

AS INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

Bill No. 159 of 2019

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

By

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR, M.P.

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further to amend the Constitution of India.

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2019. Short title.
 2. In the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution,—
 - (i) in List I-Union List, Entry 56 shall be omitted; Amendment of the Seventh Schedule.
 - (ii) in List II-State List, entry 17 shall be omitted; and
 - (iii) in List III-Concurrent List, after entry 32, the following entry shall be inserted

"22A. Regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys

32B. Water, that is to say, water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Life is impossible without water. All living beings including human, animals and plants need water for their survival. Therefore, it is desirable that requisite amount of water is available without any hindrance for drinking and irrigation.

Around ninety-seven per cent. of water on the Earth is salty water and only three per cent. is fresh water; slightly over two thirds of this fresh water is frozen in the form of glaciers and polar ice caps. The remaining unfrozen fresh water is found mainly as ground water.

Ground water is a renewable resource, yet the world's supply of ground water is steadily decreasing with the depletion of water table, most prominently in Asia and North America. It is still not clear that how much natural renewal balance of fresh water is available or whether ecosystem will be threatened for want of fresh water in near future. The framework for allocating water resources to water users where such a framework exists is known as water rights.

At present, water is a State subject and is considered as primary responsibility of the State Governments.

The Bill seeks to amend the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution with a view to transfer entry 56 of List-I Union List and entry 17 of List-II State List pertaining to 'Regulation and Development of Inter-State Rivers and River Valleys' and 'Water', respectively, to List-III Concurrent List so that the Central Government and the State Governments concerned can also play their due role for regulation and development of inter-State rivers and conservation and sustainable use of water to meet the growing needs of the society.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
June 26, 2019.

VINOD KUMAR SONKAR

ANNEXURE

EXTRACT FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

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List I-Union List

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56. Regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys to the extent to which such regulation and development under the control of the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest.

List II-State List

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17. Water, that is to say, water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power subject to the provisions of entry 56 of List-I.

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(*Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar, M.P.*)