CHAPTER ciii.

An Act to provide for the merger of the separate undertaking and the general undertaking of the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Company to confer further powers upon that Company and for other purposes. A.D. 1926.

[4th August 1926.]

WHEREAS the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Company (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") were incorporated by the Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Act 1903 under the name of the Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Company and were by that Act empowered to supply electricity to authorised undertakers and to persons requiring a supply for power within an area of supply comprising the counties of Salop and Worcester:

And whereas by subsequent Acts the name of the Company was changed to its present name and the area of supply was extended so as to include part of the county of Stafford and further powers were conferred upon the Company:

And whereas in exercise of powers conferred on them by the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Act 1919 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act of 1919") the Company by a resolution passed at a general meeting convened pursuant to section 16 of the Act of 1919 and held on the thirty-first day of October

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one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two constituted as a separate undertaking of the Company a part of their undertaking (in the said Act referred to as "the Severn main power supply") consisting of a generating station or stations to be erected under powers conferred by the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Act 1918 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act of 1918") and a railway siding authorised by the last-mentioned Act and certain other works and certain lands and buildings and extra high-pressure cables and other apparatus and allocated to the said separate undertaking a part of the capital and moneys authorised by the Act of 1919 and previous Acts to be raised by the Company by shares stock debenture stock or borrowing as a separate capital of the Company applicable to the purposes of the said separate undertaking:

And whereas by the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Act 1923 the Company were empowered to construct certain additional works and to acquire certain lands and it was provided that the separate undertaking constituted as aforesaid should comprise the said works and lands in addition to the buildings works and other property comprised in the said separate undertaking as so constituted and the Company were empowered (inter alia) to subscribe for or purchase and hold shares in the said separate undertaking and general powers of distribution were conferred upon the Company in respect of a part of their area of supply:

And whereas the Company have borrowed money on mortgage of the said separate undertaking and since the constitution of that undertaking have created and issued redeemable debenture stock constituting a charge upon the remainder of their undertaking and twenty-five thousand ordinary shares in the capital allocated to the said separate undertaking as aforesaid have been issued to and are held by the Halesowen Lighting and Traction Company Limited as nominees of the Company:

And whereas in connection with the mortgages granted by the Company of the said separate undertaking certain agreements were entered into pursuant to which the Company as representing the said separate undertaking agreed to erect the generating station authorised by the Act of 1918 and to supply to the said Halesowen Lighting and Traction Company Limited electricity in

bulk and that company agreed to supply electricity to the Company for distribution by them:

And whereas it is expedient that the said separate undertaking should be merged with the remainder of the undertaking of the Company and that the provisions consequential upon or rendered necessary by such merger which are contained in this Act should be enacted:

And whereas under the authority of the Statutory Companies (Redeemable Stock) Act 1915 the Company in the year one thousand nine hundred and seventeen created and issued certain redeemable preference shares which shares have been or will shortly be redeemed:

And whereas it is expedient for the removal of doubts as to the effect of the creation and issue and subsequent redemption of the said redeemable preference shares upon the powers of the Company of creating and issuing capital that the provisions contained in this Act defining the extent of the powers exerciseable from time to time by the Company of creating and issuing capital should be enacted:

And whereas the Company are the undertakers for the purposes of certain Provisional Orders or Special Orders made under the Electricity (Supply) Acts 1882 to 1922 and it is expedient that the powers and provisions with reference to the undertakings authorised by those Orders should be conferred and enacted:

And whereas it is expedient that the other provisions contained in this Act should be made:

And whereas the purposes aforesaid cannot be effected without the authority of Parliament:

May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows (that is to say):—

Part I.

Preliminary.

Short and collective titles.

1. This Act may be cited as the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Act 1926 and the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric

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Power Acts 1903 to 1923 and this Act may be cited together as the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Acts 1903 to 1926.

Act divided into Parts.

2. This Act is divided into Parts as follows :—

Part I.—Preliminary.

