

AS INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

Bill No. 134 of 2021

THE PROHIBITION OF MULTI-DIGIT LOTTERIES BILL, 2021

By

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY, M.P.

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BILL

*to prohibit sale and promotion of multi-digit lotteries and for matters connected
therewith or incidental thereto.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-second Year of the Republic of India
as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Prohibition of Multi-Digit Lotteries Act, 2021.
- (2) It extends to the whole of India.

Short title and
extent.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “lottery” means a scheme, in whatever form, and by whatever name called, for distribution of prizes by lot or chance to persons participating in the lots or chances of a prize by purchasing tickets in proper form or through online;

(b) “multi-digit lottery” means a lottery in which prizes are distributed to participating persons on the chances of matching of more than single digit. 5

(c) “organization” means any local or other authority functioning under the control of the Central Government or a State Government and includes an undertaking established by or under a Central, or a State Act or which is controlled or financed wholly or substantially by funds, provided directly or indirectly by the Central Government or a State Government or a Government company as defined in the Companies Act, 2013. 10 18 of 2013.

Prohibition of Multi-Digit Lotteries.

3. Notwithstanding anything contrary contained in any other law for the time being in force no organisation shall organise, conduct or promote multi-digit lottery or sell or distribute or put for sale any multi-digit lottery either in paper form or through online, in any manner whatsoever or receive or remit any money in pursuance thereof. 15

Penalty.

4. (1) Where a multi-digit lottery is organised, conducted or promoted in contravention of the provisions of this Act, by any Department of the Central Government or a State Government or any other organisation including companies or private individual, the Head of such Department or the person incharge of such organisation or the Private individual as the case may be, shall be guilty of committing on offence under this Act: 20

Provided that nothing contained in this section shall render such Head of the Department or such person incharge liable to any punishment if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence. 25

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where a contravention under this Act has been committed by a Department of the Central Government or State Government or any organisation and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any officer, other than the head of such Department or the person incharge of such organisation, such officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly. 30

(3) Whoever commits an offence under this Act, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but may extend to two years or with fine, or with both. 35

Offences to be cognizable and non-bailable.

5. The offence under this Act shall be cognizable and non-bailable.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Lottery is species of gambling. It generates a false sense of security amongst the poor persons who get addicted to it and ruin their lives. The social cost of lotteries is too high particularly when the single earning member of families get addicted to lottery. At present, States including Kerala, Punjab, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Mizoram, Nagaland, Goa and few others promote lottery. These multi-digit lotteries are now grappling the youth by entering through electronic media.

The first endeavour to ban lottery in India was in 1998 when the Parliament, cutting across party lines, unanimously enacted the Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998 (Act No. 17 of 1998). This Act in addition to regulating lotteries, banned the single digit lottery and pre-announced number lotteries. Such was the momentum around the 1998 Act that members of Parliament who had participated in the debate had asked the Central Government to bring a law banning multi-digit lottery as well.

The Bill proposes to ban all forms of multi-digit lottery including its online form across the country with a view to ensure that gullible people are not entrapped and looted by bogus claims of getting richer overnight.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
January 15, 2021.

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(Dr. Nishikant Dubey, M.P.)