

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 11TH MARCH, 2016

Bill No. XIII of 2016

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016

A

BILL

further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

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

1. This Act may be called the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2016.

Short title.

2. In section 14 of Representation of the People Act, 1950, for clause (b), the following
5 clause be substituted, namely,—

Amendment
of Section 14
of Act 43 of
1950.

"(b) "qualifying date" in relation to preparation or revision of every electoral roll
under this part, means 1st day of January of the year in which it is so prepared or
revised:

10 Provided that the "qualifying date" shall be the actual date of birth in respect of
the citizens whose names are included for the first time in the electoral roll on completion
of eighteen years of age."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Article 326 of the Constitution of India stipulates that elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies will be on the basis of adult suffrage *i.e.* every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than eighteen years of age on such date as may be fixed in that behalf by or under any law made by the appropriate legislature, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter.

Clause (G) of section 14 of the Representation of the People Act 1950 has stipulated that the "qualifying date" in relation to the preparation or revision of every electoral roll means the 1st day of January of the year in which it is so prepared or revised.

A combined reading of the above two provisions leads to a situation wherein, barring those who were born on 1st January, the rest of the youth have to wait till the 1st January of the year following the year in which he or she was born for getting included in the electoral roll.

This anomaly virtually deprives a substantial proportion of the younger population of its rights to exercise their franchise in the year in which he or she completes eighteen years of age.

This anomaly needs a corrective to be legislated.

Hence, this Bill.

RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA

RAJYA SABHA

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further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

(Shri Rangasayee Ramakrishna, M.P.)

GMGIPMRND—5048RS(S3)—11-03-2016.