

THE KERALA LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE SOCIETIES REGISTRATION BILL, 2022

A

Bill

to consolidate and unify the laws relating to registration and regulation of societies established for promotion of literature, science, education, music, culture, fine arts or for charitable purposes in the entire State of Kerala.

Preamble. - WHEREAS, it is expedient to provide for the registration and regulation of societies established for promotion of literature, science, education, music, culture, fine arts or for charitable purposes by consolidating and unifying the laws relating to registration and regulation of societies in the entire State of Kerala.

Be it enacted in the Seventy second year of the of the Republic of India as follows:

1. Short title, extent and commencement. - (1) This Act may be called the Kerala Literary, Scientific, Educational and Charitable Societies Registration Act, 2021.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Kerala.

(3) It shall come in to force at once.

2. Definitions. - In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

- (a) "Act" means the Kerala Literary, Scientific, Educational and Charitable Societies Registration Act, 2021;
- (b) "Bye laws" means the bye laws made by the society to regulate the activities of the society;
- (c) "*Governing body*" means the council, directors, committee, trustees or any other body to whom the management is entrusted by the rules, bye-laws or regulations of the society;
- (d) "Inspector General of Registration" means the Inspector General of Registration, Registration Department, Government of Kerala;
- (e) "*Member*" means a person who has been admitted in a society according to the rules, bye-laws or regulations thereof and paid the subscription and entered his name in the roll or list of members thereof and has not been resigned or dismissed in accordance with such bye-laws or regulations;

- (f) "Memorandum of Association" means the memorandum of association of the Society as provided under section 4;
- (g) "Prescribed" means prescribed by Rules made under this Act;
- (h) "Registrar" means the person designated by the Government as Registrar under section 5;
- (i) "Regulation" means the regulations made by the Society to direct and regulate the management of the society and its members;
- (j) "Society" means a society registered or deemed to have been registered under this Act.

3. Societies formed by memorandum of association. - Any fifteen or more persons associated for any purpose as may be described in section 30 of this Act may, by subscribing their names to a memorandum of association and filing the same with the Registrar, form themselves into a society under this Act.

4. Memorandum of association. - (1) The memorandum of association shall contain the following particulars, namely:-

- (a) the name of the society;
- (b) objects of the society;
- (c) the rights and liabilities of the members;
- (d) the names, addresses and occupations of the members of the society who have subscribed their names in the memorandum of association;
- (e) the details of the governing body to whom, by the bye-laws or regulations of the society, the management is entrusted.

(2) A copy of the by-laws or regulations of the society certified to be a correct copy by not less than three members of the governing body shall be filed along with the memorandum of association to the Registrar.

(3) Along with the memorandum of association a declaration showing the details of the assets of the society shall be filed before the Registrar.

5. Registrar. - (1) The Government shall designate the District Registrar of the Registration Department or any other Officer by notification published in the Official Gazette as the Registrar of Societies within his jurisdiction.

(2) He shall maintain a Register for the registration of Societies as may be prescribed.

(3) The Registrar shall keep all applications, records and other documents received under this Act as permanent records in his office.

6. Registration. - (1) The governing body of the Society concerned shall submit an application, in the manner as may be prescribed, along with the memorandum of association, bye-laws or regulations and any other documents as may be prescribed to the Registrar for registration within thirty days of its formation.

(2) The application shall, interalia contain the following particulars, namely:-

- (a) the name and address of the society;
- (b) the name, address and other details of the governing body;
- (c) the approximate value of the movable and immovable property, if any, of the society with detailed list ;
- (d) the name and addresses of the members;
- (e) the nature and objects of the society;
- (f) the charitable or other purposes of the society;
- (g) any other matters as may be prescribed.

(3) On verifying the application and other records submitted under this section, the Registrar shall, after conducting such enquiry as he may deems fit, either register the society on remitting such fee as may be prescribed or for reasons recorded reject the application :

Provided that the Registrar shall, before rejecting the application , afford an opportunity of being heard.

(4) If the application is rejected the order thereof shall be served to the applicant forthwith.

(5) The party aggrieved by the decision of the Registrar under sub-section (3) may file an appeal before the Inspector General of Registration, Government of Kerala within 30 days of receipt of the order of rejection and thereupon he shall, after hearing the parties concerned , pass appropriate orders and the decision of the Inspector General of Registration shall be final.

