (1)** Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Rules made thereunder, and in the case of immovable property not belonging to the Promoter, to the provisions of any enactment for the time being in force for the acquisition of land for public purposes and for companies, a Promoter may:-
- (a) make such survey as he thinks necessary;
 - (b) place and maintain posts in, on or upon any immovable property;
 - (c) suspend and maintain a rope over, along or across any immovable property;
 - (d) make such bridges, culverts, drains, embankments and roads, as may be necessary;
 - (e) erect and construct such machinery, offices, stations, warehouses, and other buildings, works and conveniences as may be necessary; and
 - (f) do all other acts necessary for constructing, maintaining, altering, repairing and using a ropeway.
- (2) Provided that a Promoter may take any action under clause (b) or clause (c) of the above sub-section, notwithstanding the objection of the owner or occupier of the property affected thereby if the Deputy Commissioner, after giving such owner and occupier by notice in writing, an opportunity of being heard, by an order in writing, permits such action.
- (3) When making an order under sub-section (2), the Deputy Commissioner shall fix the amount of compensation or of an annual rent or of both, which should, in his opinion, be paid by the Promoter to the owner of the property affected thereby or in the case of immovable property, to the owner or occupier thereof and the amount to be paid to each.
- (4) The order so made shall also fix the date by which, such amount of compensation or of the annual rent, shall be paid and the actual payment of such amount of compensation or of the first annual rent shall be a condition precedent for execution of any works referred to in sub-section (1).

Temporary entry upon land for repairing or preventing accidents.

- 37. (1)** The Promoter may, at any time for the purpose of examining or repairing a ropeway, or of preventing any accident, enter upon any immovable property adjoining such ropeway, and may do all such works as may be necessary for such purposes.
- (2) In the exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1), the Promoter or his duly authorised employee or agent, as the case may be, shall cause as little damage as possible, and compensation shall be paid by him for any damage so caused; and in the case of any dispute as to the amount of such compensation, or the person to whom it shall be paid, the matter shall be referred to the decision of the Deputy Commissioner.

Removal of obstructions and penalties.

- 38. (1)** When any tree standing or lying near a ropeway, or where any structure or other object which has been placed or has fallen near such ropeway subsequent to the grant of a licence under section 30, in regard to such ropeway, interrupts or interferes with, or is likely to interrupt or interfere with the construction, maintenance or use

of such ropeway, the Deputy Commissioner may, on the application of the Promoter after providing a reasonable opportunity of being heard to the person affected, cause the tree, structure or object to be removed or otherwise dealt with as he thinks fit.

Explanation: For the purpose of this sub-section, the expression "tree" shall be deemed to include any herb, shrub, hedge, jungle growth or other plant.

- (2) When disposing off an application under, sub-section (1), the Deputy Commissioner shall award to the person affected such compensation as he deems reasonable and he may recover such amount from the Promoter.

Chapter-VIII

Working of Ropeway

- Fixation of fare rates by the Promoter.** 39. The Promoter shall for the purposes of operation of a ropeway and subject to such maximum rates as may be prescribed by the Licensing Authority, have power, from time to time, to fix the rates for the carriage of passengers on the ropeway.
- Fixation of fare rates of Ropeway Projects built under Public Private Partnership.** 40. The State Government, on the recommendations of the Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority or Expert Committee, shall fix and notify the maximum limit of the fare rates for the Ropeway Projects under PPP.
- Insurance against the third party risk.** 41. (1) The Promoter of such ropeway shall obtain a policy of insurance with respect to the ropeway from an authorised insurer recognised under the relevant insurance law.
- (2) The policy of insurance obtained by the Promoter under sub section (1) shall cover the insurance of the persons travelling in the ropeway including those persons employed by the Promoter in connection with the operations of such ropeway against any liability which may be incurred by him in respect of the death of or bodily injury to any person including of the goods or his authorised representatives carried in the ropeway or damage to any property of third party by, or arising out, of the use of ropeway.
- (3) Provided that the State Government shall not be liable for any claim on account of any accident or mishap in such Ropeway Projects.
- Liability to pay compensation on the principles of no fault.** 42. (1) Where death or permanent disablement of any person has resulted from an accident arising out of the use of ropeway, the Promoter or Promoters of the ropeway shall jointly and severally, be liable to pay compensation in respect of such death or disablement of any person.
- (2) The amount of compensation for death or permanent disablement of persons or in the case of minor injury, to be paid under sub-section (1) shall be such sum as may be prescribed by the Government.
- (3) The right to claim compensation under this section in respect of death or permanent disablement of any person shall be in addition to the right of any such person to claim compensation in respect thereof under any other law for the time being in force.

