

AS INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

Bill No. 22 of 2023

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

By

SHRIMATI SUNITA DUGGAL, M.P.

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further to amend the Constitution of India.

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 Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2023.

Short title and
commencement.

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

5 2. In Part IV of the Constitution, after article 48A, the following article shall be inserted, namely:—

Insertion of new
article 48B.

"48B. The State shall endeavour to reduce emissions and eventually realize the goal of net zero emission for a clean sustainable and habitable environment which shall provide for a inclusive posterity, for all citizens."

Achieving net
zero emissions
for a sustainable
future.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Climate change and its allied issues are a pressing contemporary concern which transcend political borders and impact people across nationalities. The challenge to mitigate, sustain and adapt climate change though enormous, also brings up a historic and unparalleled opportunity for the human race to collectively work for the future of its existence. In such a scenario, India joined other responsible nations with the declaration of its pledge of net zero emissions by 2070 and further released its long-term strategy of achieving net zero emissions by 2070 at the recent 27th Conference of Parties (COP-27) in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh.

In such a state of affairs, it is imperative that federal polity of the country should work cohesively to contrive a path of national development which is distinctive yet at the same time serves balance between economic growth and climate sustainability. The state policy considerations demand inclusion of net zero emission targets to make long-term low emission development strategy a success, for the world to witness.

Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) under Part IV of the Constitution have played a pivotal role in guiding the policies in India. They have been amended periodically as per the dynamic situations. Therefore in the light of contemporary exigencies, insertion of this new article is imperative.

This amendment will provide a mandate which has also become necessary to fulfil and implement other existing elements of DPSP such as in articles 38, 47, 48A, 49 and 51. It also includes the expression "inclusive" to ensure participation, balancing livelihood and growth of all the citizens of our nation in this new phase of developmental journey.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
November 24, 2022

SUNITA DUGGAL

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(Shrimati Sunita Duggal, M.P.)