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**PONDICHERY COURT-FEES AND SUITS VALUATION ACT,  
1972**

**6 of 1973**

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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
5. Fees 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 other Courts
12. Additional fee on issues framed
13. Relinquishment of portion of claim
14. Fee payable on written statements
15. Fee payable on appeals, etc
16. Fee payable on petitions, applications, etc
17. Court-fee examiners
18. Inquiry and commission
19. Notice to the Government

**CHAPTER 4 :- COMPUTATION OF FEE**

20. Fee how reckoned
21. Fees to be computed to the nearest multiple of five paise
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, 1963
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
42. Suits for specific performance
43. Suits between landlord and tenant
44. Suits for mesne profits
45. Suits under the Pondicherry Survey and Boundaries Act, 1967
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

#### **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 :- REFUNDS AND REMISSIONS**

55. Refund in cases of delay in presentation of plaint, etc
56. Refund in cases of remand
57. Refund where Court reverses or modifies former decision on ground of mistake
58. Refund and settlement before hearing
59. Refund of fee paid by mistake or inadvertence
60. Instruments of partition
61. Exemption of certain documents
62. Power to reduce or remit fees

#### **CHAPTER 7 :- MISCELLANEOUS**

63. Collection of fees by stamps
64. Stamps to be impressed or adhesive

65. Amended document
66. Cancellation of stamps
67. Deduction to be made
68. Penalty
69. Power of High Court to make rules
70. Power to make rules
71. Continuance in force of existing rules
72. Repeal and saving

**SCHEDULE 1 :- AD VALOREM FEES**

**SCHEDULE 2 :- AD VALOREM FEES**

**PONDICHERY COURT-FEES AND SUITS VALUATION ACT,  
1972**

**6 of 1973**

[ ]

An Act to amend and consolidate the law relating to Court-fees and valuation of suits in the Union territory of Pondicherry. Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of Pondicherry in the Twenty-third year of the Republic of India as follows:-

CHAPTER 1  
PRELIMINARY

**1. Short title, extent and commencement :-**

(1) This Act may be called the Pondicherry Courts-fees and Suits Valuation Act, 1972.

(2) It extends to the whole of the Union territory of Pondicherry.

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

[a] Act came into force on 1-9-1974 - See Pondi. Gaz., 26-8-1974, Ext., p. 3 (No. 112).

**2. Application of Act :-**

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

**3. Definitions :-**

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

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

(ii) "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) "Government" means the Administrator of the Union territory of Pondicherry appointed by the President under Article 239 of Constitution of India ;

(iv) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(v) expressions used and not defined in this Act or in General Clauses Act, 1897 , but defined in Code of Civil Procedure, 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.

#### **5. Fees 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 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 relief.

(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 on the reliefs.

(3) Where a suit embraces two or more distinct and different causes of action and separate reliefs based on them are sought, 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: Provided further that nothing in this sub-section shall be deemed to affect any power conferred upon a Court under Rule 6 of Order 11 of Code of Civil Procedure, 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 immoveable 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) The market value of land suits falling under section 25(a), section 25(b), section 27(a), section 29 , section 30 , section 37(1), section 37(3), section 38 , section 45 or section 48 shall be deemed to be-

(a) where the land is assessed, thirty times the survey assessment on the land: Provided that, where the land forms part of a survey field and is not separately assessed to revenue, the value of such

part shall be deemed to be thirty times such proportion of the survey assessment as the part bears to the entire survey field.

(b) where the land is a house-site whether assessed to full revenue or not, poramboke land, or any other land not falling under clause (a),- its market value.

**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 section 4 to section 8 , 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 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 hereinafter specified in this section.

(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 sub-section (3), not later plead that the subject-matter of the suit has not been properly valued or that the fee paid is no sufficient. All questions arising on such pleas shall

be heard and decided before evidence 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 Court' decision and the deficit fee shall be paid. If the plaint be not amended or if the deficit fee be no paid within the time allowed, the plaint shall be rejected and the Court shall pass such order a it deems just regarding costs of the suit.

