

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 12TH JULY, 2019

Bill No. XXXIV of 2018

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2018

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BILL

further to amend the Constitution of India.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-ninth year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2018.

Short title and commencement.

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

2. In article 85 of the Constitution, after clause (1), the following proviso shall be inserted—

Amendment of article 85.

"Provided that each House of Parliament shall sit for atleast one hundred and twenty days in a year."

Amendment of article 174. **3.** In article 174 of the Constitution, after clause (*I*), the following proviso shall be inserted—

"Provided that each House of the Legislature of the State shall sit atleast sixty days in year.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Over the years, there has been a decline in the number of sittings of the Rajya Sabha as well as in the Lok Sabha. In the beginning, Parliament used to sit for more than one hundred days and this practice continued upto early part of seventies. Gradually, the number of sittings of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha started decreasing and at present the sittings of the Houses stand around seventy. This is not a healthy trend especially in a vibrant democracy like ours. The important legislations concerning welfare of the citizens, women and the marginalised sections of the society suffer due to paucity of time. Discussions on various national and international issues also get neglected and the people at large are the worst sufferers. The situation in various State Legislative Assemblies is also not encouraging. These Assemblies hardly sit for more than thirty days in a year. As a result, many important issues go unnoticed. In view of this scenario, it is all the more desirable that both the Houses of Parliament should sit for atleast one hundred and twenty days and the Legislative Assemblies/Legislative Councils of the States should sit atleast for sixty days in a year.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above objective.

C.M. RAMESH

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clauses 2 and 3 of the Bill respectively provide for specifying the number of sittings of both Houses of Parliament and the State Legislatures in a year. Therefore, the Bill, if enacted, by Parliament or State Legislatures will involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India as well as Consolidated Fund of the concerned State. However, it is not possible at this stage to assess the exact amount which is likely to be incurred towards recurring and non-recurring expenditure for the purpose.

ANNEXURE

EXTRACTS FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

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85. Sessions of Parliament, prorogation and dissolution.—

Sessions of Parliament, prorogation and dissolution.

(1) The President shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next Session.

(2) The President may from time to time—

(a) prorogue the Houses or either House;

(b) dissolve the House of the People.

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174. Sessions of the State legislature, prorogation and dissolution.—

Sessions of the State Legislature, prorogation and dissolution.

(1) The Governor shall from time to time summon the House or each House of the Legislature of the State to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next Session.

(2) The Governor may from time to time—

(a) prorogue the House or either House;

(b) dissolve the Legislative Assembly.

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RAJYA SABHA

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(Shri C.M. Ramesh, M.P.)