

Bill No. LIX of 2025

THE DESTITUTE SENIOR CITIZENS, WIDOWS AND ORPHANS
(HOUSING FACILITY) BILL, 2025

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BILL

*to provide for housing facilities to destitute senior citizens, widows
and orphans and for matters connected therewith
or incidental thereto.*

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Destitute Senior Citizens, Widows and Orphans (Housing Facility) Act, 2025.
- 5 (2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.
2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, —
 - (a) “appropriate Government” means in the case of a State, the Government of that State, and in other cases, the Central Government;
 - 10 (b) “Centre” means the Residential Centre for destitute senior citizens, widows, and orphans to be established by the appropriate Government under section 4;

Short title and
commencement.

Definitions.

(c) “destitute senior citizen” means any person, whether male or female, who has attained the age of sixty years and has no shelter or no family to provide such shelter and has no financial support;

(d) “Fund” means the Destitute Senior Citizens, Widows and Orphans Welfare Fund constituted under section 8;

(e) “National Policy” means the National Policy for the provision of housing facilities to destitute senior citizens, widows and orphans under section 3;

(f) “orphan” means a child below fourteen years of age who has no living or caring parent, legal guardian, or capable relatives;

(g) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act; and

(h) “widow” means a woman who has not remarried after the death of her husband and who has no shelter or financial and familial support.

National Policy on housing for destitute senior citizens, widows and orphans.

3. The Central Government shall, as soon as may be, after commencement of this Act, formulate and notify, in the Official Gazette, a National Policy for the provision of housing facilities to destitute senior citizens, widows and orphans.

Establishment of Residential Centres.

4. **(1) The appropriate Government shall establish Residential Centres all over the country for destitute senior citizens, widows, and orphans, free of cost, in accordance with the provisions in the National Policy.**

(2) Every Centre established under sub-section (1) shall house not fewer than eighty and not more than two hundred destitute persons, at a time.

(3) Every unit within each Centre shall, as far as possible, accommodate two orphans, one widow, and one senior citizen, fostering a familial and intergenerational living environment.

Facilities at the Centres.

5. **The appropriate Government shall ensure that each Centre, —**

(a) provides shelter, food, water, medical care, security and other essential amenities to the residents;

(b) utilizes existing Government welfare schemes for providing education, health, and nutrition to the residents;

(c) ensures easy accessibility for eligible individuals;

(d) promotes interpersonal bonding and shared care giving among residents; and

(e) develops income-generating domestic production units for residents' empowerment.

Constitution of Managing Committee.

6. **(1) The appropriate Government shall constitute, in such manner as may be prescribed, a Managing Committee to monitor and coordinate each Centre, comprising: —**

(i) the Chairperson of the local body, *ex-officio* Chairperson;

(ii) an officer in the appropriate Government of such rank as may be prescribed, *ex-officio* Member;

(iii) a senior-most senior citizen of the Centre, Member;

(iv) an oldest widow of the Centre, Member; and

(v) an eminent social worker to be nominated by the appropriate Government, Member.

5 **(2) The term of office and other service conditions of the Chairperson and Members of the Managing Committee, remuneration of the Member nominated under clause (v) of subsection (1) and the procedure to be followed by the Managing Committee in the discharge of its functions shall be such as may be prescribed.**

10 **(3) The appropriate Government shall appoint such number of staff to each Centre, in such manner and on such terms and conditions of service as well as salaries and allowances, as may be prescribed from time to time.**

7. (1) The appropriate Government shall be responsible for the implementation of the National Policy.

Implementation and monitoring.

15 (2) The appropriate Government shall, at such periodic intervals as may be prescribed, review and monitor the functioning and quality of services at each Centre.

8. **(1) The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Fund to be known as the Destitute Senior Citizens, Widows and Orphans Welfare Fund, for carrying out the purposes of this Act.**

Constitution of the Destitute Senior Citizens, Widows and Orphans Welfare Fund.

20 **(2) The Central and State Governments shall, after due appropriation made by Parliament and the State Legislature, as the case may be, by law in this behalf, contribute to the Fund in such ratio, as may be prescribed.**

25 (3) The Fund shall be used for the purposes of maintenance, development, and expansion of the Centres and for such other purposes as may be prescribed.

(4) The Fund shall be administered by such authority of the appropriate Government as may be prescribed.

30 9. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other law in force relating to the welfare of senior citizens, widows, or orphans.

Act not in derogation of other laws.

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

Power to make rules.

35 (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.

45 (3) Every rule made by the State Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before the Legislature of that State, where it consists of one House, or where it consists of two Houses, before both Houses of the Legislature.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

India is witnessing a growing number of destitute senior citizens, widows, and orphaned children who are deprived of shelter, care, and protection. While old-age homes, widow shelters, and orphanages exist, they often operate in isolation and face infrastructure or care deficiencies.

This Bill proposes an integrated solution by bringing these vulnerable groups under one roof, encouraging a nurturing family-like environment. Senior citizens can provide guidance, widows can offer maternal care, and orphaned children can benefit from their wisdom and support.

This interdependent model not only improves emotional well-being but also empowers residents through shared responsibilities and domestic livelihood activities.

Hence, this Bill.

DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 4 of the Bill provides for the establishment of Residential Centres for destitute senior citizens, widows, and orphan children by the appropriate Government. Clause 5 relates to the provision of facilities at such Centres, as enumerated therein. Clause 6 provides for the constitution of a Managing Committee and appointment of the Chairperson and Members thereof as well as the terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and Members including remuneration to one Member thereof. The Clause also provides for appointment of staff to the Centres and the terms and conditions of their service as well as the salaries and allowances payable to them. Clause 8 provides for the constitution of the Destitute Senior Citizens, Widows and Orphans Welfare Fund and that the Central and State Government shall contribute to the Fund in such ratio as may be prescribed.

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 10 of the Bill empowers the appropriate Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill.

As the rules will relate to matters of procedural and administrative detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

RAJYA SABHA

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BILL

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(Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik, M.P.)