AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2024

# Bill No. VIII of 2023

## THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

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### BILL

#### further to amend the Constitution of India.

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 Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2023.

Short title and commencement.

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

2. In the Constitution, for the word "Chairman", wherever it occurs, the word General. "Chairperson", shall be substituted.

3. In article 371A of the Constitution, in sub-clause (d) of clause (1), in the proviso to Amendment paragraph (i), for the word "Vice-Chairman", the word "Vice-Chairperson", shall be substituted. of article

371A.

#### STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The discriminatory approach on the basis of gender, either expressively or impliedly, is not appreciated in the modern egalitarian society. India, being a nation with higher constitutional values on equality, particularly on gender, have a greater role in setting a model for the gender inclusive approach in letter and spirit. In this context, the State, legislature and the law, should all reflect the comprehensive and inclusive approach towards gender, particularly in relation to women and transgenders.

2. It is also to be noted that the Indian representatives have succeeded in changing the draft proposal of article 1 of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948, from "All men are born free and equal" to "All human beings are born free and equal" with much gender-neutral consciousness even imbibed in the literal manifestations. But this spirit of literal manifestation of gender neutrality has not reflected in several povisions in the Constitution of India, except certain amendments made to it in the later period.

3. Article 51A(e) of the Constitution of India also provides that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, lingustic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women. This value has to be reflected in its true sense of literal articulations in the Constitution itself, in a more inclusive and convincing manner.

4. The legislative intent at the time of passing of the Constitution was very clear as to renouncing of practices which are derogatory to the dignity of women and tansgenders. But in the present context, this constitutional aspiration has to be supplemented through express articulations. An explicit mandate will provide more confidence and recognition to women and transgenders. Hence, a gender neutral and gender inclusive language need to be introduced in the Constitution of India.

5. The skewed gender terminologies used to address certain constitutional offices need to be amended at par with the inclusive gender-neutral terminologies as adopted in the recent enactments including constitutional amendments and statutes.

6. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objective.

A.A. RAHIM.

#### ANNEXURE

EXTRACTS FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

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22 *	*	*	*	*	*
(4) *	*	*	*	*	*

Provided that an Advisory Board shall consist of a Chairman and not less than two other members, and the Chairman shall be a serving Judge of the appropriate High Court and the other members shall be serving or retired Judges of any High Court:

**64.** The Vice-President shall be *ex officio* Chairman of the Council of the States and shall not hold any other office of profit:

Provided that during any period when the Vice-President acts as President or discharges the functions of the President under article 65, he shall not perform the duties of the office of Chairman of the Council of States and shall not be entitled to any salary or allowance payable to the Chairman of the Council of States under article 97.

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**89.** (1) The Vice-President of India shall be *ex officio* Chairman of the Council of States.

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(2) The Council of States shall, as soon as may be, choose a member of the Council to be Deputy Chairman thereof and, so often as the office of Deputy Chairman becomes vacant, the Council shall choose another member to be Deputy Chairman thereof.

90. A member holding office as Deputy Chairman of the Council of States—

(*a*) shall vacate his office if he ceases to be a member of the Council;

(b) may at any time, by writing under his hand addressed to the Chairman, resign his office; and

(c) may be removed from his office by a resolution of the Council passed by a majority of all the then members of the Council:

Provided that no resolution for the purpose of clause (c) shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution.

**91.** (1) While the office of Chairman is vacant, or during any period when the Vice-President is acting as, or discharging the functions of, President, the duties of the office shall be performed by the Deputy Chairman, or, if the office of Deputy Chairman is also vacant, by such member of the Council of States as the President may appoint for the purpose.

(2) During the absence of the Chairman from any sitting of the Council of States the Deputy Chairman, or, if he is also absent, such person as may be determined by the rules of procedure of the Council, or, if not such person is present, such other person as may be determined by the Council, shall act as Chairman.

**92.** (1) At any sitting of the Council of States, while any resolution for the removal of the Vice-President from his office is under consideration, the Chiarman, or while any resolution for the removal of the Deputy Chairman from his office is under consideration, the Deputy Chairman, shall not, though he is present, preside, and the provisions of clause (2) of article 91 shall apply in relation to every such sitting as they apply in relation to a sitting from which the Chairman, or, as the case may be, the Deputy Chairman, is absent.

and detention in certain cases. The Vice-President to be *ex-officio* 

Protection against arrest

President to be *ex-officio* Chairman of the Council of States.

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The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Council of States.

Vacation and resignation of, and removal from, the office of Deputy Chairman.

