

**Bill No. 217 of 2019**

THE COMPULSORY TEACHING OF VEDIC EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS BILL, 2019

By

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH, M.P.

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BILL

*to provide for compulsory teaching of Vedic education in educational institutions and  
for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.*

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 Vedic Education in Educational Institutions Act, 2019. Short title, and  
commencement.

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

Definitions.	<p><b>2.</b> In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, —</p> <p>(a) "appropriate Government" means in the case of a State, the Government of that State and in all other cases, the Central Government;</p> <p>(b) "Council" means the Vedic Educational Council established under section 5;</p> <p>(c) "educational institution" means an institution imparting primary, middle, secondary or higher secondary level education to children, by whatever name such institution is called, but does not include a minority educational institution;</p> <p>(d) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act; and</p> <p>(e) "Vedic education" includes knowledge of non-religious character, derived mainly from Vedic literature, Vedic philosophy and Vedic life.</p>	5 10
Compulsory teaching of Vedic education in educational institutions.	<p><b>3.</b> From such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify, the Vedic education shall be taught as a compulsory subject in all educational institutions in such form and manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government on the recommendation of the Council.</p>	
Appropriate Government to issue direction for compulsory teaching of Vedic education in educational institutions.	<p><b>4.</b> The appropriate Government shall, immediately after issuance of the notification under section 3, issue direction for compulsory teaching of Vedic education in all educational institutions within its jurisdiction.</p>	15
Constitution of Vedic Education Council.	<p><b>5. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Council to be known as the Vedic Educational Council.</b></p> <p><b>(2) The Council shall consist of a chairperson and such number of members, having special knowledge or experience in the fields of history, education or Vedic studies, as the Central Government may deem fit.</b></p>	20
Functions of the Vedic Education Council.	<p><b>6.</b> The Council shall—</p> <p>(i) recommend the class from which onwards the Vedic education shall be taught in educational institutions;</p> <p>(ii) recommend the syllabus of Vedic education for each class upto senior secondary level;</p> <p>(iii) recommend the class or category of students or educational institutions which shall be exempt from the provisions of the Act; and</p> <p>(iv) prescribe the principles and standards to be observed for granting accreditation to institutions imparting training to teachers of Vedic education.</p>	25 30
Penalty for failure to comply with section 3.	<p><b>7.</b> The appropriate Government shall, on the recommendation of the Council, derecognise an educational institution or impose such fine as may be prescribed, for failure to comply with the provisions of section 4:</p> <p>Provided that no educational institution shall be so derecognised or a fine be imposed thereon unless a reasonable opportunity of being heard has been provided to such institution.</p>	35
Central Government to provide funds.	<p><b>8. The Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, provide adequate funds to the State Government for carrying out the purposes of this Act.</b></p>	40

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

**10.** (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 appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty: Removal of difficulties.

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of a period of two years from the commencement of this Act.

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

**11.** (1) The Central Government may, by notification, make rules to carry out the purpose of this Act. Power to make rules.

(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made before each House of the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or successive sessions aforesaid both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Vedic period is considered among the most glorious periods in the Indian history. The period witnessed rise of the Vedic civilization which flourished socially, culturally and educationally. The richness of Vedic culture is so clearly evident in Vedic literature—the Vedas being the most prominent among them. It is not surprising that Vedic philosophy enshrined in Vedic literature pervaded all walks of life. A grave misconception that has subsisted over centuries is that Vedic literature is predominantly religious in character. Rather, the Vedas are eternal and their appeal is universal since they transcend all religions. In fact, the essence or core of all religions, where they all agree, is the true Vedic religion.

Vedas talk about equality, universal brotherhood, harmonious development of life and a rational thinking. The essence of Vedic knowledge, therefore, lies in those philosophical aspects that teach people to lead a life to its perfection. This is exactly what was sought to be achieved by imparting education in gurukuls.

Unlike the modern education, which is largely academic in nature, Vedic education was more comprehensive in nature. It was not intended just to ensure employability of the pupils. Rather, it aimed at formation of individual character and inculcation of a sense of righteousness, self-control and discipline. Towards this end, vedic education touched all aspects of human life—from physical development to sublimation of instincts, commitment to motherland and indebtedness to mother earth.

Thus, the basic idea underlying Vedic education was to create a responsible citizenry, which is relevant to the present times too. For instance, the elimination of ill-gotten wealth is on top of the Government agenda these days. Such ill-gotten wealth was decried in *Atharva Veda* as follows:

"Keep away from me that wealth which brings about my fall, and results in my defame, which entangles me from all sides, and withers me like a parasitic plant, that withers away the supporting tree: so bless me with that wealth which gives peace and joy."

"Wealth obtained by unfair means must be banished from every place. Such wealth should bear indelible markings like being branded by hot iron in order that it is identified and shunned by everybody."

Considering the relevance of the objectives enshrined in the Vedas in the present age and the contribution the Vedic education can make towards the objective of creating a responsible citizenry, the Bill seeks to provide for compulsory teaching of Vedic education in educational institutions.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;  
July 18, 2019.

SATYAPAL SINGH

#### FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 5 of the Bill provides for constitution of the Vedic Education Council consisting of such number of members as may be prescribed. Clause 8 provides that the Central Government shall provide adequate funds to the State Governments for carrying out the purposes of this Act. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that an annual recurring expenditure to the tune of rupees fifteen crore would be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India.

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

#### MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 11 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.

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