

Bill No.XXI of 2024

THE RIGHT TO UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME
BILL, 2024

A
BILL

*to provide for universal basic income to all citizens and for matters
connected therewith or incidental thereto.*

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

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

- 5 **1.** (1) This Act may be called the Right to Universal Basic Income Act, 2024.
 (2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by
 notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Short title, and
commencement.

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; in the case of a Union Territory, the Union Territory Administration and in all other cases, the Central Government;
 - (b) “Board” means the National Advisory Board constituted under section 5 7 of the Act;
 - (c) “citizen” means any Indian citizen above the age of eighteen years;
 - (d) “notification” means a notification published in the Official Gazette;
 - (e) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
 - (f) “universal basic income” means a stipulated financial grant as decided 10 and paid by the appropriate Government to all citizens.

CHAPTER II

RIGHT TO UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

Right of citizens to universal basic income.

3. Every citizen of India shall have the right to universal basic income.

Special provisions for people who belong to below poverty line

4. The appropriate Government shall, while ensuring universal basic income to all citizens, take special measures, in such manner as may be prescribed, to ensure a basic standard of living for people who belong to the below poverty line category. 15

Special provisions for people without any other source of income.

5. The appropriate Government shall, while ensuring universal basic income to all citizens, take special measures, in such manner as may be prescribed, to ensure a basic standard of living for people, who do not have any other source of income, especially the homeless people. 20

Special provision for children.

6. The appropriate Government shall, while ensuring universal basic income to all citizens, take special measures to ensure provision of basic nutrition to all children, for investing in a better future. 25

CHAPTER III

THE NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Constitution of the National Advisory Board.

7. (1) The Central Government shall, with effect from the appointed day, by notification in the official Gazette, constitute, a Board to be called the National Advisory Board, for advising the appropriate Government in the matter of fixing universal basic income and revising it from time to time, to account for inflation as per the Consumer Price Index. 30

	(2) The Board shall be a body corporate by the name aforesaid having perpetual succession and a common seal with power, subject to the provisions of this Act, to contract and shall, by the said name, sued and be sued.	
5	(3) The head office of the Board shall be at New Delhi and the Board may, if deemed necessary, with the previous approval of the Central Government, establish offices at other places in India.	
	(4) The Board shall have the power to regulate its own procedure.	
10	8. (1) The Board shall consist of a Chairperson and such number of members, to be nominated from amongst the Members of both Houses of Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies, in such manner as may be prescribed.	Composition of the Board.
	(2) The term of office of, the salary and allowances payable to, and other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and members of the Board, shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central Government.	
	9. The Board shall perform the following functions, namely: -	Functions of the Board.
15	(a) advising the appropriate Government in the matter of fixing and revising universal basic income;	
	(b) develop a framework for implementation of the provisions of the Act including the modalities involved in its practical implementation at the ground level;	
20	(c) devising a mechanism to redress the grievances of the concerned parties;	
	(d) regularly monitor and review the implementation of the Act and submit reports thereon to the appropriate Government in such form and manner and at such time, as may be prescribed;	
25	(e) recommend necessary changes in the provisions of the Act, as deemed necessary, to keep pace with the changing times and requirements; and	
	(f) any other function as may be assigned to it.	
	10. (1) The Board may appoint such other officers and employees as it considers necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions under this Act.	Officers and employees of the Board.
30	(2) The qualifications and experience, terms and conditions of service including salary and allowances payable to the officers and employees of the Board shall be such as may be prescribed.	

Annual Report.

- 11.** The Board shall prepare every year, in such form and within such time as may be prescribed by the Central Government an annual report giving a true and full account of its activities during the previous year and copies thereof shall be forwarded to the Central Government, who shall cause it to be laid before each House of Parliament, along with a memorandum of action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations of the Board and the reasons for non-acceptance of the recommendations, if any, within a period of one year from the date of receipt of such report(s). 5

CHAPTER IV

DUTIES OF THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT

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Duties of the appropriate Government.

- 12. It shall be the duty of the appropriate Government to, -**

- (a) provide universal basic income to all citizens, either directly or indirectly, or ensure employment which provides basic income to all citizens;**
- (b) ensure that no citizen be denied universal basic income on account of not having a permanent address; and** 15
- (c) ensure that no citizen be denied the benefits of any existing subsidies or welfare schemes or any reduction in the level of benefits received under such schemes on account of provisions of this Act.**

Sharing of financial and other responsibilities.