Chairman or other person to perform the duties of the office of, or to act as, Chairman.

Power of the Deputy

or the Deputy Chairman not to preside while a resolution for his removal from office is under consideration. (2) The Chairman shall have the right to speak in, and otherwise to take part in the proceedings of, the Council of States while any resolution for the removal of the Vice-President from his office is under consideration in the Council, but, notwithstanding anything in article 100, shall not be entitled to vote at all on such resolution or on any other matter during such proceedings.

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Salaries and allowances of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman and the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

Secretariat of Parliament.

98.\*

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**97**. There shall be paid to the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Council of States, and to the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House of the People, such salaries and allowances as may be respectively fixed by Parliament by law and, until provision in that behalf is so made, such salaries and allowances as are specified in the Second Schedule.

(3) Until provision is made by Parliament under clause (2), the President may, after consultation with the Speaker of the House of the People or the Chairman of the Council of States, as the case may be, make rules regulating the recruitment, and the conditions of service of persons appointed, to the secretarial staff of the House of the People or the Council of States, and any rules so made shall have effect subject to the provisions of any law made under the said clause.

Voting in Houses, power of Houses to act notwithstanding vacancies and auorum.

Annual financial

statement.

**100.** (1) Save as otherwise provided in this Constitution, all questions at any sitting of either House or joint sitting of the Houses shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting, other than the Speaker or person acting as Chairman or Speaker.

The Chairman or Speaker, or person acting as such, shall not vote in the first instance, but shall have and exercise a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

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(4) If at any time during a meeting of a House there is no quorum, it shall be the duty of the Chairman or Speaker, or person acting as such, either to adjourn the House or to suspend the meeting until there is a quorum.

Vacation of 101.\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* seats.

(3) If a member of either House of Parliament—

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(a) becomes subject to any of the disqualifications mentioned in 3 clause (1) or clause (2) of article 102, or

(*b*) resigns his seat by writing under his hand addressed to the Chairman or the Speaker, as the case may be, and his resignation is accepted by the Chairman or the Speaker, as the case may be, his seat shall thereupon become vacant:

Provided that in the case of any resignation referred to in sub-clause (b) if from information received or otherwise and after making such inquiry as he thinks fit, the Chairman or the Speaker, as the case may be, is satisfied that such resignation is not voluntary or genuine, he shall not accept such resignation.

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112. *	*	*	*	*	*

(3) The following expenditure shall be expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India—

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(*b*) the salaries and allowances of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Council of States and the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House of the People;

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his removal

from office is under consideration.

118. *	*	*	*	*	*	Rules of	
(2) Until rules a force immediately bef of the Dominion of modifications and ad States or the Speaker	ore the commer India shall l laptations as m	ncement of this have effect in hay be made th	Constitution with relation to Parl herein by the Cha	iament subject to irman of the Coun	lature such	procedure.	
( <i>3</i> ) The Preside Speaker of the House sittings of, and comr	of the People,	may make rule	es as to the procee	Council of States ar dure with respect to			
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<b>120.</b> ( <i>1</i> ) Notwin 348, business in Parli	• •	-		the provisions of a h:	rticle	Language to be used in Parliament.	
Provided that t People, or person ac adequately express h	ting as such, as	s the case may	be, may permit a	•	annot		
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<b>182.</b> The Legis be, choose two members thereof and, so often Council shall choose be.	bers of the Cou as the office of	incil to be resp of Chairman o	ectively Chairma r Deputy Chairm	an becomes vacan	rman t, the	The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council.	
183. A member holding office as Chairman or Deputy Chairman of a Legislative Council—							
(a) shall	vacate his offic	ce if he ceases	to be a member c	of the Council;		from the offices of	
Chairman, to b	(b) may at any time by writing under his hand addressed, if such member is the Chairman, to be Deputy Chairman, and if such member is the Deputy Chairman, to the Chairman, resign his office; and						
(c) may majority of all			•	the Council passed	by a		
		-	*	c) shall be moved u to move the resolu			
<b>184.</b> (1) While the office of Chairman is vacant, the duties of the office shall be performed by the Deputy Chairman or, if the office of Deputy Chairman is also vacant, by such member of the Council as the Governor may appoint for the purpose.							
Chairman or, if he is a of the Council, or if	(2) During the absence of the Chairman from any sitting of the Council the Deputy Chairman or, if he is also absent, such person as may be determined by the rules of procedure of the Council, or if no such person is present, such other person as may be determined by the Council, shall act as Chairman.						
<b>185.</b> ( <i>I</i> ) At any of the Chairman from for the removal of the Chairman, shall not,	his office is un Deputy Chair	der considerat	ion, the Chairmar office is under co	nsideration, the De	ution eputy	The Chairman or the Deputy Chairman not to preside while a	

184 shall apply in relation to every such sitting as they apply in relation to a sitting from resolution for

which the Chairman or, as the case may be, the Deputy Chairman is absent.