(6) After registration, the Registrar shall enter the name and other details of the society in the Register maintained for the purpose and shall issue a certificate of registration in the form, as may be prescribed.

7. Office of the society. - (1) A society registered under this Act shall have an office for all its communications and notices.

(2) Notice of any change therein shall be intimated to the Registrar by the governing body of the society within thirty days from the date of change of office of the society and the Registrar shall record the same in the register kept for the purpose.

8. Registration of existing societies registered under any other Act. - (1) Any society already registered under any other Act and in existence at the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to have been registered under this Act. The governing body of such society shall, within six months from the date of coming into force of this Act give a declaration regarding the existence of such society and the details of its office to the Registrar along with the memorandum of association and the bye-laws or regulations and other details and records as provided under section 6 of this Act.

(2) On receipt of the declaration and other records, the Registrar shall, after conducting such enquiry as he deems fit, either accept the declaration or for reasons recorded reject the same:

Provided that the Registrar shall before rejecting the declaration afford an opportunity of being heard.

(3) If the declaration is rejected the order thereof shall be served to the governing body forthwith.

(4) The party aggrieved by the decision under sub sections (2) may file an appeal before the Inspector General of Registration within 30 days of receipt of the order and thereupon he shall, after hearing the parties concerned, pass appropriate orders and the decision of the Inspector General of Registration shall be final.

(5) If the declaration is accepted the Registrar shall, on receipt of such fee as may be prescribed, enter the details of such society in the separate register kept for the purpose and issue a certificate of registration under this Act, in the form as may be prescribed.

(6) Any existing society registered under any other Act fails to comply with sub section (1) shall be deemed to be non-existent under this Act:

Provided that such society may, within six months thereafter, apply before the Registrar, stating reasons for the failure of filing the declaration within the stipulated time limit, for re-registration under this Act, with such fee as may be prescribed, following the procedure provided under section 6 of this Act.

(7) On receipt of the application as above the Registrar shall, after conducting such enquiry as he deems fit, either accept the application or for reasons recorded reject the same:

Provided that the Registrar shall before rejecting the application afford an opportunity of being heard.

(8) If the application is rejected the order thereof shall be served to the society concerned forthwith.

(9) The party aggrieved by the decision under sub section (7) may file an appeal before the Inspector General of Registration within 30 days of receipt of the order and thereupon he shall, after hearing the parties concerned, pass appropriate orders and the decision of the Inspector General of Registration shall be final.

(10) If the application is accepted the Registrar shall, on receipt of such fee as may be prescribed, enter the details of such society in the separate register kept for the purpose and issue a certificate of registration under this Act, in the form as may be prescribed.

9. Society to keep a register of members. - (1) Every society shall have a register of its members wherein the following particulars are entered, namely:-

- (i) the names, addresses and occupation of the members;
- (ii) the date on which each person became a member; and
- (iii) any other particulars as may be prescribed.

(2) Where the Registrar has reason to believe that a member who died, dismissed, expelled or ceased to be a member due to any other reasons, is not removed from the register of members of the society, he shall, after giving an opportunity of being heard, pass orders to remove that member from the register.

(3) If any default is made in complying with the provisions of this section, the Registrar shall impose a penalty, which may extend to one thousand rupees to every member of the governing body who causes the default:

Provided that the Registrar shall, before imposing such penalty, afford an opportunity to each of the Members of the governing body of being heard.

10. General meetings and minutes of proceedings. - (1) It shall be the duty of the governing body of a society to convene the first general body meeting of the society within six months from the date of its registration and thereafter at least once in every year which shall not be beyond the end of every financial year.

(2) At the annual general body meeting so held, election of members to the governing body shall be conducted as provided by the bye-laws or regulations of the society,

(3) The minimum number of members in the governing body shall be five.

(4) A list of the members of the first governing body of a society shall be filed with the Registrar within thirty days from the date of its registration and thereafter the list of the elected or selected members of the governing body shall be filed with the Registrar within thirty days from the date of the annual general body meeting.

(5) Every society shall record minutes of all proceedings of general body meetings in the register kept for the purpose and such minutes shall be signed by the chairman of the meeting and the register shall be kept as a permanent record of the Society.