(3) A defendant added after issues have been framed on the merits of the claim may, in the written statement filed by him 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 proceedings 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, misjoinder 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.

#### **12. 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 section 11 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.

#### **13. 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.

#### **14. Fee payable on written statements :-**

Where fee is payable under this Act on a written statement filed by a defendant, the provisions of Section 11 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.

**15. Fee payable on appeals, etc :-**

The provisions of section 10 to section 13 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 the Letters Patent.

**16. Fee payable on petitions, applications, etc :-**

The provisions of section 10 to section 13 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.

**17. 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.

(2) Questions raised in the 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.

**18. 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.

**19. Notice to the 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 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 considers it just or necessary to do so give notice to 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 Court's 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

#### **20. Fee how reckoned :-**

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

#### **21. Fees to be computed to the nearest multiple of five paise :-**

In the determination and computation of the amount of fee payable under this Act any fraction of five paise less than two and a half paise shall be disregarded and any fraction of five paise equal to, or exceeding two and a half paise shall be regarded as five paise.

#### **22. Suits for money :-**

In a suit for money (including a suit for damage compensation, or arrears of maintenance, of annuities, or of other sums payable periodic 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 plaintiff's title to the money or the property secured by the document, or

(ii) where an issue is framed regarding the plaintiff's 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 plaintiff's 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.- 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.

#### **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 on rupees three hundred, 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 on rupees three hundred, whichever is higher;

(c) where the prayer relates to the plaintiff's exclusive right to use, sell, print or exhibit any mark, name, book, picture, design or any 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 on rupees five hundred, whichever is higher;

(d) in other cases, whether the subject-matter of the suit is capable of valuation or not, fee shall be computed on the amount at which the relief sought is valued in the plaint or on rupees four hundred, whichever is higher.

## **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, namely:-

(i) In a District Munsif's Court, Rupees fifty.

(ii) In a Sub-Court or District Court, Rupees one hundred if the market value of the property involved in or affected 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 relief 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 plaintiff's title to the property, fee shall be computed on one-half of the market value of the property or on rupees three hundred, whichever is higher;

(b) where the prayer relates to the plaintiff's 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 plaint or on 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 on rupees four hundred, whichever is higher.

**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, 1963 :-**

In a suit for possession of immovable property under section 6 of Specific Relief Act, 1963, fee shall be computed on one-half of the market value of the property or on rupees two hundred, 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 on rupees four hundred, whichever is higher.

**31. Suits relating to easements :-**

In a suit relating to an easement, whether by the dominant or the servient owner, fee shall be computed on the amount at which the relief sought is valued in the plaint, which amount shall in no case be less than rupees three hundred : Provided that, where

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

**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 amounts 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 contain 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 the 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 defendant's 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 mortgagee's 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 account of a 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 year's 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.

(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.

### **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 plaintiff's share in the partnership, as estimated by the plaintiff.

(2) If the value of the plaintiff's 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 plaintiff's 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 plaintiff's 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, namely:- When the plaint is presented to -

(i) a District Munsif's Court : Rupees thirty

(ii) a Sub-Court or a District Court : Rupees thirty if the value of plaintiff's share is Rs. 5,000 or less. Rupees one hundred if the value is above Rs. 5,000, but below Rs. 10,000; and Rs. 200 if the value is Rs. 10,000 and above.

(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.

### **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 plaintiff's 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 assets 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 or 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 :-**

(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 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 the delivery by a tenant of the counter-part of a lease or for acceptance of patta in exchange for a muchilika;

(b) for enhancement of rent;

(c) for the delivery by a landlord of a lease or for obtaining a patta in exchange for a muchilika;

(d) for recovering occupancy of immovable property from which a tenant has been illegally ejected by the landlord;

(e) for establishing or disproving a right of occupancy; 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.

