

Under Rule 130 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules, the following Bill which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the Tamil Nadu on 21st February, 2024 is published together with Statement of Objects and Reasons for general information:—

L.A Bill No. 16 of 2024

A Bill further to amend the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959.

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tamil Nadu in the Seventy-fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

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| Tamil Nadu Act 22 of 1959. | <p>1. (1) This Act may be called the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Act, 2024.</p> <p>(2) It shall come into force at once.</p> | Short title and Commencement |
| Tamil Nadu Act 22 of 1959. | <p>2. In section 26 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in sub-section (1), in clause (e), the expression “or is suffering from leprosy or any other loathsome disease” shall be omitted.</p> | Amendment of section 26. |
| Tamil Nadu Act 22 of 1959. | <p>3. In section 53 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2), in clause (f), the expression “or is suffering from leprosy or other loathsome disease” shall be omitted.</p> | Amendment of section 53. |
| Tamil Nadu Act 22 of 1959. | <p>4. In section 66 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), clause (j) shall be omitted.</p> | Amendment of section 66. |

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated.05.07.2018 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.767/2014 has observed that people suffering from leprosy must be treated with equality and directed the State Governments to apprise about the steps taken with regard to the repeal of the provisions where leprosy has been treated as a stigmatic disability.

2. Under clause (e) of sub-section (1) of section 26 of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 (Tamil Nadu Act 22 of 1959), a person shall be disqualified for being appointed as and for being a Trustee of any religious institution if he is suffering from leprosy. Under clause (f) of sub-section (2) of section 53 of the said Act, the appropriate authority may suspend, remove or dismiss any trustee of a religious institution if he is suffering from leprosy. Further, clause (j) of sub-section (1) of section 66 of the said Act provides for establishment and maintenance of asylums exclusively for persons suffering from leprosy.

3. The Government have therefore decided to amend clause (e) of sub-section (1) of section 26 and clause (f) of sub-section (2) of section 53 and also to omit clause (j) of sub-section (1) of section 66 of the said Act so as to eliminate the stigmatic disability and discrimination against the persons suffering from leprosy.

4. The Bill seeks to give effect to the above decision.

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*Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable
Endowments Department.*

Secretariat,
Chennai-600 009,
21st February 2024.

K. SRINIVASAN,
Principal Secretary.