Bill No. 28 of 2021

THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021

By

Dr. Mohammad Jawed, M.P.

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BILL

further to amend the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

 $\ensuremath{B\mbox{\sc E}}$ it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-second Year of the Republic of India as follows:–

1.(I) This Act may be called the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Amendment) Act, 2021.

Short title and commencement.

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

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Amendment of the Schedule.

2. In the Schedule to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, in 49 of 2016 para 4, in sub-para (b), after entry (iii), the following entry shall be inserted, namely:-

"(iiia) 'diabetes mellitus' means a chronic and metabolic disease characterised by high level of blood glucose (blood sugar) in the body of a person, if persists for a long period of time, causing serious damage to the heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys and nervous system.".

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STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Diabetes mellitus, commonly known as diabetes is a chronic and metabolic disease characterized by elevated levels of blood glucose (or blood sugar), which leads over a period of time to serious damage to the heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys and nerves. The most common is Type 2 diabetes, usually in adults, which occurs when the body becomes resistant to insulin or doesn't make enough insulin. Type 1 diabetes, once known as juvenile diabetes or insulin-dependent diabetes, is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin by itself. For people living with diabetes, access to affordable treatment, including insulin, is critical to their survival.

Diabetes is responsible for every one in twenty deaths from all causes and approximately four million annual deaths are because of complications of diabetes *i.e.* six deaths every minute or one death every 10 seconds.

Currently, 4.0-11.6 per cent. of India's urban population and three per cent. of the rural population above the age of fifteen has diabetes. India has been called "the diabetes capital of the world," and it is estimated that forty-one million Indians have the disease and "every fifth diabetic in the world is an Indian". The socio-economic burden due to diabetes in India is among the highest in the world with low income families spending upto twenty-five per cent. of the family income on the cost of care of a diabetic adult.

The Bill, therefore, proposes to amend the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 to include Diabetes mellitus commonly known as 'diabetes' as a form of disability under the Act.

Hence this Bill.

New Delhi; February 2, 2021 MOHAMMAD JAWED

ANNEXURE

EXTRACT FROM THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016

THE SCHEDULE

[See clause (zc) of section 2]

SPECIFIED DISABILITY

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1. Physical disability

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4. Disability caused due to —

(a) chronic neurological conditions, such as—

* * * * *

- (b) Blood disorder—
- (i) "haemophilia" means an inheritable disease, usually affecting only male but transmitted by women to their male children, characterised by loss or impairment of the normal clotting ability of blood so that a minor would may result in fatal bleeding;
- (ii) "thalassemia" means a group of inherited disorders characterised by reduced or absent amounts of hemoglobin.
- (iii) "sickle cell disease" means a hemolytic disorder characterised by chronic anemia, painful events, and various complications due to associated tissue and organ damage; "hemolytic" refers to the destruction of the cell membrane of red blood cells resulting in the release of hemoglobin.

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(Dr. Mohammad Jawed, M.P.)