

Kerala Court Fees And Suits Valuation Act, 1959

010 of 1960

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 :- Preliminary

1. Short Title, Extent And Commencement
2. Application Of Act
3. Definitions

CHAPTER 2 :- Liability to pay fee

4. Levy Of Fee In Courts And Public Offices
- 4A. Levy Of Fee At The Time Of Institution Of Suit
5. Fee On Documents Inadvertently Received
6. Multifarious Suits
7. Determination Of Market Value
8. Set Off Or Counter Claim
9. Documents Falling Under Two Or More Descriptions

CHAPTER 3 :- Determination of Fee

10. Statement Of Particulars Of Subject-Matter Of Suit And Plaintiffs Valuation Thereof
11. Decision As To Proper Fee In The High Court
12. Decision As To Proper Fee In Other Courts
13. Additional Fee On Issues Framed
14. Relinquishment Of Portion Of Claim
15. Fee Payable On Written Statements
16. Fee Payable On Appeals, Etc.
17. Fee Payable On Petitions, Applications, Etc
18. Court-Fee Examiners
19. Inquiry And Commission
20. Notice To Government

CHAPTER 4 :- Computation of Fee

21. Fee How Reckoned
22. Suits For Money
23. Suits For Maintenance And Annuities
24. Suits For Movable Property
25. Suits For Declaration
26. Adoption Suits
27. Suits For Injunction
28. Suits Relating To Trust Property

29. Suits For Possession Under The Specific Relief Act, 1877
30. Suits For Possession Not Otherwise Provided For
31. Suits Relating To Easements
32. Pre-Emption Suits
33. Suits Relating To Mortgages
34. Suits Relating To Kanams
35. Suits For Accounts
36. Suits For Dissolution Of Partnership
37. Partition Suits
38. Suits For Joint Possession
39. Administration Suits
40. Suits For Cancellation Of Decrees, Etc.
41. Suits To Set Aside Attachment, Etc.
42. Suits For Specific Performance
43. Suits Between Landlord And Tenant
44. Suits For Mesne Profits
45. Suits Under The Survey And Boundaries Act
46. Suits To Alter Or Cancel Entry In A Register
47. Suits Relating To Public Matters
48. Interpleader Suits
49. Third Party Proceedings
50. Suits Not Otherwise Provided For
51. Fee On Memorandum Of Appeal Against Order Relating To Compensation
52. Appeals
- 52A. Fee On Memorandum Of Appeal Against The Order Of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal Or Wealth Tax Appellate Tribunal

CHAPTER 5 :- Valuation of Suits

53. Suits Not Otherwise Provided For
54. Procedure Where Objection Is Taken On Appeal Or Revision That A Suit Or Appeal Was Not Properly Valued For Jurisdictional Purposes

CHAPTER 6 :-Probates, Letters of Administration and Certificates of Administration

55. Application For Probate Or Letters Of Administration
56. Levy Of Fee
57. Grant Of Probate
58. Relief In Cases Of Several Grants
59. Inquiry By The Collector
60. Application To Court And Powers Of Court
61. Provision For Cases Where Too Low A Fee Has Been Paid
62. Administrator To Give Proper Security Before Letters Stamped
63. Relief When Too High A Fee Has Been Paid
64. Recovery Of Penalties, Etc.
65. Powers Of Board Of Revenue

CHAPTER 7 :- Refunds and Remissions

- 66. Refund In Cases Of Delay In Presentation Of Plaint, Etc
- 67. Refund In Cases Of Remand
- 68. Refund Where Court Reverses Or Modifies Former Decision On Ground Of Mistake
- 69. Refund In Cases Of Compromise Or When Suit Is Decided On The Admission Of Parties
- 70. Refund Of Fee Paid By Mistake Or Inadvertence
- 71. Instruments Of Partition
- 72. Exemption Of Certain Documents
- 73. Special Procedure Regarding Suits By Societies Registered Under The Societies Registration Act
- 73A. Special Provision Regarding Suits, Appeals, Revision Etc. Filed By Or On Behalf Of The Government Before The Court
- 74. Special Provision Regarding Suits By Registered Trade Union, Member Of Scheduled Castes, Etc
- 74A. Special Provision Regarding Certain Appeals
- 75. Power To Reduce Or Remit Fees

CHAPTER 8 :- Legal Benefit Fund

- 76. Legal Benefit Fund

CHAPTER 9 :- MISCELLANEOUS

- 77. Collection Of Fees By Stamps
- 78. Stamps To Be Impressed Or Adhesive
- 78A. Writing Name Or Initials On Or Across The Stamp
- 79. Amended Document
- 80. Cancellation Of Stamp
- 81. Deduction To Be Made
- 82. Penalty
- 83. Power Of High Court To Make Rules
- 84. Power Of Board Of Revenue To Make Rules
- 85. Power Of Government To Make Rules
- 86. Continuance In Force Of Existing Rules
- 87. Repeal

SCHEDULE 1 :- FIRST SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE 2 :- SECOND SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE 3 :- THIRD SCHEDULE

Kerala Court Fees And Suits Valuation Act, 1959

010 of 1960

As Amended by President's Act 8 of 1966, Act 12 of 1969, Act 4 of 1972, Act 38 of 1976, Act 39 of 1976, Act 6 of 1991 & Act 2 of 2003 An Act to amend and consolidate the law relating to Court-fees and valuation of suits in the State of Kerala WHEREAS it is

necessary and expedient to amend and consolidate the law relating to Court-fees and valuation of suits in the State of Kerala; BE it enacted in the Tenth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-- 1. Published in K.G. Ext. No. 76 dt. 30/07/1960. Received the assent of the President on 27/07/1960.

CHAPTER 1 Preliminary

1. Short Title, Extent And Commencement :-

(1) This Act may be called the Kerala Court-Fees and Suits Valuation Act, 1959.

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

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Government may, by notification in the Gazette, appoint.¹

1. This Act came into force on 01/02/1962. (As per Notification No. 10463/C2/601/Law dt. 19/01/1962.)

2. Application Of Act :-

(1) The provisions of this Act shall not apply to documents presented or to be presented before an officer serving under the Central Government.

(2) Where any other law contains provisions relating to the levy of fee in respect of proceedings under such other law, the provisions of this Act relating to the levy of fee in respect of such proceedings shall apply subject to the said provisions of such other law.

3. Definitions :-

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires;--

(i) Appeal.-- "appeal" includes a cross-objection;

(ii) Court.-- "Court" means any Civil, Revenue, or Criminal Court and includes a Tribunal or other authority having jurisdiction under any special or local law to decide questions affecting the rights of parties;

(iii) Prescribed.-- "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act; and

(iv) expressions used and not defined in this Act or in the Interpretation and General Clauses Act, 1125 (Act VII of 1125), but defined in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Central Act V of 1908), shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the said Code.

CHAPTER 2 Liability to pay fee

4. Levy Of Fee In Courts And Public Offices :-

No document which is chargeable with fee under this Act shall--

(i) be filed, exhibited or recorded in, or be acted on or furnished by, any Court including the High Court, or

(ii) be filed, exhibited or recorded in any public office or be acted on or furnished by any public officer,

unless in respect of such document there be paid a fee of an amount not less than that indicated as chargeable under this Act:

Provided that, whenever the filing or exhibition in a Criminal Court of a document in respect of which the proper fee has not been paid is in the opinion of the Court necessary to prevent a failure of justice, nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to prohibit such filing or exhibition.

4A. Levy Of Fee At The Time Of Institution Of Suit :-

1[4A. Levy of fee at the time of institution of suit

Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provisions of this Act, the amount of fee to be paid on plaint at the time of institution of suit shall be one-tenth of the amount of fee chargeable under this Act and the balance amount shall be paid within such period, not later than fifteen days from the date of framing of issues or where framing of issues is not necessary, within such period not exceeding fifteen days as may be specified by the Court:

Provided that the Court may, for sufficient reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the period up to thirty days:

Provided further that if the parties settle the dispute within the period, specified or extended by the Court for the payment of the balance amount, the plaintiff shall not be called upon to pay such balance.]

1. Inserted by Act 6 of 1991 published in K.G.Ext. No. 109 dt. 24/01/1991 (w.e.f. 05/12/1990).

5. Fee On Documents Inadvertently Received :-

When a document on which the whole or any part of the fee prescribed by this Act has not been paid is produced or has, through mistake or inadvertence, been received in any Court or public office, the Court or the head of the office, may in its or his discretion at any time, allow the person by whom such fee is

payable or any interested party to pay the fee or part thereof, as the case may be, within such time as may be fixed; and upon such payment, the document shall have the same force and effect as if the full fee had been paid in the first instance.

6. Multifarious Suits :-

(1) In any suit in which separate and distinct reliefs are sought based on the same cause of action, the plaint shall be chargeable with a fee on the aggregate value of the reliefs:

Provided that, if a relief is sought only as ancillary to the main relief, the plaint shall be chargeable only on the value of the main reliefs.

(2) Where more reliefs than one based on the same cause of action are sought in the alternative in any suit, the plaint shall be chargeable with the highest of the fees leviable in respect of any one of the reliefs.

(3) Where a suit embraces two or more distinct and different causes of action and separate reliefs are sought based on them, either alternatively or cumulatively, the plaint shall be chargeable with the aggregate amount of the fees with which plaints would be chargeable under this Act if separate suits were instituted in respect of the several causes of action:

Provided that, where the causes of action in respect of reliefs claimed alternatively against the same person arise out of the same transaction, the plaint shall be chargeable only with the highest of the fees chargeable on them.

Nothing in the sub-section shall be deemed to affect any power conferred upon a Court under Rule 6 of Order II of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Central Act V of 1908).

(4) The provisions of this section shall apply mutatis mutandis to memoranda of appeals, applications, petitions and written statements.

Explanation.-- For the purpose of this section, a suit for possession of immovable property and for mesne profits shall be deemed to be based on the same cause of action.

7. Determination Of Market Value :-

(1) save as otherwise provided, where the fee payable under this Act depends on the market value of any property, such value shall be determined as on the date of presentation of the plaint.

(2) The¹[market value of agricultural land] in suits falling under

Section 25(a), 25(b), 27(a), 29, 30, 37(1), 37(3), 38, 45 or 48 shall be deemed to be ten times the annual gross profits of such land where it is capable of yielding annual profits minus the assessment if any made to the Government.

(3) The market value of a building shall in cases where its rental value has been entered in the registers of any local authority, be ten times such rental value and in other cases the actual market value of the building as on the date of the plaint.

2[(3A) The market value of any property other than agricultural land and building falling under sub-sections (2) and (3) shall be the value it will fetch on the date of institution of the suit.]

(4) Where the subject-matter of the suit is only a restricted or fractional interest in a property, the market value of the property shall be deemed to be the value of the restricted or fractional interest and the value of the restricted or fractional interest shall bear the same proportion to the market value of the absolute interest in such property as the net income derived by the owner of the restricted or fractional interest bears to the total net income from the property.

1. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991, for "Market value of land" (w.e.f. 05/12/1990).

2. Inserted by Act 6 of 1991 published in K.G.Ext. No. 109 dt. 24/01/1991 (w.e.f. 05/12/1990).

8. Set Off Or Counter Claim :-

A written statement pleading a set off or counter claim shall be chargeable with fee in the same manner as a plaint.

9. Documents Falling Under Two Or More Descriptions :-

Subject to the provisions of the last preceding section, a document falling within two or more descriptions in this Act shall, where the fees chargeable thereunder are different, be chargeable only with the highest of such fees:

Provided that, where one of such descriptions is special and another general, the fee chargeable shall be the fee appropriate to the special description.

CHAPTER 3 Determination of Fee

10. Statement Of Particulars Of Subject-Matter Of Suit And Plaintiffs Valuation Thereof :-

In every suit in which the fee payable under this Act on the plaint depends on the market value of the subject-matter of the suit, the plaintiff shall file with the plaint, a statement in the prescribed form, of particulars of the subject-matter of the suit and his valuation thereof unless such particulars and the valuation are contained in the plaint.

11. Decision As To Proper Fee In The High Court :-

Where, in a suit instituted in the High Court, in which a fee is payable under this Act any difference arises between the officer whose duty it is to see that proper fee is paid and any party as to the necessity of paying a fee or the amount thereof, the question shall be referred to the Taxing Officer who shall decide the same:

Provided that, if in the opinion of the Taxing Officer, the question is one of general importance, he may refer it to the Chief Justice of the High Court or such Judge or Judges of the High Court as the Chief Justice shall appoint, either generally or specially in this behalf:

Provided further that, when the case comes up for disposal before the Court, the decision of the Taxing Officer may be reviewed by the Court.

12. Decision As To Proper Fee In Other Courts :-

(1) In every suit instituted in any Court other than the High Court, the Court shall before ordering the plaint to be registered, decide on the materials and allegations contained in the plaint and on the materials contained in the statement, if any, filed under Section 10, the proper fee payable thereon, the decision being however subject to review, further review and correction in the manner specified in the succeeding sub-sections.

(2) Any defendant may, by his written statement filed before the first hearing of the suit or before evidence is recorded on the merits of the claim but, subject to the next succeeding sub-section, not later, plead that the subject-matter of the suit has not been properly valued or that the fee paid is not sufficient. All questions arising on such pleas shall be heard and decided before evidence is recorded affecting such defendant, on the merits of the claim. If the Court decides that the subject-matter of the suit has not been properly valued or that the fee paid is not sufficient, the Court shall fix a date before which the plaint shall be amended in accordance with the Courts decision and the deficit fee shall be paid. If the

plaint be not amended or if the deficit fee be not paid within the time allowed, the plaint shall be rejected and the Court shall pass such order as it deems just regarding costs of the suit.

(3) A defendant added after issues have been framed on the merits of the claim may, if the Court so permits, plead that the subject-matter of the suit has not been properly valued or that the fee paid is not sufficient. All questions arising on such pleas shall be heard and decided before evidence is recorded affecting such defendant, on the merits of the claim, and if the Court finds that the subject-matter of the suit has not been properly valued or that the fee paid is not sufficient, the Court shall follow the procedure laid down in sub-section (2).

Explanation.-- Nothing in this sub-section shall apply to a defendant added as a successor or a representative in interest of a defendant who was on record before issues were framed on the merits of the claim and who had an opportunity to file a written statement pleading that the subject-matter of the suit was not properly valued or that the fee paid was not sufficient.

(4) (a) Whenever a case comes up before a Court of Appeal it shall be lawful for the Court, either of its own motion or on the application of any of the parties, to consider the correctness of any order passed by the lower Court affecting the fee payable on the plaint or in any other proceeding in the lower Court and determine the proper fee payable thereon.

Explanation.-- A case shall be deemed to come before a Court of Appeal even if the appeal relates only to a part of the subject-matter of the suit.