Provided that the amount of compensation payable under any other law, for the death or bodily injury shall be reduced from the amount of compensation payable under this section.

Reporting of Accidents.

43. When any accident occurs in the course of operations of a ropeway, the Promoter shall, with the least possible delay, send notice of the accident to:-

- (a) the State Government;
- (b) the Meghalaya Ropeway Development Authority;
- (c) the Licensing Authority and to Project Inspector;
- (d) the Deputy Commissioner of the District;
- (e) the police station within the local limits of which the accident has occurred or to such other magistrate and police officer as the State Government may appoint in this behalf and shall also, if the accident is attended with loss of human life or serious physical injury to any human being, send information to the nearest medical facility.

Power to close and reopen Ropeway.

44. (1) If after inspecting any ropeway opened to traffic, the Chief Ropeways Inspector is of the opinion that the ropeway or any specified part thereof cannot be used without danger to the public or is no longer in a fit state for the carriage of any specified class of traffic, it shall state that opinion, together with the grounds thereof to the Licensing Authority and the Licensing Authority, after such further enquiry if any, as it may think fit, may thereupon order that, for reasons to be set forth in the order, the ropeway, or the part thereof so specified, be closed to all traffic or to any specified class of traffic:

Provided that in any case of extreme urgency, the Chief Ropeways Inspector may order the suspension of the working of the ropeway or any part thereof which it considers necessary, pending the order of the Licensing Authority. The Chief Ropeways Inspector shall forthwith make a report of his order to the Licensing Authority who will make necessary order within a period of seven days.

(2) When under sub-section (1), a ropeway or any part thereof has been closed to any traffic, it shall not be reopened to such traffic until it has been inspected and its reopening sanctioned, in the prescribed manner.

Rescue Operations.

45. If the State Government incurs any expenditure during any rescue operation, the Promoter shall be liable to pay the expenditure incurred by the State Government and in case the Promoter fails to pay the whole or part of it, it shall be recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

Chapter - IX**Discontinuance of Ropeway****Cessation of powers of Promoters on discontinuance of Ropeway.**

46. (1) If, at any time after the opening of a ropeway, it is proved that the Promoter has discontinued the operations of such ropeway or of any part thereof, without sufficient reasons, the Licensing Authority may, if it thinks fit, after providing a reasonable opportunity of being heard to the Promoter, declare that the powers of the Promoter in respect of such ropeway or part thereof shall, from such dates as it may determine, be at an end and thereupon the said powers shall cease.

Explanation : The working of a ropeway shall be deemed to have been discontinued if it has ceased for the period determined in the licence granted under section 30, or if the period has not been so determined, for a period of three months.

Power of State Government to remove ropeway on cessation of Promoter's powers.

47. (1) When a declaration has been made by the Licensing Authority under section 46 in respect of any ropeway or of any part thereof, an officer appointed in that behalf by the Licensing Authority may at any time after the expiration of two months from the date determined as aforesaid, remove such ropeway or part thereof, as the case may be, and the Promoter shall pay to the officer so appointed such costs of removal as shall be certified by that officer to have been incurred by him.
- (2) If the Promoter fails to pay the amount of costs so certified within one month, the State Government may prescribe the procedure and mode of recovery of the cost of removal from the Promoter.

Chapter - X

Purchase or Takeover of Ropeway

Power of the State Government to purchase or takeover Ropeway.

48. (1) Where the Promoter is the State Government, the State Government may at any time transfer the undertaking or any part thereof to:
- (a) any other department or agency or public sector undertaking of the State Government; or
 - (b) to any other person selected in accordance with the Applicable Law, under such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon between the State Government and the transferee.
- (2) Where the Promoter is not the State Government or Agency of the State Government and subject to the provisions under section 46 and 47, after giving reasonable opportunity of being heard, the State Government may in public interest purchase or take over the ropeway as per the procedure and conditions that may be prescribed under the Rules.

Power of Promoter to sell when option to purchase not exercised and revoked by consent.

49. Where, the State Government does not invoke the provisions of section 48, the Promoter shall have the option of disposing of all lands, buildings, works, materials, plants and apparatus belonging to the undertaking in such manner as it may think fit with prior approval of the State Government.

Expropriation by the State Government.

