

The Andhra Pradesh
Sthanika Nyayalaya Bill, 2003
 Draft Legislation by LOK SATTA

A bill to provide for the speedy administration of civil and criminal justice in Andhra Pradesh and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Andhra Pradesh in the Fifty-fourth year of the Republic of India as follows:

Part - I Preliminary

1. Short Title and Commencement

- (1) This Act may be called Andhra Pradesh Sthanika Nyayalaya Act, 2003.
- (2) It extends to the whole of the State of Andhra Pradesh other than the Scheduled Areas.
- (3) It shall come into force on such date as the Government may, by notification, appoint: Such a date shall not be later than 60 days from the date of becoming a law.

2. Definitions

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

- a. "Court of Session" means a court as referred to in Criminal Procedure Code 1973;
- b. "District Magistrate" means Magistrate so referred to in Criminal Procedure Code 1973;
- c. "District and Sessions Judge", shall mean the Principal District and Sessions Judge of the District;
- d. "Executive Magistrate" means the Magistrate so referred to in Criminal Procedure Code 1973;
- e. "Government" means the state government of Andhra Pradesh;
- f. "Gram Panchayat" means a Gram Panchayat constituted under the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994;
- g. "High Court" means High Court of Andhra Pradesh;
- h. "Judicial Magistrate of the first class" means a magistrate so defined in the Criminal Procedure Code 1973;
- i. "Mandal" means such area in a district as declared by the government by a notification under Section 3 of the Andhra Pradesh District (Formation) Act, 1974 (Act 7 of 1974);
- j. "Municipality" and "Municipal Corporation" mean urban local self governments as defined in the relevant enactments;
- k. "Notification" means a notification published in the Andhra Pradesh Gazette and the word "notified" shall be construed accordingly;
- l. "Nyayadhikari" means and includes both Grama Nyayadhikari and Nagara Nyayadhikari as specified in Section 4;
- m. "Nyayalaya" means and includes both Grama Nyayalaya and Nagara Nyayalaya as specified in Section 3;

- n. "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- o. "Station House Officer" means Officer in charge of a police station.

3. Establishment of Grama Nyayalaya / Nagara Nyayalaya

The government shall, for the speedy administration of civil and criminal justice, establish:

- (1) Grama Nyayalayas, one for every gram panchayat or group of gram panchayats in a Mandal and comprising a population of about 25,000, with due regard to the density of population and terrain.
- (2) Nagara Nyayalayas for a ward or group of wards in a municipality or municipal corporation, comprising a population of about 50,000.

4. Appointment of Nyayadhikari

Every Nyayalaya shall be presided over by a Nyayadhikari, fulfilling the requirements specified in Section 5, and appointed by the District and Sessions Judge in consultation with the two senior most judicial officers in the district.

5. Eligibility Requirements for Nyayadhikari

(1) To be eligible for appointment as Nyayadhikari, a person must be not less than forty-five years of age and must have good reputation and integrity. The person shall fulfil one or more of the following criteria:

- a. Shall be a retired judicial officer, or
- b. Must have held a gazetted post in government for three years, or
- c. Must be a law graduate, or
- d. Must be a reputed social worker who has experience in dispute resolution.

(2) No person can be appointed as Nyayadhikari if

- a. Convicted by a criminal court for any offence involving moral turpitude.
- b. Any proceedings are pending against him in a criminal court.
- c. He has been declared as insolvent or is facing a case for insolvency.
- d. He is a member of any political party or caste-based organization.

6. Term of Office of Nyayadhikari

- (1) Save as otherwise provided in this Act, the term of office of the Nyayadhikari shall be three years from the date of appointment.
- (2) A person who completes one term may be eligible for reappointment for another term of three years only.

- (3) A Nyayadhikari may resign his office by giving notice in writing to the District and Sessions Judge and such resignation shall take effect on the date on which it is accepted by him.

7. Jurisdiction and Headquarters

The headquarters, and the gram panchayats or wards under the jurisdiction of the Nyayalaya shall be notified as and when required by the District and Sessions Judge in consultation with the District Magistrate. Every such notification shall be intimated to the High Court, the District Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police, the Judicial Magistrate, the Executive Magistrate and the Station House Officer having jurisdiction over the area, and published in the District Gazette.

