

Bill No. 70 of 2019

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

By

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY, M.P.

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BILL

further to amend the Constitution of India.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) 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.

2. After article 324 of the Constitution, the following article shall be inserted, namely:—

Insertion of new article 324A.

10 "324A. Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, the Election Commission shall, as far as possible, endeavour to conduct elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of all States simultaneously."

Election Commission to conduct elections to the House of the People and Legislative Assemblies of all States simultaneously.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

At present, general elections of Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies are being held in different years and, in many cases, even at different periods of the same year. The tenure of both Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies have been fixed at five years by the Constitution.

Presently, the cost of holding elections for Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of States and Union territories has been pegged at rupees four thousand and five hundred crores by the Election Commission.

Suggestions are being received from certain quarters that a scheme should be devised whereby the general elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies are held simultaneously.

The rationale given is that this will result in huge saving to the public exchequer, avoidance of replication of efforts on part of administration and law and order machinery in holding repeated elections and bring considerable savings to political parties and candidates in their election campaigns.

Another argument in support of the above suggestion is that now asynchronous Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections including bye-elections result in prolonged enforcement of Model Code of Conduct with its concomitant adverse impact on development and welfare programmes.

Under the Parliamentary democracy envisaged in our Constitution, situations may arise from time to time, where the five year term of the Lok Sabha may have to be either curtailed or extended. The same would be the situation in relation to the State Legislative Assemblies. The proposal for simultaneous elections, however, would involve having fixed term for the Union and State Legislative bodies.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
June 6, 2019.

P.P. CHAUDHARY

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further to amend the Constitution of India.

(Shri P.P. Chaudhary, M.P.)