#### **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 Pondicherry Survey and Boundaries Act, 1967 :-**

In a suit under section 12 of Pondicherry Survey and Boundaries Act, 1967, fee shall be computed on one-half of the market value of the property affected by the determination of the boundary or on rupees three hundred, whichever is higher.

**46. Suits to alter or cancel entry in a register :-**

In a suit to alter or cancel any entry in a , register of the names of proprietors of revenue paying estate, the fee payable shall be fifteen-rupees.

**47. Suits relating to public matters :-**

In a suit for relief under section 91 or section 92 of Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 , the fee payable shall be fifty 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:-

(i) In a Revenue Court - Rupees fifteen.

(ii) In a District Munsif's Court - Rupees thirty.

(iii) In a Sub-Court or a District Court - Rupees thirty if the value of the subject-matter is Rs. 5,000 or less; Rupees one hundred if the value is above Rs. 5,000 but below Rs. 10,000; and Rupees two hundred if the value is Rupees 10,000 and above.

**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.

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 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 plaint.

#### 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 of Code of Civil Procedure, 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 not 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 of the suit, and where the Court below has decided the question of court-fee in favour of the plaintiff

(c) When question of jurisdiction was involved then the defendant is not entitled to challenge the in the case or the revision petitioner, defendant is same in revision. 1985 TLNJ 213 (488) : (1985) 98 not in any way prejudiced by the under-valuation Mad LW 487. or appeal was over-valued or under-valued and that the over-valuation 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 the 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 Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 or other enactment for the time being in force.

#### CHAPTER 6

#### REFUNDS AND REMISSIONS

#### **55. 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.

#### **56. 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, and, if the remand is in Letters Patent Appeal, also on the memorandum of second appeal and memorandum of appeal in the first appellate Court.

(2) Where an appeal is remanded in Second Appeal or Letters Patent 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, and of the full

amount of fee paid on the memorandum of Second Appeal and the Memorandum of Letters Patent Appeal if the remand is in Letters Patent 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.

**57. 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 10(g) of Schedule 11.

**58. Refund and settlement before hearing :-**

Wherever by agreement of parties,-

(i) any suit is dismissed as settled out of Court before any evidence has been recorded on the merits of the claim, or

(ii) any suit is compromised ending in a compromise decree before any evidence has been recorded on the merits of the claim, or

(iii) any appeal is disposed of before the commencement of hearing of such appeal, half the amount of court-fees paid in respect of the claim or claims in the suit or appeal, as the case may be, shall be ordered by the Court to be refunded to the parties by whom the same have been respectively paid.

Explanation.- The expression "merits of the claim "shall have the meaning assigned to it in section 11.

**59. Refund of fee paid by mistake or inadvertence :-**

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

**60. 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.

**61. Exemption of certain documents :-**

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

(i) mukhtarnama, vakalathnama 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) application or petition to a Collector or other Officer making a settlement of land 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;

(iv) application relating to a supply for irrigation of water belonging to Government;

(v) 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;

(vi) application for service of notice of relinquishment of land or of enhancement of rent;

(vii) written authority to an agent to distrain;

(viii) first application (other than a petition containing a criminal charge of information) for the summons of a witness or other persons 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;

(ix) bail bonds in criminal cases, recognizances to prosecute or give evidence and recognizances for personal appearance or otherwise;

(x) petition, application, charge or information respecting any offence when presented, made or laid to or before a Police Officer;

(xi) petition by a prisoner or other person in duress or under restraint of any Court or its officer;

(xii) complaint of a public servant as defined in Indian Penal Code, 1860 or an officer of the Railways;

(xiii) 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;

(xiv) application for the payment of money due by the Government to the applicant, other than an application for refund of lapsed deposit made six months after the date on which the amount lapsed to the Government;

(xv) petition of appeal against any municipal tax;

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

(xvii) petition or appeal by a Government servant when presented to any superior officer of Government against orders of dismissal, reduction or suspension; copies of such orders filed with such appeals, and applications for obtaining such copies.

