

Bill No. 41 of 2023

THE COMPULSORY YOGA PRACTICE IN SCHOOLS AND
OTHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS BILL, 2023

By

DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR, M.P.

A

BILL

to provide for compulsory yoga practice from primary to senior secondary level in all the schools and other education institutions throughout the country in order to prepare talent of sports from school level and thereby ensuring good and sound health of students and for making it obligatory for the Central and State Governments to provide requisite infrastructure for the purpose and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Compulsory Yoga Practice in Schools and other Education Institutions Act, 2023.

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

5 (2) It extends to the whole of India.

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

Definitions.

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

(a) “appropriate Government” means in the case of a State, the Government of the State, and in all other cases, the Central Government; 5

(b) “education institution” means an university or college imparting education to student, by whatever name such institution is called;

(c) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(d) “school” means any Government school or a Government aided school or a private school, which imparts education from primary to senior secondary school level; 10

(e) “sports infrastructure” means requisite resources required for playing game such as playground with necessary facilities, articles of sports, sports instructors and requisite environment as are required for sports in the school; and 15

(f) “yoga” means teaching of yoga postures or asanas and such other yoga exercises as would promote the control of the body by bringing in flexibility, strength and endurance and of the mind by enhancing alertness and meditation.

National policy for Yoga Practice and infrastructure.

3. (1) The Central Government shall, as soon as may be, but not later than one year after the commencement of this Act, formulate a National Policy for providing yoga practice and ensuring requisite infrastructure and other facilities required for yoga practice in all schools of the country. 20

(2) The national policy referred to in sub-section (1) shall provide for,— 25

(a) imparting free yoga practice to all the students as per their ability and physical condition in the schools and other education institutions;

(b) encouraging yoga practice and creating awareness of the importance of yoga among the school students; 30

(c) ensuring the availability of yoga teacher in all the schools and other education institutions;

(d) providing adequate funds for infrastructure development for yoga practice in all the schools and other education institutions;

(e) incorporating yoga as compulsory subjects in all the schools and other education institutions; 35

(f) preparing standard and qualitative syllabus for yoga practice as per the age and physical capacity of the students under the guidance of experts and universalisation thereof;

(g) providing scholarship and stipend to those students whose performance in yoga has been outstanding; 40

(h) providing weightage to marks obtained in yoga for admission in colleges, universities, and institutions of national importance;

(i) according preference to the outstanding sports persons in direct recruitment under the Central and State Government services; and

5 (j) such other provisions, as the Central Government may deem fit and necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

4. (1) It shall be the duty of the appropriate Government to implement the National Policy formulated under section 3.

Implementation of National policy.

10 (2) The appropriate Government shall review the progress and quality of yoga practice being imparted by the schools and other education institutions from time to time, in such manner as may be prescribed.

5. 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 yoga practice in their school curriculum.

Act to apply to minority educational institutions in certain situation.

15 6. Any school which violates the provisions of this Act shall be liable for punitive action by the appropriate Government, including withdrawal of recognition of the school in such manner and with such conditions, as may be prescribed.

Penalty.

20 **7. The Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, provide requisite funds, from time to time, for carrying out the purposes of this Act.**

Central Government to provide funds.

8. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force dealing with the subject matter of this Act.

Act to supplement other laws.

25 9. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Power to make rules.

30 (2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of the Parliament, 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 the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both the 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
35 any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under the rule.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Yoga is being practiced in our country since the time immemorial for good health and longevity. It keeps the body and mind healthy and sound and its various *asanas* cure even serious diseases. Now, yoga is not confined to India only but has become international and International Yoga Day is held every year on 21st June throughout the world.

It is, therefore, felt that yoga should be introduced right from childhood to make it a part and parcel of everyone's life so that we can foster confidence and self-esteem in the minds of our upcoming generations in schools and other Education Institutions.

Similarly, various sports activities make us healthy, fit and fine. They are essential for the overall development of people and in particular, the children and youth. Some sports are even very rewarding and outstanding sportspersons of these sports earn enormous wealth in their career. Many international sports events such as Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games etc. are held from time-to-time and winning in these events brings laurels for the country. Thus, the process of learning sports shall start from the school itself to prepare talents for national and international events.

Our country currently has the largest youth population and majority of them are sports lovers. In fact, there is no dearth of talent in various sports in the country. The only shortcomings are that they seldom get proper resources, training and well equipped infrastructure to sharpen their talent to become international sportspersons.

It is felt that compulsory yoga and sports education in schools and other education institutions will definitely identify talent and make our nation excel in the global sports and competitions, apart from building a fit and healthy nation.

The Bill, therefore, seeks to provide for making sports and yoga education compulsory in all educational institutions right from primary school level to senior secondary level in order to make it a part of school curriculum.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
January 11, 2023.

SUKANTA MAJUMDAR

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for the formulation of a national policy for providing yoga practice and infrastructure development in schools and other education institutions. It also provides for creating awareness of yoga among students, financial assistance for infrastructure development, scholarship and stipends for outstanding students in yoga in schools and other education institutions. Clause 7 makes it obligatory for the Central Government to provide requisite funds for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, will involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. At this stage, it is difficult to give an exact estimate of the actual expenditure to be incurred on it. However, it is estimated that a recurring expenditure of rupees one lakh crore per annum would involve from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non-recurring expenditure to the tune of rupees one hundred crore may also be involved for creating various assets throughout the country from the Consolidated Fund of India.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 9 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 normal character.

LOK SABHA

A

BILL

to provide for compulsory yoga practice from primary to senior secondary level in all the schools and other education institutions throughout the country in order to prepare talent of sports from school level and thereby ensuring good and sound health of students and for making it obligatory for the Central and State Governments to provide requisite infrastructure for the purpose and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

(Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, M.P.)