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Competition Act, 2002

Bare Act



Corrida Legal presents the Bare Act Series, sourced from official texts and supported with an executive summary designed to help readers grasp the essence of the law with ease.

NOTE: An Executive Summary of the Competition Act, 2002 is included towards the end of this document, right after the full bare act of the statute. This summary helps professionals, business owners, compliance officers, HR managers, legal practitioners, and students quickly understand the key provisions relating to the establishment and powers of the Competition Commission of India (CCI), prohibition of anti-competitive agreements, regulation of cartels, abuse of dominant position, regulation of mergers and combinations, penalties for non-compliance, competition advocacy, and policy development, without having to read the entire text. The Competition Act, 2002 Summary provides a clear, practical, and time-saving guide for anyone looking to understand India's competition law framework, ensure compliance with fair market practices, manage merger and acquisition risks, and stay aligned with statutory requirements under the Competition Act bare act.

**THE COMPETITION ACT, 2002
(12 OF 2003)
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THE COMPETITION ACT, 2002¹

No. 12 OF 2003

[13th January, 2003.]

An Act to provide, keeping in view of the economic development of the country, for the establishment of a Commission to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets, in India, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY

Short title, extent and commencement

1. (1) This Act may be called the Competition Act, 2002.
- (2) It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
- (3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint:

Provided that different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act and any reference in any such provision to the commencement of this Act shall be construed as a reference to the coming into force of that provision.

Definitions

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—
 - (a) “acquisition” means, directly or indirectly, acquiring or agreeing to acquire—
 - (i) shares, voting rights or assets of any enterprise; or
 - (ii) control over management or control over assets of any enterprise;
 - (b) “agreement” includes any arrangement or understanding or action in concert,—
 - (i) whether or not, such arrangement, understanding or action is formal or in writing; or
 - (ii) whether or not such arrangement, understanding or action is intended to be enforceable by legal proceedings;

²[substituted by the finance act, 2017, w.e.f. 26th May, 2017. Prior to its substitution, clause (ba), as inserted by the competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, w.e.f. 12-10 -2007 read as under:

“(ba) Appellate Tribunal” means the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal referred to in sub-section (1) of section 53A;]

¹ The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 13th January, 2003

² Substituted by the Finance Act, 2017, w.e.f. 26th May 2017.

Prior to its substitution, clause (ba), as inserted by the competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, w.e.f. 12-10 -2007 read as under:

“(ba) Appellate Tribunal” means the Competition Appellate Tribunal established under sub-section (1) of section 53A;]

- (c) “cartel” includes an association of producers, sellers, distributors, traders or service providers who, by agreement amongst themselves, limit, control or attempt to control the production, distribution, sale or price of, or, trade in goods or provision of services;
- (d) “Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Commission appointed under sub-section (1) of section 9;
- (e) “Commission” means the Competition Commission of India established under sub-section(1) of section 7;
- (f) “consumer” means any person who—
 - (i) buys any goods for a consideration which has been paid or promised or partly paid and partly promised, or under any system of deferred payment and includes any user of such goods other than the person who buys such goods for consideration paid or promised or partly paid or partly promised, or under any system of deferred payment when such use is made with the approval of such person, whether such purchase of goods is for resale or for any commercial purpose or for personal use;
 - (ii) hires or avails of any services for a consideration which has been paid or promised or partly paid and partly promised, or under any system of deferred payment and includes any beneficiary of such services other than the person who hires or avails of the services for consideration paid or promised, or partly paid and partly promised, or under any system of deferred payment, when such services are availed of with the approval of the first-mentioned person whether such hiring or availing of services is for any commercial purpose or for personal use;
- (g) “Director General” means the Director General appointed under sub- section (1) of section 16 and includes any Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General appointed under that section;
- (h) “enterprise” means a person or a department of the Government, who or which is, or has been, engaged in any activity, relating to the production, storage, supply, distribution, acquisition or control of articles or goods, or the provision of services, of any kind, or in investment, or in the business of acquiring, holding, underwriting or dealing with shares, debentures or other securities of any other body corporate, either directly or through one or more of its units or divisions or subsidiaries, whether such unit or division or subsidiary is located at the same place where the enterprise is located or at a different place or at different places, but does not include any activity of the Government relatable to the sovereign functions of the Government including all activities carried on by the departments of the Central Government dealing with atomic energy, currency, defence and space.

Explanation.-For the purposes of this clause,—

- (a) “activity” includes profession or occupation;
- (b) “article” includes a new article and “service” includes a new service;
- (c) “unit” or “division”, in relation to an enterprise, includes
 - (i) a plant or factory established for the production, storage, supply, distribution, acquisition or control of any article or goods;
 - (ii) any branch or office established for the provision of any service;
- (i) “goods” means goods as defined in the Sale of Goods Act, 1930 (8 of 1930) and includes—
 - (A) products manufactured, processed or mined;
 - (B) debentures, stocks and shares after allotment;
 - (C) in relation to goods supplied, distributed or controlled in India, goods imported into India;
- (j) “Member” means a Member of the Commission appointed under sub- section (1) of section 9 and includes the Chairperson;
- (k) “notification” means a notification published in the Official Gazette;
- (l) “person” includes—
 - (i) an individual;
 - (ii) a Hindu undivided family;
 - (iii) a company;
 - (iv) a firm;
 - (v) an association of persons or a body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, in India or outside India;
 - (vi) any corporation established by or under any Central, State or Provincial Act or a Government company as defined in section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956);
 - (vii) any body corporate incorporated by or under the laws of a country outside India;
 - (viii) a co-operative society registered under any law relating to co-operative societies;
 - (ix) a local authority;
 - (x) every artificial juridical person, not falling within any of the preceding sub-clauses;
- (m) “practice” includes any practice relating to the carrying on of any trade by a person or an enterprise;
- (n) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (o) “price”, in relation to the sale of any goods or to the performance of any services, includes every valuable consideration, whether direct or indirect, or deferred, and includes any consideration which in effect relates to the sale of any goods or to the performance of any services although ostensibly relating to any other matter or thing;

- (p) “public financial institution” means a public financial institution specified under section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) and includes a State Financial, Industrial or Investment Corporation;
- (q) “regulations” means the regulations made by the Commission under section 62;
- (r) “relevant market” means the market which may be determined by the commission with reference to the relevant product market or the relevant geographic market or with reference to both the markets;
- (s) “relevant geographic market” means a market comprising the area in which the conditions of competition for supply of goods or provision of services or demand of goods or services are distinctly homogenous and can be distinguished from the conditions prevailing in the neighbouring areas;
- (t) “relevant product market” means a market comprising all those products or services which are regarded as interchangeable or substitutable by the consumer, by reason of characteristics of the products or services, their prices and intended use;
- (u) “service” means service of any description which is made available to potential users and includes the provision of services in connection with business of any industrial or commercial matters such as banking, communication, education, financing, insurance, chit funds, real estate, transport, storage, material treatment, processing, supply of electrical or other energy, boarding, lodging, entertainment, amusement, construction, repair, conveying of news or information and advertising;
- (v) “shares” means shares in the share capital of a company carrying voting rights and includes—
 - (i) any security which entitles the holder to receive shares with voting rights;
 - (ii) stock except where a distinction between stock and share is expressed or implied;
- (w) “statutory authority” means any authority, board, corporation, council, institute, university or any other body corporate, established by or under any Central, State or Provincial Act for the purposes of regulating production or supply of goods or provision of any services or markets therefor or any matter connected therewith or incidental thereto;
- (x) “trade” means any trade, business, industry, profession or occupation relating to the production, supply, distribution, storage or control of goods and includes the provision of any services;
- (y) “turnover” includes value of sale of goods or services;
- (z) words and expressions used but not defined in this Act and defined in the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) shall have the same meanings respectively assigned to them in that Act.

CHAPTER II

PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS, ABUSE OF DOMINANT POSITION AND REGULATION OF COMBINATIONS

Prohibition of agreements

Anti-competitive agreements

3. (1) No enterprise or association of enterprises or person or association of persons shall enter into any agreement in respect of production, supply, distribution, storage, acquisition or control of goods or provision of services, which causes or is likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.
- (2) Any agreement entered into in contravention of the provisions contained in subsection (1) shall be void.
- (3) Any agreement entered into between enterprises or associations of enterprises or persons or associations of persons or between any person and enterprise or practice carried on, or decision taken by, any association of enterprises or association of persons, including cartels, engaged in identical or similar trade of goods or provision of services, which—
- (a) directly or indirectly determines purchase or sale prices;
 - (b) limits or controls production, supply, markets, technical development, investment or provision of services;
 - (c) shares the market or source of production or provision of services by way of allocation of geographical area of market, or type of goods or services, or number of customers in the market or any other similar way;
 - (d) directly or indirectly results in bid rigging or collusive bidding, shall be presumed to have an appreciable adverse effect on competition:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall apply to any agreement entered into by way of joint ventures if such agreement increases efficiency in production, supply, distribution, storage, acquisition or control of goods or provision of services.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, “bid rigging” means any agreement, between enterprises or persons referred to in sub-section (3) engaged in identical or similar production or trading of goods or provision of services, which has the effect of eliminating or reducing competition for bids or adversely affecting or manipulating the process for bidding

- (4) Any agreement amongst enterprises or persons at different stages or levels of the production chain in different markets, in respect of production, supply, distribution, storage, sale or price of, or trade in goods or provision of services, including—

- (a) tie-in arrangement;
- (b) exclusive supply agreement;
- (c) exclusive distribution agreement;
- (d) refusal to deal;
- (e) resale price maintenance,

shall be an agreement in contravention of sub-section (1) if such agreement causes or is likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section,—

- (a) “tie-in arrangement” includes any agreement requiring a purchaser of goods, as a condition of such purchase, to purchase some other goods;
- (b) “exclusive supply agreement” includes any agreement restricting in any manner the purchaser in the course of his trade from acquiring or otherwise dealing in any goods other than those of the seller or any other person;
- (c) “exclusive distribution agreement” includes any agreement to limit, restrict or withhold the output or supply of any goods or allocate any area or market for the disposal or sale of the goods;
- (d) “refusal to deal” includes any agreement which restricts, or is likely to restrict, by any method the persons or classes of persons to whom goods are sold or from whom goods are bought;
- (e) “resale price maintenance” includes any agreement to sell goods on condition that the prices to be charged on the resale by the purchaser shall be the prices stipulated by the seller unless it is clearly stated that prices lower than those prices may be charged.

(5) Nothing contained in this section shall restrict—

- (i) the right of any person to restrain any infringement of, or to impose reasonable conditions, as may be necessary for protecting any of his rights which have been or may be conferred upon him under—
 - (a) the Copyright Act, 1957 (14 of 1957);
 - (b) the Patents Act, 1970 (39 of 1970);
 - (c) the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958 (43 of 1958) or the Trade Marks Act, 1999 (47 of 1999);
 - (d) the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 (48 of 1999);
 - (e) the Designs Act, 2000 (16 of 2000);
 - (f) the Semi-conductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Act, 2000 (37 of 2000);
- (ii) the right of any person to export goods from India to the extent to which the agreement relates exclusively to the production, supply, distribution or control of goods or provision of services for such export.

Prohibition of abuse of dominant position

Abuse of dominant position

4. ³[(1) No enterprise or group shall abuse its dominant position.]
- (2) There shall be an abuse of dominant position ⁴[under sub-section (1), if an enterprise or a group].—
- (a) directly or indirectly, imposes unfair or discriminatory—
- (i) condition in purchase or sale of goods or service; or
 - (ii) price in purchase or sale (including predatory price) of goods or service.

Explanation.— For the purposes of this clause, the unfair or discriminatory condition in purchase or sale of goods or service referred to in sub-clause (i) and unfair or discriminatory price in purchase or sale of goods (including predatory price) or service referred to in sub-clause (ii) shall not include such discriminatory condition or price which may be adopted to meet the competition; or

- (b) limits or restricts—
 - (i) production of goods or provision of services or market therefor; or
 - (ii) technical or scientific development relating to goods or services to the prejudice of consumers; or
- (c) indulges in practice or practices resulting in denial of market access ⁵[in any manner]; or
- (d) makes conclusion of contracts subject to acceptance by other parties of supplementary obligations which, by their nature or according to commercial usage, have no connection with the subject of such contracts; or
- (e) uses its dominant position in one relevant market to enter into, or protect, other relevant market.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, the expression—

- (a) “dominant position” means a position of strength, enjoyed by an enterprise, in the relevant market, in India, which enables it to—
 - (i) operate independently of competitive forces prevailing in the relevant market; or
 - (ii) affect its competitors or consumers or the relevant market in its favour.
- (b) “predatory price” means the sale of goods or provision of services, at a price which is below the cost, as may be determined by regulations, of production of the goods or provision of services, with a view to reduce competition or eliminate the competitors.

³ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “No enterprise shall abuse its dominant position.”

⁴ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “under sub-section (1), if an enterprise”

⁵ Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

⁶[(c)“group” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (b) of the Explanation to section 5.]

Regulation of combinations

Combination

5. The acquisition of one or more enterprises by one or more persons or merger or amalgamation of enterprises shall be a combination of such enterprises and persons or enterprises, if—

(a) any acquisition where—

(i) the parties to the acquisition, being the acquirer and the enterprise, whose control, shares, voting rights or assets have been acquired or are being acquired jointly have,—

(A) either, in India, the assets of the value of more than rupees one thousand crores or turnover more than rupees three thousand crores; or

(B) *⁷[in India or outside India, in aggregate, the assets of the value of more than five hundred million US dollars, including at least rupees five hundred crores in India, or turnover more than fifteen hundred million US dollars, including at least rupees fifteen hundred crores in India; or]*

(ii) the group, to which the enterprise whose control, shares, assets or voting rights have been acquired or are being acquired, would belong after the acquisition, jointly have or would jointly have,—

(A) either in India, the assets of the value of more than rupees four thousand crores or turnover more than rupees twelve thousand crores; or

(B) *⁸[in India or outside India, in aggregate, the assets of the value of more than two billion US dollars, including at least rupees five hundred crores in India, or turnover more than six billion US dollars, including at least rupees fifteen hundred crores in India; or]*

(b) acquiring of control by a person over an enterprise when such person has already direct or indirect control over another enterprise engaged in production, distribution or trading of a similar or identical or substitutable goods or provision of a similar or identical or substitutable service, if—

⁶ Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

⁷ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

“ in India or outside India, in aggregate, the assets of the value of more than five hundred million US dollars or turnover more than fifteen hundred million US dollars; or”

⁸ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

“ in India or outside India, in aggregate, the assets of the value of more than two billion US dollars or turnover more than six billion US dollars; or”

- (i) the enterprise over which control has been acquired along with the enterprise over which the acquirer already has direct or indirect control jointly have,—
 - (A) either in India, the assets of the value of more than rupees one thousand crores or turnover more than rupees three thousand crores;
or
 - (B) ⁹*[in India or outside India, in aggregate, the assets of the value of more than five hundred million US dollars, including at least rupees five hundred crores in India, or turnover more than fifteen hundred million US dollars, including at least rupees fifteen hundred crores in India; or]*
- (ii) the group, to which enterprise whose control has been acquired, or is being acquired, would belong after the acquisition, jointly have or would jointly have,—
 - (A) either in India, the assets of the value of more than rupees four thousand crores or turnover more than rupees twelve thousand crores or
 - (B) ¹⁰*[in India or outside India, in aggregate, the assets of the value of more than two billion US dollars, including at least rupees five hundred crores in India, or turnover more than six billion US dollars, including at least rupees fifteen hundred crores in India; or]*
- (c) any merger or amalgamation in which—
 - (i) the enterprise remaining after merger or the enterprise created as a result of the amalgamation, as the case may be, have,—
 - (A) either in India, the assets of the value of more than rupees one thousand crores or turnover more than rupees three thousand crores; or
 - (B) ¹¹*[in India or outside India, in aggregate, the assets of the value of more than five hundred million US dollars, including at least rupees five hundred crores in India, or turnover more than fifteen hundred million US dollars, including at least rupees fifteen hundred crores in India; or]*

⁹ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for

“ in India or outside India, in aggregate, the assets of the value of more than five hundred million US dollars or turnover more than fifteen hundred million US dollars; or”

¹⁰ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for

“ in India or outside India, in aggregate, the assets of the value of more than two billion US dollars or turnover more than six billion US dollars; or”

¹¹ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for

“ in India or outside India, in aggregate, the assets of the value of more than five hundred million US dollars or turnover more than fifteen hundred million US dollars; or”

- (ii) the group, to which the enterprise remaining after the merger or the enterprise created as a result of the amalgamation, would belong after the merger or the amalgamation, as the case may be, have or would have,—
 - (A) either in India, the assets of the value of more than rupees four thousand crores or turnover more than rupees twelve thousand crores; or
 - (B) ¹² *[in India or outside India, in aggregate, the assets of the value of more than two billion US dollars, including at least rupees five hundred crores in India, or turnover more than six billion US dollars, including at least rupees Fifteen Hundred Crores in India]*

Explanation.— For the purposes of this section,—

- (a) “control” includes controlling the affairs or management by—
 - (i) one or more enterprises, either jointly or singly, over another enterprise or group;
 - (ii) one or more groups, either jointly or singly, over another group or enterprise;
- (b) “group” means two or more enterprises which, directly or indirectly, are in a position to —
 - (i) exercise twenty-six per cent or more of the voting rights in the other enterprise; or
 - (ii) appoint more than fifty per cent of the members of the board of directors in the other enterprise; or
 - (iii) control the management or affairs of the other enterprise;
- (c) the value of assets shall be determined by taking the book value of the assets as shown, in the audited books of account of the enterprise, in the financial year immediately preceding the financial year in which the date of proposed merger falls, as reduced by any depreciation, and the value of assets shall include the brand value, value of goodwill, or value of copyright, patent, permitted use, collective mark, registered proprietor, registered trade mark, registered user, homonymous geographical indication, geographical indications, design or layout- design or similar other commercial rights, if any, referred to in sub-section (5) of section 3.