## **62. Power to reduce or remit fees :-**

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

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

## **63. Collection of fees by stamps :-**

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

## **64. 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 Official Gazette, from time to time direct.

## **65. 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.

**66. Cancellation of stamps :-**

(1) 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.

(2) 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 figurehead so as to leave the amount designated on the stamp untouched, and the part removed by punching shall be burnt or otherwise destroyed.

**67. 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, deduction shall be made of five 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.

**68. 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.

**69. 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 fee payable for serving and executing processes issued by the High Court in its 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 Judge and District Magistrate 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 the 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 Official Gazette and shall thereupon have effect as if enacted in this Act.

### **70. Power to make rules :-**

(1) The Government may make rules to carry out all or any of the purposes of the Act.

(2) in particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for the following matters, namely:-

(a) the fees chargeable for serving and executing processes issued by the Collector 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 of the number of persons necessary to be employed for the service and execution of such processes;

(d) the supply of stamps to be used under this Act;

(e) the number of stamps to be used for denoting any fee chargeable under this Act;

(f) the keeping of accounts of all stamps used under this Act;

(g) the circumstances in which stamps may be held to be damaged or spoiled;

(h) the circumstances in which, the manner in which, and the authorities by which, allowance for used, damaged or spoiled stamps may be made;

(i) 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; and

(j) any other matter which is to be or may be prescribed, under this Act.

(3) Every rule made under this Act shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before the Legislative Assembly, Pondicherry, while it is in session for a total period of fourteen days which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions, and if before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid, or the session immediately following, the Legislative Assembly makes any modification in the rule or decides that the rule should not be made or issued, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

**71. Continuance in force of existing rules :-**

Until rules are framed under section 69 and section 70 and until notifications are issued under section 62 , 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.

**72. Repeal and saving :-**

(1) Court-fees Act, 1870, in its application to the Union Territory of Pondicherry (except in so far as it relates to fees and stamps relating to documents presented or to be presented before any officers serving under the Central Government), and Suits Valuation Act, 1887 in its application to the Union Territory of Pondicherry 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 Court-fees Act, 1870 and Suits Valuation Act, 1887 , be governed by the provisions of the said Acts and the Rules made thereunder.

**SCHEDULE 1**

**AD VALOREM FEES**

Particulars (2)

Proper fee (3)

1. Plaint or written statement pleading a set off or counter-claim or memorandum of appeal presented to any Court When the amount or value of the subject-matter in dispute-

(i) does not exceed five rupees;

(ii) exceeds five rupees, for every five rupees or part thereof in excess of five rupees, up to one hundred rupees;

(iii) exceeds one hundred rupees, for every ten rupees, or part thereof in excess of one hundred rupees...

2. (a) Petition under section 26 of Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920, or application under section 95 of Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

(b) Appeal against order on a petition or application falling under cl. (a).

3. (a) Petition under section 53 or <ELINK>S.54 of the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920 of Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920.

Forty paise.

Forty paise.

Seventy-five paise.

An amount of one-half of the scale of fee prescribed in Article 1 on the amount or compensation claimed.

On the scale prescribed in Article 1 on the amount in dispute.

An amount of one-half of the scale of fee prescribed in

(b) Appeal against order on a petition falling under clause (a) whether by



the official receiver or by the unsuccessful party.

4. Application for review of judgment.

Article 1 on the market value of the subject-matter subject to a maximum fee of rupees five hundred.

An amount of one-half of the scale of fee prescribed in Article 1 on the market value

of the subject-matter subject to a maximum fee of rupees five hundred.

One half of the fee payable on the plaint or memorandum of appeal comprising the relief sought in the application for review.

Article (1)

SCHEDULE 2

AD VALOREM FEES