

SHRI JAGANNATH TEMPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

**A
BILL**

FURTHER TO AMEND SHRI JAGANNATH TEMPLE ACT, 1955

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Odisha in the Seventy-third Year of the Republic of India, as follows:-

Short title and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called Shri Jagannath Temple (Amendment) Act, 2022.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 9th January, 2022.

Amendment of section 16.

2. In section 16 of Shri Jagannath Temple Act, 1955, for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

“(2) Save as otherwise provided in this Act, the immovable property taken possession by the Committee may be leased out, sold or otherwise alienated by it, subject to such conditions and exceptions and in such manner as may be prescribed”.

Repeal and Savings.

3. (1) The Shri Jagannath Temple (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022 is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the Shri Jagannath Temple Act, 1955, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the said Act as amended by this Act.

Odisha Act
11 of 1955.

Odisha
Ordinance 2 of
2022.

Odisha Act
11 of 1955.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Shri Jagannath Temple Act, 1955 was enacted with a noble objective to provide better Administration and governance of Shri Jagannath Temple, Puri and its endowments. A provision was made under the section 16 of the said Act to deal with alienation of immovable properties of the Temple. The State Government has formulated a policy in consonance with the Act known as 'Uniform Policy' to sell the lands of the Temple / Shri Jagannath Temple Managing Committee to the persons in long possession of the same on the rate fixed under the Policy in a transparent and convenient manner to both the Temple and the possessor. The said policy has been amended from time to time as per requirement.

It is relevant to note that a large number of land alienation cases are pending particularly in the District of Puri and Khurdha. The State Government in order to expedite the process of land alienation cases feels it proper to delegate powers of sanction in alienating immovable property of the Temple. However, delegation of power cannot be given effect to in view of the specific provisions contained in Section 16 (2) of Shri Jagannath Temple Act, 1955 that previous sanction of the State Government is necessary in all cases of alienation. In order to simplify and expedite the process of alienation the State Government had taken necessary steps to suitably amend the Shri Jagannath Temple Act, 1955.

The amendment of Shri Jagannath Temple Act, 1955 will enable the Committees to sell, lease or alienate the Temple land in a more expeditious and convenient manner.

The Bill seeks to achieve the aforementioned objectives.

[PRATAP JENA]

MEMBER-IN-CHARGE

**STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH NECESSITATED
FOR PROMULGATION OF AN ORDINANCE**

A large number of land alienation cases are pending particularly in the Districts of Puri and Khurda and also in other Districts of the State. For a larger public interest and for expeditious and judicious disposal of the said cases, the State Government decided to amend the Shri Jagannath Temple Act, 1955.

As the matter was urgent and the Odisha Legislative Assembly was not in session then, an Ordinance was promulgated amending the Shri Jagannath Temple Act, 1955.

[PRATAP JENA]
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE

ANNEXURE

Extracts taken from the Shri Jagannath Temple, Act, 1955(O.A. 11 of 1955)

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*	*	*	*
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Alienation of	16(1) *	*	*
Temple	*		
Properties			

(2) Save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act no immovable property taken possession of by the Committee shall be leased out for more than five years or mortgaged, sold or otherwise alienated except with the previous sanction of the State Government.