

Twelfth Kerala Legislative Assembly
Bill No. 54

THE VALIAMMA THAMPURAN KOVILAKAM ESTATE AND THE
PALACE FUND (PARTITION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2007

A

BILL

*further to amend the Valiamma Thampuran Kovilakam Estate and the Palace
Fund (Partition) Act, 1961.*

Preamble.— WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Valiamma Thampuran Kovilakam Estate and the Palace Fund (Partition) Act, 1961, for the purpose hereinafter appearing ;

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

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the Valiamma Thampuran Kovilakam Estate and the Palace Fund (Partition) Amendment Act, 2007.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. *Substitution of new section for section 11.*—For section 11 of the Valiamma Thampuran Kovilakam Estate and the Palace Fund (Partition) Act, 1961 (16 of 1961), the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“11. *Amendment of the Proclamation.*—In the Proclamation (IX of 1124) dated the 29th June, 1949, promulgated by the Maharaja of Cochin, in section 4, for the words “among the male members of the family”, the words, “among the members of the family, of whom at least one shall be a woman” shall be substituted.”.

58/2007.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

As per sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Valiamma Thampuran Kovilakam Estate and the Palace Fund Proclamation (IX of 1124), promulgated by His Highness Sree Rama Varma, Maharaja of Cochin, on the 15th day of Mithunam, 1124 (29th day of June, 1949) the estate and the Palace Fund shall vest in a Board to be called "The Palace Administration Board" and such Board shall administer the estate and the Palace Fund, subject to the provisions of the Proclamation. Section 4 of the above proclamation further provides that the Board shall consist of five trustees who shall be nominated by the senior most male member of the family, from among the male members of the family, so as to secure representation as far as possible for each of the four main thavazhies of the family.

The female members of the Kochi Royal Family have requested Government to reconstitute the Palace Administration Board democratically by giving representation to the female members of the family also, in the Palace Administration Board. The Palace Administration Board, in its meeting held on 16th February, 2002 has also resolved to give representation to the female members in the board by amending section 4 of the Proclamation.

The Government have considered their request and found that their request is genuine, especially in view of the fact that women are being given representation in all arena of public life/administration. In order to give representation to the female members of the Kochi Royal Family in the Palace Administration Board, section 4 of the Proclamation has to be amended suitably. Therefore, the Government have decided to substitute section 11 of the Valiamma Thampuran Kovilakam Estate and the Palace Fund (Partition) Act, 1961 (16 of 1961) so as to bring necessary amendments in section 4 of the said proclamation IX of 1124.

The Bill seeks to amend the Valiamma Thampuran Kovilakam Estate and the Palace Fund (Partition) Act, 1961, for the above purpose.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

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

V. S. ACHUTHANANDAN

EXTRACT FROM THE VALIAMMA THAMPURAN KOVILAKAM ESTATE
AND THE PALACE FUND (PARTITION) ACT, 1961.
(ACT 16 OF 1961)

11. *Amendment of Proclamation.*—In the Proclamation (IX of 1124) dated the 29th June, 1949, promulgated by the Maharaja of Cochin,—

(i) in section 2, the word “and” at the end of clause (b) shall ‘be omitted and, after that clause, the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(bb) ‘family’ means the Marumakkathayam joint family consisting of the four main thavazhies of the Ruler of the former State of Cochin within the meaning of clause (22) of article 366 of the Constitution of India;”;

(ii) for the words “Our family”, wherever they occur, the words “the family” shall be substituted;

(iii) for the word “Us”, wherever it occurs, the words ‘the senior most male member of the family’ shall be substituted;

(iv) in section 12, for the words “Our previous sanction”, the words “the previous sanction of the senior most male member of the family” shall be substituted;

(v) in section 17 and 20, for the words “Our approval”, the words “the approval of the senior most male member of the family” shall be substituted;

(vi) in section 22, the words “the estate and the Palace Fund shall be impartible and” shall be omitted;

(vii) section 24 shall be omitted.

EXTRACT FROM THE VALIAMMA THAMPURAN KOVILAKAM
ESTATE AND THE PALACE FUND PROCLAMATION

(IX OF 1124)

3. (1) The Estate and the Palace Fund shall vest in a Board to be called "The Palace Administration Board" and such Board shall administer the Estate and the Palace Fund subject to the provisions of this Proclamation.

(2) The Board shall be a body corporate and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal and shall sue and be sued by the aforesaid name.

4. The Board shall consist of five Trustees who shall be nominated by the senior most male member of the family from among the male members of the family so as to secure representation, as far as possible, for each of the four main thavazhies of the family. One of the Trustees shall be appointed as the President of the Board by the senior most male member of the family.
