

**Bill No. 207 of 2019**

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

By

SHRI GOPAL CHINAYYA SHETTY, M.P.

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BILL

*further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.*

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2019.

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.

3 of 1951 2. After section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the following section  
shall be inserted, namely:—

Insertion of  
new section  
16A.

10 “16A. Notwithstanding anything in sections 14, 14A and 15, the Election  
Commission shall, in consultation with the State Governments, endeavour to conduct  
elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of all States  
simultaneously.”.

Simultaneous  
elections to  
the House of  
the People  
and  
Legislative  
Assemblies of  
all States.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Election is a mandatory process in any vibrant democracy. Healthy and fair elections are the foundation of democracy. It has always been a challenge to conduct a free and fair election in a large country like India. If we look at the election process in our country, we find that elections are held every year in one or another State. The country always remains in electoral mode due to this continuity of elections. This not only affects administrative and policy decisions, but also places a heavy burden on the country's treasury.

One country, one election is not a unique experiment, as it has happened in the years 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, when the elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies were held simultaneously. This sequence was broken when the Assemblies of some States were dissolved prematurely in 1968-69 due to various reasons.

While on the one hand, some experts believe that now the country's population has increased so much, so that it is not possible to hold all elections simultaneously, on the other, some analysts say that if the country's population has increased, then technology and other resources have also developed simultaneously. Therefore, the possibility of one country one election cannot be ruled out.

One country one election is a development-oriented idea. Due to frequent elections, the model code of conduct has to be implemented repeatedly in the country. Because of this, the Government is unable to take necessary policy decisions and faces problems in implementing various schemes. Due to this, development work is affected.

The model code of conduct is designed to maintain the fairness of elections. Under this, the announcement of a project, the introduction of new schemes or financial approval and the appointment process by the ruling party are forbidden after the Election Commission issues election notification. Therefore, if the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies elections are held in the country at one go, then the model code of conduct will remain in force for some time, and after this, the development work can be completed uninterrupted.

Conducting simultaneous elections will reduce the huge expenditure incurred in the repeated elections. It is worth-noting that due to frequent elections, the exchequer would bear additional financial burden. Constant increase in expenditure on elections is a proof that it is not good for the economic health of the country.

Holding elections together will help in curbing black money and corruption. By conducting this type of elections simultaneously, such corruption can be overcome.

By holding elections together, there will be no need to repeatedly deploy Government employees and security forces on election duty. The services of teachers and Government employees are sought to conduct elections, which affects their official work. This will save their time and they will also be able to perform their duties properly. In addition to deployment of the large number of police and security forces, life of the general public is also affected by the frequent elections.

Keeping in mind the time consuming and expensive process of elections and the deployment of excessive manpower in it, the general elections for the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies not to be held simultaneously. Therefore, there is a need to amend the Representation of People Act, 1951 to achieve the aforesaid objectives.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;  
July 16, 2019.

GOPAL CHINAYYA SHETTY

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*(Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty, M.P.)*