

Bill No. 152 of 2022

**THE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022**

By

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN, MP

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BILL

further to amend the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Legal Services Authorities (Amendment) Act, 2022.

Short title and commencement.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the official gazette, appoint.

39 of 1987.

2. In section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987—

Amendment of section 12.

(a) after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(aa) a senior citizen or a transgender;”;

(b) in clause (h):—

- (i) for the words “nine thousand” the words “five lakhs”; and
- (ii) for the words “twelve thousand” the words “seven lakhs”

shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 was enacted to provide free legal and equal justice to all citizens. No citizen is being denied access to justice on the basis of economic disadvantage or in any other way. However, the cost of accessing justice is increasing and the amount prescribed in the Act to avail the free aid is very less. As of now various States and Union territories have revised income from rupees nine thousand to rupees three lakhs with a view to avail the free legal aid. There is no similarity in the income tariff fixed by the States. This criteria is not sufficient to achieve the object.

Also, many of the deserving categories are still ousted from the purview of the Act. The vulnerable sections like senior citizen, differently abled person and transgender are not being provided adequate legal aid. In view of the above it is considered necessary to amend the existing law.

The Bill, therefore, seeks to amend the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 with a view to,—

(a) include senior citizens and transgender as the entitled person;

(b) increase the annual income criteria from “rupees nine thousand” and “rupees twelve thousand” to “rupees five lakhs” and “rupees seven lakhs”, respectively

to avail legal services under the Act.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;

N.K. PREMACHANDRAN

1 July, 2022

ANNEXURE

EXTRACT FROM THE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES ACT, 1987

(ACT NO. 39 OF 1987)

Criteria for giving legal services.

12. Every person who has to file or defend a case shall be entitled to legal services under this Act if that person is —

(a) a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe;

* * * * *

(h) in receipt of annual income less than rupees nine thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court, and less than rupees twelve thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the Central Government, if the case is before the Supreme Court.

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further to amend the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987

(Shri N.K. Premachandran, M.P.)