8. Trial of Cases

The Nyayadhikari shall try all the civil disputes specified in Section 14 and the criminal cases relating to offences specified in Section 25.

9. Nyayadhikari to be an Honorary Office

- (1) The office of the Nyayadhikari shall be an honorary office and he shall be paid such remuneration or honorarium as may, by order, be fixed by Government from time to time.
- (2) The Nyayadhikari shall also be paid a fixed monthly traveling allowance and secretarial allowance to be utilized for secretarial and other services as prescribed by Government from time to time.

10. Seal and Sittings of the Nyayalaya

- (1) Every Nyayadhikari shall have a seal in such form and of such dimensions as may be prescribed and will set up his Court at the designated headquarters as notified by the District and Sessions Judge.
- (2) The Nyayadhikari may receive any civil claim or criminal complaint either at his headquarters or at place of his camp. He may also authorize the secretary of any Gram Panchayat within his jurisdiction to receive such a claim or complaint.
- (3) As far as possible and practicable the cases shall be heard and decided in the places where the cause of action has arisen or offence has been committed.
- (4) The panchayat or municipality or municipal corporation concerned, and all state government departments shall provide such reasonable assistance as may be sought by the Nyayadhikari in discharge of his functions, including accommodation to hold court. Failure on the part of any such authority shall be treated as misconduct and Nyayalaya is empowered to take penal actions against such persons.

11. Conduct of Business of Nyayalaya

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Nyayalaya shall in regard to the conduct of its business, follow such rules as may be prescribed under this Act.

- (2) The Nyayalaya shall follow summary procedure while trying the cases, and the judgment need not contain more than the points for determination, the substance of evidence and the reasons for the decision in brief.
- (3) The Nyayadhikari shall deliver the decision within 90 days from the date of receiving a petition or complaint.

12. Mode of Representation by Parties

The applicant / petitioner or respondent may appear before the Nyayadhikari either in person or through a lawyer or authorized representative.

13. Nyayadhikari to have Exclusive Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, or the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, or any other law for the time being in force relating to claims or applications cognizable by revenue courts, and subject to the provisions of this Act, a Nyayadhikari shall have jurisdiction in respect of disputes covered by the subject matter in Part II and offences in Part III of this Act.

Part - II Civil Jurisdiction

14. Civil Disputes Triable by Nyayadhikari

The Nyayadhikari shall try the following civil disputes:

- a. disputes relating to recovery of money the value of which does not exceed one lakh rupees;
- b. claims relating to payment of wages for labour;
- c. claims arising out of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976 and the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955;
- d. disputes between landlord and tenant where the claim does not exceed rupees one lakh;
- e. disputes relating to right of way in fields and court-yards;
- f. disputes relating to water channels;
- g. disputes relating to a right of drawing water from a well or tube-well or irrigation channel or digging of new wells including bore wells;
- h. boundary disputes and encroachments other than those relating to government properties;
- i. disputes relating to purchase and sale of lands the value of which does not exceed one lakh rupees;
- j. disputes relating to entries in revenue records;
- k. disputes relating to property (moveable or immoveable) the value of which does not exceed one lakh rupees;
- l. disputes relating custody of children, maintenance of wife, children and parents, and compensation for ill treatment of wife or children;
- m. claims for compensation for any damages to person or property when the claim value does not exceed one lakh rupees;
- n. disputes regarding damage caused by cattle trespass;

- o. disputes relating to the use of minor forest produce by local inhabitants;
- p. claims for compensation against harassment or negligence of public officials serving in state or local governments;
- q. any other dispute that may be referred to by the parties for conciliation or settlement;
- r. any other disputes, which the Government may, from time to time, by order empower the Nyayalaya to decide.

15. Certain Disputes not to be Tried by Nyayadhikari

The Nyayadhikari shall not have jurisdiction to take cognizance of the following disputes, namely:

- a. a dispute by or against the state or central government or a public servant for bonafide acts done in his official capacity;
- b. a dispute against a minor or a person of unsound mind;

16. Nyayadhikari to Close a Case in Certain Circumstances

The Nyayadhikari, if he feels it necessary, may on his own motion or on an application by either party to the civil dispute, pass orders closing the case, and advise the parties to approach the appropriate civil court in respect of matters relating to any complicated issue of fact or law which should be decided by a competent court of law.