(b) If the Court of Appeal decides that the fee paid in the lower Court is not sufficient, the Court shall require the party liable to pay the deficit fee within such time as may be fixed by it.

(c) If the deficit fee is not paid within the time fixed and the default is in respect of a relief which has been dismissed by the lower Court and which the appellant seeks in appeal, the appeal shall be dismissed, but if the default is in respect of a relief which has been decreed by the lower Court, the deficit fee shall be recoverable as if it were an arrear of land revenue.

(d) If the fee paid in the lower Court is in excess, the Court shall direct the refund of the excess to the party who is entitled to it.

(5) All questions as to value for the purpose of determining the jurisdiction of Courts arising on the written statement of a defendant shall be heard and decided before evidence is recorded affecting such defendant, on the merits of the claim.

Explanation.-- In this section, the expression "merits of the claim" refers to matters which arise for determination in the suit, not being matters relating to the frame of the suit, mis-joinder of parties and causes of action, the jurisdiction of the Court to entertain or try the suit or the fee payable but inclusive of matters arising on pleas of res judicata, limitation and the like.

13. Additional Fee On Issues Framed :-

Where a party becomes liable to pay additional fee by reason of an issue framed in the suit, the provisions of the last foregoing section shall apply to the determination and levy of such additional fee subject to the modification that where the party liable does not pay such additional fee within the time allowed, the Court shall strike off the issue and proceed to hear and decide the other issues in the case.

14. Relinquishment Of Portion Of Claim :-

A plaintiff who has been called upon to pay additional fee may relinquish a part of his claim and apply to have the plaint amended so that the fee paid would be adequate for the claim made in the plaint as amended. The Court shall allow such application on such terms as it considers just and shall proceed to hear and decide the claim made in the plaint as amended, provided that the plaintiff shall not be permitted at any later stage of the suit to add to the claim the part so relinquished.

15. Fee Payable On Written Statements :-

Where fee is payable under this Act on a written statement filed by a defendant, the provisions of Section 12 shall apply to the determination and levy of the fee payable on such written statement, the defendant concerned being regarded for the said purpose as the plaintiff and the plaintiff or the co-defendant or the third party against whom the claim is made being regarded as the defendant.

16. Fee Payable On Appeals, Etc. :-

The provisions of Sections 10 to 14 relating to the determination and levy of fee on plaints in suits shall apply mutatis mutandis to the determination and levy of fee in respect of a memorandum of appeal, cross-objection or other proceeding in second appeal or in

an appeal under Section 5 of the Kerala High Court Act, 1958.

17. Fee Payable On Petitions, Applications, Etc :-

The provisions of Sections 10 to 14 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the determination and levy of fee in respect of petitions, applications and other proceedings in Courts in the same way as they apply to the determination and levy of fee on plaints in suits.

18. Court-Fee Examiners :-

(1) The High Court may depute officers to be designated Court-fee Examiners to inspect the records of subordinate Courts with a view to examine the correctness of representations made to, and orders passed by, Courts on questions relating to valuation of subject-matter and sufficiency of fee in respect of proceedings in such Courts and the Government shall, from time to time, fix the number of officers who may be so deputed to inspect the records.

(2) Questions raised in reports submitted by such Court-fee Examiners and relating to any suit, appeal or other proceeding pending in a Court shall be heard and decided by such Court; and for the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that in hearing and deciding a question raised in any such report, it shall be lawful for the Court to review an earlier decision given by the Court on the same question.

19. Inquiry And Commission :-

For the purpose of deciding whether the subject-matter of a suit or other proceeding has been properly valued or whether the fee paid is sufficient, the Court may hold such inquiry as it considers proper and may, if it thinks fit, issue a commission to any proper person directing him to make such local or other investigation as may be necessary and to report thereon to the Court and the Court may pass appropriate orders as to costs.

20. Notice To Government :-

In any inquiry relating to the fee payable on a plaint, written statement, petition, memorandum of appeal or other document, or to the valuation of the subject-matter of the claim to which the plaint, written statement, petition, memorandum of appeal or other document relates, in so far as such valuation affects the fee payable, the Court may, if it considers it just or necessary to do so,

give notice to the Government or to such Officer as may be prescribed by the Government; and where such notice is given, the Government shall be deemed to be a party to the suit or other proceeding as respects the determination of the question or questions aforesaid; and the Courts decision on such question or questions shall, when it passes a decree or final order in such suit or proceeding, be deemed to form part of such decree or final order.

CHAPTER 4 Computation of Fee

21. Fee How Reckoned :-

The fee payable under this Act shall be determined or computed in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter, Chapter VI, Chapter IX and Schedules I and II.

22. Suits For Money :-

In a suit for money (including a suit for damages or compensation, or arrears of maintenance, of annuities, or of other sums payable periodically), fee shall be computed on the amount claimed.

23. Suits For Maintenance And Annuities :-

In the suits hereinafter mentioned, fee shall be computed as follows:--

(a) In a suit for maintenance, on the amount claimed to be payable for one year;

(b) In a suit for enhancement or reduction of maintenance, on the amount by which the annual maintenance is sought to be enhanced or reduced;

(c) In a suit for annuities or other sums payable periodically, on five times the amount claimed to be payable for one year:

Provided that, where the annuity is payable for less than five years, the fee shall be computed on the aggregate of the sums payable:

Provided further that, a suit for enhancement of maintenance shall be instituted in a Court which will have jurisdiction to receive a suit for maintenance at the enhanced rate claimed and one for reduction of maintenance shall be instituted in a Court which will have jurisdiction to receive a suit for maintenance at the rate which is sought to be reduced.

24. Suits For Movable Property :-

(1) In a suit for movable property other than documents of title, fee shall be computed--

(a) where the subject-matter has a market value, on such value; or
(b) where the subject-matter has no market value, on the amount at which the relief sought is valued in the plaint.

(2) (a) In a suit for possession of documents of title, fee shall be computed on one-fourth of the amount or of the market value of the property secured by the document.--

(i) where the plaint alleges denial of the plaintiffs title to the money or the property secured by the document, or

(ii) where an issue is framed regarding the plaintiffs title to the money or the property secured by the document:

Provided that, where the allegation in the plaint or the issue framed relates only to a portion of the amount or property, fee shall be computed on one-fourth of such portion of the amount or on one-fourth of the market value of such portion of the property.

(b) In a suit for possession of documents of title where the plaintiffs title to the money or the property secured by the document is not denied, fee shall be computed on the amount at which the relief sought is valued in the plaint.

Explanation I.-- The expression "document of title" means a document which purports or operates to create, declare, assign, limit or extinguish, whether in present or in future, any right, title or interest, whether vested or contingent, in any property.

Explanation II.-- When the main document of title has been valued and Court-fee paid on that basis, no additional Court-fee shall be leviable on documents of title which are subsidiary title deeds.

25. Suits For Declaration :-

In a suit for a declaratory decree or order, whether with or without consequential relief, not falling under Section 26--

(a) where the prayer is for a declaration and for possession of the property to which the declaration relates, fee shall be computed on the market value of the property or on1[rupees one thousand], whichever is higher;

(b) where the prayer is for a declaration and for consequential injunction and the relief sought is with reference to any immovable property, fee shall be computed on one-half of the market value of the property or on1[rupees one thousand], whichever is higher;

(c) where the prayer relates to the plaintiffs exclusive right to use,

sell, print or exhibit any mark, name, book, picture, design or other thing and is based on an infringement of such exclusive right, fee shall be computed on the amount at which the relief sought is valued in the plaint or on2[rupees one thousand], whichever is higher;

(d) in other cases--

(i) where the subject-matter of the suit is capable of valuation, fee shall be computed on the market value of the property, and

(ii) where the subject-matter of the suit is not capable of valuation, fee shall be computed on the amount at which the relief sought is valued in the plaint or on1[rupees one, thousand], whichever is higher.

1. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991, for "rupees three hundred" (w.e.f. 05/12/1990).

2. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991, for "rupees four hundred" (w.e.f. 05/12/1990).

26. Adoption Suits :-

In a suit for a declaration in/regard to the validity or invalidity of an adoption or the factum of an adoption, fee shall be payable at the following rates:--

1[(i) In a Munsiffs Court

Rupees fifty if the market value of the Property involved in or affected by the relief is Rs. 5000 or less.

Rupees one hundred and fifty if it exceeds Rs. 5000 but does not exceed Rs. 15,000.

(ii) In a Sub-Court or a District Court Rupees five hundred.]

1. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991. Prior to the substitution it read as:

"(i) In a Munsiffs Court Rupees fifty

(ii) In a Sub-Court or a District Court Rupees one hundred if the market value of the property involved in or effected by the relief is Rs. 10,000 or less and rupees five hundred if it is above Rs. 10,000".

27. Suits For Injunction :-

In a suit for injunction--

(a) Where the reliefs sought is with reference to any immovable property, and

(i) where the plaintiff alleges that his title to the property is denied, or

(ii) where an issue is framed regarding the plaintiffs title to the

property,

fee shall be computed on one-half of the market value of the property or on1[rupees five hundred], whichever is higher;

(b) where the prayer relates to the plaintiffs exclusive right to use, sell, print or exhibit any mark, name, book, picture, design or other thing and is based on an infringement of such exclusive right, fee shall be computed on the amount at which the relief sought is valued in the plaint or on2[rupees five hundred], whichever is higher.

(c) in any other case, whether the subject-matter of the suit has a market value or not, fee shall be computed on the amount at which the relief sought is valued in the plaint or on1[rupees five hundred], whichever is higher:

3[Provided that where the relief sought by the plaintiff is in respect of money sought to be recovered from him such relief shall not, for the purpose of computation of fee, be valued at an amount less than one half of the amount sought to be so recovered.]

1. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991, for "rupees One hundred and fifty".

2. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991, for "rupees two hundred and fifty".

3. Added by Act 6 of 1991.

28. Suits Relating To Trust Property :-

In a suit for possession or joint possession of trust property or for a declaratory decree, whether with or without consequential relief in respect of it, between trustees or rival claimants to the office of trustee or between a trustee and a person who has ceased to be trustee, fee shall be computed on one-fifth of the market value of the property subject to a maximum fee of rupees two hundred or where the property has no market value on rupees one thousand:

Provided that, where the property does not have a market value, value for the purpose of determining the jurisdiction of Courts shall be such amount as the plaintiff shall state in the plaint.

Explanation.-- For the purpose of this section, property comprised in a Hindu, Muslim or other religious or charitable endowment shall be deemed to be trust property and the manager of any such property shall be deemed to be the trustee thereof.

29. Suits For Possession Under The Specific Relief Act, 1877

:-

In a suit for possession of immovable property under Section 9 of the Specific Relief Act, 1877 (Central Act 1 of 1877), fee shall be computed on one-third of the market value of the property or on rupees one hundred and fifty, whichever is higher.

30. Suits For Possession Not Otherwise Provided For :-

In a suit for possession of immovable property not otherwise provided for, fee shall be computed, on the market value of the property or on1[rupees one thousand], whichever is higher.

1. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991, for "rupees three hundred" (w.e.f. 05/12/1990).

31. Suits Relating To Easements :-

In a suit relating to an easement, whether by the dominant or the servient owner, or to a licence as defined in the law relating to easements for the time being in force, fee shall be computed on the amount at which the relief sought is valued in the plaint, or on1[rupees one thousand], whichever is higher:

Provided that, where compensation is claimed besides other relief relating to such easement or licence fee shall be paid on the amount claimed as compensation in addition to the fee payable on such other relief.

1. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991, for "rupees three hundred" (w.e.f. 05/12/1990).

32. Pre-Emption Suits :-

In a suit to enforce a right of pre-emption, fee shall be computed on the amount of the consideration for the sale which the pre-emptor seeks to avoid or on the market value, whichever is less.

33. Suits Relating To Mortgages :-

(1) In a suit to recover the money due on a mortgage, fee shall be computed on the amount claimed.

Explanation.-- It is immaterial that sale of the mortgaged property is not prayed for.

(2) Where, in such a suit, the holder of a prior mortgage or charge is impleaded and he prays in his written statement that the amount due on his mortgage or charge be determined and that the decree contains a direction for the payment of such amount to him, fee shall be payable on the written statement computed on the amount

claimed:

Provided that, where the holder of the mortgage or charge has paid a fee in any other proceeding on the claim to which his written statement relates, credit shall be given for the fee paid by him in such other proceeding.

(3) Where, in such a suit, the mortgaged property is sold and the holder of a prior or subsequent mortgage or charge applies for payment to him, out of the sale proceeds, of the amount due on his mortgage or charge, such holder of the prior or subsequent mortgage or charge shall pay on his application a fee computed on the amount claimed by him:

Provided that, where such holder of the mortgage or charge is a party to the suit in which the sale was held and has paid fee on the written statement filed by him in the suit, no fee shall be payable by him on the application for payment out of the sale proceeds:

Provided further that, where the holder of the mortgage or charge, not being a party to the suit in which the sale is held, has paid a fee in any other proceeding on the claim to which his application relates, credit shall be given for the fee paid by him in such other proceeding.

(4) In a suit by a co-mortgagee for the benefit of himself and other co-mortgagees, fee shall be computed on the amount claimed on the entire mortgage:

Provided that, where a co-mortgagee impleaded as defendant in such suit claims on the entire mortgage a larger sum than is claimed in the plaint, the difference between the fee computed on the entire sum claimed in such defendants written statement and the fee computed on the entire sum claimed in the plaint shall be payable on the written statement.

Explanation.-- Nothing in this sub-section shall be construed as affecting the law of limitation.

(5) (a) In a suit by a sub-mortgagee to recover the amount claimed on the sub-mortgage by sale of the mortgagees interest in the mortgaged property, fee shall be computed on the amount claimed under the sub-mortgage.

(b) In a suit by a sub-mortgagee, if the prayer is for the sale of the property mortgaged to the original mortgagee and the original mortgagor is also impleaded as a defendant, fee shall be computed on the entire amount claimed on the original mortgage which is sub-mortgaged to him.

(6) Where the holder of a prior or subsequent mortgage or charge is impleaded in a suit by a co-mortgagee to which sub-section (4)

applies, or in a suit by a sub-mortgagee to which sub-section (5) applies, the provisions of sub-sections (2) and (3) shall apply mutatis mutandis to a written statement or an application filed by such holder of mortgage or charge.

(7) Where the original mortgagee who is impleaded in a suit to which the provisions of sub-section (5) (b) apply claims on the mortgage sub-mortgaged by him, a larger amount than is claimed in the plaint, the provisions of sub-section (4) shall apply mutatis mutandis to the written statement of such mortgagor.