Regulation of combinations

- 6. (1)** No person or enterprise shall enter into a combination which causes or is likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within the relevant market in India and such a combination shall be void.

¹² Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

“in India or outside India, the assets of the value of more than two billion US dollars or turnover more than six billion US dollars

- (2) Subject to the provisions contained in sub-section (1), any person or enterprise, who or which proposes to enter into a combination, ¹³ [shall] give notice to the Commission, in the form as may be specified, and the fee which may be determined, by regulations, disclosing the details of the proposed combination, within¹⁴ [thirty days] of—
 - (a) approval of the proposal relating to merger or amalgamation, referred to in clause (c) of section 5, by the board of directors of the enterprises concerned with such merger or amalgamation, as the case may be;
 - (b) execution of any agreement or other document for acquisition referred to in clause (a) of section 5 or acquiring of control referred to in clause (b) of that section.

¹⁵[(2A)No combination shall come into effect until two hundred and ten days have passed from the day on which the notice has been given to the Commission under sub-section(2) or the Commission has passed orders under section 31, whichever is earlier.]

- (3) The Commission shall, after receipt of notice under sub-section (2), deal with such notice in accordance with the provisions contained in sections 29, 30 and 31.
- (4) The provisions of this section shall not apply to share subscription or financing facility or any acquisition, by a public financial institution, foreign institutional investor, bank or venture capital fund, pursuant to any covenant of a loan agreement or investment agreement.
- (5) The public financial institution, foreign institutional investor, bank or venture capital fund, referred to in sub-section (4), shall, within seven days from the date of the acquisition, file, in the form as may be specified by regulations, with the Commission the details of the acquisition including the details of control, the circumstances for exercise of such control and the consequences of default arising out of such loan agreement or investment agreement, as the case may be.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, the expression—

- (a) “foreign institutional investor” has the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (a) of the *Explanation* to section 115AD of the Income-tax Act, 1961(43 of 1961);
- (b) “venture capital fund” has the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (b) of the *Explanation* to clause (23 FB) of section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961(43 of 1961);.

¹³ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “may, at his or its option”

¹⁴ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “seven days”.

Vide notification no. SO 2039(E), dated 29th June, 2017 exemption has been given to person or enterprise(s) who is a party to combination from giving notice within 30 days.

¹⁵ Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

CHAPTER III

COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Establishment of Commission

7. (1) With effect from such date as the Central Government may, by notification, appoint, there shall be established, for the purposes of this Act, a Commission to be called the "Competition Commission of India".
- (2) The Commission shall be a body corporate by the name aforesaid having perpetual succession and a common seal with power, subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract and shall, by the said name, sue or be sued.
- (3) The head office of the Commission shall be at such place as the Government may decide from time to time.
- (4) The Commission may establish offices at other places in India.

Composition of Commission

- ¹⁶[8.(1) The Commission shall consist of a Chairperson and not less than two and not more than six other Members to be appointed by the Central Government.
- (2) The Chairperson and every other Member shall be a person of ability, integrity and standing and who has special knowledge of, and such professional experience of not less than fifteen years in, international trade, economics, business, commerce, law, finance, accountancy, management, industry, public affairs or competition matters, including competition law and policy, which in the opinion of the Central Government, may be useful to the Commission.
- (3) The Chairperson and other Members shall be whole-time Members.]

¹⁶ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for ;

- (1) The Commission shall consist of a Chairperson and not less than two and not more than ten other Members to be appointed by the Central Government:
Provided that the Central Government shall appoint the Chairperson and a Member during the first year of the establishment of the Commission.
- (2) The Chairperson and every other Member shall be a person of ability, integrity and standing and who has been, or is qualified to be a judge of a High Court, or, has special knowledge of, and professional experience of not less than fifteen years in international trade, economics, business, commerce, law, finance, accountancy, management, industry, public affairs, administration or in any other matter which, in the opinion of the Central Government may be useful to the Commission.
- (3) The Chairperson and other Members shall be whole-time Members."

¹⁷[Selection Committee for Chairperson and Members of Commission]

- ¹⁸[9.(1) The Chairperson and other Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Central Government from a panel of names recommended by a Selection Committee consisting of –
- a) the Chief Justice of India or his nominee - Chairperson
 - b) the Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs - Member
 - c) the Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice - Member
 - d) two experts of repute who have special knowledge of, and professional experience in international trade, economics, business, commerce, law, finance, accountancy, management, industry, public affairs or competition matters including competition law and policy - Member
- (2) The term of the Selection Committee and the manner of selection of panel of names shall be such as may be prescribed.]

Term of office of Chairperson and other Members

- 10.** (1) The Chairperson and every other Member shall hold office as such for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall be eligible for re-appointment:
- ¹⁹[**Provided** that the Chairperson or other Members shall not hold office as such after he has attained the age of sixty-five years]
- (2) A vacancy caused by the resignation or removal of the Chairperson or any other Member under section 11 or by death or otherwise shall be filled by fresh appointment in accordance with the provisions of sections 9.
 - (3) The Chairperson and every other Member shall, before entering upon his office, make and subscribe to an oath of office and of secrecy in such form, manner and before such authority, as may be prescribed.
 - (4) In the event of the occurrence of a vacancy in the office of the Chairperson by reason of his death, resignation or otherwise, the senior-most Member shall act as the Chairperson, until the date on which a new Chairperson, appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Act to fill such vacancy, enters upon his office.

¹⁷ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for "Selection of Chairperson and other Members"

¹⁸ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

"The Chairperson and other Members shall be selected in the manner as may be prescribed."

¹⁹ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

"Provided that no Chairperson or other Member shall hold office as such after he has attained-

(a) in the case of the Chairperson, the age of sixty-seven years;

(b) in the case of any other Member, the age of sixty-five years."

- (5) When the Chairperson is unable to discharge his functions owing to absence, illness or any other cause, the senior-most Member shall discharge the functions of the Chairperson until the date on which the Chairperson resumes the charge of his functions.

Resignation, removal and suspension of Chairperson and other members

11. (1) The Chairperson or any other Member may, by notice in writing under his hand addressed to the Central Government, resign his office:
- Provided** that the Chairperson or a Member shall, unless he is permitted by the Central Government to relinquish his office sooner, continue to hold office until the expiry of three months from the date of receipt of such notice or until a person duly appointed as his successor enters upon his office or until the expiry of his term of office, whichever is the earliest.
- (2) Not with standing anything contained in sub-section (1), the Central Government may, by order, remove the Chairperson or any other Member from his office if such Chairperson or Member, as the case may be,—
- (a) is, or at any time has been, adjudged as an insolvent; or
 - (b) has engaged at any time, during his term of office, in any paid employment; or
 - (c) has been convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the Central Government, involves moral turpitude; or
 - (d) has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as a Member; or
 - (e) has so abused his position as to render his continuance in office prejudicial to the public interest; or
 - (f) has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a Member.
- (3) Not with standing anything contained in sub-section (2), no Member shall be removed from his office on the ground specified in clause (d) or clause (e) of that subsection unless the Supreme Court, on a reference being made to it in this behalf by the Central Government, has, on an inquiry, held by it in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed in this behalf by the Supreme Court, reported that the Member, ought on such ground or grounds to be removed.

Restriction on employment of Chairperson and other Members in certain cases

12. The Chairperson and other Members shall not, for a period of ²⁰ [two years] from the date on which they cease to hold office, accept any employment in, or connected with the management or administration of, any enterprise which has been a party to a proceeding before the Commission under this Act:

²⁰ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “one year”

Provided that nothing contained in this section shall apply to any employment under the Central Government or a State Government or local authority or in any statutory authority or any corporation established by or under any Central, State or Provincial Act or a Government company as defined in section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956).

²¹**[Administrative powers of Chairperson]**

²²**[13.** The Chairperson shall have the powers of general superintendence, direction and control in respect of all administrative matters of the Commission:

Provided that the Chairperson may delegate such of his powers relating to administrative matters of the Commission, as he may think fit, to any other Member or officer of the Commission.”]

Salary and allowances and other terms and conditions of service of Chairperson and other Members

14. (1) The salary, and the other terms and conditions of service, of the Chairperson and other Members, including travelling expenses, house rent allowance and conveyance facilities, sumptuary allowance and medical facilities shall be such as may be prescribed.

(2) The salary, allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson or a Member shall not be varied to his disadvantage after appointment.

Vacancy, etc. not to invalidate proceedings of Commission

15. No act or proceeding of the Commission shall be invalid merely by reason of—

- (a) any vacancy in, or any defect in the constitution of, the Commission; or
- (b) any defect in the appointment of a person acting as a Chairperson or as a Member; or
- (c) any irregularity in the procedure of the Commission not affecting the merits of the case.

²¹ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “Financial and administrative powers of Member Administration”

²² Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

“The Central Government shall designate any Member as Member Administration who shall exercise such financial and administrative powers as may be vested in him under the rules made by the Central Government:

Provided that the Member Administration shall have authority to delegate such of his financial and administrative powers as he may think fit to any other officer of the Commission subject to the condition that such officer shall, while exercising such delegated powers continue to act under the direction, superintendence and control of the Member Administration.”

Appointment of Director General, etc.

16. ²³ [(1) The Central Government may, by notification, appoint a Director General for the purposes of assisting the Commission in conducting inquiry into contravention of any of the provisions of this Act and for performing such other functions as are, or may be, provided by or under this Act.
- (1A) The number of other Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General or such officers or other employees in the office of Director General and the manner of appointment of such Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General or such officers or other employees shall be such as may be prescribed.”]
- (2) Every Additional, Joint, Deputy and Assistant Directors General or ²⁴[such officers or other employees,] shall exercise his powers, and discharge his functions, subject to the general control, supervision and direction of the Director General.
- (3) The salary, allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the Director General and Additional, Joint, Deputy and Assistant Directors General or, ²⁵ [such officers or other employees,] shall be such as may be prescribed.
- (4) The Director General and Additional, Joint, Deputy and Assistant Directors General or ²⁶[such officers or other employees,] shall be appointed from amongst persons of integrity and outstanding ability and who have experience in investigation, and knowledge of accountancy, management, business, public administration, international trade, law or economics and such other qualifications as may be prescribed.

²³ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for :

“ The Central Government may, by notification, appoint a Director General and as many Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General or such other advisers, consultants or officers, as it may think fit, for the purposes of assisting the Commission in conducting inquiry into contravention of any of the provisions of this Act and for the conduct of cases before the Commission and for performing such other functions as are, or may be, provided by or under this Act”

²⁴ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “such other advisers, consultants and officers,”

²⁵ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “such other advisers, consultants and officers,”

²⁶ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “such other advisers, consultants and officers,”

²⁷[Appointment of Secretary, experts, professionals and officers and other employees of Commission]

- ²⁸[17. (1) The Commission may appoint a Secretary and such officers and other employees as it considers necessary for the efficient performance of its functions under this Act.
- (2) The salaries and allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service of the Secretary and officers and other employees of the Commission and the number of such officers and other employees shall be such as may be prescribed.
- (3) The Commission may engage, in accordance with the procedure specified by regulations, such number of experts and professionals of integrity and outstanding ability, who have special knowledge of, and experience in, economics, law, business or such other disciplines related to competition, as it deems necessary to assist the Commission in the discharge of its functions under this Act.]

²⁷ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for "Registrar and officers and other employees of Commission"

²⁸ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

- (1) The Commission may appoint a Registrar and such officers and other employees as it considers necessary for the efficient performance of its functions under this Act
- (2) The salaries and allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service of the Registrar and officers and other employees of the Commission and the number of such officers and other employees shall be such as may be prescribed."

CHAPTER IV

DUTIES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSION

Duties of Commission

18. Subject to the provisions of this Act, it shall be the duty of the Commission to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants, in markets in India:

Provided that the Commission may, for the purpose of discharging its duties or performing its functions under this Act, enter into any memorandum or arrangement with the prior approval of the Central Government, with any agency of any foreign country.

Inquiry into certain agreements and dominant position of enterprise

19. (1) The Commission may inquire into any alleged contravention of the provisions contained in subsection (1) of section 3 or sub-section (1) of section 4 either on its own motion or on—
- (a) ²⁹[receipt of any information, in such manner and] accompanied by such fee as may be determined by regulations, from any person, consumer or their association or trade association; or
 - (b) a reference made to it by the Central Government or a State Government or a statutory authority.
- (2) Without prejudice to the provisions contained in sub-section (1), the powers and functions of the Commission shall include the powers and functions specified in sub-sections (3) to (7).
- (3) The Commission shall, while determining whether an agreement has an appreciable adverse effect on competition under section 3, have due regard to all or any of the following factors, namely:—
- (a) creation of barriers to new entrants in the market;
 - (b) driving existing competitors out of the market;
 - (c) foreclosure of competition by hindering entry into the market;
 - (d) accrual of benefits to consumers;
 - (e) improvements in production or distribution of goods or provision of services; or
 - (f) promotion of technical, scientific and economic development by means of production or distribution of goods or provision of services.

²⁹ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “receipt of a complaint,”

- (4) The Commission shall, while inquiring whether an enterprise enjoys a dominant position or not under section 4, have due regard to all or any of the following factors, namely:—
- (a) market share of the enterprise;
 - (b) size and resources of the enterprise;
 - (c) size and importance of the competitors;
 - (d) economic power of the enterprise including commercial advantages over competitors;
 - (e) vertical integration of the enterprises or sale or service network of such enterprises;
 - (f) dependence of consumers on the enterprise;
 - (g) monopoly or dominant position whether acquired as a result of any statute or by virtue of being a Government company or a public sector undertaking or otherwise;
 - (h) entry barriers including barriers such as regulatory barriers, financial risk, high capital cost of entry, marketing entry barriers, technical entry barriers, economies of scale, high cost of substitutable goods or service for consumers;
 - (i) countervailing buying power;
 - (j) market structure and size of market;
 - (k) social obligations and social costs;
 - (l) relative advantage, by way of the contribution to the economic development, by the enterprise enjoying a dominant position having or likely to have an appreciable adverse effect on competition;
 - (m) any other factor which the Commission may consider relevant for the inquiry.
- (5) For determining whether a market constitutes a “relevant market” for the purposes of this Act, the Commission shall have due regard to the “relevant geographic market” and “relevant product market”.
- (6) The Commission shall, while determining the “relevant geographic market”, have due regard to all or any of the following factors, namely:—
- (a) regulatory trade barriers;
 - (b) local specification requirements;
 - (c) national procurement policies;
 - (d) adequate distribution facilities;
 - (e) transport costs;
 - (f) language;
 - (g) consumer preferences;
 - (h) need for secure or regular supplies or rapid after-sales services.