(6) If the governing body fails to convene the annual general body meeting or in filing the list of members of governing body with the Registrar or recording the minutes of proceedings of general body meetings as provided under this section, the Registrar shall impose a penalty, which may extend to one thousand rupees to every member of the governing body who causes the default.

Provided that the Registrar shall, before imposing such penalty, afford an opportunity to each of the members of the governing body of being heard.

11. Property of society to be vested. - The property, movable and immovable, belonging to a society shall, if not vested in trustees or otherwise, be deemed to be vested in the governing body of such society and in all proceedings, both in civil or criminal, such property shall be described as the property of the society.

12. Suits by or against societies. - Every society may sue or be sued in the name of the president, secretary or trustees, as specified by the bye-laws or regulations of the society and if not so specified in the byelaws or regulation, the governing body may authorize the president, secretary, the trustees or any other office bearer of the society:

Provided that it shall be competent for any person having a claim or demand against the society, to sue the president, secretary or the trustees of the society, as the case may be.

13. Suits not to abate. - No suit or proceedings by or against a society in any civil court shall abate or discontinue by reason of the person by or against whom such suit or proceedings has been brought or continued, died or ceased to represent the society and such suit or proceedings shall be continued by or against the successors of such person.

14. Enforcement of decree against society. - If a decree is against the person or officer named on behalf of the society, such decree shall not be executed against the property, movable or immovable or against the body of such person or officer but against the property of the society only.

15. Books of accounts and other records to be kept by society. - (1) The governing body of a society shall keep proper books of accounts with respect to,-

- (i) all sums of money received and expended for and on behalf of the society;
- (ii) the assets and liabilities of the society; and
- (iii) the minutes of all the meetings.

(2) If any default is made in complying with the provisions under this section, the Registrar shall impose a penalty, which may extend to one thousand rupees to the Society and every member of the governing body who causes default:

Provided that the Registrar shall, before imposing such penalty, shall afford an opportunity to each of the members of the Governing Body of being heard.

16. Annual Accounts and Audit - (1) The governing body of every society shall, at least once in every financial year lay before the annual general body meeting of the society an income and expenditure account and balance sheet relating to that financial year. The governing body of the newly registered society shall, not later than fifteen months after its registration and before the end of the financial year, lay before the annual general body meeting of the society an income and expenditure account and balance sheet relating to the period concerned.

(2) The income and expenditure account and balance sheet shall be audited by an auditor appointed by the general body.

(3) The income and expenditure account and balance sheet shall be signed by at least five members of the governing body of the society.

(4) After laying the income and expenditure account and balance sheet of the society at the annual general body meeting, a copy of the same as approved by the annual general body and duly certified by at least three members of the governing body, shall be filed with the Registrar within thirty days from the date of the Annual general body meeting.

(5) It shall be the duty of the Registrar to verify as to whether the income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet have been filed by the society within the time limit stipulated and has failed to file the copy of balance sheet and audit report as provided under this section. If the Registrar finds that any society has failed to comply with the provisions under this section, he shall, after affording an opportunity of each of the members of the governing body of the society of being heard, impose a penalty which may extend to one thousand rupees to every member of the governing body who causes the default.

17. Recovery of amounts and dues accrued to the society. - Whenever by any bye laws or regulations any amount or dues accrued to the society on account of any default in payment of such amount, the same may be recovered by the society through a Civil Court of competent jurisdiction .

18. Members liable to be sued as strangers. - Any member, who is in arrears of any amount which he is bound to pay as per the provisions of the byelaws or regulations of the society or detain any property of the society in a manner contrary to such byelaws or regulations or commit any waste or destroy any property of the society, may be sued for such arrears or the damage accrued on account of such activities in the manner as may be provided under section 17 of this Act.

19. Members liable to prosecution for offences punishable under Indian Penal Code. - Any member of the society who commits theft or misappropriation of any money or property or willfully commits any waste or destruction of any property belonging to the society or commits forgery of any deed, bond, security or other instrument by utilizing the fund of the society shall be liable to be prosecuted for the respective offences under Indian Penal Code,1860 (Central Act 45 of 1860).

20. Amendments to memorandum, byelaws or regulations of the society. – (1) Whenever it appears to the governing body of a society that it is advisable to amend the memorandum, bye laws or regulations within the meaning of this Act, it may submit the proposal in the general body meeting or in a special general body meeting convened for that purpose and the proposal shall be passed by a special resolution by not less than two-third of the members present and voting at such meeting:

Provided that, no such proposal shall be submitted before the general body meeting unless such proposal shall have been delivered or sent by post to every member of the society ten days prior to the meeting convened for that purpose .

