

Bill No. 154 of 2025

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

By

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY, M.P.

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BILL

further to amend the Constitution of India.

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

1. This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2025.

Short title.

2. In article 51A to the Constitution, after clause (k), the following clause shall
5 be inserted, namely:—

Amendment
of article 51A.

“(I) who is eligible to vote, to cast his vote at any elections to the House of the People, Legislative Assembly of State and institutions of local self-Government.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

India is the largest democracy in the world. It has a strong parliamentary system. Since 1951, free and fair elections to the Houses of Parliament, State Legislatures and local bodies have been held at regular intervals. Indian elections are benchmark for many other countries.

At present a candidate is declared as elected even if he secures seventeen per cent. of the votes polled. Though he has won the seat, yet he may not have the support of even half of the electors. In the true sense, he is not representing the majority of voters in the constituency from which he has been elected.

The percentage of votes polled at every election is very less which shows that people are not willing to participate in the election process. Sometimes in some of the constituencies, as low as thirty per cent. of the total votes are polled. This is not a healthy sign for democracy. Casting a vote at an election is one of the duty of community service mentioned in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Introducing an obligation to vote will help in strengthening the democracy and, electing a Government with more stability, legitimacy and genuine mandate. Compulsory voting system can confer a high degree of political legitimacy because it results in high voter turnout. High level of participation decreases the risk of political instability.

The compulsory voting is a system in which electors are obliged to cast their votes in elections.

Therefore, it is proposed to make it a fundamental duty of every eligible citizen to cast vote at elections to the House of the People, Legislative Assemblies and institutions of local self-Government.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
November 13, 2024.

P. P. CHAUDHARY

ANNEXURE

EXTRACT FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

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PART IVA

FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

51A. It shall be the duty of every citizen of India—

Fundamental
duties.

(a) * * * *

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(k) who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years.

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(Shri P. P. Chaudhary, M.P.)