(8) In a suit against a mortgagee for redemption of a mortgage, fee shall be computed on the amount due on the mortgage as stated in the plaint or on one-fourth of the principal amount secured under the mortgage, whichever is higher:

Provided that, where the amount due on the mortgage is found to be more than the amount on which fee has been paid by the plaintiff, no decree shall be passed until the deficit fee is paid:

Provided further that, in the case of a usufructuary or anomalous mortgage, if the plaintiff prays for redemption as well as for accounts of surplus profits, fee shall be levied separately on the relief for accounts as in a suit for accounts.

(9) In a suit by a mortgagee to foreclose the mortgage or, where the mortgage is made by conditional sale, to have the sale declared absolute, fee shall be computed on the amount claimed in the plaint by way of principal and interest.

34. Suits Relating To Kanams :-

(1) A suit by a landlord for recovery of possession of property transferred by way of kanam or kanam-kuzhikanam shall be deemed to involve the reliefs of redemption and ejectment, and fee shall be levied in respect of each of the reliefs, that is to say, on the kanartham in respect of the relief of redemption and on one years michavaram or rent in respect of the relief of ejectment.

(2) If in any such suit, arrears of michavaram or rent or damages or both are also sought to be recovered, fee shall be levied also on the amount of such arrears or damages or both:

Provided that, where the plaintiff seeks to set off the kanartham and the value of the improvements due by him to the defendant against arrears of michavaram or rent due to him, fee shall be levied only on the balance claimed, and if the amount ascertained to be due to him exceeds the amount as estimated by the plaintiff, no decree shall be passed until the difference between the fee

actually paid and the fee which would have been payable had the suit comprised the whole of the amount so ascertained is paid. If the additional fee is not paid within such time as the Court may fix, the decree shall be limited to the amount to which the fee paid extends.

35. Suits For Accounts :-

(1) In a suit for accounts, fee shall be computed on the amount sued for as estimated in the plaint or on [rupees one thousand], whichever is higher.

(2) Where the amount payable to the plaintiff as ascertained in the suit is in excess of the amount as estimated in the plaint, no decree directing payment of the amount as so ascertained shall be passed until the difference between the fee actually paid and the fee that would have been payable had the suit comprised the whole of the amount so ascertained, is paid. If the additional fee is not paid within such time as the Court may fix, the decree shall be limited to the amount to which the fee paid extends.

(3) Where in any such suit it is found that any amount is payable to the defendant, no decree shall be passed in his favour until he pays the fee due on the amount.

1. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991, for "rupees three hundred" (w.e.f. 05/12/1990).

36. Suits For Dissolution Of Partnership :-

(1) In a suit for dissolution of partnership and accounts or for accounts of dissolved partnership, fee shall be computed on the value of the plaintiffs share in the partnership as estimated by the plaintiff.

(2) If the value of the plaintiffs share as ascertained in the suit exceeds the value as estimated in the plaint, no decree, or where there has been a preliminary decree, no final decree, shall be passed in favour of the plaintiff, no payment shall be made out of the assets of the partnership and no property shall be allotted as for the plaintiffs share, until the difference between the fee actually paid and the fee that would have been payable had the suit comprised the whole of the value so ascertained, is paid.

(3) No final decree shall be passed, no money shall be paid and no allotment of property shall be made in favour of a defendant in any such suit as, for or on account of, his share of the assets of the partnership, until the fee computed on the amount or value of his

share of the assets of the partnership is paid.

37. Partition Suits :-

(1) In a suit for partition and separate possession of a share of joint family property or of property owned, jointly or in common, by a plaintiff who has been excluded from possession of such property, fee shall be computed on the market value of the plaintiffs share.

(2) In a suit for partition and separate possession of joint family property or property owned, jointly or in common, by a plaintiff who is in joint possession of such property, fee shall be paid at the following rates:--

When the plaint is presented to--

(i) a Munsiffs Court1[Rupees fifty]

2[(ii) a Sub-Court or a District Court Rupees three hundred]

(3) Where, in a suit falling under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), a defendant claims partition and separate possession of his share of the property, fee shall be payable on his written statement computed on half the market value of his share or at half the rates specified in sub-section (2), according as such defendant has been excluded from possession or is in joint possession.

(4) Where, in a suit falling under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), the plaintiff or the defendant seeks cancellation of decree or other document of the nature specified in Section 40, separate fee shall be payable on the relief of cancellation in the manner specified in that section.

1. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991, published in K.G.Ext. No. 109 dt. 24/01/1991, for "rupees twenty" (w.e.f. 05/12/1990).

2. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991, published in K.G.Ext. No. 109 dt. 24/01/1991 (w.e.f. 05/12/1990). Prior to the substitution it read as:

"ii. a Sub- Court or a District Court Rupees one hundred if the value of plaintiffs share Rs. 10,000 or less; and
Rupees two hundred if the value is above Rs. 10,000"

38. Suits For Joint Possession :-

In a suit for joint possession of joint family property or of property owned, jointly or in common, by a plaintiff who has been excluded from possession, fee shall be computed on the market value of the plaintiffs share.

39. Administration Suits :-

- (1) In a suit for the administration of an estate, fee shall be levied on the plaint at the rates specified in Section 50.
- (2) Where any amount or share or part of the assets of the estate is found due to the plaintiff, and the fee computed on the amount or the market value of such share or part of the assets exceeds the fee paid on the plaint, no payment shall be made and no decree directing payment of money or confirming title to such share or part of the asset shall be passed until the difference between the fee actually paid and the fee computed on the amount or value of the property is paid.
- (3) No payment shall be made, no decree directing payment of money or confirming title to any share or part of the assets of the estate shall be passed in favour of a defendant in a suit for administration, until the fee computed on the amount or value of such share or part of such assets is paid by such defendant.
- (4) In computing the fee payable by a plaintiff or by a defendant under sub-section (2) or sub-section (3), credit shall be given for the fee, if any, paid by such plaintiff or by such defendant in any other proceeding in respect of the claim on the basis of which such amount or share or part of the assets of the estate becomes due to such plaintiff or to such defendant.

40. Suits For Cancellation Of Decrees, Etc. :-

- (1) In a suit for cancellation of a decree for money or other property having a money value, or other document which purports or operates to create, declare, assign, limit or extinguish, whether in present or in future, any right, title or interest in money, movable or immovable property, fee shall be computed on the value of the subject-matter of the suit, and such value shall be deemed to be--
- if the whole decree or other document is sought to be cancelled, the amount or value of the property for which the decree was passed or other document was executed;
- if a part of the decree or other document is sought to be cancelled, such part of the amount or value of the property.
- (2) If the decree or other document is such that the liability under it cannot be split up and the relief claimed relates only to a particular item of property belonging to the plaintiff or to the plaintiff's share in any such property, fee shall be computed on the value of such property, or share or on the amount of the decree,

whichever is less.

Explanation.-- A suit to set aside an award shall be deemed to be a suit to set aside a decree within the meaning of this section.

41. Suits To Set Aside Attachment, Etc. :-

(1) In a suit to set aside an attachment by a Civil or Revenue Court of any property, movable or immovable, or of any interest therein or of any interest in revenue, or to set aside an order passed on an application made to set aside the attachment, fee shall be computed on the amount for which the property was attached or on one-fourth of the market value of the property attached whichever is less.

(2) In a suit to set aside any other summary decision or order of a Civil or Revenue Court, if the subject-matter of the suit has a market value, fee shall be computed on one-fourth of such value, and in other cases, fee shall be payable at the rates specified in Section 50.

Explanation.-- For the purpose of this section, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies shall be deemed to be a Civil Court.

42. Suits For Specific Performance :-

In a suit for specific performance, whether with or without possession, fee shall be payable--

(a) in the case of a contract of sale, computed on the amount of the consideration;

(b) in the case of a contract of mortgage, computed on the amount agreed to be secured by the mortgage;

(c) in the case of a contract of lease, computed on the aggregate amount of the fine or premium, if any, and of the average of the annual rent agreed to be paid;

(d) in the case of a contract of exchange, computed on the amount of the consideration, or as the case may be, on the market value of the property sought to be got in exchange;

(e) in other cases, where the consideration for the promise sought to be enforced has a market value, computed on such market value, or where such consideration has no market value, at the rates specified in Section 50.

43. Suits Between Landlord And Tenant :-

(1) In the following suits between landlord and tenant, namely:--

(a) for enhancement of rent;
(b) for recovery of immovable property from which a tenant has been illegally ejected by the landlord;
(c) for establishing or disproving a right of leasehold; fee shall be levied on the amount of rent for the immovable property to which the suit relates, payable for the year next before the date of presenting the plaint.

(2) In a suit for recovery of immovable property from a tenant including a tenant holding over after the termination of a tenancy, fee shall be computed on the premium, if any, and on the rent payable for the year next before the date of presenting the plaint.

Explanation.-- Rent includes also damages for use and occupation payable by a tenant holding over.

(3) In a suit for reduction or apportionment of rent, fee shall be levied on the amount of rent sought to be reduced or on the amount of rent that is sought to be apportioned.

44. Suits For Mesne Profits :-

(1) In a suit for mesne profits or for immovable property and mesne profits, fee shall in respect of mesne profits be computed, where the amount is stated approximately and sued for, on such amount. If the profits ascertained to be due to the plaintiff are in excess of the profits as approximately estimated and sued for, no decree shall be passed until the difference between the fee actually paid and the fee that would have been payable had the suit comprised the whole of the profits so ascertained is paid.

(2) Where a decree directs an enquiry as to the mesne profits which have accrued on the property, whether prior or subsequent to the institution of the suit, no final decree shall be passed till the difference between the fee actually paid and the fee which would have been payable had the suit comprised the whole of the profits accrued due till the date of such decree is paid.

(3) Where, for a period subsequent to the date of the decree or final decree, such decree or final decree directs payment of mesne profits at a specified rate, such decree or final decree shall not be executed until the fee computed on the amount claimed in execution has been paid.

45. Suits Under The Survey And Boundaries Act :-

In a suit under Section 14 of the Madras Survey and Boundaries Act, 1923, Section 13 of the Travancore Survey and Boundaries Act

of 1094, or Section 14 of the Cochin Survey Act, II of 1074, fee shall be computed on one-half of the market value of the property affected by the determination of the boundary or on 1[rupees one thousand], whichever is higher.

1. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991, for "rupees three hundred" (w.e.f. 05/12/1990).

46. Suits To Alter Or Cancel Entry In A Register :-

In a suit to alter or cancel any entry in a revenue register of the names of proprietors of the land or others interested in such land, the fee payable shall be fifteen rupees.

47. Suits Relating To Public Matters :-

In a suit for relief under Section 14 of the Religious Endowments Act, 1863 (Central Act XX of 1863), or under Section 91 or Section 92 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Central Act V of 1908), the fee payable shall be ten rupees.

48. Interpleader Suits :-

(1) In an interpleader suit, fee shall be payable on the plaint at the rates specified in Section 50.

(2) Where issues are framed as between the claimants, fee shall be payable computed on the amount of the debt or the money or the market value of other property, movable or immovable, which forms the subject-matter of the suit. In levying such fee, credit shall be given for the fee paid on the plaint; and the balance of the fee shall be paid in equal shares by the claimants who claim the debt or the sum of money or the property adversely to each other.

(3) Value for the purpose of determining the jurisdiction of Courts shall be the amount of the debt, or the sum of money or the market value of other property to which the suit relates.

49. Third Party Proceedings :-

In third party proceedings, fee shall be levied on one-half of the value of the contribution or indemnity claimed against a third party or against a co-defendant if a claim is made against him:

Provided that, if the suit against the defendant who has filed the third party notice is dismissed, wholly or in part, he shall be entitled to a refund of the whole or a proportionate part of the fee paid by him.

Explanation.-- The provisions of this section shall also apply to counter-claims made in third party proceedings.

50. Suits Not Otherwise Provided For :-

In suits not otherwise provided for, fee shall be payable at the following rates:--

1[(i) In a Revenue Court

Rupees twenty-five

(ii) In a Munsiffs Court Rupees fifty

(iii) In a Sub-Court or a District Court Rupees two hundred if the value of the subject matter is Rs. 25,000 or less; and rupees four hundred if the value of the subject matter is above Rs. 25,000.]

1. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991, published in K.G.Ext. No.109 dt. 24/01/1991 (w.e.f. 05/12/1990).

51. Fee On Memorandum Of Appeal Against Order Relating To Compensation :-

The fee payable under this Act on a memorandum of appeal against an order relating to compensation under any Act for the time being in force for the acquisition of property for public purposes shall be computed on the difference between the amount awarded and the amount claimed by the appellant.

52. Appeals :-

The fee payable in an appeal shall be the same as the fee that would be payable in the Court of first instance on the subject-matter of the appeal:

Provided that, in levying fee on a memorandum of appeal against a final decree by a person whose appeal against the preliminary decree passed by the Court of first instance or by the Court of appeal is pending, credit shall be given for the fee paid by such person in the appeal against the preliminary decree:

1[Provided further that one third of the fee payable in an appeal shall be paid at the stage of admission of first appeal or second appeal as the case may be and the balance shall be paid within such period, not later than fifteen days from the date of such admission as may be specified by the Court; in case the appeal is admitted:

Provided also that the Court may, for sufficient reasons to be recorded in writing extend the period upto thirty days.]

Explanation (1).-- Whether the appeal is against the refusal of a relief or against the grant of the relief, the fee payable in the appeal shall be the same as the fee that would be payable on the relief in the Court of first instance.

Explanation (2).-- Costs shall not be deemed to form part of the subject-matter of the appeal except where such costs form themselves the subject-matter of the appeal or relief is claimed as regards costs on grounds additional to, or independent of, the relief claimed regarding the main subject-matter in the suit.

Explanation (3).-- In claims which include the award of interest subsequent to the institution of the suit, the interest accrued during the pendency of the suit till the date of decree shall be deemed to be part of the subject-matter of the appeal except where such interest is relinquished.

Explanation (4).-- Where the relief prayed for in the appeal is different from the relief prayed for or refused in the Court of first instance, the fee payable in the appeal shall be the fee that would be payable in the Court of first instance on the relief prayed for in the appeal.

Explanation (5).-- Where the market value of the subject-matter of the appeal has to be ascertained for the purpose of computing or determining the fee payable, such market value shall be ascertained as on the date of presentation of the plaint.

1. Added by Act 6 of 1991, published in K.G.Ext. No. 109 dt. 24/01/1991 (w.e.f. 15/12/1990).

52A. Fee On Memorandum Of Appeal Against The Order Of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal Or Wealth Tax Appellate Tribunal :-

1[52A. Fee on Memorandum of Appeal against the order of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal or Wealth Tax Appellate Tribunal

Notwithstanding anything contained in Section 52, the fee payable on a Memorandum of Appeal filed before the High Court against the order of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal of the Wealth Tax Appellate Tribunal, underlined Income Tax Act, 1961 (Central Act 43 of 1961) of the Wealth Tax Act, 1957 (Central Act 27 of 1957), as the case may be, shall be at the rates specified in sub-item (C) of item (iii) of Article 3 of Schedule II.]

