

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. SOUMEN SEN
&
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SYAM KUMAR V.M.**

**Wednesday, the 21st day of January 2026 / 1st Magha, 1947
WP(PIL) NO. 91 OF 2025(S)**

PETITIONER:

**TELLMY JOLLY, AGED 29 YEARS, D/O JOLLY A.D, E2,
GALAXY MIDWINTER, JOHN ALUNKAL ROAD, KOCHU KADAVANTHARA,
ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682 020.**

RESPONDENTS:

- 1. UNION OF INDIA, REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE, 4TH FLOOR, A-WING, SHASTRI BHAWAN NEW DELHI, PIN - 110001**
- 2. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, SHASTRI BHAWAN, DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD ROAD, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110001**
- 3. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT, (UNION OF INDIA), SHASTRI BHAVAN, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110001**
- 4. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001**
- 5. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, WOMEN AND CHILD DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001**
- 6. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, SOCIAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001**
- 7. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF LAW, SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001**
- 8. DIRECTOR, WOMEN AND CHILD DEPARTMENT, POOJAPURA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695012**
- 9. DIRECTOR, SOCIAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT (DOWRY PROHIBITION OFFICER), VIKAS BHAVAN, 5TH FLOOR, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695012**

Writ petition (Public Interest Litigation) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(PIL) the High Court be pleased to direct the respondents to file an action taken report pursuant to the implementation of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, the Dowry Prohibition (Maintenance of Lists of Presents to the Bride and Bridegroom) Rules, 1985 and the Kerala Dowry Prohibition Rules, 2004.

P.T.O.

This petition coming on for orders upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(PIL), this Court's order dated 31/10/2025 and upon hearing the arguments of M/S. KALEESWARAM RAJ, THULASI K. RAJ & APARNA NARAYAN MENON, Advocates for the petitioner and of SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER, the court passed the following:

P.T.O.



Soumen Sen, C.J. & Syam Kumar V.M., J.

W.P.(PIL) No.91 of 2025

Dated this the 21st day of January, 2026

ORDER

Soumen Sen, C.J.

The learned Senior Government Pleader has submitted that in a landmark legal shift aimed at encouraging victims to report dowry-related abuse, the Kerala Law Reforms Commission has submitted a draft amendment to the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, proposing to decriminalise the act of giving dowry. The draft bill proposes to redefine dowry as property or valuable security taken or demanded by the bridegroom or his relatives from the bride or her family and it also proposes imprisonment for such acts.

2. The Union of India is not represented.

3. We direct that notice be served upon the counsel representing the Union of India, calling upon it to clarify its stand on the said issue by filing an affidavit on or before the adjourned date.

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4. Copy of the affidavit shall be served on the learned counsel for the parties in advance.

5. Post on 11.02.2026.

Sd/-
Soumen Sen
Chief Justice

Sd/-
Syam Kumar V.M.
Judge

ds 21.01.2026

