

Bill No. 230 of 2019

THE COMPULSORY TEACHING OF BHAGAVAD GITA AS A
MORAL EDUCATION TEXT BOOK IN EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS BILL, 2019

By

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI, M.P.

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BILL

to provide for compulsory teaching of Bhagavad Gita as a moral education text book in educational institutions and for matters connected therewith.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Compulsory Teaching of Bhagavad Gita as a Moral Education Text Book in Educational Institutions Act, 2019.

Short title
and
commencement.

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

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

Definitions.

(a) “appropriate Government” means in the case of a State, the Government of that State and in all other cases, the Central Government; and

(b) “educational institution” means any school, by whatever name called, imparting education up to senior secondary level.

Compulsory Teaching of Bhagavad Gita as a moral education text book.

3. Every educational institution shall compulsorily teach Bhagavad Gita as a moral education text book.

Appropriate Government to appoint teachers for teaching Bhagavad Gita as a moral education text book.

4. The appropriate Government shall appoint such number of teachers, as it may deem necessary with such qualifications, as may be specified by the Central Government, for teaching Bhagavad Gita as a moral education text book in every educational institution. 5

Derecognition of schools for non-compliance of the provisions of the Act.

5. The appropriated Government shall derecognise a school, which does not comply with the provisions of section 3:

Provided that a school shall be given reasonable opportunity of being heard before any decision on its derecognition is taken. 10

Central Government to provide funds to the State Governments.

6. The Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, provide adequate funds to the States for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Application of Act on minority educational institutions in certain situation.

7. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the provisions of this Act, shall apply to minority institutions only if the management of such institutions convey to the appropriate Government their willingness to include the teaching of Bhagavad Gita as a moral education text book in their school curriculum. 15

Overriding effect of the Act.

8. The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Srimad Bhagavad Gita has been the book of India's soul. It is also the greatest book on the moral and value education. Bhagavad Gita not only holds holy significance to the people of India but also guides the moral and value thinking in the time of depravity and chaos.

The teachings of Gita is ageless and unbounded. It contains the teaching ranging from spiritual awakening to leadership and management. Teachings of Gita is teaching of humanity and brotherhood. Many great thinkers from our time such as Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo, Albert Einstein, Mahatma Gandhi as well as Madhavacharya, Shankara and Ramanuja, from bygone ages, have all deliberated upon its timeless teachings.

Mahatma Gandhi has also said "When doubts haunt me, when disappointments stare me in the face, and I see not one ray of hope on the horizon, I turn to Bhagavad Gita. Let the Gita be to you a mine of diamonds, as it has been to me; let it be your constant guide and friend on life's way".

It is highly deplorable that such vast literature containing infinite teachings for all age groups is neglected by our educational institutions. It is high time to make sincere effort to spread the teachings to our children and grown ups. Teaching of Bhagavad Gita as a compulsory moral education text book in educational institutions will enable the younger generation to enrich their personality, noble traditions and thoughts of Bhagavad Gita will make them better citizens.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
August 8, 2019.

RAMESH BIDHURI

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides that the appropriate Government shall appoint teachers for teaching of Bhagavad Gita as a compulsory moral text book in every educational institution. Clause 6 provides that the Central Government shall provide adequate funds to the State Governments carrying out the purposes of this Act. The Bill, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that an annual recurring expenditure of about rupees five thousand crore will be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India.

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

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(Shri Ramesh Bidhuri, M.P.)