1. Inserted by Act 2 of 2003, published in K.G.Ext.No. 386 dt. 06/03/2003 (w.e.f. 26/10/2002).

CHAPTER 5 Valuation of Suits

53. Suits Not Otherwise Provided For :-

(1) In a suit as to whose value for the purpose of determining the jurisdiction of Courts, specific provision is not otherwise made in this Act or in any other law, value for that purpose and value for the purpose of computing the fee payable under this Act shall be the same.

(2) In a suit where fee is payable under this Act at a fixed rate, the value for the purpose of determining the jurisdiction of Courts shall be the market value or where it is not possible to estimate it at a money value such amount as the plaintiff shall state in the plaint.

54. Procedure Where Objection Is Taken On Appeal Or Revision That A Suit Or Appeal Was Not Properly Valued For Jurisdictional Purposes :-

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in Section 99 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Central Act V of 1908), an objection that by reason of the over-valuation or under-valuation of a suit or appeal, a Court of first instance or lower Appellate Court which had no jurisdiction with respect to the suit or appeal exercised jurisdiction with respect thereto shall not be entertained by an Appellate Court, unless--

(a) the objection was taken in the Court of first instance at or before the hearing at which issues were first framed and recorded, or in the lower Appellate Court in the memorandum of appeal to that Court, or

(b) the Appellate Court is satisfied, for reasons to be recorded by it in writing, that the suit or appeal was over-valued, or under-valued and that the overvaluation or under-valuation thereof has prejudicially affected the disposal of the suit or appeal on its merits.

(2) If the objection was taken in the manner mentioned in clause (a) of sub-section (1), but the Appellate Court is not satisfied as to both the matters mentioned in clause (b) of that sub-section and has before it the materials necessary for the determination of the other grounds of appeal to itself, it shall dispose of the appeal as if there had been no defect of jurisdiction in the Court of first instance or lower Appellate Court.

(3) If the objection was taken in that manner and the Appellate Court is satisfied as to both those matters and has not those materials before it, it shall proceed to deal with the appeal under

the rules applicable to the Court with respect to the hearing of appeals; but if it remands the suit or appeal, or frames and refers issues for trial, or requires additional evidence to be taken, it shall direct its order to a Court competent to entertain the suit or appeal. (4) The provisions of this section with respect to an Appellate Court shall, so far as they can be made applicable, apply to a Court exercising revisional jurisdiction under Section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Central Act V of 1908), or other enactment for the time being in force.

CHAPTER 6 Probates, Letters of Administration and Certificates of Administration

55. Application For Probate Or Letters Of Administration :-

(1) Every application for the grant of probate or letters of administration shall be accompanied by a valuation of the estate in duplicate in the form set forth in Part I of Schedule III.

(2) On receipt of such application, the Court shall send a copy thereof and of the valuation to the Collector of the district in which the estate is situated, or if the estate is situated in more than one district, to the Collector of the district in which the most valuable portion of the immovable property included in the estate is situated.

56. Levy Of Fee :-

(1) The fee chargeable for the grant of probate or letters of administration shall comprise--

a fee at the rate or rates prescribed in Art.6 of Schedule I, computed--

(a) where the application is made within one year of the date of the death of the deceased, on the market value of the estate on such date; or

(b) where the application is made after the expiry of one year from such date, on the market value of the estate on the date of the application:

Provided that property held in trust not beneficially or with general power to confer a beneficial interest shall not be liable to any fee under this chapter.

Explanation.-- Any member of a joint Hindu family governed by the Mitakshara Law who applies for probate or letters of administration in respect of the estate of a deceased member of the joint family

shall pay a fee on the value of the share in the joint property which the deceased would have received if a partition of the property had been made immediately before his death.

(2) For the purpose of the computation of fee--

(a) the value of the items mentioned in Annexure B to Part I of Schedule III shall be deducted from the value of the estate:

Provided that, when an application is made for probate or letters of administration in respect of part only of an estate, no debt, no expenses connected with any funeral rites or ceremonies and no mortgage encumbrance on any part of the estate other than that in respect of which the application is made shall be deducted:

Provided further that when, after the grant of a certificate under Part X of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 (Central Act XXXIX of 1925), in respect of any property included in an estate, a grant of probate or letters of administration is made in respect of the same estate, the fee payable in respect of the latter grant shall be reduced by the amount of the fee paid in respect of the former grant;

(b) the power of appointment which the deceased had over a property or which was created under a will shall be taken into account, the value being taken to be the value of the property forming the subject-matter of the power.

57. Grant Of Probate :-

The grant of probate or letters of administration shall not be delayed by reason of the reference to the Collector under Section 55, sub-section (2), or of a motion by the Collector under Section 59, sub-section (5); but the Court shall make no grant of probate or letters of administration until it is satisfied that a fee not less than that prescribed by this Act has been paid on the basis of the net value of the estate as furnished in the valuation accompanying the application, or in the amended valuation filed under Section 59, sub-section (3):

Provided that the Court may grant probate or letters of administration notwithstanding that the prescribed fee has not been paid, to the Administrator-General in his official capacity on his giving an undertaking to the satisfaction of the Court that the said fee will be paid within such time as may be fixed by the Court.

58. Relief In Cases Of Several Grants :-

(1) Whenever a grant of probate or letters of administration has

been made in respect of the whole of the property belonging to an estate and the full fee payable under this Act in respect of the application for such grant has been paid thereon, no fee shall be payable when a like grant is made in respect of the whole or any part of the same property belonging to the same estate.

(2) Whenever such grant has been made in respect of any property forming part of an estate, the amount of fee actually paid under this Act in respect thereof shall be deducted when a like grant is made in respect of the property belonging to the same estate identical with or including the property to which the former grant relates.

59. Inquiry By The Collector :-

(1) The Collector to whom a copy of the application and of the valuation has been sent under Section 55, sub-section (2), shall examine the same and may make or cause to be made by any officer subordinate to him such inquiry, if any, as he thinks fit as to the correctness of the valuation or where a part only of the property is situated in his district, of the valuation of that part, and may require the Collector of any other district in which any part of the property is situated to furnish him with the correct valuation thereof.

(2) Any Collector required under sub-section (1) to furnish the correct valuation of any property shall comply with the requisition after making or causing to be made by any officer subordinate to him such inquiry, if any, as he thinks fit.

(3) If the Collector is of opinion that the applicant has under-estimated the value of the property of the deceased, he may, if he thinks fit, require the attendance of the applicant, either in person or by his agent, and take evidence and inquire into the matter in such manner as he may think fit, and if he is still of opinion that the value of the property has been under-estimated, may require the applicant to amend the valuation, and, if the application for probate or letters of administration is pending in Court, to file a copy of the amended valuation in such Court.

(4) If, in any such case, the probate or letters of administration has or have been granted and the applicant amends the valuation to the satisfaction of the Collector and the Collector finds that a less fee has been paid than was payable according to the true value of the estate, he shall proceed under Section 61, sub-section (4); but if a higher fee has been paid than was payable according to the

true value of the estate, the excess fee shall be refunded to the applicant.

(5) If the applicant does not amend the valuation to the satisfaction of the Collector, the Collector may move the Court before which the application for probate or letters of administration was made to hold an inquiry into the true value of the property:

Provided that no such motion shall be made after the expiration of six months from the date of the exhibition of the inventory required by Section 317 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 (Central Act XXXIX of 1925).

60. Application To Court And Powers Of Court :-

(1) The Court shall, when moved by the Collector under Section 59, sub-section (5), hold or cause to be held by any Court or officer subordinate to it an inquiry as to the true value at which the estate of the deceased should have been estimated. The Collector shall be deemed to be a party to the inquiry.

(2) For the purposes of any such inquiry, the Court, or the Subordinate Court or the officer authorised by the Court to hold the inquiry, may examine the applicant on oath either in person or by commission, and may take such further evidence as may be produced to prove the true value of the estate, and where the inquiry has been entrusted to a Subordinate Court or officer, such Court or Officer shall return to the Court the evidence taken and report the result of the inquiry and such report and the evidence so taken shall be evidence in the proceedings.

(3) The Court on the completion of the inquiry or on receipt of the report referred to in sub-section (2), as the case may be, shall record a finding as to the true value at which the estate should have been estimated and such finding shall be final.

(4) The Court may make such order in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Central Act V of 1908), as to the cost of the inquiry as it thinks fit.

61. Provision For Cases Where Too Low A Fee Has Been Paid :-

(1) Where too low a fee has been paid on any probate or letters of administration in consequence of any mistake or of its not being known at the time that some particular part of the estate belonged to the deceased, if any executor, or administrator, acting under such probate or letters, applies to the Collector in the form set forth

in Part II of Schedule III and pays within six months after the discovery of the mistake or of any effects not known at the time to have belonged to the deceased, what is wanting to make up the fee which ought to have been paid at first on such probate or letters the Collector shall, if satisfied that a low fee was paid in the first instance in consequence of a mistake and without any intention of fraud or to delay the payment of the proper fee, cause the probate or letters to be duly stamped.

(2) If, in a case falling under sub-section (1), the executor or administrator does not, within the six months referred to in that sub-section, pay the deficit fee, he shall forfeit a sum equal to five times the deficit fee.

(3) If, on application being made under sub-section (1), the Collector is not satisfied that the application was made within six months of the discovery of the mistake or of further effects not included in the original valuation or that the payment of a low fee in the first instance was not due to a bona fide mistake, he shall cause the probate or letters to be duly stamped on payment of the deficit fee together with a penalty not exceeding five times such fee.

(4) If, after the grant of probate or letters of administration of an estate, it is found by the Collector as a result of proceedings under Section 59 or Section 60 or otherwise, that a less fee has been paid than was payable according to the true value of the estate, he shall cause the probate or letters to be properly stamped on payment of the deficit fee, and if he is satisfied that the original undervaluation was not bona fide, he shall levy in addition a penalty not exceeding five times the deficit fee.

(5) The Board of Revenue may remit the whole or any part of the amount forfeited under sub-section (2) or of any penalty under sub-section (3) or sub-section (4).

62. Administrator To Give Proper Security Before Letters Stamped :-

In case of letters of administration on which too low a fee has been paid at first, the Collector shall not cause the same to be duly stamped in the manner aforesaid until the administrator has given such security to the Court by which the letters of administration have been granted as ought by law to have been given on the granting thereof in case the full value of the estate of the deceased has been then ascertained.

63. Relief When Too High A Fee Has Been Paid :-

(1) If, at any time after the grant of the probate or letters of administration of an estate, it is discovered that a higher fee has been paid than was payable according to the true value of the estate the executor or administrator, as the case may be, may apply for a refund to the Collector to whom a copy of the valuation of the estate was sent under Section 55, sub-section (2). The application shall be accompanied by an amended valuation in the form set forth in Part II of Schedule III together with the probate or letters of administration upon which a refund is sought.

(2) If the Collector is satisfied that the amended valuation is correct, he shall--

(i) endorse a certificate on the stamped probate or letters of administration to the effect that so much of the fee represented by the stamp or stamps used has been refunded; and

(ii) refund the difference between the fee originally paid and that which should have been paid:

Provided that, no refund shall be granted under this section unless the application for refund is made within three years of the date of the grant of the probate or letters of administration, or within such further period as the Collector may allow.

If, by reason of any legal proceedings, the debts due from the deceased have not been ascertained and paid, or his effects have not been recovered and made available and in consequence thereof, the executor or administrator is prevented from claiming the return of such difference within the said period of three years, the Collector may allow such further time for making the claim as may appear to him to be reasonable under the circumstances.

If the Collector does not grant a refund, the executor or administrator, as the case may be, may apply to the Board of Revenue for an order of refund. An application for such refund should be accompanied by an amended valuation in the form set forth in Part II of Schedule III.

64. Recovery Of Penalties, Etc. :-

Any excess fee found to be payable by an applicant for probate or letters of administration or by an executor or administrator, or any costs under Section 60, sub-section (4), or any penalty or forfeiture payable by any such executor or administrator may, on the certificate of the Board of Revenue, be recovered from the executor

or administrator as if it were an arrear of land revenue.

65. Powers Of Board Of Revenue :-

The powers and duties of the Collector under this Chapter shall be subject to the control of the Board of Revenue.

CHAPTER 7 Refunds and Remissions

66. Refund In Cases Of Delay In Presentation Of Plaint, Etc :-

(1) Where a plaint or memorandum of appeal is rejected on the ground of delay in its representation, or where the fee paid on a plaint or memorandum of appeal is deficient and the deficiency is not made good within the time allowed by law or granted by the Court, or the delay in payment of the deficit fee is not condoned and the plaint or memorandum of appeal is consequently rejected, the Court shall direct the refund to the plaintiff or the appellant, of the fee paid on the plaint or memorandum of appeal which has been rejected.

(2) Where a memorandum of appeal is rejected on the ground that it was not presented within the time allowed by the law of limitation, one-half of the fee shall be refunded.

67. Refund In Cases Of Remand :-

(1) Where a plaint or memorandum of appeal which has been rejected by the lower Court is ordered to be received, or where a suit is remanded in appeal for a fresh decision by the lower Court, the Court making the order or remanding the appeal may direct the refund to the appellant of the full amount of fee paid on the memorandum of appeal; and, if the remand is on second appeal, also on the memorandum of appeal in the first Appellate Court.

(2) Where an appeal is remanded in second appeal for a fresh decision by the lower Appellate Court, the High Court remanding the appeal may direct the refund to the appellant of the, full amount of fee paid on the memorandum of second appeal if the remand is in second appeal:

Provided that, no refund shall be ordered if the remand was caused by the fault of the party who would otherwise be entitled to a refund:

Provided further that, if the order of remand does not cover the whole of the subject-matter of the suit, the refund shall not extend

to more than so much fee as would have been originally payable on that part of the subject-matter in respect whereof the suit has been remanded.

68. Refund Where Court Reverses Or Modifies Former Decision On Ground Of Mistake :-

Where an application for a review of judgment is admitted on the ground of some mistake or error apparent on the face of the record, and on the rehearing the Court reverses or modifies its former decision on that ground, it shall direct the refund to the applicant of so much of the fee paid on the application as exceeds the fee payable on any other application to such Court under Article 11(g) and (t) of Schedule II.

