



The Kerala Official Language (Legislation) Act, 1969

Act 7 of 1969

Keyword(s):

Official Language, Malayalam, English

Amendment appended: 15 of 1973

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ACT 7 OF 1969^[1]

^[2]THE KERALA OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT, 1969

^[3][An Act to provide for the adoption of Malayalam and English as the languages to be used for the official purposes of the State of Kerala]

^[4] [Whereas it is expedient to provide for the adoption of Malayalam and English as the languages to be used for the official purposes of the State of Kerala and to provide for the adoption of Malayalam also as a language to be used in Bills introduced in, or Acts passed by, the Legislature of the State of Kerala or in Ordinances promulgated by the Governor or in subordinate legislation.]

BE it enacted in the Nineteenth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

1. *Short title and commencement.*-^[5]["(1) This Act may be called the Kerala Official Languages Act, 1969."]

- (2) It shall come into force at once.

^[6]["1A. *Malayalam and English to be the official languages of the State.*-Without prejudice to the provisions of articles 346 and 347 of the Constitution, Malayalam and English shall be the languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of the State.

1B. *Government's power to notify the official purposes for which Malayalam or English to be used.*-The Government may, by notification issued from time to time,

direct that Malayalam or English shall be used in respect of such official purposes as may be specified in the notification.

1C. Notification issued under section 1B to be placed before the Legislative Assembly.-Every notification issued under section 1B shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is issued, before the Legislative Assembly, while it is in session for a total period of fourteen 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 notification or decides that the notification should not be issued, the notification shall thereafter 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 of anything previously done under that notification."]

2. *Language to be used in Bills, etc.*-The language to be used in-

- (1) Bills to be introduced or amendment thereto to be moved in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Kerala;
- (2) Acts passed by the Legislature of the State of Kerala;
- (3) Ordinances promulgated by the Governor under article 213 of the Constitution; and
- (4) Orders, rules, regulations and bye-laws issued by the Government under the Constitution or under any law made by Parliament or the Legislature of the State of Kerala;

shall be Malayalam or English.

[\[7\]](#)[3. *Special provisions in respect of linguistic minorities.*-Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the following special provisions shall apply in respect of linguistic minorities in the State, namely:-

- (a) The Tamil and Kannada minority people in the State may use their respective languages for their correspondence with the State Government in the Secretariat and the Heads of Departments and also with all the local offices of the State Government situate in those areas which are declared by the Government to be linguistic minority areas for the purpose and the replies sent in such cases shall also be in their respective minority languages
- (b) The linguistic minorities other than Tamil and Kannada in the State may use the English language for their correspondence with the State Government offices and in such cases the replies sent to them shall be in the English language.]

Act 15 of 1973

**THE KERALA OFFICIAL LANGUAGE (LEGISLATION) AMENDMENT ACT,
1973^[1]**

An Act to amend the Kerala Official Language (Legislation) Act, 1969.

Preamble.— WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Kerala Official language (Legislation) Act, 1969, for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

Be it enacted in the Twenty-fourth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title.*—This Act may be called the Kerala Official Language (Legislation) Amendment Act, 1973.

2. *Amendment of long title.*—For the long title to the Kerala Official Language (Legislation) Act, 1969 (7 of 1969) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), the following shall be substituted, namely: —

"An Act to provide for the adoption of Malayalam and English as the languages to be used for the official purposes of the State of Kerala.”.

3. *Amendment of Preamble.*—For the preamble to the principal Act, the following shall be

substituted, namely:—

"Whereas it is expedient to provide for the adoption of Malayalam and English as the languages to be used for the official purposes of the State of Kerala and to provide for the adoption of Malayalam also as a language to be used in Bills introduced in, or Acts passed by, the Legislature of the State of Kerala or in Ordinances promulgated by the Governor or in subordinate legislation."

4. *Amendment of section 1.*—For sub-section (1) of section 1 of the principal Act, the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

"(1) This Act may be called the Kerala Official Languages Act, 1969."

5. *Insertion of new sections 1A, 1B and 1C.*—After section 1 of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:—

"1A. *Malayalam and English to be the official languages of the State.*— Without prejudice to the provisions of articles 346 and 347 of the Constitution, Malayalam and English shall be the languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of the State.

IB. Government's power to notify the official purposes for which Malayalam or English to be used.—The Government may, by notification issued from time to time, direct that Malayalam or English shall be used in respect of such official purposes as may be specified in the notification .

1C. Notification issued under section IB to be placed before the Legislative Assembly.—Every notification issued under section IB shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is issued, before the Legislative Assembly, while it is in session for a total period of fourteen 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 notification or decides that the notification should not be issued, the notification shall thereafter 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 of anything previously done under that notification."

6. *Insertion of new section 3.*—After section 2 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

"3. *Special provisions in respect of linguistic minorities.*— Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the following special provisions shall apply in respect of linguistic minorities in the State, namely :—

(a) The Tamil and Kannada minority people in the State may use their respective languages for their correspondence with the State Government in the Secretariat and the Heads of Departments and also with all the local offices of the State Government situate in those areas which are declared by the Government to be linguistic minority areas for the purpose and the replies sent in such cases shall also be in their respective minority languages.

(b) The linguistic minorities other than Tamil and Kannada in the State may use the English language for their correspondence with the State Government offices and in such cases the replies sent to them shall be in the English language."