- (7) The Commission shall, while determining the “relevant product market”, have due regard to all or any of the following factors, namely:—
- (a) physical characteristics or end-use of goods;
 - (b) price of goods or service
 - (c) consumer preferences;
 - (d) exclusion of in-house production;
 - (e) existence of specialised producers;
 - (f) classification of industrial products.

Inquiry into combination by Commission

- 20. (1)** The Commission may, upon its own knowledge or information relating to acquisition referred to in clause (a) of section 5 or acquiring of control referred to in clause (b) of section 5 or merger or amalgamation referred to in clause (c) of that section, inquire into whether such a combination has caused or is likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India:
- Provided** that the Commission shall not initiate any inquiry under this subsection after the expiry of one year from the date on which such combination has taken effect.
- (2) The Commission shall, on receipt of a notice under sub-section (2) of section 6 ³⁰***], inquire whether a combination referred to in that notice or reference has caused or is likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India.
- (3) Not with standing anything contained in section 5, the Central Government shall, on the expiry of a period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act and thereafter every two years, in consultation with the Commission, by notification, enhance or reduce, on the basis of the wholesale price index or fluctuations in exchange rate of rupee or foreign currencies, the value of assets or the value of turnover, for the purposes of that section.
- (4) For the purposes of determining whether a combination would have the effect of or is likely to have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in the relevant market, the Commission shall have due regard to all or any of the following factors, namely:—
- (a) actual and potential level of competition through imports in the market
 - (b) extent of barriers to entry into the market;
 - (c) level of combination in the market;

³⁰ The words “or upon receipt of a reference under sub-section (1) of section 21” omitted by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

- (d) degree of countervailing power in the market;
- (e) likelihood that the combination would result in the parties to the combination being able to significantly and sustainably increase prices or profit margins;
- (f) extent of effective competition likely to sustain in a market;
- (g) extent to which substitutes are available or are likely to be available in the market;
- (h) market share, in the relevant market, of the persons or enterprise in a combination, individually and as a combination;
- (i) likelihood that the combination would result in the removal of a vigorous and effective competitor or competitors in the market;
- (j) nature and extent of vertical integration in the market;
- (k) possibility of a failing business;
- (l) nature and extent of innovation;
- (m) relative advantage, by way of the contribution to the economic development, by any combination having or likely to have appreciable adverse effect on competition;
- (n) whether the benefits of the combination outweigh the adverse impact of the combination, if any.

Reference by statutory authority

21. (1) Where in the course of a proceeding before any statutory authority an issue is raised by any party that any decision which such statutory authority has taken or proposes to take is or would be, contrary to any of the provisions of this Act, then such statutory authority may make a reference in respect of such issue to the Commission:

³¹**[Provided that any statutory authority, may, suo motu, make such a reference to the Commission.]**

³²**[(2)** On receipt of a reference under sub-section (1), the Commission shall give its opinion, within sixty days of receipt of such reference, to such statutory authority which shall consider the opinion of the Commission and thereafter, give its findings recording reasons therefor on the issues referred to in the said opinion.]

³¹ Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

³² Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

“ On receipt of a reference under sub-section (1), the Commission shall, after hearing the parties to the proceedings, give its opinion to such statutory authority which shall thereafter pass such order on the issues referred to in that sub-section as it deems fit:

Provided that the Commission shall give its opinion under this section within sixty days of receipt of such reference.”

³³ **[Reference by Commission]**

³⁴ **[21A.** (1) Where in the course of a proceeding before the Commission an issue is raised by any party that any decision which, the Commission has taken during such proceeding or proposes to take, is or would be contrary to any provision of this Act whose implementation is entrusted to a statutory authority, then the Commission may make a reference in respect of such issue to the statutory authority:

Provided that the Commission, may, *suo motu*, make such a reference to the statutory authority.

- (2) On receipt of a reference under sub-section (1), the statutory authority shall give its opinion, within sixty days of receipt of such reference, to the Commission which shall consider the opinion of the statutory authority, and thereafter give its findings recording reasons there for on the issues referred to in the said opinion.]

³⁵ **[Meetings of Commission]**

³⁶ **[22.** (1) The Commission shall meet at such times and places, and shall observe such rules and procedure in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings as may be provided by regulations.

- (2) The Chairperson, if for any reason, is unable to attend a meeting of the Commission, the senior-most Member present at the meeting, shall preside at the meeting.
- (3) All questions which come up before any meeting of the Commission shall be decided by a majority of the Members present and voting, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson or in his absence, the Member presiding, shall have a second or/casting vote:

Provided that the quorum for such meeting shall be three Members.]

³³ Ins. by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

³⁴ Ins. by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

³⁵ Subs. by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for "Benches of Commission"

³⁶ Subs. by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

- (1) The jurisdiction, power and authority of the Commission may be exercised by Benches thereof.
- (2) The Benches shall be constituted by the Chairperson and each Bench shall consist of not less than two Members.
- (3) Every Bench shall consist of at least one Judicial Member.
Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, "Judicial Member" means a Member who is, or has been, or is qualified to be, a Judge of a High Court.
- (4) The Bench over which the Chairperson presides shall be the Principal Bench and the other Benches shall be known as the Additional Benches.
- (5) There shall be constituted by the Chairperson one or more Benches to be called the Mergers Bench or Mergers Benches, as the case may be, exclusively to deal with matters referred to in sections 5 and 6.
- (6) The places at which the Principal Bench, other Additional Bench or Mergers Bench shall ordinarily sit, shall be such as the Central Government may, by notification, specify."

³⁷23. [Omitted by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007]

³⁸24. [Omitted by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007]

³⁹25. [Omitted by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007]

³⁷ Prior to omission, Section 23 read as under:-

“ Distribution of business of Commission amongst Benches

- (1) Where any Benches are constituted, the Chairperson may, from time to time, by order, make provisions as to the distribution of the business of the Commission amongst the Benches and specify the matters, which may be dealt with by each Bench.
- (2) If any question arises as to whether any matter falls within the purview of the business allocated to a Bench, the decision of the Chairperson thereon shall be final.
- (3) The Chairperson may
 - (i) transfer a Member from one Bench to another Bench , or
 - (ii) authorize the Members of one Bench to discharge also the functions of the Members of other Bench:

Provided that the Chairperson shall transfer, with the prior approval of the Central Government, a Member from one Bench situated in one city to another Bench situated in another city.

- (4) The Chairperson may, for the purpose of securing that any case or matter which, having regard to the nature of the questions involved, requires or is required in his opinion or under the rules made by the Central Government in this behalf, to be decided by a Bench composed of more than two Members issue such general or special orders as he may deem fit.”

³⁸ Prior to omission Section 24 read as under:

“ Procedure for deciding a case where Members of a Bench differ in opinion

If the Members of a Bench differ in opinion on any point, they shall state the point or points on which they differ, and make a reference to the Chairperson who shall either hear the point or points himself or refer the case for hearing on such point or points by one or more of the other Members and such point or points shall be decided according to the opinion of the majority of the Members who have heard the case, including those who first heard it.”

³⁹ Prior to omission, Section 25 read as under: “ Jurisdiction of Bench

An inquiry shall be initiated or a complaint be instituted or a reference be made under this Act before a Bench within the local limits of whose jurisdiction—

- (a) the respondent, or each of the respondents, where there are more than one, at the time of the initiation of inquiry or institution of the complaint or making of reference, as the case may be, actually and voluntarily resides, or carries on business, or personally works for gain; or
- (b) any of the respondents, where there are more than one, at the time of the initiation of the inquiry or institution of complaint or making of reference, as the case may be, actually and voluntarily resides or carries on business or personally works for gain provided that in such case either the leave of the Bench is given, or the respondents who do not reside, or carry on business, or personally work for gain, as aforesaid, acquiesce in such institution; or
- (c) the cause of action, wholly or in part, arises.

Explanation.—A respondent, being a person referred to in sub-clause (iii) or sub-clause (vi) or sub-clause (vii) or sub-clause (viii) of clause (1) of section 2, shall be deemed to carry on business at its sole or principal place of business in India or at its registered office in India or where it has also a subordinate office at such place.”

⁴⁰[**Procedure for inquiry under section 19]**

⁴¹[26. (1) On receipt of a reference from the Central Government or a State Government or a statutory authority or on its own knowledge or information received under section 19, if the Commission is of the opinion that there exists a prima facie case, it shall direct the Director General to cause an investigation to be made into the matter:

Provided that if the subject matter of an information received is, in the opinion of the Commission, substantially the same as or has been covered by any previous information received, then the new information may be clubbed with the previous information.

(2) Where on receipt of a reference from the Central Government or a State Government or a statutory authority or information received under section 19,

⁴⁰ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for "Procedure for inquiry on complaints under section 19"

⁴¹ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

" Procedure for inquiry on complaints under Section 19

- (1) On receipt of a complaint or a reference from the Central Government or a State Government or a statutory authority or on its own knowledge or information, under section 19, if the Commission is of the opinion that there exists a prima facie case, it shall direct the Director General to cause an investigation to be made into the matter.
- (2) The Director General shall, on receipt of direction under sub-section (1), submit a report on his findings with in such period as may be specified by the Commission.
- (3) Where on receipt of a complaint under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 19, the Commission is of the opinion that there exists no prima facie case, it shall dismiss the complaint and may pass such orders as it may deems fit, including imposition of costs, if necessary.
- (4) The Commission shall forward a copy of the report referred to in sub-section (2) to the parties concerned or to the Central Government or the State Government or the statutory authority, as the case may be.
- (5) If the report of the Director General relates on a complaint and such report recommends that there is no contravention of any of the provisions of this Act, the complainant shall be given an opportunity to rebut the findings of the Director General.
- (6) If, after hearing the complainant, the Commission agrees with the recommendation of the Director General, it shall dismiss the complaint.
- (7) If, after hearing the complainant, the Commission is of the opinion that further inquiry is called for, it shall direct the complainant to proceed with the complaint.
- (8) If the report of the Director General relates on a reference made under sub-section (/) and such report recommends that there is no contravention of the provisions of this Act, the Commission shall invite comments of the Central Government or the State Government or the statutory authority, as the case may be, on such report and on receipt of such comments, the Commission shall return the reference if there is no prima facie case or proceed with the reference as a complaint if there is a prima facie case.
- (9) If the report of the Director General referred to in sub-section (2) recommends that there is contravention of any of the provisions of this Act, and the Commission is of the opinion that further inquiry is called for, it shall inquire into such contravention in accordance with the provisions of this Act."

the Commission is of the opinion that there exists no *prima facie* case, it shall close the matter forthwith and pass such orders as it deems fit and send a copy of its order to the Central Government or the State Government or the statutory authority or the parties concerned, as the case may be.

- (3) The Director General shall, on receipt of direction under sub-section (1), submit a report on his findings within such period as may be specified by the Commission.
- (4) The Commission may forward a copy of the report referred to in sub section(3) to the parties concerned:

Provided that in case the investigation is caused to be made based on reference received from the Central Government or the State Government or the statutory authority, the Commission shall forward a copy of the report referred to in sub- section (3) to the Central Government or the State Government or the statutory authority, as the case may be.

- (5) If the report of the Director General referred to in sub-section (3) recommends that there is no contravention of the provisions of this Act, the Commission shall invite objections or suggestions from the Central Government or the State Government or the statutory authority or the parties concerned, as the case may be, on such report of the Director General.
- (6) If, after consideration of the objections and suggestions referred to in sub section (5), if any, the Commission agrees with the recommendation of the Director General, it shall close the matter forthwith and pass such orders as it deems fit and communicate its order to the Central Government or the State Government or the statutory authority or the parties concerned, as the case may be.
- (7) If, after consideration of the objections or suggestions referred to in sub section (5), if any, the Commission is of the opinion that further investigations is called for, it may direct further investigation in the matter by the Director General or cause further inquiry to be made by in the matter or itself proceed with further inquiry in the matter in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- (8) If the report of the Director General referred to in sub-section (3) recommends that there is contravention of any of the provisions of this Act, and the Commission is of the opinion that further inquiry is called for, it shall inquire into such contravention in accordance with the provisions of this Act.]

Orders by Commission after inquiry into agreements or abuse of dominant position

27. Where after inquiry the Commission finds that any agreement referred to in section 3 or action of an enterprise in a dominant position, is in contravention of section 3 or section 4, as the case may be, it may pass all or any of the following orders, namely:—

- (a) direct any enterprise or association of enterprises or person or association of persons, as the case may be, involved in such agreement, or abuse of dominant position, to discontinue and not to re-enter such agreement or discontinue such abuse of dominant position, as the case may be;
- (b) impose such penalty, as it may deem fit which shall be not more than ten percent of the average of the turnover for the last three preceding financial years, upon each of such person or enterprises which are parties to such agreements or abuse:

⁴²**[Provided** that in case any agreement referred to in section 3 has been entered into by a cartel, the Commission may impose upon each producer, seller, distributor, trader or service provider included in that cartel, a penalty of up to three times of its profit for each year of the continuance of such agreement or ten percent. of its turnover for each year of the continuance of such agreement, whichever is higher.]

⁴³(c) [Omitted by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007]

- (d) direct that the agreements shall stand modified to the extent and in the manner as may be specified in the order by the Commission;
- (e) direct the enterprises concerned to abide by such other orders as the Commission may pass and comply with the directions, including payment of costs, if any;

⁴⁴(f) [Omitted by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007]

- (g) pass such other ⁴⁵[order or issue such directions] as it may deem fit.

⁴⁶**[Provided** that while passing orders under this section, if the Commission comes to a finding, that an enterprise in contravention to section 3 or section 4 of the Act is a member of a group as defined in clause (b) of the Explanation to section 5 of the Act, and other members of such a group are also responsible for, or have contributed to, such a contravention, then it may pass orders, under this section, against such members of the group.]

⁴² Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

" Provided that in case any agreement referred to in section 3 has been entered into by any cartel, the Commission shall impose upon each producer, seller, distributor, trader or service provider included in that cartel, a penalty equivalent to three times of the amount of profits made out of such agreement by the cartel or ten percent. of the average of the turnover of the cartel for the last preceding three financial years, whichever is higher;"

⁴³ Prior to omission, Clause (c) of Section 27 read as under:-

"award compensation to parties in accordance with the provisions contained in section 34;"

⁴⁴ Prior to omission, Clause (c) of Section 27 read as under:-

"recommend to the Central Government for the division of an enterprise enjoying dominant position;"

⁴⁵ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for "order"

⁴⁶ Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

Division of enterprise enjoying dominant position

- 28** (1) The ⁴⁷[Commission] may, notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, by order in writing, direct division of an enterprise enjoying dominant position to ensure that such enterprise does not abuse its dominant position.
- (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing powers, the order referred to in sub-section (1) may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—
- (a) the transfer or vesting of property, rights, liabilities or obligations;
 - (b) the adjustment of contracts either by discharge or reduction of any liability or obligation or otherwise;
 - (c) the creation, allotment, surrender or cancellation of any shares, stocks or securities;
 - ⁴⁸(d) [Omitted by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007]
 - (e) the formation or winding up of an enterprise or the amendment of the memorandum of association or articles of association or any other instruments regulating the business of any enterprise;
 - (f) the extent to which, and the circumstances in which, provisions of the order affecting an enterprise may be altered by the enterprise and the registration thereof;
 - (g) any other matter which may be necessary to give effect to the division of the enterprise.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force or in any contract or in any memorandum or articles of association, an officer of a company who ceases to hold office as such in consequence of the division of an enterprise shall not be entitled to claim any compensation for such cesser.

Procedure for investigation of combination

- 29.** (1) Where the Commission is of the ⁴⁹[*prima facie*] opinion that a combination is likely to cause, or has caused an appreciable adverse effect on competition within the relevant market in India, it shall issue a notice to show cause to the parties to combination calling upon them to respond within thirty days of the receipt of the notice, as to why investigation in respect of such combination should not be conducted.

