



READY RECKONER ON OFFENCES RELATING TO COINS, CURRENCY NOTES, BANK NOTES, AND GOVERNMENT STAMPS

Under the BNS Act Offences related to coins, currency notes bank notes and government stamps have been defined under Chapter- X from Sections 178 to 188. A few provisions have been amended either with the quantum of punishments or the addition of new words in the existing IPC provisions (fine or Imprisonment).

BNS 178. (IPC Section 230, 231, 232, 246, 247, 248, 249, 255, 489A, 489B,489C,489D)

Counterfeiting coins, Government stamps, currency notes or bank notes.

The punishment for the offence has been increased with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten (Seven) years, and shall also be liable to fine.

The following additions of phrases have been made:-

178(2) (IPC Section 230) "coin" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in section 2* of the Coinage Act, 2011 (11 of 2011) and includes metal used for the time being as money and is stamped and issued by or under the authority of any State or Sovereign Power intended to be so used;

178 (3) (IPC Section 255) a person commits the offence of "counterfeiting Government stamp" who counterfeits by causing a genuine stamp of one denomination to appear like a genuine stamp of a different denomination;

178 (4) (231 explanation) a person commits the offence of counterfeiting coin who intending to practice deception, or knowing it to be likely that deception will thereby be practiced, causes a genuine coin to appear like a different coin; and

178 (5) the offence of "counterfeiting coin" includes diminishing the weight or alteration of the composition, or alteration of the appearance of the coin.

BNS 179. IPC Section 489B

Using as genuine, forged or counterfeit coin, Government stamp, currency-notes or bank-notes.

Whoever imports or exports, or sells or delivers to, or buys or receives from, any other person, or otherwise traffics or uses as genuine, any forged or counterfeit coin, stamp, currency-note or bank-note, knowing or having reason to believe the same to be forged or counterfeit, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term Which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

BNS 180. IPC Section 489C

Possession of forged or counterfeit coin, Government stamp, currency-notes or bank-notes.

Whoever has in his possession any forged or counterfeit coin, stamp, currency-note or bank-note, knowing or having reason to believe the same to be forged or counterfeit and intending to use the same as genuine or that it may be used as genuine, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, or with fine, or with both.

Explanation. If a person establishes the possession of the forged or counterfeit coin, stamp, currency-note or bank-note to be from a lawful source, it shall not constitute an offence under this section.

Amendment in law: In order to constitute an offence possession of counterfeit currency note has to be accompanied by the intention to use the same as genuine.

Prescribed fines

BNS 181. IPC Section 489D

Making or possessing instruments or materials for forging or counterfeiting coin, Government stamp, currency-notes or bank-notes.

The term any coin, stamp issued by Government for the purpose of revenue, currency-note or bank-note, has been added and shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

182. (1) (IPC 489E) Making or using documents resembling currency notes or bank notes.

The amount of fine for making or using documents resembling currency notes or bank notes increased from Rs 100 to Rs. 300. Additionally, the fine for refusal to disclose the name and address of the printer increased from Rs 200 to Rs 600.

BNS 186(4) IPC Section 263A Prohibition of fictitious stamps.

In this section and also in sections 178 to 181 (both inclusive), and sections 183 to 185 (both inclusive) the word "Government", when used in connection with, or about any stamp issued to denote a rate of Postage, shall, notwithstanding anything in clause (12) of section 2, be deemed to include the person or persons authorized by law to administer executive Government in any part of India or in any foreign country.