Part II.—Merger of separate undertaking with general undertaking.

Part III.—Miscellaneous.

Incorporation and application of Acts.

3.—(1) The Lands Clauses Acts (other than the provisions thereof relating to the purchase and taking of lands otherwise than by agreement) so far as the same are applicable for the purposes and are not inconsistent with or varied by the provisions of this Act are hereby incorporated with and form part of this Act.

(2) The provisions of the Companies Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 with respect to—

The general meetings of the Company and the exercise of the right of voting by the shareholders;

The giving of notices; and

The provision to be made for affording access to the special Act by all parties interested

shall apply to the Company in respect of the provisions of this Act.

Interpretation.

4. In this Act the several words terms and expressions to which meanings are assigned by the Electricity (Supply) Acts 1882 to 1922 or the Electric Lighting (Clauses) Act 1899 have the same respective meanings unless there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction And in this Act unless the subject or context otherwise requires :—

"The Company" means the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Company;

"The directors" means the directors for the time being of the Company;

"The Act of 1919" means the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Act 1919;

"The Act of 1923" means the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Act 1923;

"The separate undertaking" and "the general undertaking" have the same respective meanings as are assigned to those expressions by the Act of 1923;

"The whole undertaking" means the undertaking of the Company as constituted for the time being comprising the separate undertaking and the general undertaking;

"The date of merger" means the first day of January one thousand nine hundred and twenty-six.

PART II.

MERGER OF SEPARATE UNDERTAKING WITH GENERAL UNDERTAKING.

Merger of separate undertaking with general undertaking.

5.—(1) The resolution of the Company passed at a general meeting convened pursuant to section 16 (Power to constitute separate undertaking) of the Act of 1919 and held on the thirty-first day of October one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two constituting the separate undertaking is hereby annulled as from the date of merger.

(2) As from the date of merger—

(*a*) the separate undertaking shall be merged with the general undertaking and the separate undertaking and the general undertaking shall together constitute the undertaking of the Company for all purposes; and

(*b*) all property assets effects rights easements and privileges whatsoever and wheresoever belonging to or enjoyed by the Company as representing or in respect of the separate undertaking or the general undertaking shall be held and enjoyed by the Company as representing or in respect of the whole undertaking.

(3) The annulment by subsection (1) of this section of the resolution referred to in that subsection and the operation of the provisions of subsection (2) of this section shall be without prejudice to anything lawfully done before the date of the passing of this Act under or pursuant to the said resolution.

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Certain agreements to be annulled.

6.—(1) The agreements referred to in the next following table are hereby annulled but without prejudice to anything lawfully done in pursuance thereof before the date of the passing of this Act:—

Date.	Parties.
2nd November 1922 -	(1) The Company as representing the separate undertaking. (2) The Halesowen Lighting and Traction Company Limited.
2nd November 1922 -	(1) The Halesowen Lighting and Traction Company Limited. (2) The Company.

(2) Paragraph 3 of the agreement dated the first day of November one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two and made between the Company of the one part and the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury of the other part shall cease to have effect.

As to contracts debts &c. relating to separate undertaking and general undertaking.

7.—(1) Except as provided by the section of this Act of which the marginal note is "Certain agreements to be annulled" all contracts agreements conveyances deeds leases mortgages and other instruments relating to or affecting only the separate undertaking or the general undertaking as distinguished from the separate undertaking and to which the Company are a party shall continue to be binding and of full force and effect against or in favour of the Company but (except as provided by the section of this Act of which the marginal note is "Saving certain charges on separate undertaking and general undertaking") shall subject to the express provisions of this Act be construed as relating to or affecting the whole undertaking instead of the separate undertaking or the general undertaking as the case may be.

(2) All debts and liabilities incurred by the Company as representing or in respect of the separate undertaking or the general undertaking otherwise than under any such instrument as is referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall continue to be debts and liabilities of the Company but shall affect the whole undertaking instead of the separate undertaking or the general undertaking (as the case may be) alone.

