

Bill No. VI of 2014

THE DELHI HIGH COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014

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BILL

further to amend the Delhi High Court Act, 1966.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Delhi High Court (Amendment) Act, 2014.

Short title
and com-
mencement.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

26 of 1966. 5

2. In sub-section (2) of section 5 of the Delhi High Court Act, 1966, for the words “rupees twenty lakhs”, the words “rupees two crore”, shall be substituted.

Amendment
of section 5.

3. In the Punjab Courts Act, 1918, as in force in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, in section 25, for the words “rupees twenty lakhs”, the words “rupees two crores” shall be substituted.

Amendment
of Punjab Act
VI of 1918,
as in force in
the National
Capital
Territory of
Delhi.

Power of
Chief Justice
to transfer
pending suits
and proceed-
ings to
subordinate
courts.

4. The Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi may transfer any suit or other proceedings which is or are pending in the High Court immediately before the commencement of this Act to such subordinate court in the National Capital Territory of Delhi as would have jurisdiction to entertain such suit or proceedings had such suit or proceedings been instituted or filed for the first time after such commencement.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Under sub-section (2) of section 5 of the Delhi High Court Act, 1966, the High Court of Delhi has ordinary original civil jurisdiction in respect of suits, the value of which exceeds rupees twenty lakhs. The pecuniary jurisdiction of the High Court of Delhi and District Courts of Delhi was last revised in the year 2003 from rupees five lakhs to twenty lakhs by the Delhi High Court (Amendment) Act, 2003.

2. At present, cases involving even a small property are required to be filed before Delhi High Court as the Delhi High Court has ordinary original civil jurisdiction of the civil suits involving value of rupees twenty lakhs and above. This has increased the work load of the Delhi High Court and on the other hand, poor people living in Delhi have to cover considerable distance to approach Delhi-High Court to seek justice in their cases.

3. The Coordination Committee of Bar Associations of Delhi at various forums has requested for enhancement of pecuniary jurisdiction of District Courts in Delhi. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has considered the request of the Bar Associations of Delhi and requested the Central Government for enhancement of pecuniary jurisdiction of ordinary original jurisdiction of the High Court of Delhi from the existing rupees twenty lakhs to rupees two crore.

4. Accordingly, it has been decided to increase pecuniary jurisdiction of the High Court of Delhi from rupees twenty lakhs to two crore by amending the Delhi High Court Act, 1966 and the Punjab Courts Act, 1918, as in force in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

5. The Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid objects.

NEW DELHI;
The 11th February, 2014.

KAPIL SIBAL

ANNEXURE

EXTRACT FROM THE DELHI HIGH COURT ACT, 1966

(26 OF 1966)

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Jurisdiction of High Court of Delhi.

5. (1) * * * * *

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, the High Court of Delhi shall also have in respect of the said territories ordinary original civil jurisdiction in every suit the value of which exceeds rupees twenty lakhs.

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EXTRACT FROM THE PUNJAB COURTS ACT, 1918

(6 OF 1918)

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Original jurisdiction of District Judge in suits.

25. Except as otherwise provided by any enactment for the time being in force, the court of the District Judge shall have jurisdiction in every original civil suit the value of which does not exceed rupees twenty lakhs.

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RAJYA SABHA

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BILL

further to amend the Delhi High Court Act, 1966.

(Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Law and Justice)