69. Refund In Cases Of Compromise Or When Suit Is Decided On The Admission Of Parties :-

When a suit or appeal is compromised or when a suit is decided solely on the admission of the parties without any investigation, one-half of the Court fee paid on the plaint or memorandum of appeal shall be ordered by the Court to be refunded to the parties by whom the same have been paid respectively:

1[Provided that no refund shall be ordered where only one-tenth of the amount of fee on plaint as required by Section 4A or one-third of the amount of fee on memorandum of appeal as required by Section 52 has been paid by the parties.]

1. Added by Act 6 of 1991, published in K.G.Ext. No.109 dt. 24/01/1991 (w.e.f. 05/12/1990).

70. Refund Of Fee Paid By Mistake Or Inadvertence :-

The fee paid by mistake or inadvertence shall be ordered to be refunded.

71. Instruments Of Partition :-

Where the final decree in a partition suit has been engrossed on non-judicial stamps furnished by the parties, the Court shall order the refund to the parties of so much of the valued fee paid by them as is equal to the value of the non-judicial stamps furnished by them.

72. Exemption Of Certain Documents :-

Nothing contained in this Act shall render the following documents chargeable with any fee:--

- (i) mukhtarnama, vakalatnama or other written authority to institute or defend a suit when executed by a member of any of the Armed Forces of the Union not in civil employment;
- (ii) memorandum of appearance filed by advocates or pleaders when appearing for persons proceeded against in criminal cases;
- (iii) plaints and other documents in suits filed in Village Courts;
- (iv) plaints in suits before Collectors under Madras Regulation XII of 1816;
- (v) application or petition to a Collector or other Officer making a settlement of land revenue, or to the Board of Revenue relating to matters connected with the assessment of land, or with the ascertainment of rights thereto or interest therein, if presented previous to the final confirmation of such settlement;
- (vi) application relating to a supply for irrigation of water belonging to Government;
- (vii) application for leave to extend cultivation or to relinquish land, when presented to an officer of land revenue by a person holding, under a direct engagement with Government, land of which revenue is settled but not permanently;
- (viii) application for service of notice of relinquishment of land or of enhancement of rent;
- (ix) written authority to an agent to distrain;
- (x) first application (other than a petition containing a criminal charge of information) for the summons of a witness or other person to attend either to give evidence or to produce a document or in respect of the production or filing of an exhibit not being an affidavit made for the immediate purpose of being produced in Court;
- (xi) bail bonds in criminal cases other than bail bonds in Village Courts, recognizances to prosecute or give evidence and recognizances for personal appearance or otherwise;
- (xii) petition, application, charge or information respecting any offence when presented, made or laid to or before a police officer, or to or before the heads of villages or the village police;
- (xiii) petition by a prisoner or other person in duress or under restraint of any Court or its officer;
- (xiv) complaint of a public servant as defined in the Indian Penal Code (Central Act XLV of 1860).
- (xv) application for permission to cut timber in Government forests

or otherwise relating to such forests, not being applications from forest contractors for extending the period of their leases;

(xvi) application for the payment of money due by the Government to the applicant, 1 [including an application] for refund of lapsed deposit made six months after the date on which the amount lapsed to the Government;

(xvii) petition of appeal against any municipal tax;

(xviii) application for compensation under any law, for the time being in force relating to the acquisition of property for public purposes;

(xix) petition under Section 48 of the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872 (Central Act XV of 1872);

(xx) petition or appeal by a Government servant or a servant of the Court of Wards when presented to any superior officer or Government against orders of dismissal, removal, reduction in rank or suspension; copies of such orders filed with such appeals, and applications for obtaining such copies;

(xxi) applications for refund of Court-fees under the provisions of this Act;

(xxii) applications presented to Munsiffs in non-appealable cases;

(xxiii) requisitions made by the Government for copies of judgments and decrees or orders or records in suits or proceedings;

2 [(xxiv) petition in a suit under the Native Converts Marriage Dissolution Act, 1866 (Central Act 21 of 1866);

(xxv) petition, plaint or memorandum of appeal when presented to a Court under the Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act, 1939 (Central Act 8 of 1939);

(xxvi) petition under the Indian Divorce Act, 1869 (Central Act 4 of 1869) excluding petition under Section 44 of that Act, and every memorandum of appeal under Section 55 of that Act;

(xxvii) plaint or memorandum of appeal under the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 (Central Act 3 of 1936) or a counter claim made under Section 37 of that Act;

(xxviii) petition under Sections 22, 23, 27 or 28 of the Special Marriage Act, 1954 (Central Act 43 of 1954);

(xxix) petition under Sections 9, 10 or 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (Central Act 25 of 1955);

(xxx) undertaking under Section 49 of the Indian Divorce Act, 1869 (Central Act 4 of 1869);

(xxxi) 3 [xxxx]

(xxxii) application for leave to sue as a pauper;

(xxxiii) application for leave to appeal as a pauper.]

1. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991, for "other than an application" (w.e.f. 05/12/1990).
2. Inserted by Act 6 of 1991, published in K.G.Ext.No. 109 dt. 24/01/1991.
3. Omitted by Act 2 of 2003, published in K.G.Ext. No.386 dt. 06/03/2003 (w.e.f. 26/10/2002). Prior to the omission it read as: "petition to the High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution for a writ or a petition under Article 227 of the Constitution;".

73. Special Procedure Regarding Suits By Societies Registered Under The Societies Registration Act :-

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act where a suit is filed by a society registered under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Act XII of 1955 or the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Central Act 21 of 1860) and the Collector of the District certifies that the society is not in a position to pay the amount of fee chargeable on the plaint under this Act, regard being had to the financial condition of the society, the plaint shall be chargeable only with one-half of the amount of the fee chargeable on it.

73A. Special Provision Regarding Suits, Appeals, Revision Etc. Filed By Or On Behalf Of The Government Before The Court :-

1[73A. Special provision regarding suits, appeals, revision etc. filed by or on behalf of the Government before the Court

Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provisions of this Act, where a suit, appeal, revision, review or other pleadings or documents are filed or presented by or on behalf of the Government or its officers in their official capacity before any Court, no Court fee shall be chargeable in respect of such suit, appeal, revision, review or other pleadings or documents under the provisions of this Act.]

1. Inserted by Act 2 of 2003, published in K.G.Ext. No. 386 dt. 06/03/2003 (w.e.f. 26/10/2002).

74. Special Provision Regarding Suits By Registered Trade Union, Member Of Scheduled Castes, Etc :-

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of this Act, the Court shall, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), admit the plaint in respect of the following kinds of suit even

though the fee chargeable under this Act has not been paid and after such admission calculate the amount of Court-fee chargeable in respect of the plaint under the provisions of this Act, and, require the Collector of the District to pay the fee so chargeable--

(i) suits for money instituted by a registered trade union wherein the claim does not exceed one thousand rupees;

1(ii) suits instituted by a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe whose annual income does not exceed rupees twelve thousand and the amount of the claim does not exceed rupees fifteen thousand.]

Explanation.-- For the purpose of this clause Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe shall have the same meaning as in the Constitution of India.

(iii) suits for money instituted by a prisoner whose²[annual income] does not exceed²[twelve thousand rupees] and wherein the claim does not exceed²[fifteen thousand] rupees;

(iv) suits for money filed by a co-operative society registered under the Co-operative Societies Act for the time being in force against any person other than a member of the Society.

(v) suits for recovery of compensation under the Workmens Compensation Act, 1923 and for wages or bonus by workmen under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; and

(vi) suits for arrears of maintenance or for maintenance or for enhancement of maintenance or for recovery of shares of their deceased husbands or parents in the family property, filed by women or minors, where the³[annual income] of such women or minors does not exceed³[twelve thousand rupees];

4[x x x x]

5[(vii) suits by workmen against their employers in matters arising from their employment;

(viii) suits for recovery of compensation arising out of accidents, filed by the injured where the claim does not exceed rupees fifty thousand and filed by the legal heirs of the deceased in such accidents where the claim does not exceed rupees one lakh;

(ix) suits by associations or societies registered under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act, 1955 (Act XII) of 1955) or the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Central Act 21 of 1860), with one of their objects as protection of public interest in the matter of environment, consumer protection, adulteration of food stuffs, or other similar matter against the offenders, where the subject-matter of the suit relates to any of the above matters and the

Court finds that there is prima facie case of public interest;

(x) suits filed by Poor persons as defined in the Rules relating to legal aid to the poor applicable in the State from time to time, when the claim does not exceed rupees fifteen thousand;

(xi) suit by any person serving in the Armed Forces, where the claim does not exceed rupees fifteen thousand;

(xii) suits by ex-servicemen whose annual income does not exceed rupees twelve thousand and the claim does not exceed rupees fifteen thousand;

(xiii) suits by unemployed handicapped persons whose annual income does not exceed rupees twelve thousand and the claim does not exceed rupees fifteen thousand:]

Provided that the plaintiff in the suit has not entered into any agreement with reference to the subject-matter of the proposed suit under which any other person has obtained an interest in such subject-matter or has not acquired by transfer inter vivos an interest in such subject-matter and in cases covered by clauses (ii), (iii) and (iv) of sub-section (1) above, the claim originates in favour of the plaintiff.

(2) Every plaint presented to the Court under sub-section (1) shall be accompanied by such, documents and records containing such particulars as may be prescribed to enable the Court to come to a finding whether the plaintiff in the suit is entitled to the concession under sub-section (1) or not. The Court may for this purpose hold such inquiry as it deems fit. If upon such enquiry the Court finds that the allegations do not show a cause of action or that the suit appears to be barred by any law or that the plaintiff is not entitled to the concession under sub-section (1) it shall require the plaintiff to pay the fee chargeable in respect of the plaint under the provisions of this Act, and on such payment the plaint shall be deemed to have been duly stamped at the time of presentation.

(3) On receipt of a requisition from the Court under sub-section (1) for payment of Court-fee, the Collector shall pay the required fee within the time specified by the Court.

(4) Where in respect of a suit filed under sub-section (1), if the plaintiff succeeds in the suit or where the suit is dismissed wholly or in part on the ground that the claim or portion of it made in the suit is false or vexatious and the Court records a finding to the effect that it is so, the fee chargeable in respect of the plaint in the suit under the provisions of this Act, shall be recoverable by the Government from the party ordered by the decree to pay the same and shall be a first charge on the subject-matter of the suit.

(5) The Government shall have the right at any time to apply to the Court to make an order for the payment of Court-fees under sub-section (4).

(6) All matters arising between the Government and any party to the suit under this section shall be deemed to be questions arising between the parties to the suit within the meaning of Section 47 of the Civil Procedure Code.

(7) Where an order is made under this section the Court shall forthwith cause a copy of the decree or order to be forwarded to the Collector of the District who may without prejudice to any other mode of recovery, recover the amount of Court-fees specified therein from the person or property liable for the payment as if it were an arrear of land revenue.

1. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991, published in K.G.Ext. No.109 dt. 24/01/1991 (w.e.f. 05/12/1990). Prior to the substitution it read as:

"(ii) suits for money instituted by a member of Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe whose monthly income does not exceed one hundred rupees and wherein the claim does not exceed one thousand rupees".

2. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991, published in K.G.Ext. No. 109 dt. 24/01/1991, for "monthly income", "one hundred rupees" and "one thousand rupees" (w.e.f. 05/12/1990).

3. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991, for "monthly income" and "one hundred rupees" (w.e.f. 05/12/1990).

4. Omitted by Act 6 of 1991, published in K.G.Ext. No. 109 dt. 24/01/1991 (w.e.f. 05/12/1990). Prior to the omission it read as:

"Explanation.-- monthly income for purposes of clause (ii), (iii) and (vi) shall mean the average monthly income during the period of one year immediately prior to the date of institution of the suit:"

5. Inserted by Act 6 of 1991, published in K.G.Ext. No. 109 dt. 24/01/1991 (w.e.f. 05/12/1990).

74A. Special Provision Regarding Certain Appeals :-

1[74A. Special provision regarding certain appeals

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of this Act, the Court shall admit the memorandum of appeal in respect of an appeal.

(a) against the decree in a suit referred to in clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of Section 74, presented by the plaintiff in such suit; or

(b) against the decree in a suit for money instituted against a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe whose monthly

income does not exceed one hundred rupees and wherein the claim does not exceed one thousand rupees, presented by such member, even though the fee chargeable under this Act has not been paid, and, after such admission, calculate the amount of Court-fee chargeable in respect of such memorandum of appeal under the provisions of this Act and require the Collector of the District to pay the fee so chargeable:

Provided that, in the following cases, the Court shall not admit a memorandum of appeal referred to in clause (a), if the fee payable under this Act has not been paid, namely:--

(a) when the Court has not required the Collector of the District under sub-section (1) of Section 74 to pay the fee chargeable under this Act in respect of this unit in which the decree appealed against was passed;

(b) when the suit has been dismissed wholly or in part on the ground that the claim or portion of it made in the suit was false or vexatious and the Court recorded a finding to the effect that it was so.

(2) Every memorandum of appeal referred to in sub-section (1) shall, when presented to the Court, be accompanied by such documents and records containing such particulars as may be prescribed.

(3) If the Court finds that the appellant is not entitled to the concession under sub-section (1), it shall require the appellant to pay the fee chargeable in respect of the memorandum of appeal under the provisions of this Act, and on such payment, the memorandum shall be deemed to have been duly stamped at the time of presentation.

(4) On receipt of a requisition from the Court under sub-section (1) for payment of Court-fee, the Collector shall pay the required fee within the time specified by the Court.

(5) Where the appellant succeeds in an appeal referred to in sub-section (1), the fee chargeable in respect of the memorandum of appeal under the provisions of this Act shall be recoverable by the Government from the party ordered by the Court to pay the same, and shall be a first charge on the subject-matter of the suit in which the decree appealed against was passed.

(6) The Government shall have the right at any time to apply to the Court to make an order for the payment of Court-fees under sub-section (5).

(7) All matters arising under this section between the Government and any appellant shall be deemed to be questions arising between

the parties to the suit in which the decree appealed against was passed, within the meaning of Section 47 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Central Act 5 of 1908).

(8) Where an order is made under this section, the Court shall forthwith cause a copy of the order to be forwarded to the Collector of the District, who may, without prejudice to any other mode of recovery, recover the amount of Court-fee specified therein from the person or property liable for the payment as if it were an arrear of land revenue.]

1. Inserted by Act 4 of 1972.

75. Power To Reduce Or Remit Fees :-

The Government may, by notification in the Gazette, reduce or remit, in the whole or in any part of the territory of this State, all or any of the fees chargeable under this Act, and may, in like manner, cancel or vary such notification.

CHAPTER 8 Legal Benefit Fund

76. Legal Benefit Fund :-

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, it shall be competent for the Government to levy an additional Court-fee, by notification in the Gazette, in respect of appeals or revisions to tribunals or appellate authorities, other than Civil and Criminal Courts, at a rate not exceeding one per cent of the amount involved in the dispute in cases where it is capable of valuation and in other cases at a rate not exceeding one hundred rupees for each appeal or revision.