50. (1) If, at any time, after the opening of a ropeway, the State Government is of the opinion that an existing ropeway is required or needed by the Government in the interest of national security or in public interest, the State Government may, after considering any statement which the Promoter may desire to make, and after such enquiry as it deems necessary, declare, subject to such terms and conditions as the State Government may prescribe in this regard, that the powers of the Promoter in respect of such ropeway, shall be taken over by the State Government for such period that may be notified, and at the end of such period, all the rights, powers and authorities of the Promoter in respect of the said ropeway shall revert back to the Promoter.
- (2) As soon as may be, after a notification under sub-section (1), has been made, the State Government shall by a notice in writing, require the Promoter to transfer and handover the undertaking including all land, building, equipment and assets, clearances and permits and documents pertaining thereto to the State Government :

Provided that the notice in sub-section (2) shall set forth the modalities for the handover of the ropeway and the amount of compensation payable to the Promoter in lieu of the takeover of the ropeway by the State Government that may be prescribed as per Rules.

Chapter - XI

Inability or Insolvency of Promoter

Proceedings in case of inability or insolvency of Promoter.

51. (1) If, at any time after the opening of a ropeway, it appears to the State Government that the Promoter is insolvent or is unable to maintain the ropeway or operate the same with advantage to the public, or at all, the State Government may, after considering any statement which the Promoter may desire to make and after such enquiry as it deems necessary, declare that the powers of the Promoter in respect of such ropeway, shall, at the expiration of six months from the date of such declaration, be at the end, and thereupon the said powers shall cease at the expiration of that period.
- (2) At any time after the expiration of the said six months, an officer appointed by the State Government in that behalf, may remove the ropeway in the same manner and subject to the same provisions as provided for in section 47.

Chapter - XII

Bye - Laws

Power to make bye-laws.

52. (1) The Licensing Authority shall, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), make bye-laws consistent with this Act :-
- (a) for regulating the speed at which carriers are to be moved or propelled;
 - (b) for regulating the maximum passengers to be carried in each carrier;
 - (c) for regulating the use of steam power or any other mechanical power or electrical power on the ropeway;
 - (d) for regulating the conduct of the Promoter's employees;
 - (e) for regulating the qualifications of the staff employed for running and maintaining the ropeway;
 - (f) for regulating the terms and condition on which the Promoter will warehouse or retain goods at any station on behalf of the consignee or owner of such goods;
 - (g) generally, for regulating the travelling upon, and the use, working and management of the ropeway; and
 - (h) any other related subject as decided by the Licensing Authority or State Government.
- (2) A byelaw made under this section shall not take effect until it has been approved by the State Government and published in the Official Gazette.

Chapter - XIII**Supplementary Provisions**

- Returns.** 53. A Promoter shall, in respect of the ropeway, submit to the State Government returns of capital and revenue expenditure, receipts and traffic, at such intervals, and in such form, as may be prescribed.
- Protection of roads, railways, tramways, and waterways.** 54. No Promoter shall, in the course of the construction, repair, working or management of a ropeway, cause any permanent injury to any public road, railway, tramway or waterway, or obstruct or interfere with, otherwise than temporarily as may be necessary, the traffic on any public road, railway, tramway or waterway.
- Acquisition of land on behalf of a Promoter.** 55. The State Government may, if it thinks fit, subject to the provisions of the Act, on the application of any Promoter desirous of obtaining any land for the purpose of constructing, extending, working or managing a ropeway, acquire on his behalf, such land under the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act 30 of 2013) or any other Act as applicable.

Chapter - XIV**Delegation of Powers and Making of Rules by State Government**

- Power of the State Government to make Rules.** 56. (1) The State Government may, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
- (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may prescribe :-
- (a) the functions and powers that may be delegated to the Authority or to any officer of the Authority;
 - (b) the qualifications and disqualifications for being chosen or/and for being member of the Authority;
 - (c) the terms of office and conditions of service of the members of the Authority;
 - (d) the matters in which and the purpose for which the Authority may associate with itself any person under the provisions of this Act;
 - (e) the control and restrictions in relation to the appointment of officers and other employees of the Authority;
 - (f) creation and administration of Fund of the Authority for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this Act;
 - (g) the form of the budget and the date on or before which it shall be prepared and to be submitted to the State Government;
 - (h) the procedure for the levy of development charges and exemption from it on any development or change of use of any land;

