

Bill No. XLV of 2019

THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

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BILL

further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Act, 2019.

Short title.

2. In the Indian Penal Code, 1860, after section 379, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:—

Insertion of
new sections
379A and
379B.

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"379A.—(1) Whoever, with the intention to commit theft, suddenly or quickly or forcibly seizes or secures or grabs or takes away from any person or from his possession any moveable property, and makes or attempts to make escape with such property, is said to commit snatching.

Snatching.

(2) Whoever, commits snatching, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term, which shall not be less than five years but which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine of rupees twenty five thousand.

Snatching with
hurt, wrongful
restraint or
fear of hurt.

379B. Whoever, in order to commit snatching, or in committing the snatching, causes hurt or wrongful restraint or fear of hurt; or after committing the offence of snatching, causes hurt or wrongful restraint or fear of hurt in order to effect his escape, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment which shall not be less than ten years but which may extend to fourteen years, and shall also be liable to fine of rupees twenty five thousand". 5

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Statistics show that there has been a multi-fold increase in the cases of snatching in the country. Every incident of snatching poses a threat to the law and order situation in the area and also affects the freedom of movement of people after a certain time in the evening. Some parts of the country have become notorious for their snatching incidents. This is emblematic to a larger crisis and has kept the police on edge.

Snatching is one of the worst forms of street crimes and measures must be taken to control their occurrence. The present law is unclear and does not apply uniformly throughout the country. Therefore, there is a need to have a single law with stringent punishment for the snatchers. The snatchers are mostly repeat offenders who have benefitted from the ill equipped legal system of the country.

This Bill draws inspiration from Haryana which saw a drop in the cases of snatching after they introduced a specific section in IPC for snatching with increased punishment. In the end, we all desire and aim for a safe environment for the men and women of our country with the freedom to roam on the streets without fear.

Hence, this Bill.

V. VIJAYASAI REDDY

RAJYA SABHA

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(Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy., M.P.)