(2) In case the proposal has been passed by the said meeting, the governing body shall submit a true copy of the resolution along with such proposal as passed by the said meeting to the Registrar within thirty days from the date of the meeting at which the resolution was passed.

(3) On receipt of the resolution and the proposal, the Registrar shall, after verifying the records, either accept or reject the amendment and issue an order accordingly:

Provided that, before rejecting the proposal, the Registrar shall afford an opportunity to the governing body of being heard.

(4) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Registrar under sub section (3) may file an appeal before the Inspector General of Registration within 30 days of receipt of the order and his decision shall be final.

(5) On receipt of the order of acceptance under sub section (3) from the Registrar, the governing body of the society concerned shall carry out the amendment within fifteen days from the date of receipt .

(6) A true copy of the memorandum, by-laws or regulations so amended shall be filed with the Registrar within 30 days of carrying out the amendment and the Registrar shall keep it as a permanent record.

(7) No amendment made under this section shall have any effect until the order of acceptance from the registrar has been received by the Society.

(8) If any delay is made in filing a copy of the resolution, proposed amendment and copy of amended memorandum of association, by-laws or regulations , as the case may be, before the registrar, he shall impose a penalty which may extend to one thousand rupees to every member of the governing body who caused the default.

Provided that the Registrar shall, before imposing such penalty, afford an opportunity to each of the members of the governing body of being heard.

21. Societies to alter, extent or abridge their purposes. – (1) Whenever it appears to the governing body of a society that it is advisable to alter, extend or abridge its purposes within the meaning of this Act, it may submit the proposal in the general body meeting or in a special general body meeting convened for that purpose and the proposal shall be passed by a special resolution by not less than two-third of the members present and voting at such meeting:

Provided that, no such proposal shall be submitted before the general body meeting unless such proposal shall have been delivered or sent by post to every member of the society, ten days prior to the meeting convened for that purpose.

(2) In case the proposal has been passed by the said meeting, the governing body shall submit a true copy of the resolution along with such proposal as passed by such meeting to the Registrar within thirty days from the date of the meeting at which the resolution was passed.

(3) On receipt of the resolution and the proposal the Registrar shall, after verifying the records, either accept or reject the alteration and issue an order accordingly:

Provided that, before rejecting the proposal, the Registrar shall afford an opportunity to the governing body of being heard.

(4) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Registrar under sub section (3), may file an appeal before the Inspector General of Registration within 30 days after the receipt of the order and his decision thereon shall be final.

(5) On receipt of the order of acceptance under sub section (3) from the Registrar the Governing body of the society concerned shall carry out the alteration within fifteen days from the date of receipt of such order.

(6) A true copy of the memorandum, byelaws or regulations so altered, shall be filed with the Registrar within 30 days of carrying out the alteration and the Registrar shall keep it as a permanent record.

(7) No alteration made under this section shall have any effect until the order of acceptance from the Registrar has been received by the Society.

(8) If any delay is made in filing a copy of the resolution, proposed alteration and copy of altered memorandum of association, byelaws or regulations , as the case may be, before the registrar, he shall impose a penalty which may extend to one thousand rupees to every member of the governing body who causes the default:

Provided that the Registrar shall, before imposing such penalty, afford an opportunity to each of the members of the governing body of being heard.

22. Amalgamation of societies.- (1) Whenever it appears to the governing body of a society which has been established for any particular purpose that it is advisable to amalgamate the society with any other society within the meaning of this Act, it may submit the proposal in a general body meeting or in a special general body meeting convened for that purpose and the proposal shall be passed by a special resolution by not less than two-third of the members present and voting at such meeting:

Provided that, no such proposal shall be submitted before the general body meeting unless such proposal shall have been delivered or sent by post to every member of the society ten days prior to the meeting convened for that purpose.

(2) The resolution passed under sub section (1) shall be forwarded to the other society to which the amalgamation is intended and that society shall convene a special general body meeting and the proposal shall be passed by a special resolution by not less than two-third of the members present and voting at such meeting:

Provided that, no such proposal shall be submitted before the special general body meeting unless such proposal shall have been delivered or sent by post to every member of the society ten days prior to the meeting convened for that purpose.