Pending actions &c. not to abate.

8. If at the date of the passing of this Act any action arbitration or proceeding or any cause of action arbitration or proceeding is pending or existing by or against or in favour of the Company as representing the separate undertaking or the general undertaking the same shall not abate or be discontinued or be in anywise prejudicially affected by reason of the merger of the separate undertaking with the general undertaking under the provisions of this Act but the same may be continued prosecuted and enforced by against or in favour of the Company as representing the whole undertaking as and when it might have been continued prosecuted and enforced by against or in favour of the Company as representing the separate undertaking or the general undertaking if this Act had not been passed.

Collection of outstanding debts.

9. All rents rates and charges and other sums and debts at the date of the passing of this Act due and payable or accruing due and payable to the Company in respect of the separate undertaking or the general undertaking shall be payable to and may be collected recovered and enforced by the Company in respect of the whole undertaking and applied by them for the purposes thereof.

Cancellation of issued shares in capital of separate undertaking.

10. The twenty-five thousand ordinary shares in the capital of the separate undertaking issued to the Halesowen Lighting and Traction Company Limited and now held by that company as nominees of the Company are hereby cancelled and shall cease to confer any rights whatsoever upon the holders thereof or other parties interested therein.

As to capital and borrowing powers allocated to separate undertaking.

11.—(1) The allocation by the Company by the resolution referred to in the section of this Act of which the marginal note is "Merger of separate undertaking with general undertaking" of one hundred and fifty thousand shares of one pound each as the separate capital to be applied to the purposes of the separate undertaking and of the sum of eight hundred and fifty thousand pounds as the amount which might be borrowed by the Company on mortgage of the separate undertaking or raised by them by the creation and issue of debenture stock and applied to the said purposes is hereby annulled and the provisions of section 17 (As to separate capital) of the Act of 1919 shall cease to have effect.

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(2) The powers of the Company of raising money by the creation and issue of capital and by borrowing on mortgage of the whole undertaking or by the creation and issue of debenture stock and of applying to the purposes of that undertaking any moneys so raised shall be those which would have been exerciseable by them if the said resolution had not been passed and shall not be diminished by the issue and the cancellation by the section of this Act of which the marginal note is "Cancellation of issued shares in capital of separate undertaking" of the twenty-five thousand ordinary shares referred to in that section Provided that the powers of the Company of borrowing on mortgage of the whole undertaking or of raising money by the creation and issue of debenture stock constituting a charge on that undertaking shall be deemed to have been exercised—

(*a*) (so long as any mortgage existing at the date of the passing of this Act and constituting a charge solely upon the separate undertaking or upon any assets property or rights comprised therein or in connection therewith shall not have been paid off) to the extent of the amount of principal for the time being remaining to be repaid under such mortgage; and

(*b*) (so long as any redeemable debenture stock existing at the date of the passing of this Act and constituting a charge solely upon the general undertaking shall be outstanding) to the extent of the nominal amount of such debenture stock for the time being so outstanding

in addition to the amount raised by any mortgage of the whole undertaking or the creation and issue of debenture stock constituting a charge on that undertaking and for the time being outstanding.

Application of revenue of whole undertaking.

12.—(1) As from the date of merger so much of the revenue of the whole undertaking as is available for the payment of interest on the mortgages and debenture stock of the Company referred to in this section and of any instalments of principal moneys secured by such mortgages and of any contributions to a fund or funds for the redemption of such debenture stock (which portion of the said revenue is in this section referred to as "the available revenue") shall from time to time

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be applicable to the requisite extent in the manner and proportions hereinafter specified so long as the said mortgages or any of them and the said debenture stock or any part thereof shall be outstanding (that is to say):—

(*a*) There shall be applicable to the payment in respect of any half year of any instalment of principal and interest under the mortgages of the Company outstanding at the date of merger and immediately before that date constituting a charge solely on the separate undertaking—

