

AS INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

Bill No. 59 of 2020

THE PREVENTION OF WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE ON SPECIAL
OCCASIONS BILL, 2020

By

SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL, M.P.

A

BILL

*to prevent wasteful expenditure on special occasions such as weddings and
festivals with a view to bring positive changes in the lives of the
underprivileged and the destitute and for matter
connected therewith.*

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-first year of the Republic of India as
follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Prevention of Wasteful Expenditure on Special
Occasions Act, 2020.

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

(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 that State, and in all other cases, the Central Government; 5

(b) "designated Authority" means an authority or an officer designated for the purpose of registration of marriages under this Act;

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

(d) "special occasion" means any event worth celebrating and includes weddings, festivals, and such other occasions; and 10

(e) "supporting organization" means the any organisation engaged in creating awareness among public for prevention of wasteful expenditure on special occasions and encouraging people to donate for charity on such occasions. 15

Prevention of wastage during marriage functions.

3. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force or of any custom or ritual, all special occasions shall be conducted in a simple manner without incurring extravagant or wasteful expenditure, show of wealth or lavish spending.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the provision contained in sub-section (1), on the occasion of solemnization of marriage— 20

(a) not more than one hundred guests shall be invited;

(b) not more than ten number of dishes shall be served;

(c) the value of gifts given during invitation card distribution shall not exceed rupees twenty-five hundred; and 25

(d) practice of donation to poor, needy, orphans or weaker sections of the society or to non-Governmental organisations working for charity shall be encouraged instead of extravagant gifts:

Provided that donations and gifts may be combined if amount of gift is less than the prescribed limit as specified in clause(c). 30

(3) The appropriate Government shall prescribe necessary guidelines to be followed for effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

Encouragement to Supporting Organizations.

4. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force or in any custom or usage to the contrary,—

(a) supporting organizations shall be encouraged to create awareness among public about the importance of practice of minimum expenditure on special occasions and disseminate the provisions of this Act, and 35

(b) practice of donating for charity purpose on special occasions shall be encouraged.

Penalty.

5. Whoever contravenes the provisions of section 3 shall be punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months and also with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees; 40

Power to remove difficulties.

6. 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 it appears to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty: 45

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of the period of three years from the date of commencement of this Act.

7. 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.

5 **8.** The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being applicable to marriages.

Act not in derogation of other law.

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.

10 (2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of 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
15 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

These days, it has become fashionable to spend like feudals on special occasions such as marriages and festivals. The guest list is very long and the food menu layout is vast which leads to lot of wastage. Not only this, a lot of wastage occurs at the time of distribution of marriage cards or post-wedding gifts. Similarly, a lot of wastage occurs on festivals due to practices of exchanging gifts. That also deserves significant attention.

On weddings, practice of a vast food layout, decoration, bands, music and number of guests invited has become a status symbol and a symbol of show-off. Analogously, on festivals thoughtless exchange of gifts is very wasteful. Festivals must be a time to remember the almighty and do good to society. But often, the core concept of festivals get lost in the show-off that many do, by exchanging fancy gifts. That money could instead be donated and smaller gifts distributed.

In fact, on special occasions, food waste and loss has been rapidly increasing in India. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), every year around 1.7 billion tonnes, or almost one third of food produced for human consumption, is lost or wasted globally.

As per the Global Hunger Index, 2019 India has a rank of 102 out of 117 countries. The NFHS4 (2015 & 16) estimated 46.8 million under five children in India are stunted and this represents one-third of total stunted children across the globe. Food loss or waste also amount to a major squandering of resources, including water, land, energy, labour and capital and it also needlessly produce greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to global warming and climate change.

It is high time for our country to stand up against this unmeaningful and wasteful expenditure. So we should decide that not more than one hundred guests and not more than ten dishes should be allowed.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
January 22, 2020.

JASBIR SINGH GILL

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.

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