Provided that whenever a case is closed by the Nyayadhikari under this section, the statute of limitation shall be applied excluding the period during which the case is pending in the Nyayalaya.

17. Application of the Limitation Act, 1963

The provisions of the Indian Limitation Act, 1963 shall apply to disputes triable by a Nyayadhikari under this Act.

18. Procedure to be Followed by Nyayadhikari in Civil Disputes

- (1) The party initiating a civil dispute of the nature referred to in Section 14 shall file a claim or dispute before the Nyayadhikari in the prescribed form furnished to him at a cost of Rs. 10/- stating his name and address, the name and address of the opposite party and mentioning cause of action.
- (2) The Nyayadhikari shall get a notice served on the opposite party in the manner prescribed fixing a date for his appearance or to file a counter.
- (3) After the opposite party files his counter, Nyayadhikari shall fix a date for hearing and inform both the parties to be present in person or through their lawyers or authorized agents.
- (4) a. On the date fixed for hearing the Nyayadhikari shall hear both the parties in regard to their respective contentions and if the dispute does not require recording of any evidence, pronounce the decision on the same day.

- b. In case any of the parties to the dispute desire to produce oral and / or documentary evidence, or the Nyayadhikari is of the opinion that the dispute involves questions of fact which have to be decided by recording oral or documentary evidence for a just decision, the Nyayadhikari shall record the summary of evidence, if any, on a date fixed for hearing.
- (5) For the purposes of sub section (4), the Nyayadhikari shall have the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 while trying the claim or dispute in respect of the following matters, namely:
- i) summoning and enforcing attendance of any defendant or witness and examining the witness on oath;
 - ii) discovery and production of any document or other material object produceable as evidence;
 - iii) reception of evidence on affidavits.
- (6) The Nyayadhikari shall have the power to proceed *ex parte* if any of the parties does not appear. In regard to any incidental matters that may arise during the course of enquiry, the Nyayadhikari shall adopt such procedure as is deemed fit from time to time.
- (7) The hearing shall be on a day-to-day basis.
- (8) The Nyayadhikari shall pronounce the judgment within a period of 90 days from the date of statement of claim, and within one week of the last day of hearing of the case.
- (9) The judgment shall contain the number of the petition, the names of the parties, the particulars of the claim, the points for determination, the summary of evidence adduced on either side, if any, and the findings reached by the Nyayadhikari. A copy of the order shall be delivered to both the parties within three days on payment of five rupees.

19. Transfer of Civil Disputes

The District and Sessions Judge having jurisdiction may on an application by any party or when there is heavy pendency with one Nyayadhikari, or whenever he considers it necessary in the interests of justice, transfer any case pending before a Nyayadhikari to any other Nyayadhikari within his jurisdiction.

20. Payment of Interest in Money Decrees

In claims for money where the Nyayadhikari passes an order for payment of money, he may also order payment of interest thereon at a rate not exceeding 12% per annum from the date of the claim statement till the date of payment. He may in appropriate cases direct payment in installments with or without interest.

21. Bar on Jurisdiction of Courts

In respect of matters triable by a Nyayalaya under this Act, no other court or authority shall have jurisdiction.

22. Compromise Orders

If both the parties to a claim or dispute arrive at a compromise and file an application before the Nyayadhikari to record the same, the Nyayadhikari shall pass an order in accordance therewith and such order is final and shall not be open for appeal, revision or review.

23. Appeal

- (1) An appeal against the final order shall lie to the Senior Civil Judge having jurisdiction over the area and it shall be filed within thirty days from the date of issue of the order.
- (2) The Senior Civil Judge shall dispose of the appeal within six months after the filing of the appeal petition. The decision of the Appellate Court shall be final.

24. Enforcement of the Orders of the Nyayalaya:

Where a party against whom an order is passed does not comply with the order within 15 days, the Nyayalaya shall on an application, forward the order to the Junior Civil Judge having jurisdiction for enforcement. Thereupon the Junior Civil Judge shall proceed to enforce the order by way of arrest or attachment and sale of the property. No objection against enforcement shall be entertained. The enforcement proceedings shall be concluded within thirty days from the date of the receipt of the order.