(3) The society to which amalgamation is intended shall convene a special general body meeting of both societies and shall place the resolutions passed by both societies and shall pass a joint resolution by not less than two third of the members present and voting at such meeting.

(4) The joint resolution so passed shall be forwarded to the Registrar along with the resolutions of both the societies regarding such amalgamation.

(5) On receipt of the joint resolution the Registrar shall verify the records and after conducting necessary enquiry as he deems fit either accept the proposal or reject the same.

Provided that before rejecting the joint resolution the Registrar shall afford an opportunity to both societies of being heard.

(6) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Registrar under sub section (3) may file an appeal before the Inspector General of Registration within 30 days from the receipt of the order and his decision shall be final.

(7) In the case of accepted resolution the Registrar shall register the details of such amalgamation and make necessary entries in the respective registers of the societies concerned.

(8) No amalgamation made under this section shall have any effect until it has been registered by the Registrar under sub section (7).

(9) On registration of such amalgamation the assets and liabilities of the society amalgamated shall stand transferred and vested with the Society to which amalgamation is effected.

23. Power to call for accounts and inspection of records, etc. - (1) The Registrar or any other officer authorized by the Inspector General of Registration in this behalf may, either suo- motu or on a complaint, call upon the governing body of any society to submit the income and expenditure accounts and the assets and liabilities of the society and also examine the income and expenditure accounts and other registers of the society and submit a report to the Inspector General of Registration on the result of such inspection. The Inspecting Officer may enter the premises of the society and governing body and the members of the governing body of the society shall furnish him with all information he may call for and shall also render him all assistance necessary to enable him to conduct the inspection and make the report. It shall be the duty of the governing body to produce all books, registers and accounts and records in their custody before the inspecting authority and to answer any question relating to the affairs of the society.

(2) Whenever the Inspecting Officer has reason to believe that the books of accounts or other registers and records of the society are withheld or not properly maintained, he may, after recording the reasons thereof, enter, search and seize any such accounts, books, registers and records and submit a report to the Inspector General of Registration along with his findings for further action.

(3) The Inspector General of Registration shall examine the reports submitted by the Inspecting Officer and pass such orders, as he deems fit after hearing the governing body of the society concerned, and initiate such action other than those referred to in clauses (a) to (c) of sub-section (1) of section 27.

24. Power to impose penalty or dismiss any member of the governing body. – (1) If any default is made in complying with the orders of the Inspector General of Registration under section 23, he shall impose a penalty which may extend to five thousand rupees to the members of the governing body after affording an opportunity to such member of being heard.

(2) If such members of the governing body fail to comply with the order imposing penalty under sub section (1) within fifteen days from the date of receipt of the order, the Government may, after affording an opportunity of being heard to the members of the governing body dismiss such members from the governing body of the society.

(3) Any failure on the part of the governing body of the society to carry out the order passed by the Inspector General of Registration under this section shall be treated as a default within the meaning of this section.

(4) A member dismissed from the governing body of such society under sub-section (2) shall be disqualified to be elected or nominated as a member of the governing body for a period of 5 years from the date of such dismissal.

25. Vacancy to be filled up in accordance with the by-laws or regulations of the society. - In cases where a member of the governing body is dismissed under section 24, the vacancy shall be filled up in accordance with the memorandum of association, by-laws or regulations of the society.

26. Dissolution of societies and adjustment of their affairs. – (1) By a special resolution passed by not less than three fourth of the members present and voting in the general body meeting convened for the purpose may decide that the society shall be dissolved and thereupon it would stand dissolved forthwith or at the time specified in the resolution. Thereupon the governing body shall take all necessary steps for the disposal of the property of the society and to settle its claims and liabilities according to the by-laws or regulations applicable to the said society:.

Provided that no such proposal shall be placed before the general body unless such proposal has been sent by post or otherwise to every member of the society ten days prior to the proposed general body meeting.

Provided further that when the Government is a member or a contributor of any society such society shall not be dissolved without the consent of the Government.

(2) Subsequent to the dissolution of the society if any property remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities the same shall not be distributed among the members of the said society but it may be given to some other society having its object similar to the objects of the dissolved society, upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon or to the Government.

(3) Any person aggrieved may file a suit before the Civil Court of competent jurisdiction in the event of any dispute arising in furtherance of the dissolution of the society.