⁴⁷ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for "Central Government, on recommendation under clause(f) of section 27"

⁴⁸ Prior to omission, clause (d) of sub-section(2) of section 28 read as under:-
"the payment of compensation to any person who suffered any loss due to dominant position of such enterprise;"

⁴⁹ Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

⁵⁰[1(A) *After receipt of the response of the parties to the combination under sub-section (1), the Commission may call for a report from the Director General and such report shall be submitted by the Director General within such time as the Commission may direct.*]

- (2) The Commission, if it is *prima facie* of the opinion that the combination has, or is likely to have, an appreciable adverse effect on competition, it shall, within seven working days from the date of receipt of the response of the parties to the combination, ⁵¹ *[or the receipt of the report from Director General called under sub section (1A), whichever is later]* direct the parties to the said combination to publish details of the combination within ten working days of such direction, in such manner, as it thinks appropriate, for bringing the combination to the knowledge or information of the public and persons affected or likely to be affected by such combination.
- (3) The Commission may invite any person or member of the public, affected or likely to be affected by the said combination, to file his written objections, if any, before the Commission within fifteen working days from the date on which the details of the combination were published under sub-section (2).
- (4) The Commission may, within fifteen working days from the expiry of the period specified in sub-section (3), call for such additional or other information as it may deem fit from the parties to the said combination.
- (5) The additional or other information called for by the Commission shall be furnished by the parties referred to in sub-section (4) within fifteen days from the expiry of the period specified in sub-section (4).
- (6) After receipt of all information and within a period of forty-five working days from the expiry of the period specified in sub-section (5), the Commission shall proceed to deal with the case in accordance with the provisions contained in section 31.

⁵²**[Procedure in case of notice under sub-section (2) of section 6]**

⁵³[30. *Where any person or enterprises has given a notice under sub-section (2) of section 6, the Commission shall examine such notice and form its prima facie opinion as provided in sub-section (1) of section 29 and proceed as per provisions contained in that section.*]

⁵⁰ Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

⁵¹ Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

⁵² Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for "Inquiry into disclosure under sub-section(2) of section 6"

⁵³ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

"Where any person or enterprise has given a notice under sub-section (2) of section 6. The Commission shall inquire—

- (a) whether the disclosure made in the notice is correct;
- (b) whether the combination has, or is likely to have, an appreciable adverse effect on competition."

Orders of Commission on certain combinations

31. (1) Where the Commission is of the opinion that any combination does not, or is not likely to, have an appreciable adverse effect on competition, it shall, by order, approve that combination including the combination in respect of which a notice has been given under sub-section (2) of section 6.
- (2) Where the Commission is of the opinion that the combination has, or is likely to have, an appreciable adverse effect on competition, it shall direct that the combination shall not take effect.
- (3) Where the Commission is of the opinion that the combination has, or is likely to have, an appreciable adverse effect on competition but such adverse effect can be eliminated by suitable modification to such combination, it may propose appropriate modification to the combination, to the parties to such combination.
- (4) The parties, who accept the modification proposed by the Commission under subsection (3), shall carry out such modification within the period specified by the Commission.
- (5) If the parties to the combination, who have accepted the modification under subsection (4), fail to carry out the modification within the period specified by the Commission, such combination shall be deemed to have an appreciable adverse effect on competition and the Commission shall deal with such combination in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- (6) If the parties to the combination do not accept the modification proposed by the Commission under sub-section (3), such parties may, within thirty working days of the modification proposed by the Commission, submit amendment to the modification proposed by the Commission under that sub-section.
- (7) If the Commission agrees with the amendment submitted by the parties under subsection (6), it shall, by order, approve the combination.
- (8) If the Commission does not accept the amendment submitted under sub section (6), then, the parties shall be allowed a further period of thirty working days within which such parties shall accept the modification proposed by the Commission under sub-section (3).
- (9) If the parties fail to accept the modification proposed by the Commission within thirty working days referred to in sub-section (6) or within a further period of thirty working days referred to in sub-section (8), the combination shall be deemed to have an appreciable adverse effect on competition and be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- (10) Where the Commission has directed under sub-section (2) that the combination shall not take effect or the combination is deemed to have an appreciable adverse effect on competition under sub-section (9), then, without prejudice to any penalty which may be imposed or any prosecution which may be initiated under this Act, the Commission may order that

- (a) the acquisition referred to in clause (a) of section 5; or
- (b) the acquiring of control referred to in clause (b) of section 5; or
- (c) the merger or amalgamation referred to in clause (c) of section 5, shall not be given effect to:

Provided that the Commission may, if it considers appropriate, frame a scheme to implement its order under this sub-section.

- (11) If the Commission does not, on the expiry of a period of ⁵⁴**[two hundred and ten days from the date of notice given to the Commission under sub-section (2) of section 6]**, pass an order or issue direction in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) or sub-section (7), the combination shall be deemed to have been approved by the Commission.

Explanation.—For the purposes of determining the period of ⁵⁵**[two hundred and ten]** days specified in this subsection, the period of thirty working days specified in sub-section (6) and a further period of thirty working days specified in sub-section (8) shall be excluded.

- (12) Where any extension of time is sought by the parties to the combination, the period of ninety working days shall be reckoned after deducting the extended time granted at the request of the parties.
- (13) Where the Commission has ordered a combination to be void, the acquisition or acquiring of control or merger or amalgamation referred to in section 5, shall be dealt with by the authorities under any other law for the time being in force as if such acquisition or acquiring of control or merger or amalgamation had not taken place and the parties to the combination shall be dealt with accordingly.
- (14) Nothing contained in this Chapter shall affect any proceeding initiated or which may be initiated under any other law for the time being in force.

Acts taking place outside India but having an effect on competition in India

32. The Commission shall, notwithstanding that,—

- (a) an agreement referred to in section 3 has been entered into outside India; or
- (b) any party to such agreement is outside India; or
- (c) any enterprise abusing the dominant position is outside India; or
- (d) a combination has taken place outside India; or
- (e) any party to combination is outside India; or

⁵⁴ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

“ninety working days from the date of publication referred to in sub-section(2) of section 29”

⁵⁵ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “ninety days”

- (f) any other matter or practice or action arising out of such agreement or dominant position or combination is outside India,

have power to inquire ⁵⁶[in accordance with the provisions contained in sections 19, 20, 26, 29 and 30 of the Act] into such agreement or abuse of dominant position or combination if such agreement or dominant position or combination has, or is likely to have, an appreciable adverse effect on competition in the relevant market in India ⁵⁷[and pass such orders as it may deem fit in accordance with the provisions of this Act.]

⁵⁸**[Power to issue interim orders]**

- ⁵⁹**[33.** Where during an inquiry, the Commission is satisfied that an act in contravention of sub-section (1) of section 3 or sub-section (1) of section 4 or section 6 has been committed and continues to be committed or that such act is about to be committed, the Commission may, by order, temporarily restrain any party from carrying on such act until the conclusion of such inquiry or until further orders, without giving notice to such party, where it deems it necessary.]

⁵⁶ Ins. by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

⁵⁷ Ins. by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

⁵⁸ Subs. by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for "Power to grant interim relief"

⁵⁹ Subs. by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

- (1) Where during an inquiry before the Commission, it is proved to the satisfaction of the Commission, by affidavit or otherwise, that an act in contravention of sub-section (1) of section 3 or sub-section (1) of section 4 or section 6 has been committed and continues to be committed or that such act is about to be committed, the Commission may, by order, grant a temporary injunction restraining any party from carrying on such act until the conclusion of such inquiry or until further orders, without giving notice to the opposite party, where it deems it necessary.
- (2) Where during the inquiry before the Commission it is proved to the satisfaction of the Commission by affidavit or otherwise that import of any goods is likely to contravene sub-section (1) of section 3 or subsection (1) of section 4 or section 6, it may, by order, grant a temporary injunction restraining any party from importing such goods until the conclusion of such inquiry or until further orders, without giving notice to the opposite party, where it deems it necessary and a copy of such order granting temporary injunction shall be sent to the concerned authorities.
- (3) The provisions of rules 2A to 5 (both inclusive) of Order XXXIX of the First Schedule to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908) shall, as far as may be, apply to a temporary injunction issued by the Commission under this Act, as they apply to a temporary injunction issued by a civil court, and any reference in any such rule to a suit shall be construed as a reference to any inquiry before the Commission.

⁶⁰34. [Omitted by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007] (39 of 2007 with effect from 12th October 2007)

Appearance before Commission

35. A ⁶¹[person or an enterprise] or the Director General may either appear in person or authorise one or more chartered accountants or company secretaries or cost accountants or legal practitioners or any of his or its officers to present his or its case before the Commission.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section,—

- (a) “chartered accountant” means a chartered accountant as defined in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 (38 of 1949) and who has obtained a certificate of practice under sub-section (1) of section 6 of that Act;
- (b) “company secretary” means a company secretary as defined in clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 (56 of 1980) and who has obtained a certificate of practice under sub-section (1) of section 6 of that Act;
- (c) “cost accountant” means a cost accountant as defined in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 (23 of 1959) and who has obtained a certificate of practice under sub-section (1) of section 6 of that Act;
- (d) “legal practitioner” means an advocate, vakil or an attorney of any High Court, and includes a pleader in practice.

⁶⁰ Prior to omission, section 34 read as under:-

“ Power to award compensation

- (1) Without prejudice to any other provisions contained in this Act, any person may make an application to the Commission for an order for the recovery of compensation from any enterprise for any loss or damage shown to have been suffered, by such person as a result of any contravention of the provisions of Chapter II, having been committed by such enterprise.
- (2) The Commission may, after an inquiry made into the allegations mentioned in the application made under sub-section (1), pass an order directing the enterprise to make payment to the applicant, of the amount determined by it as realisable from the enterprise as compensation for the loss or damage caused to the applicant as a result of any contravention of the provisions of Chapter II having been committed by such enterprise.
- (3) Where any loss or damage referred to in sub-section (1) is caused to numerous persons having the same interest, one or more of such persons may, with the permission of the Commission, make an application under that sub-section for and on behalf of, or for the benefit of, the persons so interested, and thereupon, the provisions of rule 8 of Order 1 of the First Schedule to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), shall apply subject to the modification that every reference therein to a suit or decree shall be construed as a reference to the application before the Commission and the order of the Commission thereon.”

⁶¹ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “complainant or defendant”

Power of Commission to regulate its own procedure

⁶²[36. (1) In the discharge of its functions, the Commission shall be guided by the principles of natural justice and, subject to the other provisions of this Act and of any rules made by the Central Government, the Commission shall have the powers to regulate its own procedure.

62 Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

- “(1) The Commission shall not be bound by the procedure laid down by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice and, subject to the other provisions of this Act and of any rules made by the Central Government, the Commission shall have powers to regulate its own procedure including the places at which they shall have their sittings, duration of oral hearings when granted, and times of its inquiry.
- (2) The Commission shall have, for the purposes of discharging its functions under this Act, the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908(5 of 1908), while trying a suit, 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 documents;
 - (c) receiving evidence on affidavits;
 - (d) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;
 - (e) subject to the provisions of sections 123 and 124 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (1 of 1872), requisitioning any public record or document or copy of such record or document from any office;
 - (f) dismissing an application in default or deciding it ex parte; (g) any other matter which may be prescribed.
- (3) Every proceeding before the Commission shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of sections 193 and 228 and for the purposes of section 196 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860) and the Commission shall be deemed to be a civil court for the purposes of section 195 (2 of 1974) and Chapter XXVI of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.
- (4) The Commission may call upon such experts, from the fields of economics, commerce, accountancy, international trade or from any other discipline as it deems necessary, to assist the Commission in the conduct of any inquiry or proceeding before it.
- (5) The Commission may direct any person—
 - (a) to produce before the Director General or the Registrar or an officer authorised by it, such books, accounts or other documents in the custody or under the control of such person so directed as may be specified or described in the direction, being documents relating to any trade, the examination of which may be required for the purposes of this Act;
 - (b) to furnish to the Director General or the Registrar or any officer authorised by it, as respects the trade or such other information as may be in his possession in relation to the trade carried on by such person, as may be required for the purposes of this Act.
- (6) If the Commission is of the opinion that any agreement referred to in section 3 or “abuse of dominant position referred to in section 4 or the combination referred to in section 5 has caused or is likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition in the relevant market in India and it is necessary to protect, without further delay, the interests of consumers and other market participants in India, it may conduct an inquiry or adjudicate upon any matter under this Act after giving a reasonable oral hearing to the parties concerned.”

- (2) The Commission shall have, for the purposes of discharging its functions under this Act, the same powers as are vested in a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), while trying a suit, 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 documents;
 - (c) receiving evidence on affidavit;
 - (d) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;
 - (e) requisitioning, subject to the provisions of sections 123 and 124 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (1 of 1872), any public record or document or copy of such record or document from any office.
- (3) The Commission may call upon such experts, from the fields of economics, commerce, accountancy, international trade or from any other discipline as it deems necessary to assist the Commission in the conduct of any inquiry by it.
- (4) The Commission may direct any person:
 - (a) to produce before the Director General or the Secretary or an officer authorized by it, such books, or other documents in the custody or under the control of such person so directed as may be specified or described in the direction, being documents relating to any trade, the examination of which may be required for the purposes of this Act;
 - (b) to furnish to the Director General or the Secretary or any other officer authorized by it, as respects the trade or such other information as may be in his possession in relation to the trade carried on by such person, as may be required for the purposes of this Act.]

⁶³ 37. [Omitted by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007] (39 of 2007 with effect from 12th October 2007)

⁶³ Prior to omission, section 37 read as under:-

“ Review of orders of Commission

Any person aggrieved by an order of the Commission from which an appeal is allowed by this Act but no appeal has been preferred, may, within thirty days from the date of the order, apply to the Commission for review of its order and the Commission may make such order thereon as it thinks fit:

Provided that the Commission may entertain a review application after the expiry of the said period of thirty days, if it is satisfied that the applicant was prevented by sufficient cause from preferring the application in time:

Provided further that no order shall be modified or set aside without giving an opportunity of being heard to the person in whose favour the order is given and the Director General where he was a party to the proceedings.”

Rectification of orders

38. (1) With a view to rectifying any mistake apparent from the record, the Commission may amend any order passed by it under the provisions of this Act.
- (2) Subject to the other provisions of this Act, the Commission may make—
- an amendment under sub-section (1) of its own motion;
 - an amendment for rectifying any such mistake which has been brought to its notice by any party to the order.

Explanation.— For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that the Commission shall not, while rectifying any mistake apparent from record, amend substantive part of its order passed under the provisions of this Act.

⁶⁴ [Execution of orders of Commission imposing monetary penalty]

- ⁶⁵[39.(1) If a person fails to pay any monetary penalty imposed on him under this Act, the Commission shall proceed to recover such penalty, in such manner as may be specified by the regulations.
- (2) In a case where the Commission is of the opinion that it would be expedient to recover the penalty imposed under this Act in accordance with the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961), it may make a reference to this effect to the concerned income-tax authority under that Act for recovery of the penalty as tax due under the said Act.
- (3) Where a reference has been made by the Commission under sub-section (2) for recovery of penalty, the person upon whom the penalty has been imposed shall be deemed to be the assessee in default under the Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961) and the provisions contained in sections 221 to 227, 228A, 229, 231 and 232 of the said Act and the Second Schedule to that Act and any rules made there under shall, in so far as may be, apply as if the said provisions were the provisions of this Act and referred to sums by way of penalty imposed under this Act instead of to income-

⁶⁴ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for "Execution of orders of Commission"

⁶⁵ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

" Every order passed by the Commission under this Act shall be enforced by the Commission in the same manner as if it were a decree or order made by a High Court or the principal civil court in a suit pending therein and it shall be lawful for the Commission to send, in the event of its inability to execute it, such order to the High Court or the principal civil court, as the case may be, within the local limits of whose jurisdiction,—

- in the case of an order against a person referred to in sub-clause (iii) or sub-clause (vi) or subclause (vii) of clause (l) of section 2, the registered office or the sole or principal place of business of the person in India or where the person has also a subordinate office, that subordinate office, is situated;
- in the case of an order against any other person, the place, where the person concerned voluntarily resides or carries on business or personally works for gain, is situated, and thereupon the court to which the order is so sent shall execute the order as if it were a decree or order sent to it for execution."

tax and sums imposed by way of penalty, fine, and interest under the Income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961) and to the Commission instead of the Assessing Officer.

Explanation 1 – Any reference to sub-section (2) or sub-section (6) of section 220 of the income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961), in the said provisions of that Act or the rules made thereunder shall be construed as references to sections 43 to 45 of this Act.

Explanation 2 – The Tax Recovery Commissioner and the Tax Recovery Officer referred to in the Income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961) shall be deemed to be the Tax Recovery Commissioner and the Tax Recovery Officer for the purposes of recovery of sums imposed by way of penalty under this Act and reference made by the Commission under sub-section (2) would amount to drawing of a certificate by the Tax Recovery Officer as far as demand relating to penalty under this Act.