(i) such part (but not being less than forty-two per centum) of the available revenue for that half year as bears to the whole of that revenue the proportion which the output capacity of the Stourport generating station of the Company bears to the aggregate output capacity of all the generating stations of the Company including the said Stourport generating station (which part is in this section referred to as "the mortgagees' share"); and

(ii) so much (if any) of the remainder of the available revenue for the said half year as may be requisite for making good any amount by which the mortgagees' share of that revenue falls short of the amount required for the payment of such instalment and as is not required for the payment in respect of that half year of interest on and of any contribution to any fund for the redemption of the debenture stock of the Company outstanding at the date of merger:

(*b*) There shall be applicable to the payment in respect of any half year of any interest on and of any contribution to any fund for the redemption of the debenture stock of the Company outstanding at the date of merger and immediately before that date constituting a charge solely on the general undertaking—

(i) the balance of the available revenue for that half year after deducting therefrom the mortgagees' share of that revenue; and

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(ii) so much (if any) of the mortgagees' share of the available revenue for that half year as may be required for making good any amount by which such balance falls short of the amount required for the payment of such interest and contribution and as is not required for the payment in respect of that half year of any such instalment as is referred to in the foregoing paragraph (*a*).

(2) For the purposes of this section the output capacity of each of the said generating stations in relation to any half year shall be the generating capacity expressed in terms of kilowatts of the whole of the plant installed at such station at the commencement of that half year.

Saving certain charges on separate undertaking and general undertaking.

13. Except as by this Act expressly provided nothing in this Act shall alter or affect—

(*a*) the security for any mortgage or debenture stock granted or issued by the Company and constituting a charge upon the separate undertaking or the general undertaking or upon any assets property or rights comprised therein respectively; or

(*b*) the rights or remedies under or in connection with any such mortgage or debenture stock of the holders thereof.

Power to make adjustments in accounts.

14. The Company may make all such entries and adjustments in the balance sheet and accounts relating to the whole undertaking as they may deem necessary or expedient in consequence of or in order to give effect to the provisions of this Act.

PART III.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Relief from obligation to keep separate accounts.

15.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 9 of the Electric Lighting Act 1882 (as amended by section 6 of the Schedule to the Electric Lighting (Clauses) Act 1899) in its application to the Company in respect of the several undertakings belonging to them it shall not be necessary for the Company to fill up a separate annual statement of accounts in respect of each of the undertakings for which they are for the time being

the undertakers but they shall fill up one annual statement of account in respect of all such undertakings including the whole undertaking and undertakings authorised by Provisional Orders or Special Orders under the Electricity (Supply) Acts 1882 to 1922 (whether granted to the Company or to any other company or any local authority body or person by whom the undertaking thereby authorised has been or may be transferred to the Company) and the distribution undertaking authorised by section 35 (General powers of distribution in part of area of supply) of the Act of 1923.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this section the provisions of the said section 9 of the Electric Lighting Act 1882 (as amended as aforesaid) shall extend and apply to each annual statement of account to be filled up pursuant to this section.

Power to invest in other undertakings.

16.—(1) The provisions of section 23 (Company may apply capital in purchase of and may hold &c. shares and securities of electrical distribution undertakings in area of supply) of the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Act 1906 shall extend to enable the Company to exercise with reference to—

(*a*) any electrical distribution company or undertaking whose area of supply is either within or contiguous to the area of supply of the Company; or

(*b*) any company or body owning or working a canal situate wholly or partly within the area of supply of the Company and upon which traffic is conveyed to or from any generating station of the Company; or

(*c*) any company or body taking or having agreed to take from the Company a supply of electricity exceeding five hundred thousand Board of Trade units per annum or a minimum demand of three hundred kilowatts

the powers conferred by the said section with reference to any electrical distribution company or undertaking within the area of supply of the Company and the said section shall apply and have effect accordingly.