27. Application to Court for dissolution, framing a scheme, etc. - (1) On an application being filed by the Inspector General of Registration or ten per cent of the total members on the rolls of a society to the District Court having jurisdiction, the Court may, after enquiry pass any of the following orders, namely:-

- (a) remove the existing governing body and appoint a new governing body;
- (b) frame a scheme for the better and efficient management of the society; or
- (c) dissolve the society.

(2) Where the application under sub-section (1) is made by the members of the society, the applicants shall deposit in the Court along with the application a sum of rupees ten thousand as security for costs.

28. Appeals against the orders of the District Court . - An appeal shall lie to the High Court from orders passed under section 27 as if they were decrees in suits under Civil Procedure Code, 1908 (Central Act 5 of 1908) and shall be presented within the time prescribed therefor.

29. Inspection of documents. - Any person may inspect all documents filed with the Registrar under this Act on payment of a fee, as may be prescribed, for each inspection, and any person may require a copy or extract of any document or any part of any document to be certified by the Registrar, on payment of three rupee for one page or every hundred words of such copy or extract.

30. Societies which may be registered under this Act . – The following societies may be registered under this Act, namely:-

Charitable societies, societies established for the promotion of science, literature, education, fine arts or the foundation or maintenance of libraries or reading rooms for use among the members or to the public, public museums and galleries of painting and other works of art, collections of natural history, mechanical and philosophical inventions, instruments, designs or for any other similar objects.

31. Mediation and conciliation committee.- (1) The governing body of a society shall constitute a conciliation and mediation committee consisting of three members to settle the disputes referred to it . One of the members of the committee shall be a person qualified in law and others shall be persons who have got experience in conciliation and mediation work.

(2) The functions of the committee shall be in the manner as may be prescribed.

32. Power to Remove difficulties.- (1) Where any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, as occasion may require, by order, do anything lawfully which appears to the Government necessary for the purpose of removing such difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be passed after the expiry of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order passed under sub-section (1) shall be placed before the Legislative Assembly.

33. Power to make Rules.- (1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette make Rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) Every Rule made under this Act shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made, before the legislative assembly, while it is in session, for a total period of 14 days, which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions and if, before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the session immediately following, the legislative assembly makes any modification in the Rule or decides

that the Rule should not be made, the Rule shall therefore have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity or anything previously done under the Rule.

34. Repeal and Savings. -(1) The Travancore- Cochin Literary Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act, 1955 (Act XII of 1955) is hereby repealed.

(2)The Societies Registration Act,1860 (Central Act XXI of 1860) shall have no applicability to the territories comprised in Malabar area as described in the State Re organization Act,1956 .

(3) Notwithstanding such repeal anything done or deemed to have been done or any action taken or deemed to have been taken under the Travancore- Cochin Literary Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act, 1955 (Act XII of 1955) and the Societies Registration Act ,1860(Central Act XXI of 1860) shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The registration of literary, scientific, educational and charitable societies in the State is being governed by the provisions of the Travancore- Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act,1955(Act XII of 1955) in the erstwhile Travancore- Cochin area and the Societies registration Act,1860 in the erstwhile Malabar area.

The existing provisions in the aforesaid Acts are not adequate to meet the present scenario of registration and regulation of societies established for the promotion of literature, science, education, music, culture, fine arts or for other charitable purposes. There are innumerable complaints from the general public with respect to the functioning of various societies established under the existing Statutes. Corruption and malpractices in these sector seems to be exhaustive and some of these organizations misuse their strength for personal benefits. Though steps were taken to consolidate and unify the existing laws relating to the regulation and registration of societies in the State it would not yield a better result so far.

Hence it seems necessary to enact a Law by consolidating and unifying the present statutes relating to registration and regulation of Societies in the entire State. The Law for this respect provides provisions for registration of Societies both existing and newly established, designation of Registrar ,keeping of Registers and records, audit and accounts , inspection, alteration, amendment and amalgamation of Societies, power of dissolution and suspension of unauthorized and illegal societies, constitution of mediation and conciliation committee etc.

In these circumstances Government have decided to enact unified law by consolidating the Travancore- Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act,1955(Act XII of 1955) and repealing the applicability of the Societies Registration Act,1860(Central Act XX1 of 1860) in the erstwhile Malabar area.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above object.