

Bill No. 84 of 2023

THE COMPULSORY TEACHING OF LIFESTYLE FOR
ENVIRONMENT BILL, 2023

By

DR. MANOJ RAJORIA, M.P.

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BILL

*to provide for compulsory teaching of lifestyle environment education in
all educational institutions and for matters connected
therewith or incidental thereto.*

WHEREAS India has made significant commitment in the UN Climate Change
Conference (UNFCCC COP26) in Glasgow on 1st November 2021 regarding the
concept of Lifestyle for the Environment (Life) calling upon the global community
of individuals and institutions to drive Life as an international mass movement
5 towards “mindful and deliberate utilisation, instead of mindless and destructive
consumption” to protect and preserve the environment.

AND WHEREAS need is to encourage a lifestyle that focuses on mindful and
deliberate utilization of resources and aims to change the present 'use and dispose
of consumption habits and encourage individuals to adopt simple changes in their
10 daily life that may contribute to climate change.

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

Short title and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the the Compulsory Teaching of Lifestyle for Environment Act, 2023.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint. 5

Definitions.

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

(a) “National Centre” means the National Research Centre for Promotion and Teaching of Lifestyle Environment Education constituted under section 6;

(b) “appropriate Government” means in the case of a State, the Government of that State and in all other cases, the Central Government; 10

(c) “educational institution” means a primary or a middle or a secondary or a senior secondary level school or a University or College imparting education to children, by whatever name such institution is called but does not include a minority educational institution; 15

(d) “environment” includes water, both surface and underground, air and land including the surface of the earth, subsoil and the forests (the flora and the fauna) and the inter-relationship which exists amongst and between water, air and land, and human beings, other living creatures and plants;

(e) “lifestyle” means way of living; 20

(f) “lifestyle environment education” means education creating awareness of environment and to encourage a lifestyle that focuses on mindful utilization of resources and to nudge individual and community to preserve the environment; and

(g) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act. 25

Compulsory teaching of lifestyle environment education in educational institutions.

3. From such date, as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette specify, the lifestyle environment education shall be taught as a compulsory subject in all educational institutions from such class onwards as may be determined by the Central Government on the recommendation of the National Centre. 30

Appropriate Government to issue directions for compulsory teaching of lifestyle environment education in educational institutions.

4. The appropriate Government shall, immediately after issuance of the notification under section 3, issue directions for compulsory teaching of lifestyle environment education in educational institutions from such class onwards as it may determine, within its jurisdiction.

Appointment of teachers.

5. Subject to such rules, as may be prescribed, the appropriate Government shall ensure appointment of such number of teachers with such qualifications, as may be specified, for teaching lifestyle environment education in all educational institutions. 35

Constitution of National Centre for Promotion and Teaching of Lifestyle Environment Education.

6. (1) The Central Government shall, within six months of the coming into force of the Compulsory Teaching of Lifestyle for Environment Act, 2023, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a National Centre to be known as the National Centre for Promotion and Teaching of Lifestyle Environment Education. 40

(2) The National Centre shall consist of such number of persons, having special knowledge or experience in the teaching of lifestyle environment education, as the Central Government may deem fit.

7. The National Centre shall perform the following functions, namely:—

5 (a) recommend to the Central Government the class from which onwards the lifestyle environment education shall be taught in educational institutions;

(b) recommend to the appropriate Government the qualifications of teachers to be appointed in educational institutions for teaching lifestyle environment education;

10 (c) recommend to the appropriate Government the institutions which may be given recognition for training teachers in lifestyle environment education for the purpose of their appointment in educational institutions;

(d) co-ordinate with the appropriate Government and the school authorities with a view to ensuring effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

15 **8.** The appropriate Government shall derecognize educational institutions, which does not comply with the provisions of section 4, after giving such institution a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

20 **9. The Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by law by Parliament in this behalf, provide adequate funds to the State Governments for carrying out the purposes of this Act.**

10. The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

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

25 (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
30 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 any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

Functions of National Centre for Promotion and Teaching of Lifestyle Environment Education.

Derecognition of educational institutions for non-compliance of the provisions of the Act.

Central Government to provide fund.

Overriding effect of the Act.

Power to make rules.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Environmental degradation and climate change are global phenomena where actions in one part of the world impact ecosystems and populations across the globe. Estimates suggest that if requisite action is not taken against the changing environment, approximately three billion people globally could experience chronic water scarcity. The global economy could lose up to eighteen per cent. of GDP by the year 2050.

Over the last two decades, several macro measures have been implemented globally to address environmental degradation and climate change, including policy reforms, economic incentives and regulations. Despite their enormous potential, actions required at the level of individuals, communities and institutions have received limited attention.

Changing individual and community behaviour alone can make a significant dent in the environmental and climate crises. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), if one billion people out of the global population of eight billion adopt environment-friendly behaviours in their daily lives, global carbon emissions could drop by approximately twenty per cent.

In this context, the concept of 'Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE)' was introduced by Hon'ble Prime Minister at COP26 in Glasgow on 1st November 2021, calling upon the global community of individuals and institutions to drive LiFE as an international mass movement towards “mindful and deliberate utilisation, instead of mindless and destructive consumption” to protect and preserve the environment.

The idea behind the LiFE initiative is to put individual and collective duty on everyone to live a life that is in tune with Earth and does not harm it. This initiative encourages a lifestyle that focuses on mindful and deliberate utilization of resources and aims to change the present 'use and dispose of' consumption habits. The idea behind is to encourage individuals to adopt simple changes in their daily life that can contribute to climate change.

Another part of the LiFE mission is to use the strength of social networks to bring a change in the climate landscape. The mission also plans to create a global army of environment enthusiasts who shall be known as 'Pro-Planet People', committed to adopting and promoting environment-friendly lifestyles.

The Bill, therefore, seeks to provide for compulsory teaching of lifestyle environment education in all educational institutions statutory on the lines of the LiFE Mission to encourage individuals to adopt simple changes in their daily life that may contribute to climate change.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
March 28, 2023.

MANOJ RAJORIA

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 5 of the Bill provides for appointment of teachers for teaching lifestyle environment education in all educational institutions. Clause 6 provides for constitution of National Centre for Promotion and Teaching of Lifestyle Environment Education by the Central Government. Clause 9 provides for payment of adequate funds to the States for carrying out the purposes of the Act. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that a recurring expenditure of about rupees one thousand crore will be involved per annum from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees two hundred and fifty crore is also likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 11 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 a normal character.

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or incidental thereto.

(Dr. Manoj Rajoria, M.P.)