

Bill No. XVIII of 2015

THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015

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BILL

further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2015.

Short title
and com-
mencement.

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

5 2. In section 500 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

Amendment
of section
500 of Act
45 of 1860.

10 “Provided that any person who defames Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi known as Mahatma Gandhi and referred to, with great reverence, as "the Father of the Nation", shall also be punished with imprisonment which may extend upto two years or with fine or with both”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Mahatma Gandhi was a leader acclaimed throughout the world as messiah of peace. International figures like Nelson Mandela and Barack Obama have publicly expressed the relevance of Mahatma in today's world.

India would not have been a free country, had it not been for the political leaders in our country who worked under the leadership of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, known as Mahatma Gandhi and referred to as, with great reverence as "Father of the Nation". However, unfortunately, there is tendency growing in some sections of our society to demean the personality, philosophy and preaching of Mahatma Gandhi, since their views differ from the views of Gandhiji.

In recent times, Mahatma Gandhi is being defamed by certain political leaders and others by using defamatory language. Some persons leave no opportunity to denigrate Bapuji in unacceptable language which smacks of devoid of patriotism.

When we mention with great respect and recognition the role Gandhi in freedom movement and say *De Di Hame Aazadi Bina Khadag Bina Dhal Sabarmati Ke Sant Tune Kar Diya Kamaal. Aandhi Me Bhi Jalti Rahi Gandhi Teri Mashaal Sabarmati Ke Sant Tune Kar Diya Kamaal*", we have also to respect the feelings of millions of Indians.

It will, therefore, be in the fitness of things that those who defame Gandhiji are to be severely punished.

Hence, this Bill.

SHANTARAM NAIK

RAJYA SABHA

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(Shri Shantaram Naik, M.P.)