Explanation 3 – Any reference to appeal in Chapter XVIII and the Second Schedule to the Income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961), shall be construed as a reference to appeal before the Competition Appellate Tribunal under section 53B of this Act.]

⁶⁶40. [Omitted by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007] (39 of 2007 with effect from 12th October 2007)

⁶⁶ Prior to omission, section 40 read as under:-

“Any person aggrieved by any decision or order of the Commission may file an appeal to the Supreme Court within sixty days from the date of communication of the decision or order of the Commission to him on one or more of the grounds specified in section 100 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908): Provided that the Supreme Court may, if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal within the said period, allow it to be filed within a further period not exceeding sixty days: Provided further that no appeal shall lie against any decision or order of the Commission made with the consent of the parties.”

CHAPTER V

DUTIES OF DIRECTOR GENERAL

Director General to investigate contravention

41. (1) The Director General shall, when so directed by the Commission, assist the Commission in investigating into any contravention of the provisions of this Act or any rules or regulations made thereunder.
- (2) The Director General shall have all the powers as are conferred upon the Commission under subsection (2) of section 36.
- (3) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (2), sections 240 and 240A of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956), so far as may be, shall apply to an investigation made by the Director General or any other person investigating under his authority, as they apply to an inspector appointed under that Act.

⁶⁷[*Explanation*.—For the purposes of this section, --

- (a) the words “the Central Government” under section 240 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) shall be construed as “the Commission”;
- (b) the word “Magistrate” under section 240A of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) shall be construed as “the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi”.]

⁶⁷ Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

CHAPTER VI PENALTIES

Contravention of orders of Commission

⁶⁸[42.(1) The Commission may cause an inquiry to be made into compliance of its orders or directions made in exercise of its powers under the Act.

- (2) If any person, without reasonable clause, fails to comply with the orders or directions of the Commission issued under sections 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 42A and 43A of the Act, he shall be punishable with fine which may extend to rupees one lakh for each day during which such non-compliance occurs, subject to a maximum of rupees ten crore, as the Commission may determine.
- (3) If any person does not comply with the orders or directions issued, or fails to pay the fine imposed under sub-section (2), he shall, without prejudice to any proceeding under section 39, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to rupees twenty-five crore, or with both, as the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi may deem fit:

Provided that the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi shall not take cognizance of any offence under this section save on a complaint filed by the Commission or any of its officers authorized by it.]

⁶⁹[Compensation in case of contravention of orders of Commission]

⁷⁰[42A. Without prejudice to the provisions of this Act, any person may make an application to the Appellate Tribunal for an order for the recovery of compensation from any enterprise for any loss or damage shown to have been suffered, by such person as a result of the said enterprise violating

68 Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

“(1) Without prejudice to the provisions of this Act, if any person contravenes, without any reasonable ground, any order of the Commission, or any condition or restriction subject to which any approval, sanction, direction or exemption in relation to any matter has been accorded, given, made or granted under this Act or fails to pay the penalty imposed under this Act, he shall be liable to be detained in civil prison for a term which may extend to one year, unless in the meantime the Commission directs his release and he shall also be liable to a penalty not exceeding rupees ten lakhs.

(2) The Commission may, while making an order under this Act, issue such directions to any person or authority, not inconsistent with this Act, as it thinks necessary or desirable, for the proper implementation or execution of the order, and any person who commits breach of, or fails to comply with, any obligation imposed on him under such direction, may be ordered by the Commission to be detained in civil prison for a term not exceeding one year unless in the meantime the Commission directs his release and he shall also be liable to a penalty not exceeding rupees ten lakhs.”

⁶⁹ Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

⁷⁰ Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

directions issued by the Commission or contravening, without any reasonable ground, any decision or order of the Commission issued under sections 27, 28, 31, 32 and 33 or any condition or restriction subject to which any approval, sanction, direction or exemption in relation to any matter has been accorded, given, made or granted under this Act or delaying in carrying out such orders or directions of the Commission.]

Penalty for failure to comply with directions of Commission and Director General

⁷¹[43. If any person fails to comply, without reasonable cause, with a direction given by—

- (a) the Commission under sub-sections (2) and (4) of section 36; or
- (b) the Director General while exercising powers referred to in sub-section (2) of section 41,

such person shall be punishable with fine which may extend to rupees one lakh for each day during which such failure continues subject to a maximum of rupees one crore, as may be determined by the Commission.]

⁷²**[Power to impose penalty for non-furnishing of information on combinations]**

⁷³[43A. If any person or enterprise who fails to give notice to the Commission under sub-section (2) of section 6, the Commission shall impose on such person or enterprise a penalty which may extend to one percent, of the total turnover or the assets, whichever is higher, of such a combination.]

Penalty for making false statement or omission to furnish material information

44. If any person, being a party to a combination,—

- (a) makes a statement which is false in any material particular, or knowing it to be false; or
- (b) omits to state any material particular knowing it to be material,

such person shall be liable to a penalty which shall not be less than rupees fifty lakhs but which may extend to rupees one crore, as may be determined by the Commission.

⁷¹ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

"If any person fails to comply with a direction given by—

- (a) the Commission under sub-section (5) of section 36; or
- (b) the Director General while exercising powers referred to in sub-section (2) of section 41, the Commission shall impose on such person a penalty of rupees one lakh for each day during which such failure continues."

⁷² Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

⁷³ Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

Penalty for offences in relation to furnishing of information

⁷⁴[45.(1) Without prejudice to the provisions of section 44, if a person, who furnishes or is required to furnish under this Act any particulars, documents or any information,—

- (a) makes any statement or furnishes any document which he knows or has reason to believe to be false in any material particular; or
- (b) omits to state any material fact knowing it to be material; or
- (c) wilfully alters, suppresses or destroys any document which is required to be furnished as aforesaid,

such person shall be punishable with fine which may extend to rupees one crore as may be determined by the Commission.]

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section(1), the Commission may also pass such other order as it deems fit.

Power to impose lesser penalty

46. The Commission may, if it is satisfied that any producer, seller, distributor, trader or service provider included in any cartel, which is alleged to have violated section 3, has made a full and true disclosure in respect of the alleged violations and such disclosure is vital, impose upon such producer, seller, distributor, trader or service provider a lesser penalty as it may deem fit, than leviable under this Act or the rules or the regulations:

⁷⁵[**Provided** that lesser penalty shall not be imposed by the Commission in cases where the report of investigation directed under section 26 has been received before making of such disclosure.]

Provided further that lesser penalty shall be imposed by the Commission only in respect of a producer, seller, distributor, trader or service provider included in the cartel, who ⁷⁶[has] made the full, true and vital disclosures under this section.

⁷⁴ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for :

- “(1) Without prejudice to the provisions of section 44, if any person, who furnishes or is required to furnish under this Act any particulars, documents or any information—
- (a) makes any statement or furnishes any document which he knows or has reason to believe to be false in any material particular; or
 - (b) omits to state any material fact knowing it to be material; or
 - (c) wilfully alters, suppresses or destroys any document which is required to be furnished as aforesaid, the Commission shall impose on such person a penalty which may extend to rupees ten lakhs.”

⁷⁵ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

“Provided that lesser penalty shall not be imposed by the Commission in cases where proceedings for the violation of any of the provisions of this Act or the rules or has the regulations have been instituted or any investigation has been directed to be made under section 26 before making of such disclosure:”

⁷⁶ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “first”

⁷⁷[**Provided** also that lesser penalty shall not be imposed by the Commission if the person making the disclosure does not continue to cooperate with the Commission till the completion of the proceedings before the Commission.]

Provided also that the Commission may, if it is satisfied that such producer, seller, distributor, trader or service provider included in the cartel had in the course of proceedings,—

- (a) not complied with the condition on which the lesser penalty was imposed by the Commission; or
- (b) had given false evidence; or
- (c) the disclosure made is not vital,

and thereupon such producer, seller, distributor, trader or service provider may be tried for the offence with respect to which the lesser penalty was imposed and shall also be liable to the imposition of penalty to which such person has been liable, had lesser penalty not been imposed.

Crediting sums realised by way of penalties to Consolidated Fund of India

47. All sums realised by way of penalties under this Act shall be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India.

Contravention by companies

48. (1) Where a person committing contravention of any of the provisions of this Act or of any rule, regulation, order made or direction issued thereunder is a company, every person who, at the time the contravention was committed, was in charge of, and was responsible to the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the contravention and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment if he proves that the contravention was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such contravention.

- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where a contravention of any of the provisions of this Act or of any rule, regulation, order made or direction issued thereunder has been committed by a company and it is proved that the contravention has taken place with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of that contravention and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section,—

- (a) "company" means a body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals; and
- (b) "director", in relation to a firm, means a partner in the firm.

⁷⁷ Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

CHAPTER VII

COMPETITION ADVOCACY

Competition Advocacy

49. ⁷⁸[(1) The Central Government may, in formulating a policy on competition (including review of laws related to competition) or any other matter, and a State Government may, in formulating a policy on competition or on any other matter, as the case may be, make a reference to the Commission for its opinion on possible effect of such policy on competition and on the receipt of such a reference, the Commission shall, within sixty days of making such reference, give its opinion to the Central Government, or the State Government, as the case may be, which may thereafter take further action as it deems fit.]
- (2) The opinion given by the Commission under sub-section (1) shall not be binding upon the Central Government ⁷⁹[or the State Government, as the case may be] in formulating such policy.
- (3) The Commission shall take suitable measures ⁸⁰[***] for the promotion of competition advocacy, creating awareness and imparting training about competition issues.

⁷⁸ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

“(1) In formulating a policy on competition (including review of laws related to competition), the Central Government may make a reference to the Commission for its opinion on possible effect of such policy on competition and on receipt of such a reference, the Commission shall, within sixty days of making such reference, give its opinion to the Central Government, which may thereafter formulate the policy as it deems fit.”

⁷⁹ Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

⁸⁰ The words “as may be prescribed” omitted by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

CHAPTER VIII

FINANCE, ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Grants by Central Government

50. The Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, make to the Commission grants of such sums of money as the Government may think fit for being utilised for the purposes of this Act.

Constitution of Fund

51. (1) There shall be constituted a fund to be called the “Competition Fund” and there shall be credited thereto—
- (a) all Government grants received by the Commission;
 - ⁸¹(b) [Omitted by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007]
 - (c) the fees received under this Act;
 - (d) the interest accrued on the amounts referred to in ⁸²[clauses (a) and (c)].
- (2) The Fund shall be applied for meeting—
- (a) the salaries and allowances payable to the Chairperson and other Members and the administrative expenses including the salaries, allowances and pension payable to the Director General, Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General, the Registrar and officers and other employees of the Commission;
 - (b) the other expenses of the Commission in connection with the discharge of its functions and for the purposes of this Act.
- (3) The Fund shall be administered by a committee of such Members of the Commission as may be determined by the Chairperson.
- (4) The committee appointed under sub-section (3) shall spend monies out of the Fund for carrying out the objects for which the Fund has been constituted.

Accounts and Audit

52. (1) The Commission shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts in such form as may be prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

⁸¹ Prior to omission, clause (b) of section 51(1) read as under :-
“the monies received as costs from parties to proceedings before the Commission;”

⁸² Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “clauses (a) to (c)”

- (2) The accounts of the Commission shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor- General of India at such intervals as may be specified by him and any expenditure incurred in connection with such audit shall be payable by the Commission to the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

Explanation.—For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that the orders of the Commission, being matters appealable to the ⁸³[Appellate Tribunal or the Supreme Court], shall not be subject to audit under this section.

- (3) The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and any other person appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of the Commission shall have the same rights, privileges and authority in connection with such audit as the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India generally has, in connection with the audit of the Government accounts and, in particular, shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers and to inspect any of the offices of the Commission.
- (4) The accounts of the Commission as certified by the Comptroller and Auditor- General of India or any other person appointed by him in this behalf together with the audit report thereon shall be forwarded annually to the Central Government and that Government shall cause the same to be laid before each House of Parliament.

Furnishing of returns, etc., to Central Government

- 53.** (1) The Commission shall furnish to the Central Government at such time and in such form and manner as may be prescribed or as the Central Government may direct, such returns and statements and such particulars in regard to any proposed or existing measures for the promotion of competition advocacy, creating awareness and imparting training about competition issues, as the Central Government may, from time to time, require.
- (2) The Commission shall prepare once in every year, in such form and at such time as may be prescribed, an annual report giving a true and full account of its activities during the previous year and copies of the report shall be forwarded to the Central Government.
- (3) A copy of the report received under sub-section (2) shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is received, before each House of Parliament.

⁸³ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “Supreme Court”

⁸⁴[CHAPTER VIIIA APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

Establishment of Appellate Tribunal:

53A. (1) *The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal constituted under section 410 of the companies Act, 2013 shall, on and from the commencement of Part XIV of Chapter VI of the Finance Act, 2017, be the Appellate Tribunal for the purpose of this Act and the said appellate Tribunal shall –*

- (a) *to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Commission under sub-sections (2) and (6) of section 26, section 27, section 28, section 31, section 32, section 33, section 38, section 39, section 43, section 43A, section 44, section 45 or section 46 of the Act;*
- (b) *to adjudicate on claim for compensation that may arise from the findings of the Commission or the orders of the Appellate Tribunal in an appeal against any finding of the Commission or under section 42A or under sub-section(2) of section 53Q of this Act, and pass orders for the recovery of compensation under section 53N of this Act.*

Appeal to Appellate Tribunal

53B. (1) The Central Government or the State Government or a local authority or enterprise or any person, aggrieved by any direction, decision or order referred to in clause (a) of section 53A may prefer an appeal to the Appellate Tribunal.

- (2) Every appeal under sub-section (1) shall be filed within a period of sixty days from the date on which a copy of the direction or decision or order made by the Commission is received by the Central Government or the State Government or a local authority or enterprise or any person referred to in that sub-section and it shall be in such form and be accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed:

Provided that the Appellate Tribunal may entertain an appeal after the expiry of the said period of sixty days if it is satisfied that there was sufficient cause for not filing it within that period.

- (3) On receipt of an appeal under sub-section (1), the Appellate Tribunal may, after giving the parties to the appeal, an opportunity of being heard, pass such orders thereon as it thinks fit, confirming, modifying or setting aside the direction, decision or order appealed against.

⁸⁴ "Chapter VIIIA" Inserted by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

- (4) The Appellate Tribunal shall send a copy of every order made by it to the Commission and the parties to the appeal.
- (5) The appeal filed before the Appellate Tribunal under sub-section (1) shall be dealt with by it as expeditiously as possible and endeavour shall be made by it to dispose of the appeal within six months from the date of receipt of the appeal.

[Omitted by the Finance Act, 2017, w.e.f. 26th May, 2017]

Awarding compensation

- 53N.**(1) Without prejudice to any other provisions contained in this Act, the Central Government or a State Government or a local authority or any enterprise or any person may make an application to the Appellate Tribunal to adjudicate on claim for compensation that may arise from the findings of the Commission or the orders of the Appellate Tribunal in an appeal against any findings of the Commission or under section 42A or under sub-section(2) of section 53Q of the Act, and to pass an order for the recovery of compensation from any enterprise for any loss or damage shown to have been suffered, by the Central Government or a State Government or a local authority or any enterprise or any person as a result of any contravention of the provisions of Chapter II, having been committed by enterprise.
- (2) Every application made under sub-section (1) shall be accompanied by the findings of the Commission, if any, and also be accompanied with such fees as may be prescribed.
 - (3) The Appellate Tribunal may, after an inquiry made into the allegations mentioned in the application made under sub-section (1), pass an order directing the enterprise to make payment to the applicant, of the amount determined by it as realisable from the enterprise as compensation for the loss or damage caused to the applicant as a result of any contravention of the provisions of Chapter II having been committed by such enterprise:
- Provided** that the Appellate Tribunal may obtain the recommendations of the Commission before passing an order of compensation.
- (4) Where any loss or damage referred to in sub-section (1) is caused to numerous persons having the same interest, one or more of such persons may, with the permission of the Appellate Tribunal, make an application under that sub-section for and on behalf of, or for the benefit of, the persons so interested, and thereupon, the provisions of rule 8 of Order 1 of the First Schedule to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), shall apply subject to the modification that every reference therein to a suit or decree shall be construed as a reference to the application before the Appellate Tribunal and the order of the Appellate Tribunal thereon.