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(2) The Chairman shall have the right to speak in, and otherwise to take part in the proceedings of, the Legislative Council while any resolution for his removal from office is under consideration in the Council and shall, notwithstanding anything in article 189, be entitled to vote only in the first instance on such resolution or on any other matter during such proceedings but not in the case of an equality of votes.

**186.** There shall be paid to the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and to the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council, such salaries and allowances as may be respectively fixed by the Legislature of the State by law and, until provision in that behalf is so made, such salaries and allowances as are specified in the Second Schedule.

(3) Until provision is made by the Legislature of the State under clause (2), the Governor

may, after consultation with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly or the Chairman of the Legislative Council, as the case may be, make rules regulating the recruitment, and the conditions of service of persons appointed, to the secretarial staff of the Assembly or the Council, and any rules so made shall have effect subject to the provisions of any law made

Secretariat of State Legislature.

187.\*

under the said clause.

190.\*

Salaries and

the Speaker

and Deputy

Speaker and the Chairman

and Deputy Chairman.

allowances of

Voting in Houses, power of Houses to act notwithstanding vacancies and quorum.

**189.** (1) Save as otherwise provided in this Constitution, all questions at any sitting of a House of the Legislature of a State shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting, other than the Speaker or Chairman, or person acting as such.

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The Speaker or Chairman, or person acting as such, shall not vote in the first instance, but shall have and exercise a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

(4) If at any time during a meeting of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council of a State there is no quorum, it shall be the duty of the Speaker or Chairman, or person acting as such, either to adjourn the House or to suspend the meeting until there is a quorum.

Vacation of seats.

(3) If a member of a House of the Legislature of a State—

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(a) becomes subject to any of the disqualifications mentioned in 2 clause (1) or clause (2) or article 191; or

(b) resigns his seat by writing under his hand addressed to the speaker or the Chairman, as the case may be, and his resignation is accepted by the Speaker or the Chairman, as the case may be, his seat shall thereupon become vacant:

Provided that in the case of any resignation referred to in sub-clause (b), if from information received or otherwise and after making such inquiry as he thinks fit, the Speaker or the Chairman, as the case may be, is satisfied that such resignation is not voluntary or genuine, he shall not accept such resignation.

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202. *	*	*	*	*	*

Annual financial statement.

(3) The following expenditure shall be expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of each State—

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(b) the salaries and allowances of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and, in the case of a State having a Legislative Council, also of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council.

208.\* (2) Until rules are made under clause (1), the rules of procedure and standing orders in force immediately before the commencement of this Constitution with respect to the Legislature for the corresponding Province shall have effect in relation to the Legislature of the State subject to such modifications and adaptations as may be made therein by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, or the Chairman of the Legislative Council, as the case may be.

(3) In a State having a Legislative Council the Governor, after consultation with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Chairman of the Legislative Council, may make rules as to the procedure with respect to communications between the two Houses.

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**210.** (1) Notwithstanding anything in Part XVII, but subject to the provisions of article 348, Language to business in the Legislature of a State shall be transacted in the official language or languages be used in the of the State or in Hindi or in English:

Provided that the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly or Chairman of the Legislative Council, or person acting as such, as the case may be, may permit any member who cannot adequately express himself in any of the languages aforesaid to address the House in his mother-tongue.

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280. (1) The President shall, within two years from the commencement of this Finance Constitution and thereafter at the expiration of every fifth year or at such earlier time as the President considers necessary, by order constitute a Finance Commission which shall consist of a Chairman and four other members to be appointed by the President.

**312A.** (1) Parliament may by law—

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(a) vary or revoke, whether prospectively or retrospectively, the conditions of services as respects remuneration, leave and pension and the rights as respects disciplinary matters of persons who, having been appointed by the Secretary of State or Secretary of State in Council to a civil service of the Crown in India before the commencement of this Constitution, continue on and after the commencement of the Constitution (Twenty-eighth Amendment) Act, 1972, to serve under the Government of India or of a State in any service or post;

(b) vary or revoke, whether prospectively or retrospectively, the conditions of service as respects pension of persons who, having been appointed by the Secretary of State or Secretary of State in Council to a civil service of the Crown in India before the commencement of this Constitution, retired or otherwise ceased to be in service at any time before the commencement of the Constitution (Twenty-eighth Amendment) Act, 1972:

Provided that in the case of any such person who is holding or has held the office of the Chief Justice or other Judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court, the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, the Chairman or other member of the Union or a State Public Service Commission or the Chief Election Commissioner, nothing in sub-clause (a) or sub-clause (b) shall be construed as empowering Parliament to vary or revoke, after his appointment to such post, the conditions of his service to his disadvantage except in so far as such conditions of service are applicable to him by reason of his being a person appointed by the Secretary of State or Secretary of State in Council to a civil service of the Crown in India.