(2) The Company may apply for the purposes of the said section 23 as extended by this section any of their

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capital or funds for the time being available Provided that except for the purpose of subscribing for taking purchasing or acquiring any shares stock mortgages or debenture stock of any electrical distribution company or undertaking whose area of supply is within the area of supply of the Company the amount so applied shall not at any one time exceed—

(*a*) in the aggregate the sum of five hundred thousand pounds; or

(*b*) in the case of any one company body or undertaking the sum of one hundred thousand pounds.

(3) For the purposes of the said section 23 as extended by this section the area of supply of the Company shall be deemed to include the area of supply under any Provisional Order or Special Order for which the Company are for the time being the undertakers and any area within which the Company are for the time being authorised to supply electricity by any order or consent of the Electricity Commissioners.

Additional powers of acquiring undertakings.

17. The provisions of section 5 (Transfer of undertakings of local authorities and others to Company) of the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Act 1905 as amended by section 5 (Application of section 5 of Act of 1905 to extended limits of supply) of the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Act 1906 shall extend to enable the Company to acquire by agreement and any undertakers to whom the Company are for the time being supplying or empowered to supply electricity in bulk or whose undertaking is for the time being managed by the Company to transfer to the Company the undertaking of such undertakers or any part of such undertaking and the powers conferred upon the Company by the said section 5 with respect to any undertakings acquired by them under the provisions of that section shall be exerciseable by the Company with respect to any undertakings acquired by them under the provisions of this section Provided that no such undertakers as aforesaid shall exercise the powers of this section except with the approval of the Electricity Commissioners and that any such transfer as aforesaid shall be effected by deed to be approved by the said commissioners.

Power to manage undertakings or generating stations &c. of other undertakers.

18. The Company and the undertakers under any Provisional Order or Special Order made under the Electricity (Supply) Acts 1882 to 1922 relating to any district or place within or contiguous to the area of supply for the time being of the Company (including for the purposes of this section the area of supply under any Provisional Order or Special Order for which the Company are for the time being the undertakers and any area within which the Company are for the time being authorised to supply electricity by any order or consent of the Electricity Commissioners) may with the approval of the said commissioners enter into and carry into effect agreements and arrangements for and with respect to the management by the Company of the whole or part of the undertaking or any generating station sub-station or other works of such other undertakers upon and subject to such terms and conditions as may be agreed between the Company and such other undertakers.

Extending powers of user of generating station sites.

19. The Company may on any lands authorised to be used for the erection and working of a generating station or generating stations (in this section referred to as a "generating station site") for the time being belonging to them (in addition to exercising any other powers vested in them) make produce work up convert store and utilise and may sell and deal in any products directly or indirectly arising in the generation of electricity by the Company and may also on any such generating station site erect provide lay down maintain and use buildings machinery works plant apparatus and conveniences and do all such acts as may be necessary for making producing working up converting storing utilising and selling any such products as aforesaid but save as aforesaid shall not on any such generating station site manufacture any by-products of coal or other minerals or electro-chemical electro-metallurgical or atmospheric products.

Extending powers of supply in bulk.

20.—(1) The powers conferred upon the Company by section 52 (Agreements with contiguous authorised undertakers for supply of energy) of the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Act 1906 shall extend to enable the Company with the approval of the Electricity Commissioners to enter into and carry into effect such arrangements and agreements as are

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referred to in that section with any authorised undertakers whose area of supply is contiguous to—

(*a*) the area of supply under any Provisional Order or Special Order made under the Electricity (Supply) Acts 1882 to 1922 for which the Company are for the time being the undertakers; or

(*b*) the area of supply of any authorised undertakers to whom the Company are for the time being supplying electricity in bulk under the authority of any consent or order given or made under the Electricity (Supply) Acts 1882 to 1922; or

(*c*) the area of supply for the purposes of any undertaking which is for the time being managed by the Company.

(2) Nothing in this section shall confer upon the Company any powers of breaking up any streets or roads except such as the Company are or may be authorised to break up.

