THE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS ACT, 1980
(Act VII of 1981)

[As Modified up to the 31st May, 1987]

An Act to provide for the establishment of Administrative Tribunals to exercise jurisdiction in respect of matters to or arising out of the terms and conditions of persons in the service of the Republic [or of any statutory public authority].

WHEREAS article 117 of the Constitution provides, inter alia, that Parliament may be law establish one or more Administrative Tribunals to exercise jurisdiction in respect of matters relating to or arising out of the terms and conditions of service of persons in the service of the Republic [or of any statutory public authority];

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the establishment of Administrative Tribunals to exercise such jurisdiction and for matters connected therewith;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) This Act may be called the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1980.

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

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

(a) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act [(aa) “statutory public authority” means and authority, corporation or body specified in the Schedule to this Act; and]

(b) “Tribunal” means an Administrative Tribunal or the Administrative Appellate Tribunal established under this Act.

3. Establishment of Administrative Tribunals.—(1) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, establish one or more Administrative Tribunals for the purpose of this Act.

(2) When more than one Administrative Tribunal is established, the Government shall, by notification in the official Gazette, specify the area within which each Tribunal shall exercise jurisdiction.

(3) An Administrative Tribunal shall consist of one member who shall be appointed by the Government from among Persons who are or have been District Judges.

4. Jurisdiction of Administrative Tribunals.—(1) An Administrative Tribunal shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine applications made by any person in the service of the Republic [or of any statutory public authority] in respect of the terms and conditions of his service including pension rights, or in respect of any action taken in relation to him as a person in the service of the Republic [or of any statutory public authority]:

(2) A person in the service of the Republic [or of any statutory public authority] may make an application to an Administrative Tribunal under sub-section (1), if he is aggrieved by the order or decision in respect of the terms and conditions of his service including pension rights or by any action taken in relation to him as a person in the service of the Republic [or of any statutory public authority]:

1Inserted by Ordinance No LX of 1984.

provided that no application in respect of an order, decision or action which can be set aside, varied or modified by a higher administrative authority under any law for the time being in force relating to the terms and conditions of the service of the Republic \[or of any statutory public authority\] or the discipline of that service can be made to the Administrative Tribunal until such higher authority has taken a decision on the matter:

Provided further that no such application shall be entertained by the Administrative Tribunal unless it is made within six months from the date of making or taking of the order, decision or action concerned or making of the decision on the matter by the higher administrative authority, as the case may be.

(3) In this section “Person in the service of the Republic \[or of any statutory public authority\] includes a person who is or has retired or is dismissed,

\[1\]Inserted by Ordinance No. LX of 1984

removed or discharged from such service, but does not include a person in the defence services of Bangladesh [or of the Bangladesh Rifles].

5. Administrative Appellate Tribunal.—(1) The Government shall by notification in the official gazette, establish an Administrative Appellate Tribunal for the purpose of this Act.

\[2\]Substituted by Ordinance No. XXXVIII of 1983.

(2) An Administrative Appellate Tribunal shall consist of one member who shall be appointed by the Government form among persons who are or have been or are qualified to be Judges of the Supreme Court.

1. Inserted by Ordinance No. XXII of 1982 (with effect from the 1st February 1981)

6. Jurisdiction of Administrative Appellate Tribunal.—(1) The Administrative Appellate Tribunal shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine appeals from any order or decision of an Administrative Tribunal.

(2) Any person aggrieved by an order or decision of an Administrative Tribunal may, within two months from the date of making of the order or decision.

(3) The Administrative Appellate Tribunal may, on appeal, confirm, set aside, vary or modify any order or decision of an Administrative Tribunal and the decision of the Administrative Appellate Tribunal in an appeal shall be final.

7. Powers and Procedure of Tribunal.—(1) For the purposes of hearing an application or appeal, as the case may be, a Tribunal shall have all the powers of civil court, while trying a suit under the Code of Civil procedure. 1908 (V of 1908), in respect of the following matters, namely :

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;

(b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;

(c) requiring evidence on affidavit;

(d) requisitioning any public record or a copy thereof from any office;

(e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;

(f) such other matters as may be prescribed.

(2) Any proceedings before a Tribunal shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of section 193 of the Penal Code (XLV of 1860).
(3) A Tribunal shall hold its sittings at such place or places as the Government may fix.

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(6) The member of a Administrative Tribunal or the member of the Administrative Appellate Tribunal may make such administrative arrangements as he considers necessary for the performance of the functions of The Tribunal.

(7) The Administrative Appellate Tribunal may, by order in writing, transfer, at any stage of the proceedings any case from one Administrative Tribunal to another Administrative Tribunal.

1. sub-section (4) and (5) were omitted by ord. No. XXXVIII of 1983.

2. subs. ibid.

(8) Subject to the other provision of this Act. a Tribunal shall, for the purpose of hearing an on or appeal, as the case may be, follow such procedure as may be prescribed:

Provided that where, in respect of any matter no procedure has been prescribed by this Act or by rules made there under, a Tribunal shall follow the procedure in respect thereof as may be laid down by the Administrative Appellate Tribunal.

8. Binding effect of Tribunal’s decisions and orders.—(1) all decisions and orders of the Administrative Appellate Tribunal shall be binding upon the Administrative Tribunals and the parties concerned.