Explanation.—For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that—

- (a) an application may be made for compensation before the Appellate

Tribunal only after either the Commission or the Appellate Tribunal on appeal under clause (a) of sub-section(1) of section 53A of the Act, has determined in a proceeding before it that violation of the provisions of the Act has taken place, or if provisions of section 42A or sub-section(2) of section 53Q of the Act are attracted.

- (b) enquiry to be conducted under sub-section(3) shall be for the purpose of determining the eligibility and quantum of compensation due to a person applying for the same, and not for examining afresh the findings of the Commission or the Appellate Tribunal on whether any violation of the Act has taken place.

Procedures and powers of Appellate Tribunal

530.(1) The Appellate Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice and, subject to the other provisions of this Act and of any rules made by the Central Government, the Appellate Tribunal shall have power to regulate its own procedure including the places at which they shall have their sittings.

- (2) The Appellate Tribunal shall have, for the purposes of discharging its functions under this Act, the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of

Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908) while trying a suit 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 documents;
 - c) receiving evidence on affidavit;
 - d) subject to the provisions of sections 123 and 124 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (1 of 1872), requisitioning any public record or document or copy of such record or document from any office;
 - e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;
 - f) reviewing its decisions;
 - g) dismissing a representation for default or deciding it *ex parte*;
 - h) setting aside any order of dismissal of any representation for default or any order passed by it *ex parte*;
 - i) any other matter which may be prescribed.
- (3) Every proceedings before the Appellate Tribunal shall be deemed to be judicial proceedings within the meaning of sections 193 and 228, and for the purposes of section 196, of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860) and the Appellate Tribunal shall be deemed to be a civil court for the purposes

of section 195 and Chapter XXVI of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974).

Execution of orders of Appellate Tribunal

53P.(1) Every order made by the Appellate Tribunal shall be enforced by it in the same manner as if it were a decree made by a court in a suit pending therein, and it shall be lawful for the Appellate Tribunal to send, in case of its inability to execute such order, to the court within the local limits of whose jurisdiction,-

- a) in the case of an order against a company, the registered office of the company is situated; or
 - b) in the case of an order against any other person, place where the person concerned voluntarily resides or carries on business or personally works for gain, is situated.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Appellate Tribunal may transmit any order made by it to a civil court having local jurisdiction and such civil court shall execute the order as if it were a decree made by that court.

Contravention of orders of Appellate Tribunal

53Q.(1) Without prejudice to the provisions of this Act, if any person contravenes, without any reasonable ground, any order of the Appellate Tribunal, he shall be liable for a penalty of not exceeding rupees one crore or imprisonment for a term up to three years or with both as the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi may deem fit:

Provided that the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi shall not take cognizance of any offence punishable under this sub-section, save on a complaint made by an officer authorized by the Appellate Tribunal.

- (2) Without prejudice to the provisions of this Act, any person may make an application to the Appellate Tribunal for an order for the recovery of compensation from any enterprise for any loss or damage shown to have been suffered, by such person as a result of the said enterprise contravening, without any reasonable ground, any order of the Appellate Tribunal or delaying in carrying out such orders of the Appellate Tribunal.

53R. [Omitted by the finance Act, 2017, w.e.f. 26th May, 2017]

Right to legal representation

53S.(1) A person preferring an appeal to the Appellate Tribunal may either appear in person or authorize one or more chartered accountants or company secretaries or cost accountants or legal practitioners or any of its officers to present his or its case before the Appellate Tribunal.

- (2) The Central Government or a State Government or a local authority or any enterprise preferring an appeal to the Appellate Tribunal may authorize one or more chartered accountants or company secretaries or cost

accountants or legal practitioners or any of its officers to act as presenting officers and every person so authorized may present the case with respect to any appeal before the Appellate Tribunal.

- (3) The Commission may authorize one or more chartered accountants or company secretaries or cost accountants or legal practitioners or any of its officers to act as presenting officers and every person so authorized may present the case with respect to any appeal before the Appellate Tribunal.

Explanation – The expressions “chartered accountant” or “company secretary” or “cost accountant” or “legal practitioner” shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the *Explanation* to section 35.

Appeal to Supreme Court

- 53T.** The Central Government or any State Government or the Commission or any statutory authority or any local authority or any enterprise or any person aggrieved by any decision or order of the Appellate Tribunal may file an appeal to the Supreme Court within sixty days from the date of communication of the decision or order of the Appellate Tribunal to them;

Provided that the Supreme court may, if it is satisfied that the applicant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal within the said period, allow it to be filed after the expiry of the said period of sixty days.

Power to Punish for contempt

- 53U.** The Appellate Tribunal shall have, and exercise, the same jurisdiction, powers and authority in respect of contempt of itself as a High Court has and may exercise and, for this purpose, the provisions of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 (70 of 1971) shall have effect subject to modifications that,--

- (a) the reference therein to a High Court shall be construed as including a reference to the Appellate Tribunal;
- (b) the references to the Advocate-General in section 15 of the said Act shall be construed as a reference to such Law Officer as the Central Government may, by notification, specify in this behalf.]

CHAPTER IX

MISCELLANEOUS

Power to exempt

- 54.** The Central Government may, by notification, exempt from the application of this Act, or any provision thereof, and for such period as it may specify in such notification—
- (a) any class of enterprises if such exemption is necessary in the interest of security of the State or public interest;
 - (b) any practice or agreement arising out of and in accordance with any obligation assumed by India under any treaty, agreement or convention with any other country or countries;
 - (c) any enterprise which performs a sovereign function on behalf of the Central Government or a State Government:

Provided that in case an enterprise is engaged in any activity including the activity relating to the sovereign functions of the Government, the Central Government may grant exemption only in respect of activity relating to the sovereign functions.

Power of Central Government to issue directions

- 55.(1)** Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this Act, the Commission shall, in exercise of its powers or the performance of its functions under this Act, be bound by such directions on questions of policy, other than those relating to technical and administrative matters, as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time:

Provided that the Commission shall, as far as practicable, be given an opportunity to express its views before any direction is given under this sub-section.

- (2) The decision of the Central Government whether a question is one of policy or not shall be final.

Power of Central Government to supersede Commission

- 56. (1)** If at any time the Central Government is of the opinion—
- (a) that on account of circumstances beyond the control of the Commission, it is unable to discharge the functions or perform the duties imposed on it by or under the provisions of this Act; or
 - (b) that the Commission has persistently made default in complying with any direction given by the Central Government under this Act or in the discharge of the functions or performance of the duties imposed on it by or under the provisions of this Act and as a result of such default the financial position of the Commission or the administration of the Commission has suffered; or

- (c) that circumstances exist which render it necessary in the public interest so to do,

the Central Government may, by notification and for reasons to be specified therein, supersede the Commission for such period, not exceeding six months, as may be specified in the notification:

Provided that before issuing any such notification, the Central Government shall give a reasonable opportunity to the Commission to make representations against the proposed supersession and shall consider representations, if any, of the Commission.

- (2) Upon the publication of a notification under sub-section (1) superseding the Commission,—
- (a) the Chairperson and other Members shall as from the date of supersession, vacate their offices as such;
 - (b) all the powers, functions and duties which may, by or under the provisions of this Act, be exercised or discharged by or on behalf of the Commission shall, until the Commission is reconstituted under sub-section (3), be exercised and discharged by the Central Government or such authority as the Central Government may specify in this behalf;
 - (c) all properties owned or controlled by the Commission shall, until the Commission is reconstituted under sub-section (3), vest in the Central Government.
- (3) On or before the expiration of the period of supersession specified in the notification issued under subsection (1), the Central Government shall reconstitute the Commission by a fresh appointment of its Chairperson and other Members and in such case any person who had vacated his office under clause (a) of sub-section (2) shall not be deemed to be disqualified for re-appointment.
- (4) The Central Government shall cause a notification issued under sub-section (1) and a full report of any action taken under this section and the circumstances leading to such action to be laid before each House of Parliament at the earliest.

Restriction on disclosure of information

57. No information relating to any enterprise, being an information which has been obtained by or on behalf of ⁸⁵[the Commission or the Appellate Tribunal] for the purposes of this Act, shall, without the previous permission in writing of the enterprise, be disclosed otherwise than in compliance with or for the purposes of this Act or any other law for the time being in force.

⁸⁵ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “the Commission”

⁸⁶**[Chairperson, Members, Director General, Secretary, officers and other employees, etc., to be public servants]**

⁸⁷**[58.** The Chairperson and other Members and the Director General, Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General and Secretary and officers and other employees of the Commission and the Chairperson, Members, officers and other employees of the Appellate Tribunal shall be deemed, while acting or purporting to act in pursuance of any of the provisions of this Act, to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860).]

Protection of action taken in good faith

59. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Central Government or Commission or any officer of the Central Government or the Chairperson or any Member or the Director- General, Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General or ⁸⁸[the Secretary or officers or other employees of the Commission or the Chairperson, Members, officers and other employees of the Appellate Tribunal] for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or the rules or regulations made thereunder.

Act to have overriding effect

60. The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

Exclusion of jurisdiction of civil courts

61. No civil court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceeding in respect of any matter which the ⁸⁹[Commission or the Appellate Tribunal] is empowered by or under this Act to determine and no injunction shall be granted by any court or other authority in respect of any action taken or to be taken in pursuance of any power conferred by or under this Act.

⁸⁶ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for "Members, Director General, Registrar, officers and other employees, etc. of Commission to be public servants"

⁸⁷ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for :

"The Chairperson and other Members and the Director General, Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General and Registrar and officers and other employees of the Commission shall be deemed, while acting or purporting to act in pursuance of any of the provisions of this Act, to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860)."

⁸⁸ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for "the Registrar or officers or other employees of the Commission"

⁸⁹ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for "Commission"

Application of other laws not barred

62. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.

Power to make rules

63. (1) The Central Government may, by notification, make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act;

(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:—

⁹⁰[(a) the term of the Selection Committee and the manner of selection of panel of names under sub-section (2) of Section 9;]

(b) the form and manner in which and the authority before whom the oath of office and of secrecy shall be made and subscribed to under sub-section (3) of section 10;

⁹¹(c) [Omitted by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007.

(d) the salary and the other terms and conditions of service including travelling expenses, house rent allowance and conveyance facilities, sumptuary allowance and medical facilities to be provided to the Chairperson and other Members under sub-section (1) of section 14;

⁹²[(da) the number of Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General or such officers or other employees in the office of Director General and the manner in which such Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General or such officers or other employees may be appointed under sub-section (1A) of section 16;]

(e) the salary, allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the Director General, Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General or ⁹³[such officers or other employees] under sub-section (3) of section 16;

(f) the qualifications for appointment of the Director General, Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General or ⁹⁴[such officers or other employees] under sub-section (4) of section 16;

⁹⁰ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

“the manner in which the Chairperson and other Members shall be selected under section 9;”

⁹¹ Prior to omission, clause (c) of sub-section(2) of section 63 read as under:-

“the financial and administrative powers which may be vested in the Member Administration under section 13;”

⁹² Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

⁹³ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “such other advisers, consultants or officers”

⁹⁴ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for “such other advisers, consultants or officers”

- (g) the salaries and allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the ⁹⁵ [Secretary] and officers and other employees payable, and the number of such officers and employees under sub-section (2) of section 17;
- ⁹⁶(h) [Omitted by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007]
- ⁹⁷(i) [Omitted by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007]
- ⁹⁸(j) [Omitted by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007]
- (k) the form in which the annual statement of accounts shall be prepared under sub-section (1) of section 52;
- (l) the time within which and the form and manner in which the Commission may furnish returns, statements and such particulars as the Central Government may require under sub-section (1) of section 53;
- (m) the form in which and the time within which the annual report shall be prepared under sub-section (2) of section 53;
- ⁹⁹[(ma) the form in which an appeal may be filed before the Appellate Tribunal under sub-section (2) of section 53B and the fees payable in respect of such appeal;

⁹⁵ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for "Registrar"

⁹⁶ Prior to omission, clause (h) of sub-section(2) of section 63 read as under:-
"for securing any case or matter which requires to be decided by a Bench composed of more than two Members under sub-section (4) of section 23;"

⁹⁷ Prior to omission, clause (i) of sub-section(2) of section 63 read as under:-
"any other matter in respect of which the Commission shall have power under clause (g) of sub-section (2) of section 36;"

⁹⁸ Prior to omission, clause (j) of sub-section(2) of section 63 read as under:-
"the promotion of competition advocacy, creating awareness and imparting training about competition issues under sub-section (3) of section 49;"

⁹⁹ Ins. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007

- (me) the fee which shall be accompanied with every application made under sub-section (2) of section 53N;
 - (mf) the other matters under clause (i) of sub-section(2) of section 53O in respect of which the Appellate Tribunal shall have powers under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908) while trying a suit;]
 - ¹⁰⁰[(n) the manner in which the monies transferred to the Competition Commission of India or the Appellate Tribunal shall be dealt with by the Commission or the Appellate Tribunal, as the case may be, under the fourth proviso to sub-section(2) of section 66 ;]
 - (o) any other matter which is to be, or may be, prescribed, or in respect of which provision is to be, or may be, made by rules.
- (3) Every notification issued under sub-section(3) of section 20 and section 54 and every rule made under this Act by the Central Government shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session, or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the notification or rule, or both Houses agree that the notification should not be issued or rule should not be made, the notification or rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that notification or rule, as the case may be.

Power to make regulations

- 64.** (1) The Commission may, by notification, make regulations consistent with this Act and the rules made thereunder to carry out the purposes of this Act.
- (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions, such regulations may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—
- (a) the cost of production to be determined under clause (b) of the Explanation to section 4;
 - (b) the form of notice as may be specified and the fee which maybe determined under sub-section(2) of section 6;
 - (c) the form in which details of the acquisition shall be filed under subsection(5) of Section 6;
 - ¹⁰¹[(d) the procedures to be followed for engaging the experts and professionals under sub-section(3) of section 17;

¹⁰⁰ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

“ the manner in which the monies transferred to the Central Government shall be dealt with by that Government under the fourth proviso to sub-section (2) of section 66;”

¹⁰¹ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

(d) the fee which may be determined under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 19;
 (e) any other matter in respect of which provision is to be, or may be, made by regulations.”

- (e) the fee which may be determined under clause (a) of sub-section(1) of section 19;
 - (f) the rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of business at the meetings of the Commission under sub-section(1) of section 22;
 - (g) the manner in which penalty shall be recovered under sub-section(1) of section 39;
 - (h) any other matter in respect of which provision is to be, or may be, made by regulations.]
- (3) Every regulation made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the regulation, or both Houses agree that the regulation should not be made, the regulation shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that regulation.

Power to remove difficulties

- 65. (1)** If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to it to be necessary for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made under this section after the expiry of a period of two years from the commencement of this Act.

- (2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

Repeal And saving

- 66. [(1)** ¹⁰²The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (54 of 1969) is hereby repealed and the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission established under sub-section (1) of section 5 of the said Act (hereinafter referred to as the repealed Act) shall stand dissolved.

¹⁰² Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

- (1) "The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 is hereby repealed and the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission established under sub-section (1) of section 5 of the said Act (hereinafter referred to as the repealed Act) (54 of 1969) shall stand dissolved."

(102 A) [***]

(1A) The repeal of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (54 of 1969) shall, however, not affect,-

- a) the previous operation of the Act so repealed or anything duly done or suffered thereunder; or
 - b) any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under the Act so repealed; or
 - c) any penalty, confiscation or punishment incurred in respect of any contravention under the Act so repealed; or
 - d) any proceeding or remedy in respect of any such right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, confiscation or punishment as aforesaid, and any such proceeding or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced, and any such penalty, confiscation or punishment may be imposed or made as if that Act had not been repealed.]
- 2) On the dissolution of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, the person appointed as the Chairman of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission and every other person appointed as Member and Director General of Investigation and Registration, Additional, Joint, Deputy, or Assistant Directors General of Investigation and Registration and any officer and other employee of that Commission and holding office as such immediately before such dissolution shall vacate their respective offices and such Chairman and other Members shall be entitled to claim compensation not exceeding three months' pay and allowances for the premature termination of term of their office or of any contract of service.