For protection of Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution Limited.

21. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act the provisions of section 8 (For protection of Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution Limited) of the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Act 1906 shall continue to apply and remain in full force and effect as though the same were re-enacted in this Act and in construing such section the provisions thereof shall be deemed to apply not only to any part of the area of supply of the said Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution Limited as existing at the date of the passing of this Act but also to any part of any extended area of the said corporation under any Act or Order passed or to be passed and nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to defeat lessen prejudice or alter or impair take away or affect any of the rights powers and privileges vested in or enjoyed by the said corporation.

Limitation on exercise of powers of Company.

22. Such part of the area of supply of the Company as is situate within the North-West Midlands Electricity District as provisionally determined by the Electricity Commissioners shall be excluded from that area of supply and the Company shall not exercise any of their powers

under the Shropshire Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Acts 1903 to 1926 within that district.

For protection of West Midlands Joint Electricity Authority.

23. Nothing in this Act shall confer upon the Company any powers which would not have been exerciseable by them if this Act had not been passed of supplying electricity within or for use within the West Midlands Electricity District constituted by the West Midlands Electricity District Order 1925 except with the consent of the West Midlands Joint Electricity Authority.

For protection of West Gloucestershire Power Company Limited.

24. For the protection of the West Gloucestershire Power Company Limited (hereinafter referred to as "the West Gloucestershire Company") the following provisions shall unless otherwise agreed in writing between the Company and the West Gloucestershire Company have effect (that is to say) :—

Nothing in this Act shall extend to enable the Company to enter into any agreement for the supply of electricity in bulk or otherwise contrary to or in variation of the provisions of the agreement dated the sixteenth day of April one thousand nine hundred and twenty-five and made between the Company of the one part and the West Gloucestershire Company of the other part.

Purchase of lands by agreement.

25. The Company may for the purposes of the whole undertaking purchase and take (by agreement but not otherwise) and may hold in addition to any other lands belonging to them or which they are authorised to purchase or acquire at the passing of this Act any lands and hereditaments within any area or areas within which the Company are for the time being authorised to supply electricity not exceeding in the whole two hundred acres which they may require for the purposes of their works or of the said undertaking but the Company shall not create or permit a nuisance on any lands purchased under the powers of this section.

Defining powers of raising additional capital.

26. It is hereby declared that the extent of the powers of raising additional capital from time to time exerciseable by the Company is the amount (if any) by which the nominal amount of the whole of their authorised capital for the time being exceeds the aggregate nominal amount of the ordinary and preference shares or stock of the Company for the time being outstanding.

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Voting rights.

27. For the purposes of section 75 of the Companies Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 the prescribed scale of voting as respects the ordinary shares of the Company and (for the purpose of any right of voting for the time being exerciseable by the holders of any preference shares of the Company) as respects such preference shares shall be one vote for every share irrespective of the number of such shares held by any shareholder.

Power to grant pensions &c.

28.—(1) The directors may and shall be deemed always to have been empowered to grant such gratuities pensions or allowances or make such other payments as they may think fit to any employees of the Company.

(2) The directors may enter into and carry into effect agreements with any insurance company or other association or company for securing to any such employee as aforesaid such gratuities pensions allowances or payments as are by this section authorised to be granted or made and may for all or any of the purposes of this section apply the funds and revenues of the Company.

(3) In this section the word "employee" includes any officer or servant.

Profit-sharing.

29. The directors may prepare put in force and from time to time modify alter or rescind a scheme or schemes (temporary or permanent) enabling the officers servants workmen and other employees of the Company (in this section called "employees") or any class or classes of such employees as may be defined in such scheme or schemes to participate in the profits of the undertakings of the Company or some of those undertakings as part of the terms of remuneration for the services of any such employee.

Costs of Act.

30. All costs charges and expenses of and incident to the preparing for obtaining and passing of this Act or otherwise in relation thereto shall be paid by the Company.

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