

**Bill No. 77 of 2020**

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020

By

DR. T. R. PAARIVENDHAR, M.P.

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BILL

*further to amend the Constitution of India.*

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 Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2020.

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. In article 326 of the Constitution, for the words "eighteen years " the words "seventeen years" shall be substituted.

Amendment of article 326.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The minimum age of eighteen years for voting is prescribed by the Constitution. However, in many countries, the debate is going on to reduce the voting age to below eighteen. The young voters do not care for caste backgrounds of candidates and hence improve the chances of clean and honest people getting elected.

The Present-day youth are literate and enlightened and well advanced in general knowledge/awareness. They are very keenly watching day-to-day politics and what is going on in the country and able to find out the solutions to all problems because of social media, print media and electronic media. So, they may be given a chance to elect a person/political leader of their choice to rule the country by voting in the Lok Sabha elections as well as in the State Assembly elections. This would add more young voters to the electoral college. The voting registration should start when a person is sixteen years old but must be eligible to vote when he completes seventeen years of age.

Hence, there is need to further amend the Constitution to lower the voting age from the existing eighteen years to seventeen years without any further delay.

As per the data published by Statistical Research Department in December, 2019, approximately forty-four million youth between sixteen-seventeen years across the country will exercise franchise their right to vote in the coming elections to the Legislative Assemblies of the States and Lok Sabha in the year 2024.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;  
*January 27, 2020.*

T. R. PAARIVENDHAR

## FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to lower the age of voting to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States from eighteen years to seventeen years. The Bill, therefore, if enacted will involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that an expenditure of about rupees one hundred crore would be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India for the purpose of revision of electoral roll, printing of additional ballot papers at the time of election, setting of additional polling stations, etc.

The Bill, on enactment, would not involve any other expenditure, either recurring or non-recurring.

*ANNEXURE*

EXTRACT FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

\* \* \* \*

Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage.

326. The election to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of every State shall be on the basis of adult suffrage; that is to say, every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than eighteen years of age on such date as may be fixed in that behalf by or under any law made by the appropriate Legislature and is not otherwise disqualified under this Constitution or any law made by the appropriate Legislature on the ground of non-residence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corrupt or illegal practice, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election.

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*(Dr. T.R. Paarivendhar, M.P.)*