Part - III Criminal Jurisdiction

25. Offences Cognizable by Nyayadhikari

The Nyayadhikari shall take cognizance of and try the following offences either on a complaint or on a police report, when committed within his jurisdiction, namely:

- (1) All offences punishable by fine and or imprisonment of one year or less;
- (2) Offences punishable under sections 323, 324, 332, 353 and 504 of the Indian Penal Code;
- (3) Offences punishable under section 379 of the Indian Penal code in respect of property the value of which does not exceed twenty five thousand rupees;
- (4) Offences punishable under section 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432 of the Indian Penal Code when the loss or damage caused does not exceed twenty five thousand rupees;
- (5) Complaints of illegal seizure or detention of cattle under the Chapter V of the Cattle Trespass Act, 1871 and offences of forcibly opposing the seizure of the cattle or

rescuing the same, punishable under Section 24 of that Act, and offences of damage to land or crops or public roads by pigs or cattle punishable under Section 26 of that Act;

- (6) Offences punishable under the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, Municipalities Act and the Municipal Corporations Act;
- (7) Maintenance cases under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973;

The offences mentioned in this Section shall include abetment of such offences.

26. Procedure for Criminal Trials

- (1) In all the cases before the Nyayadhikari the procedure shall be summary.
- (2) In every criminal case tried by the Nyayadhikari, as soon as the accused appears before the Nyayadhikari, he shall be questioned whether he pleads guilty to the accusation or not. If he pleads guilty the Nyayadhikari shall record the plea and pass orders of conviction and sentence him to fine and or imprisonment as prescribed by the law, but not exceeding one year. If it is an offence punishable by more than one year's imprisonment, and if the accused has already been convicted of such an offence before, then the matter should be referred to the superior Magistrate having jurisdiction.
- (3) If the accused does not plead guilty he shall be asked to file a statement of his defence. If he gives an oral statement, the substance of it shall be reduced to writing and his signature shall be obtained on the same. The Nyayadhikari shall then examine the complainant and the witnesses, if any, produced by the complainant and the accused. Only the summary of evidence shall be recorded, and the witness shall sign the same. The Nyayadhikari shall then pronounce his order. If the accused is found guilty, the Nyayadhikari may impose a fine not exceeding Rs, 5000 or award sentence of imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both, as provided by law.

27. Hearing and Decisions

- (1) The hearing shall be on a day-to-day basis and the case shall be disposed of within a period of 90 days from the date of complaint. The Nyayadhikari shall pronounce the order within a week of last date of hearing.
- (2) The order shall contain the number of the case, names of the parties, particulars of the offence, summary of evidence adduced on either side, if any, and the findings reached by the Nyayadhikari. A copy of the order shall be delivered immediately to both the parties free of cost. In cases where imprisonment has been awarded, copies of the order along with the warrant of commitment shall go to the officer-in-charge of the jail concerned, the police station concerned, and the Assistant Sessions Judge having jurisdiction.

28. Power of Nyayadhikari to Transfer Cases

If at any stage of the proceedings, it appears to the Nyayadhikari that the case is one which ought to be tried by a Judicial Magistrate of the first class or any other superior judicial officer, or if at the close of a trial, the Nyayadhikari is of the opinion that the accused is guilty and that he ought to receive a punishment more severe than that which the Nyayalaya is empowered to impose, he shall submit the case to the appropriate Magistrate having jurisdiction who shall transfer the case to his own court and proceed according to law.

29. Transfer of Cases to Nyayalaya by Magistrate

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, if a complaint or Police report of an offence cognizable by a Nyayadhikari is made to a Magistrate, he may direct the complainant or the Police to present the complaint to the Nyayalaya within whose jurisdiction the offence has been committed.

30. Appeal in Criminal Cases

- (1) An appeal shall lie to the Court of Assistant Sessions Judge exercising jurisdiction over the area against any order or sentence passed by a Nyayadhikari within 30 days of the passing of such order or sentence. The appeal shall be disposed of within six months from the date of filing of the appeal.
- (2) The Appellate Court may, pending disposal of the appeal direct the suspension of the sentence.
- (3) The decision of the Appellate Court shall be final.

