

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 7TH DECEMBER, 2012

Bill No. LX of 2012

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2012

A

BILL

further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

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 Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2012.

Short title and
commence-
ment.

(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 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 in sub-section (2), after clause (c), the following clause shall be inserted, namely,—

Amendment
of Section 8
of Act 43 of
1951.

“(d) any law providing for banning the practice or encouraging or inducing others to practice or propagate superstitious beliefs.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Superstitious beliefs are prevailing in the country for the last several centuries. These beliefs have taken strong roots in the society and have done irreparable harm to it, particularly to the weaker sections. It was expected that as time passes, scientific temper in the minds of the people will increase and, people may refrain from resorting to unpleasant and crude methods to achieve their social and other objectives. Literacy is increasing among the people but, disbelief in superstitions has not diminished in the same proportion. Literate people too, are found to be indulging in superstitions in quite an astonishing proportion.

It is unfortunate that several persons in public life in some form or the other practice superstitions. Although, religious practices or rituals stand on different footings, practising of superstitions in the name of religion is dangerous. Well to do persons or others in the business community or the rich farming class at times may lose a few thousand rupees, but the poor, who practise superstitions in the name of religion suffer immensely.

A number of *Babas* have surfaced on the political arena utilizing religions platforms for the purpose of preaching their political philosophy. Therefore, restraint has to be imposed on those who lead the society. Disqualifying those who seek to contest elections, is one way, of making the message, loud and clear.

Hence this Bill.

SHANTARAM NAIK

ANNEXURE

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1951

(43 OF 1951)

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8. Disqualification on conviction for certain offences.

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(2) A person convicted for the contravention of—

(a) any law providing for the prevention of hoarding or profiteering; or

(b) any law relating to the adulteration of food or drugs; or

(c) any provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 (28 of 1961);

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RAJYA SABHA

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(Shri Shantaram Naik, M.P.)