

Bill No. 19 of 2020

THE DUAL TIME ZONES BILL, 2020

By

SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI, M.P.

A

BILL

to establish and demarcate two separate Time Zones to provide for more practical and inclusive administration of the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Dual Time Zones Act, 2020.

Short title and commencement.

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

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

Definitions.

(a) “IST ONE” refers to the time zone to be adhered to by the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Goa, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, New Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand,
10 Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Bihar and the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Puducherry, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep;

(b) “IST TWO” refers to the time zone to be adhered to by the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and the Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(c) “Time Zone” refers to a range of longitudes where a uniform standard time is used for commercial, social and legal purposes; and 5

(d) “Universal Time Coordinated” means Coordinated Universal Time used as the primary time standard by the world to regulate clocks and time;

Demarcation
of Time Zones
by the Central
Government.

3. The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish a separate Time Zone for the States of,—

(a) Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and the Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands at Universal Time Coordinated + 6.30 which shall, for all purposes, be referred to as the IST TWO; and 10

(b) Gujarat, Rajasthan, Goa and Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, New Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Bihar and the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep and Puducherry at Universal Time Coordinated + 5.30 which shall, for all purposes, be referred to as the IST ONE. 15

CSIR—National
Physical
Laboratory to
Administer and
Implement
Time Zones.

4. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the CSIR—National Physical Laboratory shall, in consultation with State Government concerned, implement and administer the Time Zones as referred to section 3 in all areas connected therewith. 20

(2) The CSIR—National Physical Laboratory shall be responsible for the following, but not restricted to,— 25

(a) the realization, establishment, maintenance and dissemination of the IST ONE and IST TWO as notified;

(b) creation and maintenance of a Time Zone portal to disseminate information related to the functioning and administration of the Time Zones;

(c) publishing information of the database on its website and making all possible efforts to make it publicly accessible; 30

(d) creation of a Time Zone map that is accurate, to be used for further reference; and

(e) maintenance of time and frequency measurements with respect to each Time Zone which shall include upgradation of the same when necessary. 35

Central
Government to
constitute a
zonal
Management
Authority for
inter-State
functioning of
Railways.

5. **The Central Government shall, in anticipation of initial logistical hurdles with respect to the inter-State functioning of the Railways, Airlines and similarly affected sector, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Zonal Management Authority to specifically overcome the difficulties arising during the bifurcation of two Time Zones and deal with all matters connected therewith.** 40

Power to
remove
difficulties.

6. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as it appears to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made after expiry of two years from the date of commencement of this Act. 45

(2) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before each House of Parliament.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Geographically, India stretches from 97.4 East in Arunachal to 68 East in Gujarat a difference of almost 30 degrees of longitude—this translates into a time difference of nearly about two hours across the breadth of India and hence having a single time zone for all of India is impractical to begin with. The people from our North-East are genetically attuned and practically accustomed to waking up very early, finishing dinner early in the evening and other similar such lifestyle habits, in sync with their geographical and societal norms. The current setup completely ignores the specific regional and cultural context for such a large chunk of our citizens and it is rather wasteful and inconveniencing.

Globally, across all the larger nations, all but China use multiple Time Zones for increased efficiency and productivity and easier coordination. Following two separate and specific Time Zones instead of one standard Time Zone will allow for greater productivity and efficiency for citizens as well as contribute to savings in energy consumption. The current setup is discriminatory towards vast sections of the populace and it causes economic loss and loss of productivity as well.

By advancing the IST, so as to increase daylight hours in the evening, the State and national Governments can potentially benefit from energy savings and improved social outcomes across domains such as health, safety, and well-being. Just for example, the estimated annual energy saving comes out to be 2×10^7 kWh, as per a report from the National Physical Laboratory, which is significant considering the fact that these States are already short on electric power.

In 2006, the Planning Commission released a report that stated that having two Time Zones would lead to substantial energy savings and subsequently numerous other research papers have confirmed the same. In a global where energy efficiency and carbon savings matter for everyone, India can lead the way in modifying its own practices to make a difference. The initial hurdles in the process of transition are a minor glitch when considering the long-term convenience post implementation of the Time Zones and the overall positive impact it can have on the general well-being of citizens as well as providing a fillip to economic activity.

The Constitution already grants the autonomy to States to define and set local times for their respective industrial areas under the provisions in labour laws, such as the Plantations Labour Act, 1951. Given the widespread adoption of mobile phones and other such digital devices—which can automatically adjust for a time change—the barriers to introduction of such a change have lessened over the years. Plus, this Bill incorporates a host of existing scientific and practical research inputs into its prescriptive provisions so as to ensure that the disruption and need for change is very minimal and gradual.

This Bill seeks to initiate a conducive framework for establishing and implementation of Time Zones more specific to the geographical co-ordinates of the area, eventually leading to more inclusive and systematic governance of the country at large. This has been a long-standing demand, one backed by a host of socio-economic and scientific reasoning.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
November 29, 2019.

PRADYUT BORDOLOI

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 5 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to constitute a Zonal Management Authority to deal with logistic hurdles related to inter-State functioning of Railways, Airlines and other similarly affected sectors after implementation of Time Zones. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, will involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that an annual recurring expenditure of sum of about rupees twenty-five crore will be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India.

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

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 6 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. As the rules will relate to matters of detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

LOK SABHA

A

BILL

to establish and demarcate two separate Time Zones to provide for more practical and inclusive administration of the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Shri Pradyut Bordoloi, M.P.)