31. Certain Accused Persons not to be Tried by Nyayadhikari

The Nyayadhikari shall not take cognizance of any offence, which is punishable by more than one year's imprisonment if the accused, has been previously convicted and sentenced to suffer imprisonment for a term of one year or more.

32. Compounding of Offences

The offences cognizable by a Nyayadhikari under Section 25, may be compounded with the permission of the Nyayadhikari, if such offence is compoundable under any law.

33. Compensation to Complainant

In imposing any fine, the Nyayadhikari may direct that the whole or any portion of the fine recovered shall be applied -

- a. towards defraying the expenses incurred in the case by the complainant; or
- b. in giving compensation to a person for any material loss or damage caused to him by reason of commission of the offence.

34. Punishment for Non-Payment of Fine

In the event of non-payment of fine within fifteen days, the Nyayadhikari shall forward the order to the Judicial Magistrate of the first class having jurisdiction for enforcement and recovery of fine. The Nyayadhikari also may award a sentence of imprisonment in lieu of fine, provided the total imprisonment awarded by him in respect of any accused in a case shall not exceed a term of one year.

35. Compensation to Accused for False or Frivolous Case

If a Nyayadhikari is satisfied, after enquiry that a case brought before him is false or frivolous, he may order the complainant to pay the accused such compensation, not exceeding five thousand rupees, as he deems fit.

36. Youthful Offenders

Instead of passing a sentence, the Nyayadhikari may discharge, after due admonition, a youthful offender who, in the opinion of such Nyayadhikari, is at the time of conviction for the offence, under the age of sixteen years, subject to the provisions of Section 360 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

Part – IV Miscellaneous

37. Proceedings to be in Telugu

The proceedings before the Nyayalaya and the judgment of the Nyayalaya shall be in Telugu.

38. Evidence to be on Oath

Evidence given orally before a Nyayadhikari shall be on oath or on solemn affirmation.

39. The cases shall be tried by the Nyayadhikari on a day-to-day basis, and no adjournment shall be granted except under compelling and unavoidable circumstances

40. Disposal of Civil and Criminal Matters in the Absence of Party Concerned

- (1) The Nyayadhikari may hear and decide any matter in the absence of any party or the accused if a summon has been served upon him or if he has been informed of the time and place fixed for hearing.
- (2) The Nyayadhikari shall have the power of Judicial Magistrate of the first class in respect of all matters relating to summons securing the presence of witnesses, attendance of persons confined or detained in prisons, production of any material evidence including revenue records, title deeds, agreements, contracts, weapons and any other such relevant material as he may deem fit.
- (3) Where an accused person has under sub-section (2) been compelled to appear before the Nyayadhikari, the Nyayadhikari shall take his statement and thereafter his attendance at the hearing of the case shall not be compulsory.

41. Power of District and Sessions Judge to Transfer Cases

The District and Sessions Judge having jurisdiction may on an application by any party or when there is heavy pendency with one Nyayadhikari or whenever he considers it necessary in the interests of justice, transfer any case pending before a Nyayadhikari to any other Nyayadhikari within his jurisdiction.

42. Power of District and Sessions Judge to Remove Nyayadhikari

- (1) A Nyayadhikari may be removed by the District and Sessions Judge on grounds of proven incompetence, or corruption or gross impropriety.
- (2) Such removal shall be by a speaking order with grounds clearly cited after an enquiry suo motto or on a complaint.
- (3) A copy of the order of removal shall be sent to the High Court. The order of the District and Sessions Judge shall be final.

43. Disqualification

Any person who has been removed from office of Nyayadhikari, is ineligible for any government post or honorary posts in future.

44. Cases Pending or Disposed of in Other Courts

- (1) The Nyayadhikari shall not try any civil matter, which is subject matter of any proceeding pending or disposed of by any competent court.
- (2) Where a case is pending in any court against an accused person in respect of any offence or where an accused person has been tried for any offence, Nyayadhikari shall not take cognizance of any such offence or on the same facts, of any other offence of which the accused might have been charged or convicted.

45. Assistance of Police to the Nyayadhikari

Every Police Officer functioning within the jurisdiction of a Nyayadhikari shall be bound to assist the Nyayadhikari in the exercise of his lawful authority. Whenever the Nyayadhikari requests concerned revenue, police or local government employees to provide assistance, they shall provide assistance as required.

