

Twelfth Kerala Legislative Assembly
Bill No. 2

THE KERALA SURVEY AND BOUNDARIES (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2006

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further to amend the Kerala Survey and Boundaries Act, 1961.

Preamble.—WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Kerala Survey and Boundaries Act, 1961 for the purposes hereinafter appearing ;

BE it enacted in the Fifty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the Kerala Survey and Boundaries (Amendment) Act, 2006.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 6th day of January, 2006.

2. *Amendment of section 13.*—In section 13 of the Kerala Survey and Boundaries Act, 1961 (37 of 1961) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), for the words “is modified by a decree of a civil court” the words “is modified by an order of the Collector under section 13A or is modified by a decree of a civil court” shall be substituted.

3. *Insertion of new section 13A.*—After section 13 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“13A. *Power of revision by the Collector.*—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 13, the Collector may *suo motu* or by an application from any person, examine the record in respect of the determination of any boundary which has been completed and the fact of such completion has been notified under section 13, to satisfy himself as to the legality of the determination of such boundary, and if, in any case, the Collector is satisfied that the determination of such boundary should be modified or revised, on the ground of any discrepancy, inaccuracy, defect or mistake of any kind crept in such determination, he may pass orders accordingly:

Provided that the Collector shall not pass any order affecting any party unless such party has had an opportunity of making a representation.

(2) Where determination of any boundary is modified or revised by an order under sub-section (1), the Survey Officer shall publish the fact of such modification or revision in the Gazette and also in the notice board of the Village Office to which the survey relates.”.

4. *Amendment of section 14.*—In section 14 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1),—

(1) after the words and figures “or section 11”, the words and figures “or aggrieved by an order passed by the Collector under sub-section (1) of section 13A” shall be inserted ;

(2) after the words and figures “under section 13”, the words and figures “or under sub-section (2) of section 13A, as the case may be”, shall be inserted.

5. *Repeal and Saving.*—(1) The Kerala Survey and Boundaries (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006 (26 of 2006) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or deemed to have been done any action taken or deemed to have been taken under the principal Act as amended by the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have done or taken under the principal Act as amended by this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

As per section 13 of the Kerala Survey and Boundaries Act, 1961 (Act 37 of 1961) when the survey of any land or boundary which has been notified and completed, unless the surveys thus notified is modified by a decree of a civil court, shall be conclusive proof that the survey and boundary so determined and recorded have been correctly determined and recorded. The land owners are put into genuine difficulties as they have to approach the civil courts to rectify the defects on account of the mistakes crept in the resurvey records which have been notified under section 13 of the Survey and Boundaries Act, 1961. The Government, therefore, considered it necessary to empower the District Collectors with revisionary power on the ground of any discrepancy, inaccuracy, defect or mistake of any kind, crept in such determination.

A Bill for the above purpose was published as Bill No. 7 of the Eleventh Kerala Legislative Assembly, but the same could not be introduced in or passed by the Eleventh Kerala Legislative Assembly. As the Legislative Assembly was not in session and the above proposal had to be given effect to immediately,

it was decided to promulgate the same as an Ordinance. Accordingly the Kerala Survey and Boundaries (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006 (26 of 2006) was promulgated by the Governor on the 17th day of March, 2006 and it was published in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No. 602 dated 17th March, 2006.

The Bill seeks to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

The Bill, if enacted and brought into operation, would not involve any additional expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

1. Sub-section (c) of section 13A proposed to be inserted by clause 3 of the Bill seeks to empower the Collector to revise the legality of the determination of boundary notified under section 13 of the Act either *suo motu*, or by an application from any person.

2. Sub-section (2) of the said section proposed to be inserted by clause 3 of the Bill seeks to empower the Survey Officer to publish the fact of modification or revision under sub-clause (1), in the Gazette and also in the notice board of the village office to which the surveys relates.

3. The above are matters of an administrative or routine nature or matters of detail. The delegation of Legislative power is, therefore, of a normal character.

K. P. RAJENDRAN

EXTRACT FROM THE KERALA SURVEY AND BOUNDARIES ACT, 1961
(ACT 37 OF 1961)

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13. *Completion of demarcation to be notified.*—When the survey of any land or boundary which has been notified under section 4 or ordered under section 5 has been completed in accordance with the orders passed under section 9, section 10 or section 11, the Survey Officer shall notify the fact in the Gazette, and a copy of such notification shall be pasted in village office, in any of the villages to which the survey relates. Unless the survey so notified is modified by a decree of a civil court under the provisions of section 14, the record of the survey shall be conclusive proof that the boundaries determined and recorded therein have been correctly determined and recorded.

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14. *Right to institute a suit in respect of boundary of the property surveyed.*—(1) Any person deeming himself aggrieved by the determination of any boundary under section 9, section 10 or section 11 may, subject to the provisions of the law of limitation in force for the time being, institute a suit within one year from the date of the notification under section 13 to set aside or modify the said determination and the survey shall, if necessary, be altered in accordance with the final decree in the suit and the alteration, if any, shall be noted in the records.

(2) In any suit under sub-section (1), the plaintiff shall join as parties to the suit all persons whom he has reason to believe to be interested in the boundary which is subject to the suit.

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