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Commission.

Legislature.

Power of Parliament to vary or revoke conditions of service of officers of certain services.

Rules of procedure. Appointment and term of office of members. **316.** (1) The Chairman and other members of a Public Service Commission shall be appointed, in the case of the Union Commission or a Joint Commission, by the President, and in the case of a State Commission, by the Governor of the State:

Provided that as nearly as may be one-half of the members of every Public Service Commission shall be persons who at the dates of their respective appointments have held office for at least ten years either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State, and in computing the said period of ten years any period before the commencement of this Constitution during which a person has held office under the Crown in India or under the Government of an Indian State shall be included.

(1A) If the office of the Chairman of the Commission becomes vacant or if any such Chairman is by reason of absence or for any other reason unable to perform the duties of his office, those duties shall, until some person appointed under clause (1) to the vacant office has entered on the duties thereof or, as the case may be, until the Chairman has resumed his duties, be performed by such one of the other members of the Commission as the President, in the case of the Union Commission or a Joint Commission, and the Governor of the State in the case of a State Commission, may appoint for the purpose.

Removal and suspension of a member of a Public Service Commission. **317.** (1) Subject to the provisions of clause (3), the Chairman or any other member of a Public Service Commission shall only be removed from his office by order of the President on the ground of misbehaviour after the Supreme Court, on reference being made to it by the President, has, on inquiry held in accordance with the procedure prescribed in that behalf under article 145, reported that the Chairman or such other member, as the case may be, ought on any such ground to be removed.

(2) The President, in the case of the Union Commission or a Joint Commission, and the Governor in the case of a State Commission, may suspend from office the Chairman or any other member of the Commission in respect of whom a reference has been made to the Supreme Court under clause (1) until the President has passed orders on receipt of the report of the Supreme Court on such reference.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in clause (1), the President may by order remove from office the Chairman or any other member of a Public Service Commission if the Chairman or such other member, as the case may be,—

(a) is adjudged an insolvent; or

(b) engages during his term of office in any paid employment outside the duties of his office; or

(c) is, in the opinion of the President, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body.

(4) If the Chairman or any other member of a Public Service Commission is or becomes in any way concerned or interested in any contract or agreement made by or on behalf of the Government of India or the Government of a State or participates in any way in the profit thereof or in any benefit or emolument arising therefrom otherwise than as a member and in common with the other members of an incorporated company, he shall, for the purposes of clause (1), be deemed to be guilty of misbehaviour.

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319. On ceasing to hold office-

(*a*) the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission shall be ineligible for further employment either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State;

(b) the Chairman of a State Public Service Commission shall be eligible for appointment as the Chairman or any other member of the Union Public Service

Prohibition as to the holding of offices by members of commission on ceasing to be such members. Commission or as the Chairman of any other State Public Service Commission, but not for any other employment either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State;

(c) a member other than the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission shall be eligible for appointment as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission or as the Chairman of a State Public Service Commission, but not for any other employment either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State:

(d) a member other than the Chairman of a State Public Service Commission shall be eligible for appointment as the Chairman or any other member of the Union Public Service Commission or as the Chairman of that or any other State Public Service Commission, but not for any other employment either under the Government of India or under the Government of a State.

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324. *	*	*	*	*

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(3) When any other Election Commissioner is so appointed the Chief Election control of Commissioner shall act as the Chairman of the Election Commission.

**344.** (1) The President shall, at the expiration of five years from the commencement of Commission this Constitution and thereafter at the expiration of ten years from such commencement, by order constitute a Commission which shall consist of a Chairman and such other members representing the different languages specified in the Eighth Schedule as the President may appoint, and the order shall define the procedure to be followed by the Commission.

