

Bill No. 33 of 2025

THE MAINTENANCE AND WELFARE OF PARENTS AND
SENIOR CITIZENS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

By

SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY, M.P.

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BILL

*further to amend the Maintenance and Welfare
of Parents and Senior Citizens
Act, 2007.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India
as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and
Senior Citizens (Amendment) Act, 2025.

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.

Amendment of section 2.	<p>2. In section 2 of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—</p> <p>“(aa) “life of dignity” means standard of living that ensures respect, autonomy, self-worth, access to adequate food, clothing, shelter, healthcare and social inclusion including freedom to live free from exploitation, neglect and abuse, while enjoying the physical, emotional and social well-being.”.</p>	56 of 2007. 5
Amendment of section 4.	<p>3. In section 4 of the principal Act, for the words “normal life”, wherever they occur, the words “life of dignity” shall be substituted.</p>	
Amendment of Section 9.	<p>4. In section 9 of the principal Act, for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—</p> <p>“(2) The Tribunal shall determine the maintenance allowance on a case-to-case basis, taking into account the following factors, namely,—</p> <p>(i) the standard of living and earnings of the parent or senior citizen;</p> <p>(ii) the earnings of the children; and</p> <p>(iii) any other relevant factor affecting the ability of the child or relative to pay and the needs of the parent or senior citizen.”.</p>	10 15
Amendment of section 24.	<p>5. In section 24 of the principal Act, for the words, “imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months or fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or with both”, the words, “imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to one lakh rupee or with both” shall be substituted.</p>	20

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 was pertinent legislation aimed at ensuring the well-being of elderly citizens in India. While the Act has provided a legal framework for the care and support of senior citizens, there is a pressing need to enhance its provisions to better address the evolving challenges faced by our ageing population. This need is particularly significant given India's rich tradition of respecting and caring for elder, which forms an integral part of our culture fabric.

India's elderly population is rapidly growing, with projections indicating that by 2050, 20 per cent of the country's population will be over 60 years old. This demographic shift necessitates a more comprehensive approach to ensuring the dignity and welfare of senior citizens. The current Act, while well-mentioned, has certain limitations that need to be addressed to better serve the needs of our elderly population.

The proposed amendments to the Act seek to address two critical aspects of senior citizen welfare. Firstly, by replacing the term "normal life" with "life of dignity" in Section 4, the amendments aims to elevate the standard of care and support that children and relatives are obligated to provide. This change recognizes that senior citizens deserve not just basic necessities, but a quality of life that preserves their dignity and self-respect.

Secondly, the amendments to Section 9 introduces a more nuanced approach to determining maintenance allowances. The current Act prescribes a maximum monthly maintenance allowance of ten thousand rupees, which may not be sufficient or appropriate in all cases. The proposed amendment allows for a case-by-case determination of maintenance allowances, taking into account factors such as the standard of living of the senior citizen, the earnings of both the senior citizen and their children and other relevant circumstances. This flexible approach ensures that the financial support provided is both fair and adequate to meet the specific needs of each senior citizen.

These amendments are crucial in light of the changing socio-economic landscape of India. With increasing urbanization, nuclear families and economic pressures, many senior citizens find themselves vulnerable and in need of support. By strengthening the legal framework for their care and maintenance, we aim to create a society where the elderly are valued, respected and provided for in a manner befitting their contributions to our nation.

The proposed amendments to the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act, 2007 represent a significant step towards ensuring a life of dignity for our senior citizens. By introducing more comprehensive and flexible provisions for their care and maintenance, we are not only adapting to the changing times but also reaffirming our commitment to the age-old Indian tradition of revering and caring for our elders. These changes aim to bridge the gap between our cultural ideals and the realities of modern life, ensuring that our senior citizens receive the respect, care and support they rightfully deserve in their golden years.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
January 28, 2025

MADDILA GURUMOORTHY

ANNEXURE

[EXTRACT FROM THE MAINTENANCE AND WELFARE OF
PARENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS ACT, 2007]

(ACT NO. 56 OF 2007)

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Definitions.

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

(a) “children” includes son, daughter, grandson and grand-daughter but does not include a minor

(b) *	*	*	*	*
(c) *	*	*	*	*
(d) *	*	*	*	*
(e) *	*	*	*	*
(f) *	*	*	*	*
(g) *	*	*	*	*
(h) *	*	*	*	*
(i) *	*	*	*	*
(j) *	*	*	*	*
(k) *	*	*	*	*

Maintenance
of Parents
and Senior
Citizens.

4. (1) A senior citizen including parent who is unable to maintain himself from his own earning or property owned by him, shall be entitled to make an application under section 5 in case of—

(i) parent or grand-parent, against one or more of his children not being a minor;

(ii) a childless senior citizen, against such of his relative referred to in clause (g) of section 2.

(2) The obligation of the children or relative, as the case may be, to maintain a senior citizen extends to the needs of such citizen so that senior citizen may lead a normal life.

(3) The obligation of the children to maintain his or her parent extends to the needs of such parent either father or mother or both, as the case may be, so that such parent may lead a normal life.

(4) Any person being a relative of a senior citizen and having sufficient means shall maintain such senior citizen provided he is in possession of the property of such senior citizen or he would inherit the property of such senior citizen:

Provided that where more than one relatives are entitled to inherit the property of a senior citizen, the maintenance shall be payable by such relative in the proportion in which they would inherit his property.

Order for
maintenance.

9. (1) * * * * *

(2) The maximum maintenance allowance which may be ordered by such Tribunal shall be such as may be prescribed by the State Government which shall not exceed ten thousand rupees per month.

24. Whoever, having the care or protection of senior citizen leaves, such senior citizen in any place with the intention of wholly abandoning such senior citizen, shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months or fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or with both.

Exposure and abandonment of senior citizen.

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LOK SABHA

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BILL

further to amend the Maintenance and Welfare
of Parents and Senior Citizens
Act, 2007.

(Shri Maddila Gurumoorthy, M.P.)