

**Bill No. 180 of 2022**

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

By

DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI, M.P.

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*further to amend the Constitution of India.*

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 Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2022.

Short title and commencement.

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

5 2. After article 338B of the Constitution, the following article shall be inserted, namely:—

Insertion of new article 338C.

**“338C. (1) There shall be a Commission for the weavers to be known as the National Commission for Weavers.**

National Commission for Weavers.

**(2) Subject to the provisions of any law made in this behalf by Parliament. The Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and one Member from each State and the conditions of service and tenure of office of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members so appointed shall be such as the President may by rule determine:**

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**Provided that the member from each State shall be a weaver.**

(3) The Central Government shall, in consultation with the Chairperson, determine the nature and categories of the officers and other employees required to assist the Commission in the discharge of its functions.

(4) The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal:

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Provided that appointment of the other Members of the Commission shall be made on the recommendation of the Governor of the respective States.

(5) The Commission shall have the power to regulate its own procedure.

(6) It shall be the duty of the Commission —

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(a) to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the weavers under this Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government or any scheme implemented by the Government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards and schemes;

(b) to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of the rights and benefits of the schemes of the Government;

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(c) to participate and advise on the socio-economic development of the weavers and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and any State;

(d) to present to the President, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards and schemes;

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(e) to make in such reports the recommendations as to the measures that should be taken by the Union or any State for the effective implementation of those safeguards and other measures for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of the weavers; and

(f) to discharge such other functions in relation to the protection, welfare, development and advancement of the weavers as the President may, subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, by rule specify.

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(7) The President shall cause all such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the Union and the reasons for the non acceptance, if any, of any such recommendations.

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(8) Where any such report, or any part thereof, relates to any matter with which any State Government is concerned, a copy of such report shall be forwarded to the Governor of the State who shall cause it to be laid before the Legislature of the State along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the State and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any such recommendations.

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(9) The Commission shall, while investigating any matter referred to in sub-clause (a) or inquiring into any complaint referred to in sub-clause (b) of clause (6) have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and in particular in respect of the following matters, namely:—

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;

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(b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;

- (c) receiving evidence on affidavits;
- (d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;
- (e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents; and
- (f) any other matter which the President may, by rule, determine.

5 (10) The Union and every State Government shall consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting weavers.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Indian handloom industry is amongst the oldest and largest cottage industries in the country reflecting India's rich culture and tradition. The sector is one of the largest unorganised sectors, only after agriculture, in the country providing direct and indirect employment to over 4.3 million people. As per the Fourth All India Handloom Census, there are around 35,22,512 handloom workers over the country are engaged in weaving and allied activities, out of which the majority are in rural areas. India is one of the largest exporters of handloom products which were valued at US\$343.69 million in 2019-20.

However, numerous factors have affected the livelihood of weavers in the country. Some of these issues are increased competition from power loom sector, infrastructural constraints, rising input costs and lack of support for technological upgrade and skill development. The Central Government and various State Governments have made efforts to support weavers and handloom sector through its policies, schemes and programmes. Despite such efforts, such issues still persist. It is thus, felt that there is lack of a national commission to take cognisance of these long-existing issues and problems plaguing the handloom sector and to bring out uniform and sustained policy changes in the sector.

With this background, it, therefore, has become imperative to have a permanent commission for weavers on similar lines as that of the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for the Scheduled Tribes. This Commission shall have the work of monitoring the existing safeguards, make recommendations as to the measures that should be taken by the Union or any State for their implementation, inquire into specific complaints of the weavers amongst others.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;  
4 July, 2022.

SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI

## FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 2 of the Bill provides for the constitution of National Commission for Weavers with a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other members. It also provides for officers and other employees for the Commission. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that an annual recurring expenditure of about rupees thirty crore will be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India.

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

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*(Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Singari, M.P.)*