- 13. (1) The Central Government and the State Government shall have concurrent responsibility for providing funds for carrying out the provisions of this Act.** 20

(2) The Central Government shall prepare the estimates of capital and recurring expenditure for the implementation of the provisions of the Act.

(3) The Central Government shall provide to the State Governments, as grants-in-aid of revenues, such percentage of expenditure referred to in sub-section (2), as it may determine, from time to time, in consultation with the State Governments to undertake the monitoring, administration and implementation of the Act. 25

(4) The Central Government may make a request to the President to make a reference to the Finance Commission under sub-clause (d) of clause (3) of article 280 to examine the need for additional resources to be provided to any State Government so that the said State Government may provide its share of funds for carrying out the provisions of the Act. 30

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (4), the State Government shall, taking into consideration the sums provided by the Central Government to a State Government under sub-section (3), and its other resources, be responsible to provide funds for implementation of the provisions of the Act. 35

(6) It shall be the duty of the State Government to monitor the implementation of this Act, at the micro level, and prepare and submit a comprehensive report to the Central Government, in such form and manner and at such time as may be prescribed. 40

(7) It shall be the duty of the Central Government to examine the report mentioned in sub-section (6) and take necessary action thereon to ensure provision of universal basic income to all citizens.

CHAPTER V

MISCELLANEOUS

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| 14. | The appropriate Government may issue such guidelines to local authorities, as it may consider necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act. | Appropriate Government to issue guidelines. |
| 15. | The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force. | Act not in derogation of any other law. |
| 10 16. | The provisions of this Act and rules made there under shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force. | Act to have an overriding effect. |
| 15 17. | (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the appropriate Government may, make such order or give such direction, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to be necessary or expedient for removing such difficulty. | Power to remove difficulties. |
| | (2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament. | |
| 20 18. | (1) The appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules, for carrying out the provisions of this Act. | Powers of appropriate Government to make rules. |
| 25 | (2) Every rule made by the Central Government 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 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. | |
| 30 | (3) Every rule made by the State Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of the State Legislature where it consists of two Houses, or where such Legislature consists of one House, before that House. | |

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

We are living in a highly iniquitous world where a microscopic minority is controlling huge assets and the majority is poor and marginalized. One of the major problems faced by the world is of inequality in the distribution of money, resources and opportunities. It is also imperative to acknowledge society's obligation to guarantee a minimum living standard in times of uncertain employment generation. Ensuring universal basic income will help every citizen to gain some financial freedom and strive for his life goal. It will provide the necessary material foundation for a life with access to basic goods and a life of dignity, but also promote many of the basic values of a society which respects all individuals as free and equal. It will also promote equality by reducing poverty, improve health conditions and educational outcomes, promote efficiency by reducing waste in government transfers and even promote greater productivity. The Bill aims to achieve an egalitarian society where individuals can lead a dignified and healthy life by providing every citizen the right to universal basic income.

V. SIVADASAN

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for the right of all citizens to universal basic income. Clause 4 provides for special provisions for people who belong to the below poverty line category. Clause 5 provides for special provisions for people without any other source of income and clause 6 provides for special provision for meeting the nutritional needs of children. Clause 7 provides for constitution of the National Advisory Board and Clause 8 (2) provides for the salaries and allowances payable to the Chairperson and Members of the Board. Clause 10 (2) of the Bill provides for the salaries and allowances of the officers and employees of the Board. states the duties of the appropriate Government. Clause 12 provides that the Central Government shall provide adequate funds to the Board for carrying out the functions assigned to it. Clause 14 provides for sharing of financial and other responsibilities between Central Government and State Governments.

The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve both non-recurring and recurring expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. However, at this juncture, it is difficult to estimate the actual expenditure likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 15 of the Bill empowers the appropriate Government to issue guidelines. Clause 18 provides that the appropriate Government may, make such order or give such direction, as necessary for removing any difficulty to give effect to the provisions of this Bill. Clause 19 empowers the appropriate Government to make rules to carry out the provisions of this Bill.

As the guidelines, orders, directions and rules will relate to matters of details only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

RAJYA SABHA

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*to provide for universal basic income to all citizens and for matters
connected therewith or incidental thereto.*

(Dr. V. Sivadasan, M.P.)