(2) All decisions and orders of an Administrative Tribunal shall, subject to the decisions and orders of the Administrative Appellate Tribunal, be binding on the parties concerned.

9. Penalty for obstruction.— A Tribunal shall have power to punish any person who without lawful excuse obstructs it in the performance of its functions with simple imprisonment which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to five hundred taka, or with both.

10. Bar on jurisdiction of Courts.—Subject to this Act, no proceedings, order or decision of a Tribunal shall be liable to be challenged, reviewed, quashed or called in question in any Court.

11. Act to override other laws.—The provisions of this Act, shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force.

12. Power to make rules.—(1) The Government may by notification in the official Gazette make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

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

(a) form and manner in which and the fee on payment of which an application or appeal may be made;

(b) registration of an application or appeal;

(c) procedure to be followed by a Tribunal in hearing an application or appeal, as the case may be;

(d) from and service of notices, summonses and requisitions;

(e) prescription of records and reports to be maintained or prepared by a Tribunal;

(f) execution of decisions and orders of a Tribunal;

(g) any other matter which is to be or may be prescribed.

13. Savings.—All suits, cases, applications and appeals relating to any matter in respect of which a Tribunal has jurisdiction pending. Immediately before the commencement of this Act, before any Court shall be tried, heard and disposed of by such Courts, as if this Act had not come into force.


1. Schedule was added by Ordinance No. LX of 1984.
Administrative Tribunals Act, 1980

1. Sections 10A and 10B of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1980 (VII of 1981) shall be read as follows:

"10A. Contempt of Tribunals.

(1) The Administrative Appellate Tribunal shall have power to punish for contempt of its authority or that of any Administrative Tribunal, as if it were the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.

(2) No appeal shall lie from any decision of the Administrative Appellate Tribunal under sub-section (1), but the Tribunal may review any such decisions."

2. Schedule I to the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1980 (VII of 1981) shall be read as follows:

"Section 10

1. The Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 1988

2. Section 10B of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1980 (VII of 1981) shall be read as follows:

"10B. Contempt of administrative tribunals.

(1) The Administrative Appellate Tribunal shall have power to punish for contempt of its authority or that of any Administrative Tribunal, as if it were the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.

(2) No appeal shall lie from any decision of the Administrative Appellate Tribunal under sub-section (1), but the Tribunal may review any such decisions."

3. Schedule II to the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1980 (VII of 1981) shall be read as follows:

"Section 10

1. The Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Ordinance, 1988

2. Section 10B of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1980 (VII of 1981) shall be read as follows:

"10B. Contempt of administrative tribunals.

(1) The Administrative Appellate Tribunal shall have power to punish for contempt of its authority or that of any Administrative Tribunal, as if it were the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.

(2) No appeal shall lie from any decision of the Administrative Appellate Tribunal under sub-section (1), but the Tribunal may review any such decisions."

4. Schedule III to the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1980 (VII of 1981) shall be read as follows:

"Section 10

1. The Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Ordinance, 1988

2. Section 10B of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1980 (VII of 1981) shall be read as follows:

"10B. Contempt of administrative tribunals.

(1) The Administrative Appellate Tribunal shall have power to punish for contempt of its authority or that of any Administrative Tribunal, as if it were the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.

(2) No appeal shall lie from any decision of the Administrative Appellate Tribunal under sub-section (1), but the Tribunal may review any such decisions."

5. Schedule IV to the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1980 (VII of 1981) shall be read as follows:
Administrative Tribunals Act, 1980

1. The Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Act, 1987


3. Act VII of 1981 section 7

Administrative Appellate Tribunal shall consist of one Chairman and two other members who shall be appointed by the Government.

(3) The Chairman shall be a person who is or has been, or is qualified to be a Judge of the Supreme Court, and of the two other members one shall be a person who is or has been an officer in the service of the Republic not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government and the other a person who is or has been a District Judge.

(4) The Chairman or any other member of the Administrative Appellate Tribunals shall hold office on such terms and conditions as the Government may determine.

3. Act VII of 1981 section 7 sub-section (6)

In the event of any difference of opinion among the members of the Administrative Appellate Tribunal the opinion of the majority shall prevail.

3B) If, in the course of a hearing, the Chairman or any other member of the Administrative Appellate Tribunal is, for any reason, unable to attend any sitting thereof, the hearing may continue before the other two members.

Administrative Tribunals Act, 1980
“6A Application of article 103 of the Constitution.—It is hereby declared that the provisions of article 103 of the Constitution shall apply in relation to the Administrative Appellate Tribunal as they apply in relation to the High Court Division.”

4) Act VII of 1981 section 8—"shall be binding" kā, ḥī cētZ ṭā "shall subject to the decisions and orders of the Appellate Division, be binding" kā, ḥī l K g v ḥī cētZ wet Z nBtē; Ges

(L) sub-section (2) "decisions and orders of the Administrative Appellate Tribunal" kā, ḥī cētZ ṭā “decisions and orders of the Administrative Appellate Division or of the Administrative Appellate Tribunal, as the case may be” kā, ḥī l K g w ḥī cētZ wet Z nBtē

5) Act VII of 1981 section 10A—"shall be binding"  ḥī nBtē