

Under Rule 130 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules, the following Bill which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tamil Nadu on 13th September, 2021 is published together with Statement of Objects and Reasons for general information:—

L.A. Bill No. 44 of 2021

**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-second Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Act, 2021. *Short title and commencement.*

(2) It shall come into force at once.

*Tamil Nadu Act  
22 of 1959*

2. In section 79-B of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, for sub-section (3) and (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

*Amendment of  
Section 79-B*

“(3) The offence punishable under sub-section (2) shall be cognizable and non-bailable and the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Central Act 2 of 1974) with respect to cognizable and non-bailable offences shall apply to that offence.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

It is brought to notice of the Government that encroachment of the properties belonging to religious institutions are on the increase. As per sub-section (3) of section 79-B of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959 (Tamil Nadu Act 22 of 1959), no Court shall take cognizance of an offence of unlawful possession of any property belonging to a charitable or religious institution or endowment except on the complaint in writing of the Commissioner. The said offence is serious in nature. Hence, it is considered that criminal complaint may be lodged by any person having interest in the affairs of the religious institution against the encroachers. The Government have, therefore, decided to make the above said offence as cognizable and non-bailable and to amend section 79-B of the said Act for the purpose.

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

**P.K. SEKARBABU,**  
*Minister for Hindu Religious and  
Charitable Endowments Department.*

Chennai-600 009,  
13th September 2021.

K. SRINIVASAN,  
*Secretary.*