

Bill No. LVIII of 2012

THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GIRL CHILD BELONGING
TO PARENTS LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE
BILL, 2012

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to provide for financial protection and security to girl child of parents living below poverty line and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Financial Assistance to Girl Child Belonging to Parents Living Below Poverty Line Act, 2012.

Short title,
extent and
commence-
ment.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

5 (3) 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,—

Definitions.

(a) “appropriate Government” means in the case of a State, the Government of that State and in other cases, the Central Government;

10 (b) “girl child” means any female child upto the age of twenty years belonging to the parents living below poverty line; and

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

Establishment
of Girl Child
Development
Fund.

3. (1) The Central Government shall set up a fund to be known as the Girl Child Development Fund.

(2) The Central Government and the State Government shall contribute to the fund in such ratio as may be prescribed.

(3) The appropriate Government shall deposit a sum of rupees fifty thousand in the bank account of every girl child of below poverty line family at the time of her birth within its territorial jurisdiction. 5

(4) The deposit shall mature when the girl child attains the age of twenty years or such period as may be fixed by the appropriate Government and such proceeds may be used by the girl child for education purpose, etc. 10

Schemes to be
formulated by
banks and
insurance
companies.

4. The appropriate Government shall issue directions to the nationalised and private sector banks or insurance companies, within six months of the coming into force of this Act, to formulate suitable schemes which provide benefits of fixed or term deposit or insurance benefits to the girl child.

Overriding
effect of the
Act.

5. The provisions of this Act and rules made thereunder shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force but save as aforesaid the provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force giving benefits to the girl child. 15

Power to
make rules.

6. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act. 20

(2) Every rule made 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 the 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. 25

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Even after the completion of sixty-five years of Independence, no clear-cut policy for the overall development of girl child belonging to below poverty line (BPL) family has been formulated in our country so far. Today, a girl child of a poor family has to face problems at every stage. This includes, problems relating to poverty, upbringing, malnutrition, education, employment, vocational training, health care and problems faced at the time of her marriage. There is no institutional mechanism to harness the potential and channelize the energy of girl child of BPL family for the betterment of the country. There is no proper planning for comprehensive development of girl child. The plight of girl child belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes is even worse. Apart from all the problems as mentioned above, they also have to face social ostracisation. Birth of a girl child is still considered to be a curse. There is still considerable amount of social stigma attached to the birth of female child.

There is a need to instill a sense of belongingness among the female children by providing them all opportunities for their development so that they can contribute to the progress of the country to their full potential. The facilities should be provided to them as a matter of right and not as a privilege. The steps taken in this direction will not only uplift the conditions of girl child but will also create a better society leading to a civilized and stronger nation. The Government should take responsibility of depositing Rupees fifty thousand or so in financial institutions like banks and insurance companies in the name of new born girl child of BPL family, which will become a handsome amount after twenty years or so which can be used for the purpose of education, etc., by the girl child.

In this way, financial protection and security to girl child of BPL family must be ensured. This Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

T. SUBBARAMI REDDY

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for creation of a Girl Child Development Fund. The Bill, therefor, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that an annual recurring expenditure of about rupees one thousand crore will be involved.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees one thousand five hundred crore is also likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 6 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the provisions of the Bill. As the rules will relate to matters of details only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

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(Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy, M.P.)