

**Bill No. XXX of 2021**

**THE ARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021**

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BILL

*further to amend the Arms Act, 1959.*

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Arms (Amendment) Act, 2021.

Short title and  
commencement.

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

54 of 1959. 2. In the Arms Act, 1959 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in sub-section (1) of section 2, after clause (k), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

Amendment  
of Section 2.

"(1) "woman" means unmarried, widowed and financially independent women".

3. In section 13 of the principal Act,—

Amendment  
of Section 13.

(i) in clause (a) of sub-section (3), after sub-clause (ii), the following shall be inserted, namely:—

"(iii) by a citizen of India, being a woman, as defined under section 2 of this Act, in respect of a smooth bore gun having a barrel of not less than twenty inches in length to be used for protection:

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Provided that such a citizen, being a woman, shall be granted a license under this Act only after obtaining a weapon training or weapon safety course certified by the National Rifle Association of India or the respective State Rifle Association".

(ii) After sub-section (3), the following shall be inserted, namely:—

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**"3(4) The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish Weapon Handling Centres in every district which shall be under the control of the respective office of the Superintendent of Police or an officer of process of obtaining licenses under this section in rural areas, in such manner as may be specified."**

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Amendment  
of Section 15.

**4.** In section 15 of the principal Act, after sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

"(2A) A licence under sub-clause (iii) of clause (a) of section 13 shall, unless revoked earlier, continue in force for a period of one year from the date on which it is granted".

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Amendment  
of Section 25.

**5.** In section 25 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1B), after clause (d), the following shall be inserted, namely:—

"(e) being the husband or a family member of a woman holding license under section 13 of this Act, acquires, has in his possession or carries any firearm or ammunition belonging to such woman; or"

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Amendment  
of Section 44.

**6.** In section 44 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2), after clause (I), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

"(1a) the procedure to ease grant of license under section 13 to women for the purposes of self-protection, by,—

(i) revising the form and particulars of application for the grant or renewal of a licence and where the application is for the renewal of a licence, the time within which it shall be made;

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(ii) revising the form in which and the conditions subject to which any licence may be granted or refused, renewed, varied, suspended or revoked;

(iii) easing the process of paying the fees in respect of any application for the grant or renewal of a licence and in respect of any licence granted or renewed and the manner for paying the same;

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(1b) the establishment of Weapon Handling Centres in each district for obtaining licenses in rural areas."

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The safety and protection of women has always been a concern in India. After the horrendous incident of gang rape that occurred in 2012 in the National Capital of Delhi, several changes were brought through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013. This legislation introduced much needed reforms to strengthen the criminal justice system, in order to protect rights of women. The Justice Verma Committee which recommended such reforms, also highlighted in its Model Bill of Rights that, every woman is entitled to respect for her life and the integrity and security of her person. It stated that the right to dignity is inherent to every human being and that the State shall ensure to every woman protection from all forms of violence, whether the violence takes place in private or public. More recently, the brutal gang rape and murder of a young doctor in Hyderabad, whose job compelled her to travel alone through lonely routes, is a glaring cause that makes amendment to the Arms Act, 1959 in favour of a woman for self defence a necessity.

This Bill seeks to protect the rights of women, especially those whose job or other circumstances compel them to commute alone, by bringing in special provisions to the Arms Act, 1959. According to a report by the National Crime Records Bureau, the reported cases Crimes against Women increased by 7.3% in 2019. This Bill strives to empower and protect women by relaxing provisions governing the grant of license, which is required in order for acquisition and possession of firearms. This Bill will ensure prevention of mishaps and maintenance of public order, by incorporating provisions that mandate regular training. It is the need of the hour, to ease women's access to firearms for the purpose of self defense.

Hence this Bill.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN

#### FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for establishment of Weapon Handling Centres in every district. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that an annual recurring expenditure to the tune of rupees two hundred crore would be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India. A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees ten crore is also likely to be involved.

RAJYA SABHA

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BILL

further to amend the Arms Act , 1959.

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*(Dr. Fauzia Khan, M.P.)*