Provided that the Director General of Investigation and Registration, Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General of Investigation and Registration or any officer or other employee who has been, immediately before the dissolution of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices

^{102 A} The proviso and the explanation omitted by Act 39 of 2009, sec 2(a)(w.e.f.14-10-2009). The proviso and the explanation, before omission, stood as under:

"Provided that, notwithstanding anything contained in this sub-section, the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission established under sub section(1) of section 5 of the repealed Act, may continue to exercise jurisdiction and power under the repealed Act for a period of two years from the date of the commencement of this Act in respect of all cases or proceedings (including complaints received by it or references or applications made to it) filed before the commencement of this Act as if the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (54 of 1969) had not been repealed and all the provisions of the said Act so repealed shall mutatis mutandis apply to such cases or proceedings or complaints or references or applications and to all other matters.

Explanation: For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that nothing in this proviso shall confer any jurisdiction or power upon the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission to decide or adjudicate any case or proceeding arising under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (54 of 1969) on or after the commencement of this Act."

Commission appointed on deputation basis to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, shall, on such dissolution, stand reverted to his parent cadre, Ministry or Department, as the case may be:

¹⁰³**Provided further** that the Director-General of Investigation and Registration, Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General of Investigation and Registration or any officer or other employee who has been, immediately before the dissolution of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, employed on regular basis by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, shall become, on and from such dissolution, the officer and employee, respectively, of the Competition Commission of India or the Appellate Tribunal, in such manner as may be specified by the Central Government, with the same rights and privileges as to pension, gratuity and other like matters as would have been admissible to him if the rights in relation to such Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission had not been transferred to, and vested in, the Competition Commission of India or the Appellate Tribunal, as the case may be, and shall continue to do so unless and until his employment in the Competition Commission of India or the Appellate Tribunal, as the case may be, is duly terminated or until his remuneration, terms and conditions of employment are duly altered by the Competition Commission of India or the Appellate Tribunal, as the case may be.]

Provided also that notwithstanding anything contained in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947(14 of 1947), or in any other law for the time being in force, the transfer of the services of any Director General of Investigation and Registration, Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General of Investigation and Registration or any officer or other employee, employed in the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, to ¹⁰⁴[the Competition Commission of India or the Appellate Tribunal], as the case may be, shall not entitle such Director General of Investigation and Registration, Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General of Investigation and Registration or any officer or other employee any compensation under this Act or any other law for the time being in force and no such claim shall be entertained by any court, tribunal or other authority:

Provided also that where the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has established a provident fund, superannuation, welfare or other fund

¹⁰³ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

"Provided further that the Director General of Investigation and Registration, Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General of Investigation and Registration or any officer or other employee who has been, immediately before the dissolution of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, employed on regular basis by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, shall become, on and from such dissolution, the officer and employee, respectively, of the Central Government with the same rights and privileges as to pension, gratuity and other like matters as would have been admissible to him if the rights in relation to such Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission had not been transferred to, and vested in, the Central Government and shall continue to do so unless and until his employment in the Central Government is duly terminated or until his remuneration, terms and conditions of employment are duly altered by that Government."

¹⁰⁴ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for "the Central Government"

for the benefit of the Director General of Investigation and Registration, Additional, Joint, Deputy or Assistant Directors General of Investigation and Registration or the officers and other employees employed in the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, the monies relatable to the officers and other employees whose services have been transferred by or under this Act to ¹⁰⁵[the Competition Commission of India or the Appellate Tribunal, as the case may be, shall, out of the monies standing] on the dissolution of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission to the credit of such provident fund, superannuation, welfare or other fund, stand transferred to, and vest in, ¹⁰⁶[the Competition Commission of India or the Appellate Tribunal as the case may be, and such monies which stand so transferred shall be dealt with by the said Commission or the Tribunal, as the case may be, in such manner as may be prescribed.]

- ¹⁰⁷ (3) All cases pertaining to monopolistic trade practices or restrictive trade practices pending (including such cases, in which any unfair trade practice has also been alleged), before the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission shall, ^(107 A) on the commencement of the competition Amendment Act, 2009 stand transferred to the Appellate Tribunal and shall be adjudicated by the Appellate Tribunal in accordance with the provisions of the repealed Act as if that Act had not been repealed.]

^(107B) "*Explanation-* 'For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that all cases referred to in this sub-section, sub-section(4) and sub-section (5) shall be deemed to include all applications made for the losses or damages under section 12(B) of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (54 of 1969) as it stood before its repeal";

- (4) Subject to the provisions of sub-section(3), all cases pertaining to unfair trade practices other than those referred to in clause (x) of sub-section(1) of section 36A of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (54 of 1969) and pending before

¹⁰⁵ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for "the Central Government shall, out of the monies standing"

¹⁰⁶ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:
"the Central Government and such monies which stand so transferred shall be dealt with by the said Government in such manner as may be prescribed."

¹⁰⁷ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:
" All cases pertaining to monopolistic trade practices or restrictive trade practices pending before the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission on or before the commencement of this Act, including such cases, in which any unfair trade practice has also been alleged, shall, on such commencement, stand transferred to the Competition Commission of India and shall be adjudicated by that Commission in accordance with the provisions of the repealed Act as if that Act had not been repealed." Subs by Act 39 of 2009, sec 2(b)(i) w.e.f 14-10-2009) for "after the expiry of two years referred to in the proviso to subsection(1)" Explanation added by Act 39 of 2009, sec 2(b)(ii) w.e.f 14-10-2009)

^{107 A} Subs by Act 39 of 2009, Section 2(b)(i) w.e.f 14-10-2009, for" after the expiry of two year referred to in the proviso to the Subsection (i)"

^{107 B} Explanation added by Act 39 of 2009, Section 2(b)(ii) w.e.f 14-10-2009.

the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission ¹⁰⁸“immediately before the commencement of the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2009 shall, on such commencement”, shall, stand transferred to the National Commission constituted under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (68 of 1986) and the National Commission shall dispose of such cases as if they were cases filed under that Act:

Provided that the National Commission may, if it considers appropriate, transfer any case transferred to it under this sub-section, to the concerned State Commission established under section 9 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (68 of 1986) and that State Commission shall dispose of such case as if it was filed under that Act.

^(108 A) **Provided further** that all the cases relating to the unfair trade practices pending, before the National Commission under this sub-section, on or before the date on which the competition (Amendment) Bill, 2009 receives the assent of the President, shall, on and from that date, stand transferred to the Appellate Tribunal and be adjudicated by the Appellate Tribunal in accordance with the provisions of the repealed Act as if that Act had not been repealed.

- (5) ⁽¹⁰⁹⁾ All cases pertaining to unfair trade practices referred to in clause (x) of subsection (1) of section 36A of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 and pending before the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission shall, ^(109A) “on the commencement of the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2009” stand transferred to the Appellate Tribunal and the Appellate Tribunal shall dispose of such cases as if they were cases filed under that Act.]
- (6) All investigations or proceedings, other than those relating to unfair trade practices, pending before the Director General of Investigation and Registration on or before the commencement of this Act shall, on such commencement, stand transferred to the Competition Commission of India, and the Competition Commission of India may conduct or order for conduct of such investigation or proceedings in the manner as it deems fit.
- (7) All investigations or proceedings, relating to unfair trade practices, other than those referred to in clause (x) of sub-section (1) of section 36A of the Monopolies

¹⁰⁸ Subs. by Act 39 of 2009, Section 2(c)(i) w.e.f 14-10-2009.for “on or before the expiry of two years referred to in the proviso to subsection (1)”

^{108 A} Proviso inserted by Act 39 of 2009, Section 2(c)(ii) w.e.f 14-10-2009.

¹⁰⁹ Subs. by Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007 for:

“ All cases pertaining to unfair trade practices referred to in clause (x) of sub-section (1) of section 36A of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (54 of 1969) and pending before the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission on or before the commencement of this Act shall, on such commencement, stand transferred to the Competition Commission of India, and the Competition Commission of India shall dispose of such cases as if they were cases filed under that Act.”

^{109 A} Subs by Act 39 of 2009, Section 2(d) w.e.f 14-10-2009 for “after the expiry of two years referred to in the proviso to subsection (1)”

and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969(54 of 1969) and pending before the Director General of Investigation and Registration on or before the commencement of this Act shall, on such commencement, stand transferred to the National Commission constituted under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (68 of 1986) and the National Commission may conduct or order for conduct of such investigation or proceedings in the manner as it deems fit.

(109B) "**Provided** that all investigations or proceedings, relating to unfair trade practices pending before the National Commission, on or before the date on which the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2009 receives the assent of the President shall, on and from that date, stand transferred to the Appellate Tribunal and the Appellate Tribunal may conduct or order for conduct of such investigation or proceedings in the manner as it deems fit."

- (8) All investigations or proceedings relating to unfair trade practices referred to in clause (x) of subsection (1) of section 36A of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969(54 of 1969), and pending before the Director General of Investigation and Registration on or before the commencement of this Act shall, on such commencement, stand transferred to the Competition Commission of India and the Competition Commission of India may conduct or order for conduct of such investigation in the manner as it deems fit.
- (9) Save as otherwise provided under sub-sections (3) to (8), all cases or proceedings pending before the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission shall abate.
- (10) The mention of the particular matters referred to in sub-sections (3) to (8) shall not be held to prejudice or affect the general application of section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897 (10 of 1897) with regard to the effect of repeal.

The Competition Act, 2002 Executive Summary – Corrida Legal

Introduction to the Competition Act, 2002

India's rapid economic growth in the 1990s created the need for a modern law to regulate fair competition in the market. Earlier, the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act) attempted to control monopolistic behaviour, but it was largely focused on curbing the concentration of wealth rather than promoting competition. As the economy liberalised in 1991, it became clear that a new framework was required to ensure efficiency, protect consumers, and create a level playing field for businesses. This shift gave rise to the Competition Act, 2002 bare act with summary PDF, which continues to be the cornerstone of competition law in India.

Historical background

The MRTP Act was a product of its time, aimed at addressing pre-liberalisation concerns. However, it lacked the flexibility to handle modern challenges such as cartels, abuse of dominance, and global mergers. By the late 1990s, policymakers recognised the importance of aligning India's regulatory framework with international best practices. The Raghavan Committee Report (2000) strongly recommended replacing the MRTP Act with a comprehensive competition law. This recommendation paved the way for the Competition Act, 2002.

Transition from MRTP Act to Competition Act

The transition from MRTP to the Competition Act marked a fundamental shift:

- From regulating monopolies to promoting competition.
- From limiting size of businesses to regulating behaviour in the market.
- From weak enforcement powers to a strong regulator – the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- From outdated provisions to internationally aligned practices on mergers and cartels.

For practitioners, the Competition law in India summary Corrida Legal provides a practical bridge between the MRTP legacy and the Competition Act's modern framework.

Importance of the Competition Act

The Competition Act plays a crucial role in India's economic system. It ensures that markets remain fair and efficient by preventing anti-competitive practices such as cartels, predatory pricing, and abuse of dominant positions. For businesses, compliance officers, and legal professionals, understanding the Act is not optional but essential. Its significance lies in:

- Protecting consumer interests through lower prices and better quality.
- Encouraging innovation by allowing new players to enter markets.
- Preventing unfair trade practices that distort competition.
- Ensuring global compatibility, which is critical for cross-border investments.

In this way, the Competition Act, 2002 provides both a legal safeguard and a policy tool for sustaining India's market economy.

Objectives and Scope of the Competition Act, 2002

The Competition Act, 2002 bare act with summary PDF was enacted to reshape India's economic environment in line with liberalisation and globalisation. Unlike the MRTP Act, which was focused on curbing monopolies, the Competition Act is designed to actively promote fair competition and consumer welfare. Its objectives go beyond simply preventing unfair trade practices, they seek to build a dynamic, efficient, and inclusive marketplace.

Core objectives of the Act

The Act has four broad objectives, each addressing a critical aspect of market fairness and economic growth:

- **Promote and sustain competition** – by preventing practices that restrict or distort market rivalry.
- **Protect consumer interests** – by ensuring fair prices, quality products, and wider choice.
- **Ensure freedom of trade** – allowing businesses across India to operate without anti-competitive restrictions.
- **Improve market efficiency** – by encouraging innovation and enabling small and medium enterprises to compete effectively.

These objectives are explained in simple terms in the Competition law in India summary Corrida Legal, making it easier for students, compliance officers, and business owners to grasp the essence of the law.

Scope of the Competition Act

The scope of the Act is deliberately wide to cover almost all economic activities. Its provisions extend to:

- Anti-competitive agreements such as cartels, price-fixing, and bid rigging.
- Abuse of dominance where large firms misuse market power.
- Mergers and combinations, including acquisitions and amalgamations that may harm competition.
- Cross-border transactions, where foreign mergers have an impact on Indian markets.

By including both goods and services, as well as domestic and international businesses, the Act ensures no gap is left in its regulatory net. This breadth is why professionals often turn to a Competition Commission of India CCI role and powers guide to understand how enforcement plays out in practice.

Importance for businesses and regulators

For businesses, the Competition Act is not just a legal framework but also a compliance necessity. It pushes companies to adopt ethical trade practices, avoid restrictive agreements, and monitor mergers carefully. For regulators,

the Act provides the tools to investigate, penalise, and guide the market towards efficiency.

In short, the Act serves as a balance between consumer welfare and business growth. With increasing global integration, its scope has only widened, ensuring that Indian markets stay aligned with international norms.

Establishment and Role of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)

The Competition Act, 2002 bare act with summary PDF created the Competition Commission of India (CCI) as the principal authority responsible for implementing and enforcing the provisions of the Act. Set up in 2003 and operational from 2009, the CCI functions as both a regulator and a quasi-judicial body, with powers to investigate, adjudicate, and penalise anti-competitive behaviour.

Composition and independence

The CCI is composed of a Chairperson and members appointed by the Central Government. They are selected based on expertise in fields such as law, economics, business, or public affairs. Independence is critical, and therefore, the CCI enjoys autonomy in decision-making, though it operates within the framework of the Act. For a structured explanation, compliance officers and legal professionals often consult the Competition law in India summary Corrida Legal, which condenses the Act's technical provisions into practical guidance.

Powers of the CCI

The **Competition Commission of India CCI role and powers** are extensive and cover:

- Inquiry and investigation into anti-competitive agreements, cartels, and abuse of dominance.
- Merger regulation, including approval or rejection of combinations that may harm competition.
- Issuing interim orders to prevent ongoing violations.

- Imposing penalties on enterprises and individuals for non-compliance.
- Competition advocacy, aimed at educating businesses and consumers about fair practices.

These wide-ranging powers allow the CCI to act both as a market watchdog and as an institution that supports policy reforms.

Role in enforcement

The CCI plays a pivotal role in investigating complaints filed by consumers, businesses, or even suo motu (on its own motion). Its decisions are binding but subject to appeal before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). This layered system of enforcement ensures checks and balances, while still giving the CCI significant authority. Professionals often study case summaries through resources such as the Competition Act 2002 compliance and enforcement guide to understand how these powers are exercised in real scenarios.

Building competitive markets

Beyond enforcement, the CCI actively promotes competition advocacy. It engages with industry associations, state governments, and academic institutions to spread awareness of competition principles. This dual role of enforcement and advocacy makes the CCI unique. Platforms like Competition law in India summary Corrida Legal are especially useful for businesses seeking to align their strategies with both legal requirements and best practices.

Prohibition of Anti-Competitive Agreements

One of the cornerstones of the Competition Act, 2002 bare act with summary PDF is the prohibition of agreements that harm competition in the market. Such agreements, whether between competitors or between different levels of the supply chain, have the potential to distort fair trade, inflate prices, and reduce consumer choice. Recognising this, the Act clearly lays down provisions that make anti-competitive agreements void and punishable.

Horizontal agreements

Agreements between enterprises operating at the same level of the market are termed horizontal agreements. They include:

- **Cartels** – where competitors collude to fix prices, control production, or divide markets.
- **Bid-rigging** – manipulating tender processes to eliminate genuine competition.
- **Collective output restrictions** – where companies agree to limit supply to influence market prices.

These are considered the most harmful to competition and are presumed to have an adverse effect. For a structured explanation of these provisions, professionals often consult the Competition law in India summary Corrida Legal, which simplifies the technical aspects of the Act.