(2) There shall be constituted a Legal Benefit Fund to which shall be credited--

(i) the proceeds of the additional Court-fee levied and collected under sub-section (1);

(ii) fifty per cent of the Court-fees levied and collected on mukhtarnama or vakalatnama under Article 16 of Schedule II of this Act.

(3) The fund constituted under sub-section (2) shall be applied and utilised for the purpose of providing an efficient legal service for the people of the State and to provide social security measures for the legal profession.

(4) The mode and manner in which legal service to the people may

be made more efficient and social security measures for legal profession may be provided, shall be as prescribed by rules made by Government.

CHAPTER 9 MISCELLANEOUS

77. Collection Of Fees By Stamps :-

All fees chargeable under this Act shall be collected by stamps.

78. Stamps To Be Impressed Or Adhesive :-

The stamps used to denote any fee chargeable under this Act shall be impressed or adhesive or partly impressed and partly adhesive, as the Government may, by notification in the Gazette from time to time, direct.

78A. Writing Name Or Initials On Or Across The Stamp :-

1[78A. Writing name or initials on or across the stamp

(1) Whoever affixes any adhesive stamp to any document requiring stamp under this Act shall at the time of affixing such stamp write on or across the stamp his name or initials or the name or initials of his firm with the true date of his so writing so that it cannot be used again.

(2) Any document bearing an adhesive stamp which does not bear the name or initials of the person who affixes the stamp or of his firm, as required by sub-section (1), so that it cannot be used again, shall, so far as such stamp is concerned, be deemed to be unstamped.]

1. Inserted by Act 39 of 1976, published in K.G. Ext. No. 667 dt. 20/11/1976 (w.e.f. 23/07/1976).

79. Amended Document :-

Where any document which ought to bear a stamp under this Act is amended in order merely to correct a mistake and to make it conform to the original intention of the parties, it shall not be necessary to impose a fresh stamp.

80. Cancellation Of Stamp :-

No document requiring a stamp under this Act shall be filed or acted upon in any proceeding in any Court or office until the stamp

has been cancelled.

Such officer as the Court or the head of the office may, from time to time, appoint shall, on receiving any such document forthwith effect such cancellation by punching out the figure head so as to leave the amount designated on the stamp untouched, and the part removed by punching shall be burnt or otherwise destroyed:

1[Provided that in the case of an adhesive stamp, no such cancellation shall have effect unless it bears the name or initials of the person who affixes the stamp or of his firm, as required by sub-section (1) of Section 78A.]

1. Added by Act 39 of 1976, published in K.G.Ext. No. 667 dt. 20/11/1976.

81. Deduction To Be Made :-

1[81. Deduction to be made

(1) Where allowance is made in this Act for damaged or spoiled stamps, the Collector may, on application of the person concerned, after satisfying about the genuineness of the damaged or spoiled stamps produced, arrange to give in lieu thereof, the same amount or value in stamps of the same or any other description, or if the applicant so desires, the same amount or value in money.

(2) Where the Court orders refund of fees to any person, the Court may, on the application of the person concerned, arrange for payment to him of the amount ordered to be refunded.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), in all cases where payment thereunder is made in cash, a deduction shall be made of seven paise for each rupee or fraction thereof:

Provided that no such deduction shall be made where refund is claimed in respect of any fee paid in pursuance of an order of Court which has been varied or reversed in appeal.]

1. Substituted by Act 2 of 2003, published in K.G.Ext. No.386 dt. 06/03/2003 (w.e.f. 26/10/2002). Prior to the substitution it read as:

"Deduction to be made.-- Where allowance is made in this Act for damaged or spoiled stamps, or where fee already paid is directed to be refunded to any person by an order of Court, the Collector may, on the application of the person concerned, pay to him the amount of fee or where damaged or spoiled stamps are produced, he may, after satisfying himself about their genuineness, give in lieu thereof the same amount or value in stamps of the same or any other

description, or if the applicant so desires, the same amount or value in money provided that in all cases where money is paid in cash, a deduction shall be made of [seven paise] for each rupee or fraction thereof. No such deduction shall however be made where refund is claimed in respect of any fee paid in pursuance of an order of Court which has been varied or reversed in appeal."

82. Penalty :-

Any person appointed to sell stamps, who disobeys any rule made under this Act, and any person, not so appointed, who sells or offers for sale any stamps, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

83. Power Of High Court To Make Rules :-

(1) The High Court may make rules to provide for or regulate all or any of the following matters, namely.--

- (a) the fees payable for serving and executing processes issued by the High Court in its¹[original or] appellate jurisdiction and by the Civil and Criminal Courts subordinate thereto;
- (b) the remuneration of persons employed by the Courts mentioned in clause (a) in the service or execution of processes;
- (c) the fixing by District, and Sessions Judges and District Magistrates of the number of process-servers necessary to be employed for the service and execution of processes issued from their respective Courts and the Courts subordinate thereto;
- (d) the display in each Court of a table in English and in the local language or languages showing the fees payable for the service and execution of processes.

(2) All rules made under sub-section (1) shall be subject to confirmation by the Government and on such confirmation shall be published in the Gazette and shall thereupon have effect as if enacted in this Act.

1. Inserted by Act 2 of 2003, published in K.G. Ext. No. 386 dt. 06/03/2003 (w.e.f. 26/10/2002).

84. Power Of Board Of Revenue To Make Rules :-

(1) The Board of Revenue may, with the previous sanction of the Government, make rules consistent with this Act to provide for or regulate all or any of the following matters, namely:--

- (a) the fees chargeable for serving and executing processes issued by the Board of Revenue and by the Revenue Courts;
- (b) the remuneration of the persons necessary to be employed for the service and execution of such processes;
- (c) the fixing by Collectors of the number of persons necessary to be employed for the service and execution of such processes;
- (d) the guidance of Collectors in the exercise of their powers under Chapter VI;
- (e) the supply of stamps to be used under this Act;
- (f) the number of stamps to be used for denoting any fee chargeable under this Act;
- (g) the keeping of accounts of all stamps used under this Act;
- (h) the circumstances in which stamps may be held to be damaged or spoiled;
- (i) the circumstances in which, the manner in which, and the authorities by which, allowance for used, damaged or spoiled stamps may be made;
- (j) the regulation of the sale of stamps to be used under this Act, the persons by whom alone such stamps may be sold and the duties and remuneration of such persons:

Provided that, in the case of stamps used in the High Courts such rules shall be made with the concurrence of the Chief Justice.

(2) All rules made under this section shall be published in the Gazette and on such publication, shall have effect as if enacted in this Act.

85. Power Of Government To Make Rules :-

(1) The Government may, by notification in the Gazette, make rules to carry out generally the purposes of this Act.

(2) All notifications and rules made under this section shall, as soon as possible, after they are made, be placed on the table of the Legislative Assembly for one month, and shall be subject to such modification whether by way of repeal or amendment as the Legislative Assembly may make during the session in which they are so laid or the session immediately following.

86. Continuance In Force Of Existing Rules :-

Until rules are framed under Sections 83, 84 and 85 and until notifications are issued under Section 75, the rules and notifications now in force in respect of matters referred to in those sections shall in so far as they are not inconsistent with this Act, continue.

87. Repeal :-

(1) The Madras Court-Fees and Suits Valuation Act, 1955, in force in the Malabar District referred to in sub-section (2) of Section 5 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, the Travancore-Cochin Court-Fees Act, 1125, and the Travancore-Cochin Suits Valuation Act, 1125, are hereby repealed.

(2) All suits and proceedings instituted before the commencement of this Act and all proceedings by way of appeal, revision or otherwise arising therefrom whether instituted before or after such commencement shall, notwithstanding the repeal of the said Acts be governed by the provisions of the said Acts and the rules made thereunder.

SCHEDULE 1

FIRST SCHEDULE

AD VALOREM FEES AS APPLICABLE IN KERALA

(As per Schedule-I of Kerala Court-Fees and Suits Valuation Act, 1959)

SCHEDULE - I

Article	Particulars	Proper fee
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Plaint or written statement pleading a set-off or counter claim or memorandum of appeal presented to any Court. When the value of the subject-matter in dispute-	
	(i) does not exceeds one hundred rupees	Four rupees
	(ii) exceeds one hundred rupees, for every one hundred rupees, or part thereof, in excess of one hundred rupees upto fifteen thousand rupees.	Four rupees
	(iii) exceeds fifteen thousand rupees, for every one hundred rupees, or part thereof, in excess of fifteen thousand rupees upto fifty thousand rupees.	Eight rupees
	(iv) exceeds fifty thousand rupees, for every one hundred rupees, or part thereof. in excess of fifty thousand rupees upto ten lakhs rupees.	Ten rupees
	(v) exceeds rupees ten lakhs, for every one hundred rupees, or part thereof, in excess of rupees ten lakhs upto rupees ten million .	Eight rupees
	(vi) exceeds rupees ten million, for every one hundred rupees, or part thereof, in excess of ten million rupees.	One rupee
2.	(a) Application under section 95 of the Civil of Procedure, 1908 or Petition under	An amount of one-half of the scale of fee prescribed

	Section 26 of the Insolvency Act, 1955	in Article I on the amount or compensation claimed.
	(b) Appeal against an order on an application or a Petition falling under clause (a)	On the scale prescribed in Article I on the amount in dispute.
3.	(a) Petition under section 54 or 55 of the Insolvency Act, 1955	An amount of one half of the scale of fee prescribed in Article I on the market value of the subject matter subject to maximum fee of rupees five hundred
4.	Memorandum of Appeal against an order under the Indian Succession Act, 1925.	An amount of one half the scale of fee prescribed in Article I on the market value or value of the subject matter
5.	Application for review of judgment	One half of the fee payable on the plaint or memorandum of appeal comprising the reliefs sought in the application for review.
6.	Probate of a will or letters of administration with or without will annexed.	
	(i) Where the amount of value of the estate in respect of which the grant of probate or letters is made does not exceed rupees ten million.	One per centum on such amount or value.
	(ii) Where such amount or value exceeds rupees ten million	Half a per centum on such amount or value.
7.	Certificate under the Indian Succession Act, 1925 (Central Act 39 of 1925):--	
	(i) Where the amount or value of the debt or security or the aggregate amount or value of debt and securities specified in the certificate does not exceed rupees ten million	One per centum on such amount or value
	(ii) Where such amount or value exceeds rupees ten million.	Half a per centum on such amount or value.
	Note:	
	(1) Where a certificate is extended under Section 376 of Indian Succession Act, 1925, fee shall be computed on the amount for which a certificate is sought to be extended and the amount for which a certificate or certificates has or have already been issued, credit being given for the fee already paid.	

	(2) The amount of debt is its amount , including interest, on the day on which the inclusion of the debt in the certificate is applied for so far as such amount can be ascertained .	
	(3) Whether or not any power with respect to a security specified in a certificate has been conferred under the Act and where such a power has been so conferred, whether the power is for the receiving of interest or dividends on, or for the negotiation or transfer of the security or for both purposes, the value of the security is its market value on the day on which the inclusion of the security in the certificate is applied for so far as such value can be ascertained.	

SCHEDULE II

Article	Particulars	Proper fee
-1	-2	-3
1. [xxx]		
2. [xxx]		
3	Memorandum of appeal from an order inclusive of an order determining any question under Section 47 or Section 144 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and not otherwise provided for when presented-	Ten rupees
	(i) to any Court other than the High Court or to the Board of Revenue or the Chief Executive Authority or to any Executive Officer.	
	(ii) [xxx]	
	(iii) to the High Court--	
	(A) From an order other than an order under the Kerala Agriculturists Debt Relief Act, 1958.	
	(1) Where the order was passed by a Subordinate Court or other authority-	
	(a) If the order relates to a suit or proceeding, the value of which exceeds one thousand rupees.	Twenty five rupees
	(b) In any other case	Ten rupees
	(2) Where the appeal is under Section 5 of the Kerala High Court Act, 1958-	
	(a) From an order passed in exercise of appellate jurisdiction	Twenty five rupees
	(b) From an order passed in exercise of original jurisdiction, which would be appealable under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, had it been passed by a Subordinate Court.	Twenty five rupees
	(c) In any other case	Ten rupees

	(3) Where the appeal is under Section 45B of the Banking Companies Act, 1949.	Two Hundred and Fifty rupees
	(4) Where the appeal is under Section 411 A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.	Ten rupees
	(B) From an order under the Kerala Agriculture Debt Relief Act, 1958.	Five rupees
	(C) From an order of the Appellate Tribunal under the Income Tax Act, 1961 or the Wealth tax Act, 1957,-	
	(a) Where the total income of the assessee as computed by the Assessing Officer, in the case to which the appeal relates is one lakh rupees or less	Five Hundred rupees
	(b) Where such income exceeds one lakh rupees but does not exceed two lakh rupees	One Thousand and Five Hundred rupees
	(c) Where such income exceeds two lakh rupees	One percent of the assessed income, subject to a maximum of ten thousand rupees
	(d) Where the subject matter of an appeal relates to any matter, other than those specified in sub clauses (a) to (c) above	Five hundred rupees
4	Memorandum of appeal under Section 39 of the Arbitration Act, 1940-	
	(i) Where the appeal is from an order of a Munsiffs Court or an order of a superior Court in a case where the value for the purpose of jurisdiction does not exceed rupees fifteen thousand.	Fifty rupees
	(ii) in other cases where the amount or value of the subject-matter-	
	(a) does not exceed rupees one lakh, for every hundred rupees, or part thereof, upto rupees one lakh.	Two rupees
	(b) exceeds rupees one lakh for every hundred rupees, or part thereof, in excess of rupees one lakh upto rupees five lakhs.	Four rupees
	(c) exceeds rupees five lakhs, for every hundred rupees, or part thereof, in excess of rupees five lakhs.	One rupee
5	Copy or translation of a judgment or order not being or having the force of a decree passed by the High Court, or by any Civil Court or by the Presiding Officer of any Revenue Court or Office or by any other Court or Judicial or Executive authority.	Five rupees
6	Copy or translation of a judgment or order of a Criminal Court.	Five rupees

