

All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968

The All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968 establish a comprehensive code of ethics and professional standards for members of the All India Services (IAS, IPS, and Indian Forest Service), aiming to ensure integrity, impartiality, and devotion to duty.

Key Provisions

The rules cover various aspects of an officer's conduct:

- **General Conduct (Rule 3):** Mandates that every member of the Service shall at all times maintain absolute integrity, devotion to duty, and do nothing which is unbecoming of a government servant. They must uphold constitutional values and act with fairness and impartiality.
- **Employment of Near Relatives (Rule 4):** Prohibits an officer from using their position to secure employment for family members in private firms or non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Previous government sanction is required if a family member accepts employment with an entity having official dealings with the government.
- **Taking Part in Politics and Elections (Rule 5):** Strictly prohibits officers from being members of or associated with any political party or organization that engages in politics. They cannot take part in, canvass for, or use their influence in connection with any election.
- **Connection with Press or Radio (Rule 6):** Officers may publish a book or participate in public media in a bona fide discharge of duties, but must clarify that the views expressed are personal and not those of the Government.
- **Criticism of Government (Rule 7):** Members are forbidden from making any statement in public media or utterances that has the effect of an adverse criticism of any current or recent policy or action of the Central or State Government, or that embarrasses inter-governmental relations.
- **Unauthorized Communication of Information (Rule 9):** Officers may not communicate any official document or information to any unauthorized person unless in the good faith performance of their duties or with special government order.
- **Gifts (Rule 11):** Acceptance of gifts is restricted to those from near relatives or personal friends on appropriate occasions (weddings, funerals, etc.). Gifts

exceeding a specified value (e.g., Rs 25,000 in certain cases) must be reported to the government. The demanding or accepting of dowry is strictly prohibited.

- **Private Trade or Employment (Rule 13):** Officers cannot engage directly or indirectly in any trade or business or undertake any other employment without the government's prior sanction. They may, however, undertake honorary social or charitable work and occasional literary or artistic activities without sanction, provided official duties are not affected.
- **Investment, Lending, and Borrowing (Rule 14):** Speculation in stocks/shares is prohibited. Officers must avoid habitual indebtedness or insolvency.
- **Movable and Immovable Property (Rule 16):** Members must submit annual returns of their immovable property. Acquisition or disposal of immovable property requires prior government knowledge (and sanction if dealing with a person having official dealings or if the transaction value exceeds a set limit).

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