46. Inspection of Nyayalayas

The Junior Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate of the first class shall inspect the Nyayalayas in his jurisdiction once in every six months and issue such instructions as he considers necessary, and submit a report to the District and Sessions Judge.

47. Power to Make Rules

- (1) The Government may, by notification make rules as to the fixing of honorarium, secretarial allowance and fixed traveling allowance and other financial matters in respect of the Nyayalayas.
- (2) The Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature, Andhra Pradesh may make rules
 - i) as to the receipt and custody of all documents and records by or on behalf of Nyayadhikari and the grant of copies of judgment, orders and other records;
 - ii) as to the place and the manner in which the proceedings of the Nyayadhikari will be conducted;
 - iii) as to the manner in which any process is issued by the Nyayadhikari;
 - iv) as to the particulars of the registers and records to be maintained by the Nyayalaya;
 - v) as to the conduct of training programme of Nyayadhikaris;
 - vi) as to the supervision and inspection of the Nyayalayas in respect of specified matters;
 - vii) as to any other matter which is necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Act;
- (3) Every rule made by the government under the Act shall immediately after it is made, be laid before the Legislative Assembly of the State if it is in session and if it is not in session in the session immediately following, for a total period of fourteen days, which may be comprised in the session or in two successive sessions and if before the expiration of the session in which it is so laid or session immediately following, the Legislative Assembly agrees in making any modification in the rules or in the annulment of the rule, the rule shall from the date on which the modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

Statement Of Objects And Reasons

Justice delayed is justice denied. The following particulars will show how justice is delayed in the State of Andhra Pradesh. About 10 lakh cases are pending in Andhra Pradesh, of which 1.46 lakhs are in the High Court and 8.44 lakhs in District and Subordinate Courts (Hindu Dec 03, 2002). As can be seen most of the cases are pending in the trial courts.

In this background, creation of a mechanism to settle disputes and render justice with speed, efficiency and economy has been engaging the attention of the Government for quite sometime. In order to minimize the procedural delays and needless expenditure and to see that judicial decisions are given speedily in relatively simple and easy cases and with a view to establish judicial bodies for hearing and deciding upon petty legislations without involving cumbersome legal process, the Government has decided to undertake a suitable legislation for establishment of Nyayadhikaris as honorary magistrates with exclusive original jurisdiction as an integral part of independent judiciary at the lowest level.

The salient features of the proposed legislation are:

- (1) Nyayalayas will be established in rural areas covering a population of about 25,000 and in urban areas covering a population of 50,000. Each Nyayalaya will be headed by a Nyayadhikari;
- (2) The Nyayadhikari shall be nominated by the District and Sessions Judge. In order to be eligible, he shall be a retired judicial officer; or must have held a gazetted post in government for three years; or must be a law graduate; or a person of good reputation and integrity;
- (3) The office of Nyayadhikari will be an honorary one;
- (4) The Nyayadhikari on the Civil side will try suits not exceeding a value of one lakh rupees relating to non payment of wages, disputes between landlord and lessee, suits relating to water rights, boundary disputes, right of way, purchase and sale of lands, matrimonial disputes which can be resolved by conciliation, maintenance disputes etc.;
- (5) The Nyayadhikari will try on the criminal side offences punishable mostly with imprisonment not exceeding one year or with fine, offences relating to theft of property not exceeding ten thousand rupees in value, certain offences under the AP Prohibition Act, all offences under the AP Panchayat Raj Act, AP Municipalities Act etc;
- (6) While trying both civil and criminal cases, the Nyayadhikari will follow a simple procedure and not the elaborate procedure either under the Code of Civil procedure 1908 or under the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973. Strict rules of evidence under the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 are also not made applicable;
- (7) The Nyayadhikari shall have the power of Judicial Magistrate of the first class in respect of all matters relating to summons securing the presence of witnesses, attendance of persons confined or detained in prisons, production of any material evidence including revenue records, title deeds, agreements, contracts, weapons and any other such relevant material as he may deem fit;
- (8) Provisions are made for quick disposal of the cases;
- (9) An appeal will lie to the District Judge on the decision of the Nyayadhikari;
- (10) All government officers including police officers will assist the Nyayadhikari in exercise of his responsibilities;

This Bill seeks to give effect to the above decisions.
