

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 5TH DECEMBER, 2025

Bill No. LX of 2025

THE RECORDS OF COURT PROCEEDINGS BILL, 2025

A

BILL

*to provide for the transcription, maintenance, and public availability
of accurate records of proceedings of all courts in India
and for matters connected therewith or
incidental thereto.*

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Records of Court Proceedings Act, 2025.
(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) “court” means the Supreme Court of India, all High Courts in India, and all subordinate courts as defined under Chapter VI of Part VI of the Constitution of India;

(b) “court proceeding” means all words uttered by judges, magistrates, lawyers, or any other party involved in a matter during the hearing of any matter in any court in India, whether civil or criminal;

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

(d) “public record” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it under clause (e) of section 2 of the Public Records Act, 1993; and 69 of 1993.

(e) “transcript” means an accurate and complete verbatim record of the proceedings of the court rendered in written form, whether manually or electronically generated.

Maintenance of transcripts of court proceedings.

3. (1) Every court shall maintain a transcript of all court proceedings held before it, which shall be treated as public record. 15

(2) The transcripts under sub-section (1) shall be —

(a) accurate and verbatim in nature; and

(b) recorded either by court-authorised stenographers, transcription services, or by automated speech-to-text systems, as may be prescribed. 20

(3) The format and standards of transcription, manner of authentication, and storage shall be such as may be prescribed.

(4) Every court shall nominate one of its officers as the Officer in-charge of the transcripts of court proceedings, who shall be responsible for the proper arrangement, maintenance, preservation and periodic review of such transcripts, in such manner as may be prescribed. 25

Public access to transcripts of court proceedings.

4. (1) Every court shall, for the purpose of access to the public, upload the transcript of the daily court proceedings held before it on its official website in an electronic format within twenty four hours from the conclusion of such proceedings. 30

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, every court may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, withhold, redact, or delay the publication of any portion of a transcript, if such publication is likely to —

(a) prejudice the administration of justice;

(b) infringe the privacy of parties, especially in matters involving minors, sexual offences, or other sensitive issues; 35

(c) contravene any existing statutory restriction; and

(d) any other circumstance, as may be prescribed by rules made by the court.

(3) The manner of redaction, time period for withholding, etc. shall be such as may be prescribed by rules made by the court. 40

Act to have overriding effect.

5. The provisions of this Act shall have effect, notwithstanding anything therewith inconsistent contained in any other law for the time being in force or any instrument having effect by virtue of any such law.

Power of Courts to make rules, etc.

6. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, every court shall have the power to make rules, regulations, directions or orders, as may be required, for carrying out the provisions of this Act. 45

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

Power to make rules.

5 (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 regulation 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.

10

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Maintenance of records is an essential function in a democracy so as to ensure that the correct information about the day-to-day functioning of any public institution is preserved and recorded. The Public Records Act, 1993, already covers the management, administration and preservation of public records of the Central Government, Union territory Administrations, Public Sector Undertakings, statutory bodies and corporations, Commissions and committees constituted by the Central Government or a Union territory Administration and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Similarly, verbatim proceedings of the Parliament of India and all State Legislatures are recorded under the relevant rules of that legislative body. Therefore, it is crucial to maintain accurate records of all proceedings that take place before the Judiciary as is already done for the Executive and the Legislature.

Hence, this Bill.

SAKET GOKHALE.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill requires all Courts of India to maintain transcript of their court proceedings, recorded either by court-authorised stenographers, transcription services, or by automated speech-to-text systems. Clause 4 requires all courts to upload the transcript of each day's proceedings held before it on their official website in an electronic format.

The Bill, therefore, if enacted, is likely to involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. However, at this stage, it is not possible to quantify the exact amount of recurring and non-recurring expenditure likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 5 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Act. As the matters in respect of which rules may be made are matters of procedure and administrative detail, the delegation of legislative power is, of a normal character.

RAJYA SABHA

A

BILL

to provide for the transcription, maintenance, and public availability
of accurate records of proceedings of all courts in India
and for matters connected therewith or
incidental thereto.

(Shri Saket Gokhale, M.P.)