7	Copy of a decree or order, having the force of a decree made by the High Court or any other Court.	Five rupees
8	Copy of any document liable to stamp duty under the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 or the Travancore-Cochin Stamp Act, 1125, when left by any party to a suit or proceeding in place of the original withdrawn-	
	(a) When the stamp duty chargeable on the original does not exceed fifty paise	The amount of the duty chargeable on the original
	(b) In any other case.	Two rupees
9	Copy of any revenue or judicial proceeding or order not otherwise provided for by this Act or copy of any account, statement, report or the like taken out of any Court or office of any public officer- for every document	Two rupees
10	(a) Application or petition presented to- any officer of land revenue by any person holding temporarily settled land under direct engagement with Government and when the subject-matter of the application or petition relates exclusively to such engagement	Two rupees
	(b) Application or petition presented to any officer of land revenue relating to the grant of land on darkhast or assignment of land	Two rupees
	(c) Application to a Collector for lease of land for agricultural or non-agricultural purposes.	Five rupees
	(d) Application or petition presented to any Executive Officer under any Act for the time being in force for the conservancy or improvement of any place if the application or petition relates solely to such conservancy or improvement.	Five rupees
	(e) Application or petition presented to any Board or Executive Officer for a copy or translation of any order passed by such Board or officer or of any other document on record in such office	Five rupees
	(f) Application to a Forest Officer by a forest contractor for extension of the period of lease	
	(i) if the value of the subject-matter of the lease is rupees Twenty five thousand or less	One Hundred rupees
	(ii) if such value exceeds rupees twenty five thousand, for every rupees thousand or part thereof in excess of rupees twenty five thousand.	Twenty rupees
	(g) Application for attestation of private documents intended to be used outside India.	Ten rupees
	(h) [xxx]	
	(i) Application or petition presented to the Government and not otherwise provided for-	
	(i) which involves the exercise or non-exercise of	

	power conferred by law or rule having the force of law;	Five rupees
	(ii) in other cases.	One rupees
	(j) Application or petition presented to the Board of Revenue or Chief Executive Authority and not otherwise provided for.-	
	(i) which involves the exercise or non-exercise of power conferred by law or rule having the force of law;	Ten rupees
	(ii) in other cases	Four rupees
	(jj) (i) Application under Section 8(1) of the Kerala Private Forests (Vesting and Assignment) Act, 1971 to the Tribunal constituted under that Act.	Twenty Five rupees
	(ii) Application to such Tribunal for an interlocutory order	Six rupees
	(k) Application or petition not falling under clauses (i) or (j) and presented to a public officer in a public office and not otherwise provided for	Five rupees
11	(a) Application or petition presented to any Court for a copy or translation of any judgment, decree or any proceeding or order passed by such Court or of any other document on record in such Court.	Five rupees
	(b) Application or petition presented to any Civil Court other than a Principal Civil Court of original Jurisdiction or to any Court of Small Causes constituted under the Kerala Small Cause Courts Act, 1957, or to a Collector or other officer of revenue in relation to any suit or case in which the amount or value of the subject-matter is less than Rs. 50	Five rupees
	(c) Application to any Court that records may be called from another Court, when the Court grants the application and is of opinion that the the transmission of such records involves use of the post.	Five rupees in addition to the fee leviable on the application.
	(d) Application for permission to deposit revenue or rent either in the office of the Collector or the Court.	Five rupees
	(e) Application or petition presented to a Court for determination of the amount of Compensation to be paid by the landlord to his tenant.	Five rupees
	(f) A written complaint or charge of any offence other than an offence for which a Police Officer may, under the Code of Criminal Procedure, arrest without warrant and presented to any Criminal Court and on oral complaint of any such offence reduced to writing under the Code of, Criminal Procedure, 1898.	Ten rupees
	(g) Application or petition presented to any Court, or to any Magistrate in his executive capacity and	Two rupees

	not otherwise provided for this Act.	
	(h) Application for arrest or attachment before judgment or for temporary injunction.	
	(i) when presented to a Civil Court or Revenue Court other than the High Court in relation to any suit or proceeding	
	(1) If the value of the subject-matter of which is less than Rs. 50:	Ten rupees
	(2) if the value is Rs. 50 and above:	Twenty five rupees
	(ii) when presented to the High Court Application or petition under Section 47 and order XXI, Rules 58 and 90 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.-	Fifty rupees
	(i) when filed in a Revenue Court or a Munsiffs Court	Ten rupees
	(ii) when filed in a Sub-Court or a District Court,	Twenty Five rupees
	(iii) when filed in the High Court	Fifty rupees
	(j) Application for petition under Sections 34, 72, 73 and 74 of the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.	Fifty rupees
	(k) (i) Application for probate or letters of administration to have effect throughout India	Fifty rupees
	(ii) Application for probate or letters of administration not falling under Clause (i)-	
	(1) if the value of the estate does not exceed Rs. 1,000;	One rupee
	(2) if the value exceeds Rs. 1,000	Five rupees
	Provided that if a caveat is entered and the application is registered as a suit, one-half the scale of fee prescribed in Article 1 of Schedule I on the market value of the estate less the fee already paid on the application shall be levied.	
	(l) Original petitions not otherwise provided for when filed in-	
	(i) a Munsiffs Court-	
	(1) under the Madras Village Courts Act, 1888 (Madras Act 1 of 1889), or the Cochin Village Courts Act, XII of 1118 or the Travancore Village Panchayat Courts Act, 1090.	Ten rupees
	(2) in other cases.	Twenty Five rupees
	(ii) the Sub-Court or a District Court	Fifty rupees
	(iii) the High Court	One hundred rupees per petitioner
	(iv) for Contempt of Court Cases in the High Court	One hundred rupees
	(m) Application to set aside an award under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (Central Act	

	26 of 1996), -	
	(i) if the value of the subject-matter of the award does not exceed Rs. 5,000.	Fifty rupees
	(ii) if such value exceeds Rs. 5,000 but does not exceed Rs. 10,000	One hundred and fifty rupees
	(iii) if such value exceeds Rs 10,000	Four hundred rupees
	(n) Application for enforcing foreign Awards,-	
	(i) if the value of the subject-matter of the award does not exceed Rs. 5,000.	Fifty rupees
	(ii) if such value exceeds Rs 5,000; but does not exceed Rs 10,000;	Two hundred rupees
	(iii) if such value exceeds Rs. 10,000	Four hundred rupees
	(o) [xxx]	
	(p) Revision petition presented to the High Court under Section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, or under Section 22 of the Kerala Small Cause Courts Act, 1957 or under the provisions of any other Act, arising out of a suit or proceeding-	
	(i) if the value of the suit or proceeding to which the order sought to be revised relates does not exceed Rs. 1,000.	Twenty five rupees
	(ii) if such value exceeds Rs. 1,000.	Fifty rupees
	(q) Petition under Sections 391, 439 and 440 of the Indian Companies Act, 1956, in connection with the winding up of a company	Two Hundred and Fifty rupees
	(r) [xxx]	
	(s) Application under Section 45 of the Specific Relief Act, 1877	Two hundred rupees
	(t) Application or petition presented to the High Court and not otherwise specifically provided for.	Ten rupees
	(u) Election Petition questioning the election of a person in respect of-	
	(i) the office of member of a Panchayat;	Fifty rupees
	(ii) the office of President of a Panchayat;	One hundred rupees
	(iii) the office of member of a Municipal Council or a District Board;	One hundred rupees
	(iv) the office of Mayor of a Municipal Corporation or of Chairman of a Municipality or President of a District Board.	Two hundred & Fifty rupees
	(v) election petition presented to the High Court under Section 80A of the Representation of People Act, 1951	Two hundred & Fifty rupees
12. [xxx]		
13. [xxx]		
	(i) Bail bond or other instrument of obligation	

14	when filed in Village Courts	Two rupees
	(ii) Bail bond or other instrument of obligation given in pursuance of an order made by a Court of Magistrate under any section or the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, or the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and not otherwise provided for in this Act.	Five rupees
15	Every copy of power of attorney when filed in any suit or proceeding.	Ten rupees
16	Mukhtarnama, Vakalatnama or any paper signed by an advocate signifying or intimating that he is retained for a party -When presented-	
	(i) to any Court other than the High Court or to any Collector or Magistrate or other executive officer;	Five rupees
	(ii) to the Board of Revenue or a Chief Executive Authority;	Five rupees
	(iii) to the High Court	Ten rupees
	(iv) to the Government	Ten rupees
17	Agreement in writing stating a question for the opinion of the Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908-	
	(i) when presented to in a case where the value of the subject-matter does not exceeds Rs. 5,000	One hundred rupees
	(ii) in any other case	Two hundred rupees
18	Caveat	Fifty rupees

SCHEDULE 2

SECOND SCHEDULE

-1	-2	-3
1 [1. xxxx]		
1 [2. xxxx]		
3	Memorandum of appeal from an order inclusive of an order determining any question under Section 47 or Section 144 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and not otherwise provided for when presented-2 [(i) to any Court other than the High Court or to the Board of Revenue or the Chief Executive Authority or to any Executive Officer.	3 [Ten rupees]
	(ii)[xxxx]	
	(iii) to the High Court--	
	(A) From an order other than an order under the Kerala Agriculturists Debt Relief Act, 1958.	

	(1) Where the order was passed by a Subordinate Court or other authority-	
	(a) If the order relates to a suit or proceeding, the value of which exceeds one thousand rupees.	4 [Twenty five rupees]
	(b) In any other case	[Ten rupees]
-2	Where the appeal is under Section 5 of the Kerala High Court Act, 1958-	[Ten rupees]
	(a) From an order passed in exercise of appellate jurisdiction	[Twenty five rupees]
	(b) From an order passed in exercise of original jurisdiction, which would be appealable under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, had it been passed by a Subordinate Court.	[Twenty five rupees]
	(c) In any other case	5 [Two Hundred rupees per appellant]
-3	Where the appeal is under Section 45B of the Banking Companies Act, 1949.	[Two Hundred and Fifty rupees]
-4	Where the appeal is under Section 411 A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.	[Ten rupees]
(B)	From an order under the Kerala Agriculture Debt Relief Act, 1958.	6 [Five rupees]
	7 [(C) From an order of the Appellate Tribunal under the Income Tax Act, 1961 or the Wealth tax Act, 1957,-	
	(a) Where the total income of the assessee as computed by the Assessing Officer, in the case to which the appeal relates is one lakh rupees or less	Five Hundred rupees
	(b) Where such income exceeds one lakh rupees but does not exceed two lakh rupees	One Thousand and Five Hundred rupees
	(c) Where such income exceeds two lakh rupees(d) Where the subject matter of an appeal relates to any matter, other than those specified in sub clauses(a) to (c) above	One percent of the assessed income, subject to a maximum of ten thousand rupees Five hundred rupees
	(iv) to the Government in pursuance of statutory right to appeal for which no court-fee is leviable under any other enactment	5 [Twenty five rupees]
4	Memorandum of appeal under Section 39 of the Arbitration Act, 1940-	
	8 [(i) Where the appeal is from an order of a Munsiffs Court or an order of a superior Court in a case where the value for the purpose of jurisdiction does not exceed rupees fifteen thousand.	9 [Fifty rupees]

	(ii) in other cases where the amount or value of the subject-matter-	
	(a) does not exceed rupees one lakh, for every hundred rupees, or part thereof, upto rupees one lakh.	10 [Two rupees]
	(b) exceeds rupees one lakh for every hundred rupees, or part thereof, in excess of rupees one lakh upto rupees five lakhs.	10 [Four rupees]
	(c) exceeds rupees five lakhs, for every hundred rupees, or part thereof, in excess of rupees five lakhs.	10 [One rupee]
11 [5.	Copy or translation of a judgment or order not being or having the force of a decree passed by the High Court, or by any Civil Court or by the Presiding Officer of any Revenue Court or Office or by any other Court or Judicial or Executive authority.	12 [Five rupees]
6	Copy or translation of a judgment or order of a Criminal Court.	[Five rupees]
7	Copy of a decree or order, having the force of a decree made by the High Court or any other Court.	[Five rupees]
8	Copy of any document liable to stamp duty under the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 or the Travancore-Cochin Stamp Act, 1125, when left by any party to a suit or proceeding in place of the original withdrawn-	
	(a) When the stamp duty chargeable on the original does not exceed fifty paise	The amount of the duty chargeable on the original
	(b) In any other case.	[Two rupees]
9	Copy of any revenue or judicial proceeding or order not otherwise provided for by this Act or copy of any account, statement, report or the like taken out of any Court or office of any public officer- for every document	13 [Two rupees]
10	(a) Application or petition presented to- any officer of land revenue by any person holding temporarily settled land under direct engagement with Government and when the subject-matter of the application or petition relates exclusively to such engagement	[Two rupees]
	(b) Application or petition presented to any officer of land revenue relating to the grant of land on darkhast or assignment of land	14 [Two rupees]
	(c) Application to a Collector for lease of land for agricultural or non-agricultural purposes.	[Five rupees]
	(d) Application or petition presented to any Executive Officer under any Act for the time being in force for the conservancy or improvement of any place if the application or petition relates solely to such conservancy or improvement.	[Five rupees]

	(c) Application or petition presented to any Board or Executive Officer for a copy or translation of any order passed by such Board or officer or of any other document on record in such office	[Five rupees]
	15 [(f) Application to a Forest Officer by a forest contractor for extension of the period of lease	
	(i) if the value of the subject-matter of the lease is rupees Twenty five thousand or less	16 [One Hundred rupees]
	(ii) if such value exceeds rupees twenty five thousand, for every rupees thousand or part thereof in excess of rupees twenty five thousand.	[Twenty rupees]
	(g) Application for attestation of private documents intended to be used outside India.	29 [Ten rupees]
	(h) 17 [xxxx]	
	(i) Application or petition presented to the Government and not otherwise provided for-	
	(i) which involves the exercise or non-exercise of power conferred by law or rule having the force of law;	18 [Five rupees]
	(ii) in other cases.	18 [One rupees]
	(j) Application or petition presented to the Board of Revenue or Chief Executive Authority and not otherwise provided for. -	
	(i) which involves the exercise or non-exercise of power conferred by law or rule having the force of law;	19 [Ten rupees]
	(ii) in other cases	[Four rupees]
	20 [(jj) (i) Application under Section 8(1) of the Kerala Private Forests (Vesting and Assignment) Act, 1971 to the Tribunal constituted under that Act.	21 [Twenty Five rupees]
	(ii) Application to such Tribunal for an interlocutory order	21 [Six rupees]
	[(k) Application or petition not falling under clauses (i) or (j) and presented to a public officer in a public office and not otherwise provided for]	[Five rupees]
11	(a) Application or petition presented to any Court for a copy or translation of any judgment, decree or any proceeding of or order passed by such Court or of any other document on record in such Court.	[Five rupees]
	(b) Application or petition presented to any Civil Court other than a Principal Civil Court of original Jurisdiction or to any Court of Small Causes constituted under the Kerala Small Cause Courts Act, 1957, or to a Collector or other officer of revenue in	[Five rupees]

	relation to any suit or case in which the amount or value of the subject-matter is less than Rs. 50	
	(c) Application to any Court that records may be called from another Court, when the Court grants the application and is of opinion that the the transmission of such records involves use of the post.	[Five rupees] in addition to the fee leviable on the application.
	(d) Application for permission to deposit revenue or rent either in the office of the Collector or the Court.	[Five rupees]
	(e) Application or petition presented to a Court for determination of the amount of Compensation to be paid by the landlord to his tenant.	[Five rupees]
	(f) A written complaint or charge of any offence other than an offence for which a Police Officer may, under the Code of Criminal Procedure, arrest without warrant and presented to any Criminal Court and on oral complaint of any such offence reduced to writing under the Code of, Criminal Procedure, 1898.	[Ten rupees]
	(g) Application or petition presented to any Court, or to any Magistrate in his executive capacity and not otherwise provided for this Act.	18 [Two rupees]
	(h) Application for arrest or attachment before judgment or for temporary injunction.	
	(i) when presented to a Civil Court or Revenue Court other than the High Court in relation to any suit or proceeding	
	(1) If the value of the subject-matter of which is less than Rs. 50:	22 [Ten rupees]
	(2) if the value is Rs. 50 and above:	22 [Twenty five rupees]
	(ii) when presented to the High Court Application or petition under Section 47 and order XXI, Rules 58 and 90 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.-	3 [Fifty rupees]
	(i) when filed in a Revenue Court or a Munsiffs Court	22 [Ten rupees]
	(ii) when filed in a Sub-Court or a District Court,	22 [Twenty Five rupees]
	(iii) when filed in the High Court	22 [Fifty rupees]
	(j) Application for petition under Sections 34, 72, 73 and 74 of the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.	[Fifty rupees]
	(k) (i) Application for probate or letters of administration to have effect throughout India	24 [Fifty rupees]
	(ii) Application for probate or letters of administration not falling under Clause (i)-	