- (i) the power and duties of the Chief Ropeways Inspector and the Project Inspector appointed under section 23;
- (j) the accidents of which notice shall be given to the Licensing Authority and to the Project Inspector;
- (k) the maximum rates for passengers on the ropeway;
- (l) the duties of the Promoter, Promoter's employees and of police officers, and magistrate on the occurrence of an accident;
- (m) the standard dimensions and specifications to which the ropeway is to conform;
- (n) the safe and efficient working of ropeway;
- (o) the conditions under which, and the manner in which, the powers conferred on Promoters may be exercised;
- (p) the procedure for the disposal of application under sub-section (2) of section 44 to re-open any ropeway or part thereof and the conditions under which such ropeway may be re-opened;
- (q) the fees to be charged to Promoters and other persons in respect of licences, application, enquiries, inspection, and services rendered under this Act;
- (r) provisions for fire aid and other amenities;
- (s) the manner in which notice under this Act shall be served;
- (t) the procedure of filing, hearing and deciding objections and appeals under this Act and all matters connected therewith; and
- (u) any other matter which is to be or may be prescribed under this Act or decided by the State Government.

(3) All rules made under this section shall be published in the Official Gazette.

(4) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before the State Legislature.

Power of the State Government to Remove Difficulties.

57. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of the Act, the State Government may, by order, do anything expedient for the purpose of removing the difficulties, provided that it is not inconsistent with the Act.

Further provided that no such order shall be made after completion of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

Power of the State Government to award projects.

58. The State Government may, if it deems fit, enter into an agreement with an entity or persons for implementing and operating a ropeway project within the State on PPP basis, provided that, the process for selection of such an entity or person shall be such as stipulated under the Applicable Law.

Chapter - XV**Offences, Penalties and Arrests****Failure of Promoter to comply with the Act.****59.** If a Promoter,

- (a) constructs or opens or operates or maintains a ropeway other than in accordance with the terms of a licence granted under section 30; or
- (b) contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or the provisions of any rule made under section 56; or
- (c) fails to pay within a reasonable time any compensation awarded by a Deputy Commissioner or by the State Government under the provisions of this Act;

he shall be punishable with fine which may extend to Rupees Five Lakhs and in case of a continuing offence to a further fine which may extend to Ten thousand rupees for every day after the date of the first conviction during which the offender is proved to have persisted in the offence.

Unlawfully obstructing Promoter in exercise of powers.**60.** If any person, wilfully obstructs any person acting under the authority of the Promoter in the lawful exercise of his powers in constructing, maintaining, altering, repairing, or working of Ropeway or injures or destroys any mark made for the purpose of setting out the line or route of such Ropeway, he shall be punished with fine which may extend to Rupees One lakh.**Unlawfully interfering with the Ropeway.****61.** If any person willfully does any of the following things, namely : -

- (a) interferes with, removes or alters any part of a ropeway or of the works connected therewith;
- (b) does anything in such manner as to obstruct any carrier travelling on a ropeway or obstructs the working of a ropeway;
- (c) attempts to do or abets within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Central Act 45 of 1860) the doing of anything mentioned in clause (a) or clause (b);

he shall be liable to be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, which may extend to Rupees Five lakhs or with both;

Provided that the punishment under this section shall be in addition and not in derogation to the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.

Maliciously doing, abetting or attempting to do acts endangering safety of persons travelling or being upon Ropeway.**62.** (1) If any person does anything mentioned under clauses (a) (b) or (c) of section 61 or does, attempts to do, or abets within the meaning of Indian Penal Code 1860, the doing of any other act or thing in relation to a Ropeway with intent or with knowledge that he is likely to endanger the safety of any person traveling or being upon the Ropeway, he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of upto seven years.

(2) If the Promoter does anything or omits to do anything, mentioned in section 59, in relation to a ropeway with intent or with knowledge that such act or omission is likely to endanger the safety of any person travelling or being upon the ropeway, he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one month but may extend to five years.

Arrest for offence against certain sections and procedure thereupon.

- 63.** (1) Any police officer may, without an order from a Magistrate and without a warrant, arrest any person who has been concerned in an offence punishable under section 61 or 62 of this Act or against whom a reasonable suspicion exists of his having been so concerned.
- (2) A person so arrested shall be produced before a Magistrate having authority to try him or to commit him for trial within the timelines stipulated in this behalf under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

Offences under the Act not to be cognizable.

- 64.** Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 an offence under this Act shall not be cognizable.

Chapter - XVI**Reviews****Review by the Licensing Authority.**

- 65.** (1) All orders made by the Licensing Authority under this Act shall be appealable within thirty days from the date of order and the appeal shall lie to the State Government.
- (2) Any appeal preferred under sub-section (1) shall normally be disposed of by the State Government within three months from the date of receipt of the appeal.

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