

Bill No. 14 of 2023

THE MAINTENANCE AND WELFARE OF PARENTS AND
SENIOR CITIZENS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

By

SHRI GOPAL CHINAYYA SHETTY, M.P.

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BILL

*to amend the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and
Senior Citizens Act, 2007.*

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Act, 2023.

Short title and commencement.

5 (2) It shall come into force with immediate effect.

2. In section 19 of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in sub-section (2), for the words “types of services”, the words “types of services including sports and yoga” shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 19.

Amendment of section 20.

3. In section 20 of the principal Act, after clause (i), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(ia) free medical and healthcare facilities to the senior citizens in all Government and private hospitals including full reimbursement of amount spent on medicines and treatment.”.

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Amendment of section 21.

4. In section 21 of the principal Act, in clause (i), after the words “radio and the print,”, the words “and by **organizing seminars, symposium and lectures**” shall be inserted.

Insertion of new section 21A.

5. After section 21, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

Social Security for Senior Citizens.

“21A. (1) The State Government shall provide social security to all senior citizens and ensure their protection from exploitation and ill-treatment to ensure a peaceful life and healthcare for them.

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(2) For the purpose of providing social security under sub-section (1), the State Government shall, *inter alia*, provide the following facilities:—

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(i) monthly pension to each senior citizen, who is unable to maintain himself and who does not have any children or relative, in such manner and at such rate as may be prescribed;

(ii) subsidy to each senior citizen up to ninety percent for amount spent on travel by road, air and railways;

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(iii) providing free legal aid to all the senior citizens including setting up of “fast track courts” for prompt disposal of cases wherein senior citizens are involved; and

(iv) determining criteria for accreditation and registration of voluntary organizations and trusts involved in the welfare of senior citizen.”.

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STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In the modern era, senior citizens have become victims of globalization and are often neglected by their family members. Senior citizens have to face several kinds of problems, because after attaining the age of sixty years or above, they are obviously retired and in such condition neither they get any work nor are they in a position to work.

Often, it is also seen that the children of elderly people do not help them financially. In such situation they have to face financial problems and they also face many problems in buying medicines and other essential items, household items and for two meals a day.

It is a fact that steps for facilities and other welfare measures are being taken by the Central Government and other social institutions for senior citizens. But, still a lot needs to be done for their happy and dignified stay in the society.

In 1991, the United Nations General Assembly had also requested the Governments to formulate relevant policies in this regard.

Although, the Government has enacted the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 to provide for more effective provisions for the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens guaranteed and recognised under the Constitution. However, there is a dire need to provide social security to the senior citizens including financial security, healthcare and shelter and protection from abuse and exploitation.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
December 12, 2022.

GOPAL CHINAYYA SHETTY

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 2 of the Bill provides for State Government to provide yoga and sports facilities in the old age homes meant for the senior citizens. Clause 3 provides for the State Government to provide free medical and healthcare facilities to the senior citizens. Clause 4 provides for the State Government to organize seminars, symposiums and lectures to create awareness about the provisions of this Act. Clause 5 provides for the State Government to provide social security to the senior citizens including monthly pension, subsidy in travel and free legal aid. The expenditure in relation to the States shall be borne by the State Governments from their respective Consolidated Funds. However, the expenditure in relation to Union territories shall be borne by the Central Government. The Bill, therefore, if enacted would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that a recurring expenditure of about rupees seven hundred crore per annum would be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India is likely to be involved.

A non-recurring expenditure of rupees seven crore is also likely to be involved.

ANNEXURE

[EXTRACTS FROM THE MAINTENANCE AND WELFARE OF PARENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS ACT, 2007]

(ACT NO. 56 OF 2007)

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19. (1) The State Government may establish and maintain such number of oldage homes at accessible places, as it may deem necessary, in a phased manner, beginning with at least one in each district to accommodate in such homes a minimum of one hundred fifty senior citizens who are indigent.

Establishment of old age homes.

(2) The State Government may, prescribe a scheme for management of old age homes, including the standards and various types of services to be provided by them which are necessary for medical care and means of entertainment to the inhabitants of such homes.

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20. The State Government shall ensure that,—

Medical support for senior citizens.

(i) the Government hospitals or hospitals funded fully or partially by the Government shall provide beds for all senior citizens as far as possible;

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21. The State Government shall, take all measures to ensure that—

Measures for publicity, awareness etc. for welfare of senior citizens.

(i) the provisions of this Act are given wide publicity through public media including the television, radio and the print, at regular intervals;

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LOK SABHA

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BILL

to amend the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and
Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

(Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty, M.P.)