	(1) if the value of the estate does not exceed Rs. 1,000;	One rupee
	(2) if the value exceeds Rs. 1,000	Five rupees
	Provided that if a caveat is entered and the application is registered as a suit, one-half the scale of fee prescribed in Article 1 of Schedule I on the market value of the estate less the fee already paid on the application shall be levied.	
	(l) Original petitions not otherwise provided for when filed in-	
	(i) a Munsiffs Court-	
	(1) under the Madras Village Courts Act, 1888 (Madras Act 1 of 1889), or the Cochin Village Courts Act, XII of 1118 or the Travancore Village Panchayat Courts Act, 1090.	5 [Ten rupees]
	(2) in other cases.	5 [Twenty Five rupees]
	(ii) the Sub-Court or a District Court	6 [Fifty rupees]
	(iii) the High Court	25 [One hundred rupees per petitioner]
	26 [(iv) for Contempt of Court Cases in the High Court	One hundred rupees]
	27 [(m) Application to set aside an award under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (Central Act 26 of 1996),-	
	(i) if the value of the subject-matter of the award does not exceed Rs. 5,000/-.	Fifty rupees
	(ii) if such value exceeds Rs. 5,000/-but does not exceed Rs. 10,000/-	One hundred and fifty rupees
	(iii) if such value exceeds Rs 10,000/-	Four hundred rupees]
	28 [(n) Application for enforcing foreign Awards,-	
	(i) if the value of the subject-matter of the award does not exceed Rs. 5,000.	Fifty rupees
	(ii) if such value exceeds Rs 5,000; but does not exceed Rs 10,000;	Two hundred rupees
	(iii) if such value exceeds Rs. 10,000	Four hundred rupees]
	(o) 29 [xxxx]	
	(p) Revision petition presented to the High Court under Section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, or under Section 22 of the Kerala Small Cause Courts Act, 1957 or under the provisions of any other Act, arising out of a suit or proceeding-	
	(i) if the value of the suit or proceeding to which the order sought to be revised relates	3 [Twenty five rupees]

	docs not exceed Rs. 1,000. (ii) if such value exceeds Rs. 1,000.	4 [Fifty rupees]
	(q) Petition under Sections 391, 439 and 440 of the Indian Companies Act, 1956, in connection with the winding up of a company	30 [Two Hundred and Fifty rupees]
	(r) 31 [xxxxxx]	
	(s) Application under Section 45 of the Specific Relief Act, 1877	32 [Two hundred rupees]
	(t) Application or petition presented to the High Court and not otherwise specifically provided for.	[Ten rupees]
	(u) Election Petition questioning the election of a person in respect of-	
	(i) the office of member of a Panchayat;	[Fifty rupees]
	(ii) the office of President of a Panchayat;	3 [One hundred rupees]
	(iii) the office of member of a Municipal Council or a District Board;	[One hundred rupees]
	(iv) the office of Mayor of a Municipal Corporation or of Chairman of a Municipality or President of a District Board.	34 [Two hundred & Fifty rupees]
	(v) election petition presented to the High Court under Section 80A of the Representation of People Act, 1951	Two hundred & Fifty rupees
33 [12. xxxxxxx]		
[13. xxxxxxx]		
14	(i) Bail bond or other instrument of obligation when filed in Village Courts	[Two rupees]
	(ii) Bail bond or other instrument of obligation given in pursuance of an order made by a Court of Magistrate under any section or the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, or the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and not otherwise provided for in this Act.	[Five rupees]
15	Every copy of power of attorney when filed in any suit or proceeding.	[Ten rupees]
16	Mukhtarnama, Vakalatnama or any paper signed by an advocate signifying or intimating that he is retained for a party - When presented-	
	(i) to any Court other than the High Court or to any Collector or Magistrate or other executive officer;	34 [Five rupees]
	(ii) to the Board of Revenue or a Chief Executive Authority;	34 [Five rupees]
	(iii) to the High Court	34 [Ten rupees]
	(iv) to the Government	34 [Ten rupees]
	Agreement in writing stating a question for	

17	the opinion of the Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908-	
	35 [(i) when presented to in a case where the value if the subject-matter does not exceeds Rs. 5,000	One hundred rupees
	(ii) in any other case	Two hundred rupees]
18	Caveat	35 [Fifty rupees]

1. Articles 1 and 2 are omitted by Act 6 of 1991 (w.e.f. 5-12-1990). The omitted Articles read as follows:

"(i)	Petition in a suit under the Native Converts Marriage Dissolution Act, 1866	Ten rupees
(ii)	Petition, Complaint or memorandum of appeal when presented to a Court under the Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act, 1939 or the Cochin Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act XXII of 1120.	Ten rupees
(iii)	Petition under the Indian Divorce Act, 1869 excluding petitions under Section 44 of that Act, and every memorandum of appeal under Section 55 of that Act	Thirty rupees
(iv)	Complaint or memorandum of appeal under the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936, or a counter claim made under section 37 of that Act	Thirty rupees
(v)	Petition under Section 22, 23, 27 or 28 of the Special Marriage Act, 1954	Thirty rupees
(vi)	Petition under Section 9, 10 or 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. If, in a suit falling under any of these clauses there is a specific claim for damages, separate fee at the rates prescribed in Article 1 of Schedule I shall be charged on the amount of damages claimed.	Thirty rupees
	Undertaking under Section 49 of the Indian Divorce Act, 1869. One rupees"	

2. Substituted by Act 6 of 1991 (w.e.f. 5-12-1990)

3. Substituted for the word "Five rupees" by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

4. Substituted for the word "Ten rupees" by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

5. Substituted for the word "One hundred rupees" by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

6. Substituted for the word "Two rupees" by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

7. The sub-item (C) inserted by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

8. Items (i) and (ii) of Article 4 substituted by Act 6 of 1991 published in K.G.Ex. No. 109 dated 24-1-1991 (w.e.f. 5-12-1990)

9. Substituted for the word "Twenty five" by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

10. The words "One rupee", "Two rupees" and "Fifty paise" respectively substituted by

the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

11. Article 5 substituted by Act 6 of 1991 (5-12-1990). The article stood before amendment as follows:- "5. Copy or translation of a judgment or order not being or having the force of a decree. When such judgment or order is passed by any civil Court other than the High Court or by the Presiding Officer of any Revenue Court or officer of any other Court, or Judicial or executive authority-

(a) if the amount or value of the subject matter is fifty or less or less than fifty rupees; Fifty paise

(b) if such amount or value exceeds fifty rupees; One rupee

when such judgment or order is passed by the High Court Two rupees"

12. Substituted for the word "One rupee" by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003

13. Substituted for the word "Seventy-five paise" by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

14. Substituted for the word "Twenty-five paise" by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

15. Clause (t) substituted by Act 6 of 1991.

16. The words "Twenty-five rupees" and "Ten rupees" respectively substituted by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

17. Omitted by Act 6 of 1991 (w.e.f. 5-12-1990)

18. The words "Two rupees" and "Fifty paise" respectively substituted by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

19. Substituted 1991 for the word "Five rupees" by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

20. Inserted by Act 38 of 1976 (w.e.f. 23-07-1976)

21. The words "Ten rupees" and "Three rupees" respectively substituted by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

22. The words "One rupee" and "Two rupees and fifty paise" are substituted by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

23. The words "One rupee", "Two rupees and fifty paise" and "Five rupees" are substituted by *ibid*.

24. Substituted for the word "Twenty-five rupees" by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

25. The words "One rupee" and "Five rupees" are substituted by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

26. Substituted for the word "Twenty rupees" by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

27. Inserted by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

28. Substituted in Clause (n) by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003; as prior to substitution it read as:

"(n) Application to set aside an award under the Arbitration Act, 1940-	
(i) When presented to a Munsiff's Court;	Fifteen rupees
(ii) when presented to a Sub-Court, a District Court or the High Court-	
(1) If the value of the subject-matter of a award does not exceed Rs. 5,000	Fifteen rupees
(2) If such value exceeds Rs. 5,000 but does not exceed Rs. 10,000	One Hundred rupees
(3) If such value exceeds Rs. 10,000	Two hundred and fifty rupees"

29. Substituted in Clause (n) by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003; as prior to substitution it read as: "(n) Application under section 14 or Section 20 of the Arbitration Act, 1940, for a direction for filing an award or for an order for filing an agreement and application for enforcing

foreign awards-

"(1) if the value of the subject-matter of the award does not exceed Rs. 5,000	Fifteen rupees
(2) if such value exceeds Rs. 5,000; but does not exceed Rs. 10,000	One hundred rupees
(3) if such value exceeds Rs. 10,000	Two hundred and fifty rupees"

30. Clause (o) omitted by Act 6 of 1991 (w.e.f. 5-12-1990)

31. Substituted for the word "One hundred" by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

32. Clause (r) omitted by Act 6 of 1991 (w.e.f. 5-12-1990).

33. Substituted for the word "Fifty rupees" by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003.

34. The words "Two rupees", "Three rupees", "Five rupees" are substituted by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003

35. Substituted in Sub-Clauses (i) and (ii) by the Kerala Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2003; as prior to substitution it read as:

SCHEDULE 3

THIRD SCHEDULE

Part I

(See section 55)

Form of Valuation (to be used with such modifications if any, as may be necessary) of Estate.

IN THE COURT OF

RE: PROBATE OF THE WILL OF (OR ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF ...), DECEASED.

1. I (A. B.) solemnly affirm/make oath and say that I am the executor (or one of the executors or one of the next-of kin) of deceased, and that I have truly set forth in Annexure A to this Form of Valuation all the estate of which the above named deceased died possessed or to which he was entitled at the time of his death, and which has come, or is likely to come, to my hands.

2. I further say that I have also truly set forth in Annexure B all the items I am by law allowed to deduct.

3. I further declare that the said estate exclusive only of the last mentioned items, was on the date of the death of the said deceased-----under the value of

*is

4. I (A.B.) further declare that what is stated in this Form of Valuation is true to the best of my information and belief.

(Signed).....A.B.

ANNEXURE A	
Valuation of the movable and immovable property of deceased	
	Rs [paise]
Cash in hand and at the bank, household goods, wearing apparel, books, plate, jewels, etc. (State estimated value according to best of Executor's or Administrator's belief.)	
Property in Government securities transferable at the Public Debt Office.	

(State description and value on the date of the death of the deceased or on the date of the application as the case may be)	
Immovable property, consisting of (State description and market value on the date of the death of the deceased or on the date of the application as the case may be.)	
Leasehold property (If the deceased held any leases for years determinable, state se period of the lease and the estimated amount of rent inserting separately arrear due on the date of death or on the date of the application, as the case may be.)	
Property in public companies (State the particulars and the value calculated at the price on the late of the death or on the date of the application as the case may be.)	
Policies of insurance up on life, money out on mortgages and other securities, such as bonds, bills, notes and other securities for money. (State the amount of the whole on the date of the death or on the day of the application, as the case may be.) Debts (other than bad debts) Stock in trade (State estimated value, if any) Other property not comprised under the foregoing heads (State the estimated value, if any)	
Total	----- -----
Deduct items shown in Annexure B in the manner provided in sub-section (2) of section 56. Net value of the Estate ...	Rs [Paise] ----- -----

Amount of debts due and owing from the deceased, legally payable out of the estate	
Amount of expenses connected with funeral rites and ceremonies	
Amount of mortgage encumbrances	
Property held in trust not beneficially or with general power to confer a beneficial interest	
Other property not subject to duty. Total	----- - ----- -

PART II
AMENDED FORM OF VALUATION OF ESTATE
(See section 1 and 63)

IN THE COURT OF

RE: PROBATE OF THE WILL OF..... (OR ADMINISTRATION ~~OF~~ THE ESTATE OF) , DECEASED

1. I (A.B) am the executor (or one of the executors or one of the next-of kin, as the case may be) of

2. Probate was (or letters of administration were) granted to me on

3. It has now been discovered that the net value of the estate on which Court-fee was paid was not correctly ascertained.

4. I have now truly set forth in Annexure A to this amended Form of Valuation all the estate of the deceased at the date of-----his death-----the application for probate (or letters of administration) which has come or is likely to come to my hands.

5. I further have now truly set forth in Annexure B all the items which I am by law allowed to deduct.

6. I further declare that the said estate, exclusive only of the last-mentioned items, at the date of the death of the deceased was this application is under the value of

7. I (A.B.) further declare that what is sate in this amended Form of Valuation is true to the best of my information and belief.

(Signed) A. B-----

ANNEXURE A.

Amended valuation of the estate of deceased.

Valuation on which Court-fee was paid	Increase	Decrease	Valuation as now amended
Total ...			
Deduct items shown in Annexure B in the manner provided in sub-section (2) of section 56		
Amended net value of estate			

ANNEXURE B.

Amended Schedule of debts, etc.

Valuation on which Court fee was paid	Increase	Decrease	Valuation as now amended
Total			

* this form to be used where the application is made after one year from the date of the death.

** Substituted by Act 8 of 1966, published in K.G. Ext No. 84 dt. 12/09/1966, for the "nP" (w.e.f. 01/10/1966)