371A. (1) Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution,—

Special provision with respect to the State of

Superintendence,

elections to be

Committee of

Parliament on

vested in an Election Commission.

and

official

language.

direction and

(d) as from such date as the Governor of Nagaland may by public notification in Nagaland. this behalf specify, there shall be established a regional council for the Tuensang district consisting of thirty-five members and the Governor shall in his discretion make rules providing for-

(i) the composition of the regional council and the manner in which the members of the regional council shall be chosen:

Provided that the Deputy Commissioner of the Tuensang district shall be the Chairman ex officio of the regional council and the Vice-Chairman of the regional council shall be elected by the members thereof from amongst themselves.

\* SECOND SCHEDULE \* \* \* PART C

Provisions as to the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House of the people and the chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Council of States and the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council of a State

7. There shall be paid to the Speaker of the House of the People and the Chairman of the Council of States such salaries and allowances as were payable to the Speaker of the

Constituent Assembly of the Dominion of India immediately before the commencement of this Constitution, and there shall be paid to the Deputy Speaker of the House of the People and to the Deputy Chairman of the Council of States such salaries and allowances as were payable to the Deputy Speaker of the Constituent Assembly of the Dominion of India immediately before such commencement.

**8.** There shall be paid to the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and to the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council of a State such salaries and allowances as were payable respectively to the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the President and the Deputy President of the Legislative Council of the corresponding Province immediately before the commencement of this Constitution and, where the corresponding Province immediately before the commencement of this Constitution and, where the corresponding Province had no Legislative Council immediately before such commencement, there shall be paid to the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council of the State such salaries and allowances as the Governor of the State may determine.

#### FIFTH SCHEDULE

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#### PART B

## ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL OF SCHEDULED AREAS AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

4. Tribes Advisory Council. \* \* \*

(3) The Governor may make rules prescribing or regulating, as the case may be,—

(*a*) the number of members of the Council, the mode of their appointment and the appointment of the Chairman of the Council and of the officers and servants thereof;

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		SEVENTH SCH	EDULE					
*	*	*	*	*	*			
List I - Union List								
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**73.** Salaries and allowances of members of Parliament, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Council of States and the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of the People.

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		List II - Stat	e List		
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**38.** Salaries and allowances of members of the Legislature of the State, of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and, if there is a Legislative Council, of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman thereof.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* TENTH SCHEDULE \* \* \* \* \* \*

Exemption.

**5.** Notwithstanding anything contained in this Schedule, a person who has been elected to the office of the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker of the House of the People of the

(*a*) if he, by reason of his election to such office, voluntarily gives up the membership of the political party to which he belonged immediately before such election and does not, so long as he continues to hold such office thereafter, rejoin that political party or become a member of another political party; or

(*b*) if he, having given up by reason of his election to such office his membership of the political party to which he belonged immediately before such election, rejoins such political party after he ceases to hold such office.

**6.** (1) If any question arises as to whether a member of a House has become subject to disqualification under this Schedule, the question shall be referred for the decision of the Chairman or, as the case may be, the Speaker of such House and his decision shall be final:

Decision on questions as to disqualification on ground of defection.

Provided that where the question which has arisen is as to whether the Chairman or the Speaker of a House has become subject to such disqualification, the question shall be referred for the decision of such member of the House as the House may elect in this behalf and his decision shall be final.

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**8.** (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-paragraph (2) of this paragraph, the Chairman or Rules. the Speaker of a House may make rules for giving effect to the provisions of this Schedule, and in particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, such rules may provide for—

(*a*) the maintenance of registers or other records as to the political parties, if any, to which different members of the House belong;

(b) the report which the leader of a legislature party in relation to a member of a House shall furnish with regard to any condonation of the nature referred to in clause (b) of sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 2 in respect of such member, the time within which and the authority to whom such report shall be furnished;

(c) the reports which a political party shall furnish with regard to admission to such political party of any members of the House and the officer of the House to whom such reports shall be furnished; and

(d) the procedure for deciding any question referred to in sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 6 including the procedure for any inquiry which may be made for the purpose of deciding such question.

(2) The rules made by the Chairman or the Speaker of a House under sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph shall be laid as soon as may be after they are made before the House for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions and shall take effect upon the expiry of the said period of thirty days unless they are sooner approved with or without modifications or disapproved by the House and where they are so approved, they shall take effect on such approval in the form in which they were laid or in such modified form, as the case may be, and where they are so disapproved, they shall be of no effect.

(3) The Chairman or the Speaker of a House may, without prejudice to the provisions of article 105 or, as the case may be, article 194, and to any other power which he may have under this Constitution direct that any wilful contravention by any person of the rules made under this paragraph may be dealt with in the same manner as a breach of privilege of the House.

# RAJYA SABHA

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further to amend the Constitution of India.

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(Shri A. A. Rahim, M.P.)