

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON 5TH AUGUST, 2011

Bill No. VI of 2011

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2011

A

BILL

further to amend the Constitution of India.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2011.

Short title and
commence-
ment.

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

2. In article 15 of the Constitution,—

Amendment
of article 15.

(i) for sub-clause (a) of clause (2), the following shall be substituted, namely:—

“(a) access to shops, public restaurants, hotels, places of public
entertainment and worship; or”.

10 (ii) after clause (5), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(6) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special
provisions for prohibition of discriminations against Scheduled Castes,

Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes of citizens in respect of right to gaining entry to places of public worships, and to perform duties as priests:

Provided that due knowledge, training and practice shall be acquired by the person willing to perform the duties as priests in the *sanctum sanctorum* of places of worship.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Article 15 of the Constitution provides right to equality in respect of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth and article 25 provides right to freedom of religion. Despite our Constitution mandates on the principle of equality of treatment in different spheres it is seen that the under-privileged and deprived classes of the society are being discriminated in respect of gaining access to public places of worship in the country and are being still considered as socially and religiously outcaste and untouchable.

It is only fair and just that when a large number of citizens falls under the socially, economically and educationally backwardness and suffer from multiple discrimination, the Constitution should offer protection against any such discrimination. The amendment in article 15 of the Constitution proposed to remove discrimination against all citizens especially the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes persons in respect of gaining access to places of public worships, and also to perform duties as priests after having acquired the due knowledge, training to perform such duties. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

Hence this Bill.

TARUN VIJAY

ANNEXURE

EXTRACT FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

	*	*	*	*	*	*
Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.	15. (1).	*	*	*	*	*
	(2) No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to—					
	(a) access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment;					
	or					
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(Shri Tarun Vijay, M.P.)