Vertical agreements

The Act also regulates vertical agreements, which involve enterprises at different levels of the supply chain, such as manufacturers and distributors. Common examples include:

- Resale price maintenance, where manufacturers fix the price at which retailers must sell.
- Tie-in arrangements, compelling buyers to purchase one product as a condition for another.
- Exclusive supply or distribution agreements, restricting dealings with competitors.

Unlike horizontal agreements, vertical agreements are assessed on a “rule of reason” basis to determine their actual impact. Guidance from resources such as the Competition Commission of India CCI role and powers overview often helps compliance teams evaluate whether a vertical agreement may cross the legal line.

Exemptions and justifications

The Act also recognises that not all agreements are harmful. Some may enhance efficiency or benefit consumers in the long run, such as joint ventures for research and development. CCI therefore examines the overall

effect before declaring an agreement unlawful. These nuances are well captured in the Competition Act 2002 compliance and enforcement guide, which blends statutory text with practical interpretations.

Safeguarding consumer welfare

By prohibiting anti-competitive agreements, the Act aims to protect consumers from inflated prices and limited choices. It also ensures that businesses compete on merit rather than collusion. Platforms like Competition law in India summary Corrida Legal provide case-based insights into how these provisions are enforced in practice.

Abuse of Dominant Position

The Competition Act, 2002 bare act with summary PDF defines dominance as a position of strength enjoyed by an enterprise that enables it to operate independently of competitive forces or to influence market conditions in its favour. While having a dominant position is not unlawful by itself, abusing it is strictly prohibited. The law aims to ensure that market leaders do not misuse their strength to suppress competition or exploit consumers.

What constitutes dominance?

Dominance is assessed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) based on several factors such as market share, size, resources, brand value, and the ability to affect competitors or consumers. An enterprise may be dominant in one market segment but not in another. For compliance officers and practitioners, resources like the Competition law in India summary Corrida Legal offer practical guidance on how dominance is evaluated in real cases.

Types of abuse under the Act

The Act lists specific practices that amount to abuse of dominance, including:

- **Predatory pricing** – selling goods or services below cost to eliminate competitors.
- **Unfair conditions** – imposing restrictions on buyers or limiting supply.

- **Discriminatory practices** – applying different prices or conditions to similar transactions.
- **Limiting technical development** – restricting innovation or consumer choice.

These provisions are crucial for businesses to understand, and they are often explained in detail in the Competition Act 2002 compliance and enforcement guide used by legal teams.

Case law and practical examples

CCI has dealt with several high-profile cases involving abuse of dominance. For example, the cement cartel cases highlighted how companies could manipulate supply, while the DLF case showed how a real estate giant misused its bargaining power against homebuyers. More recently, cases involving tech platforms and digital marketplaces illustrate how dominance is evolving in the digital economy. These examples are often summarised in the Competition Commission of India CCI role and powers overview, which makes enforcement trends easier to follow.

Consumer welfare as the guiding principle

The prohibition of abuse of dominance ultimately serves to protect consumers from unfair practices and ensure that competition thrives. By deterring dominant enterprises from exploiting their position, the Act maintains a balance between business efficiency and consumer welfare. Simplified guides such as the Competition law in India summary Corrida Legal remain valuable for businesses seeking to align their strategies with the spirit of the law.

Penalties and Consequences of Non-Compliance

The Competition Act, 2002 bare act with summary PDF provides strong enforcement measures to ensure that enterprises and individuals comply with its provisions. Non-compliance, whether in the form of anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominance, or failure to notify combinations, can attract significant penalties. These provisions are designed not only to punish violators but also to act as a deterrent for others operating in the market.

Penalties for anti-competitive practices

Enterprises found guilty of forming cartels, engaging in bid-rigging, or abusing their dominant position can face severe financial penalties. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has the authority to impose fines of up to 10% of the average turnover of the last three years, or in the case of cartels, up to three times the profit or 10% of the turnover, whichever is higher. Practical illustrations of these penalties are often explained in the Competition Act 2002 compliance and enforcement guide, which simplifies how fines are calculated in real-world cases.

Consequences for mergers and combinations

Failure to notify a merger or acquisition that crosses the prescribed thresholds can also attract heavy penalties. The CCI can impose fines for delayed or missed filings and, in extreme cases, even order the reversal of a combination that harms competition. These strict consequences underline the Competition Commission of India CCI role and powers, which extend beyond supervision to active enforcement in shaping market structures.

Additional consequences of non-compliance

Beyond monetary fines, non-compliance can lead to:

- Reputational damage, making it harder for companies to attract investment.
- Restrictions on business operations, where the CCI may direct firms to cease certain practices.
- Binding corrective measures, such as divestitures or changes in contractual terms.
- Personal liability, where individuals in charge of the business can also face penalties.

These aspects are often captured in resources like the Competition law in India summary Corrida Legal, which provide a clear picture of how businesses must adapt their strategies to avoid such risks.

Enforcement through appeals

Parties aggrieved by CCI's orders can appeal to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), and further to the Supreme Court of India. However, the appeal process does not dilute the deterrent effect of penalties, as orders are binding unless stayed or overturned.

Competition Advocacy and Policy Development

The Competition Act, 2002 bare act with summary PDF does not limit itself to prohibiting anti-competitive practices. It also recognises the importance of advocacy and policy development in shaping a healthy economic environment. By spreading awareness and collaborating with other regulators, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) ensures that competitive principles are embedded not just in enforcement, but also in policymaking and governance.

Role of competition advocacy

Competition advocacy refers to efforts by the CCI to promote a culture of competition beyond enforcement. It focuses on educating stakeholders about the benefits of open and fair markets. These efforts include:

- Awareness programmes for consumers to recognise anti-competitive conduct.
- Workshops for businesses on compliance with competition law.
- Collaborations with government departments to ensure policies align with competition principles.
- Engagement with academic institutions to build capacity in the field of competition law.

Simplified explanations of these initiatives are often found in the Competition Law in India summary Corrida Legal, which translates technical policy language into practical insights.

Policy interface with other regulators

The Indian economy is overseen by multiple regulators, including SEBI, TRAI, and RBI, each of which oversees specific sectors. The CCI frequently interacts with these bodies to avoid conflicts and promote coherent regulation. For instance, in sectors like telecom and banking, competition issues often overlap with sectoral regulations. The Competition Commission of India CCI role and powers include ensuring that competition principles are respected across all these sectors.

Advocacy for consumer welfare

The CCI also advocates directly for consumer interests. By discouraging monopolistic practices and encouraging new entrants, it ensures that consumers benefit from lower prices, better quality, and greater choice. The Competition Act 2002 compliance and enforcement guide frequently highlights how advocacy translates into real-world benefits, especially in markets where consumers are vulnerable.

Long-term policy development

Advocacy is not just about awareness; it also shapes long-term policy. CCI inputs have influenced government policies on digital markets, e-commerce, and public procurement. These inputs aim to make Indian markets competitive on a global scale while safeguarding domestic interests. For businesses and policymakers, the Competition Law in India summary Corrida Legal serves as a useful resource in understanding these developments in a simplified format.

Landmark Case Studies under the Competition Act

The Competition Act, 2002 bare act with summary PDF has been tested and interpreted through several landmark cases. These judicial and regulatory decisions demonstrate how the Act is applied in practice, clarify grey areas, and strengthen the authority of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). They also serve as guidance for businesses on how to structure their conduct in line with competition law.

DLF case – Abuse of dominance

In one of the most significant cases, the CCI found real estate giant DLF guilty of abusing its dominant position by imposing unfair terms on homebuyers. The penalty imposed highlighted how even large corporations are not beyond the reach of the law. The case became a reference point for interpreting the provisions on abuse of dominance. For simplified insights, practitioners often consult the Competition law in India summary Corrida Legal, which distills such rulings into practical lessons.

Cement cartel cases – Cartelisation and price fixing

The cement industry was at the centre of multiple cartel investigations. The CCI concluded that several cement manufacturers colluded to fix prices and limit supply, leading to one of the largest penalties ever imposed under the Act. This case underlined the CCI's strong enforcement stance against cartels, an area considered the most harmful form of anti-competitive conduct. Practical overviews are often available in the Competition Act 2002 compliance and enforcement guide, which explains how penalties are applied.

Google Android case – Digital markets and new challenges

With the rise of digital platforms, the CCI also had to address competition concerns in technology markets. In the Google Android case, the CCI found that Google abused its dominance by forcing smartphone makers to pre-install its apps. This ruling showed how the Competition Commission of India CCI role and powers extend beyond traditional industries to fast-evolving digital ecosystems.

Jet Airways–Etihad case – Combinations and merger control

In reviewing the Jet Airways–Etihad transaction, the CCI examined the potential impact of the foreign airline acquiring a significant stake in an Indian carrier. While the deal was cleared, it was closely scrutinised for its effect on competition in the aviation sector. Summaries of such cases are often provided in the Competition law in India summary Corrida Legal, offering accessible learning for compliance professionals and students.

Challenges in Enforcement of the Competition Act

The Competition Act, 2002 bare act with summary PDF has provided India with a robust legal framework to regulate markets, but its enforcement is not without hurdles. As markets evolve and economic activities grow more complex, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) faces multiple challenges in implementing the law effectively. These issues highlight the gap between legislative intent and practical application.

Complexity of modern markets

Markets today are no longer confined to traditional sectors like cement, steel, or real estate. Digital platforms, fintech services, and global supply chains add new layers of complexity. Determining market dominance in such dynamic sectors is difficult, particularly when products and services overlap. Compliance professionals often refer to the Competition Act 2002 compliance and enforcement guide to understand how enforcement adapts to these new realities.

Lengthy litigation and appeals

While the CCI has wide powers, its decisions are frequently challenged before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) and then the Supreme Court. This multi-tiered process can delay the final resolution of cases for years. Although appeals are a vital safeguard, they reduce the deterrent effect of CCI's orders. Summaries in the Competition law in India summary Corrida Legal often highlight how enforcement gets diluted through prolonged litigation.

Limited resources and institutional capacity

Compared to regulators in advanced jurisdictions, the CCI is still a relatively young institution with limited manpower and resources. Investigations into cartels or cross-border mergers require significant expertise in economics, law, and data analysis. Building such capacity takes time. The Competition Commission of India CCI role and powers is strong in law, but its execution is sometimes constrained by these resource gaps.

Globalisation and cross-border issues

With increasing foreign investment and global mergers, enforcement requires coordination with regulators outside India. Jurisdictional overlaps often complicate investigations, especially in digital markets where companies operate across borders. Guidance on how these challenges are addressed can often be found in resources like the Competition law in India summary Corrida Legal, which track recent developments.

Need for continuous adaptation

The pace of economic change means that enforcement cannot remain static. The CCI must regularly issue new regulations, update merger thresholds, and review penalties to keep up with modern practices. Balancing strict enforcement with market development is an ongoing challenge.

Recent Developments and Amendments to the Competition Act

The Competition Act, 2002 bare act with summary PDF has evolved over time to meet the changing needs of India's economy. Since its enactment, several amendments have been introduced to enhance the effectiveness of the law and empower the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to deal with modern market realities. The most significant set of changes has come through the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023, which has reshaped multiple aspects of enforcement and compliance.

Key features of the 2023 Amendment

The 2023 reforms are designed to make competition law more dynamic and responsive. Some of the highlights include:

- **Settlement and commitment mechanism** – allowing enterprises under investigation to settle cases or commit to corrective measures without prolonged litigation.
- **Hub-and-spoke cartels** – expanding the definition of cartels to include indirect participation, targeting practices often seen in digital and e-commerce markets.
- **Higher penalties** – linking penalties to global turnover instead of only Indian turnover, ensuring stronger deterrence.

- **Faster merger review timelines** – reducing the review period from 210 days to 150 days, thereby speeding up approvals.
- **Introduction of deal value thresholds** – requiring notification of mergers based on deal value, not just assets or turnover.

These provisions are often explained in the Competition Act 2002 compliance and enforcement guide, which helps businesses and professionals interpret the impact of the changes.

Strengthening CCI's role

The amendments expand the Competition Commission of India CCI role and powers, making it better equipped to deal with new challenges, especially in technology-driven markets. The ability to address hub-and-spoke cartels and impose penalties based on global turnover ensures that multinational companies cannot evade accountability.

Focus on digital markets

Digital and e-commerce platforms are now central to India's economy, and the amendments acknowledge this shift. By addressing novel issues like platform dominance and indirect cartels, the law aligns more closely with global practices. This forward-looking approach is highlighted in the Competition law in India summary Corrida Legal, which provides simplified explanations of these complex changes.

Practical impact for businesses

For businesses, the amendments mean greater responsibility and closer scrutiny. Companies engaged in mergers, acquisitions, or cross-border investments must ensure that their transactions comply with both the old and new provisions. At the same time, the settlement framework offers a quicker route to resolve cases, reducing the burden of long investigations.

Comparison with International Competition Laws

The Competition Act, 2002 bare act with summary PDF was drafted keeping

in mind the global best practices in antitrust law. While it reflects India's economic realities, the Act also aligns closely with competition laws in other jurisdictions such as the United States and the European Union. Comparing these frameworks highlights both the strengths of Indian law and the areas where it continues to evolve.

United States antitrust laws

The U.S. has some of the oldest and most influential antitrust laws, beginning with the Sherman Act of 1890 and the Clayton Act of 1914. These laws are aimed at preventing monopolisation, price-fixing, and unfair mergers. Key features include:

- Strict enforcement against cartels and monopolisation.
- Private enforcement, where consumers and businesses can directly sue for damages.
- Focus on consumer welfare, using economic analysis to measure harm.

Compared to the U.S., the Competition Commission of India CCI role and powers is primarily public enforcement, though its investigative and adjudicatory functions are similar in spirit.

European Union competition law

The EU's competition framework, under Articles 101 and 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), is another global benchmark. It deals with anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominance, and state aid. Distinctive features include:

- Emphasis on market integration across member states.
- Severe penalties on multinational corporations for global cartels.
- Pre-notification merger control with detailed assessment of competitive effects.

The Indian law mirrors the EU approach to merger regulation, with pre-approval requirements and the authority to impose conditions. These parallels are often captured in the Competition Act 2002 compliance and enforcement

guide, which contextualises Indian provisions in the global framework.

Lessons for India

India's competition law is younger than its Western counterparts, but it is catching up quickly. Some lessons from international practice include:

- Encouraging private enforcement to complement CCI's role.
- Building greater expertise in handling digital market dominance.
- Strengthening international cooperation to deal with cross-border cartels.

Simplified resources like the Competition law in India summary Corrida Legal often highlight these lessons, making it easier for businesses to understand how India compares with global trends.

Conclusion

The Competition Act, 2002 bare act with summary PDF has transformed India's approach to regulating markets by moving beyond the outdated framework of the MRTP Act. It introduced a proactive system focused on preventing anti-competitive practices, safeguarding consumer interests, and encouraging fair play in the economy. Over the last two decades, the Act has not only provided stability but also created a legal environment that supports innovation and growth.

Lasting impact of the Act

The law has had a multi-dimensional impact on India's economy:

- It has curbed cartels and anti-competitive agreements, ensuring fair pricing.
- It has checked abuse of dominance, keeping powerful enterprises accountable.
- It has regulated mergers and acquisitions, preventing harmful concentration of market power.

- It has promoted consumer welfare by ensuring choice, quality, and transparency.

Simplified resources like the Competition law in India summary Corrida Legal make these outcomes accessible for business owners, students, and compliance professionals who cannot go through the bare act line by line.

Strengthening the role of CCI

The Competition Commission of India CCI role and powers have been central to the Act's success. From investigating cartels to overseeing large corporate mergers, the CCI has developed into a robust regulator capable of tackling modern market challenges. At the same time, judicial oversight ensures that enforcement remains fair and balanced.

Preparing for the future

As markets become more digital and globalised, the law must continue to evolve. The recent amendments, such as those addressing hub-and-spoke cartels and introducing settlement mechanisms, are steps in the right direction. For compliance officers and legal teams, guidance from the Competition Act 2002 compliance and enforcement guide has become indispensable to stay aligned with these changes.

Key takeaway

The Competition Act, 2002 remains the backbone of India's competition policy. Its focus on consumer welfare, market efficiency, and fair trade ensures that India's economy is competitive at both domestic and international levels. By balancing enforcement with advocacy, the Act continues to shape a business environment where innovation thrives and monopolistic tendencies are checked.



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