

Bill No. XXXII of 2014

THE CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014

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BILL

further to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2014.

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.

7 of 1955. 5

2. In section 9 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 in sub-section (1) after the first proviso the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

Amendment
of Section 9.

"Provided further that no citizen of India, shall be deemed to have lost his citizenship merely on grounds of his or her availing the facility conferred by the order enacted by Portuguese Government, of registering their births in Portugal, to the

Indians citizens, residing in the territory of erstwhile Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, then ruled by the Government of Portugal, unless such Indian citizens voluntarily apply for the citizenship of that country with specific intension of renouncing the citizenship of India.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Thousands of Goans born in "Estado da India", *i.e.* Goa, Daman & Diu, prior to 19.12.1961, and in Dadra & Nagar Haveli, prior to 21.08.1954 and their births registered in the Civil Registration Offices of these territories before the above mentioned dates have been given a facility by the Portuguese Government by issuing an order in 2006, to register their birth in Portugal.

There is an urgent need that thousands of other Indian citizens who were residing in the erstwhile Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli who got their births registered in Portugal, in the last seven to Eight years in the bonafide belief that such a registration will help them to go to Europe freely, without any hassles, and whereas, some others, believed that the facility may help them easy access to the foreign universities. There was, apparently, no intention, of the most of the applicants that, in the process, they would lose the Indian citizenship.

Recently, a Member of Goa by Assembly, who had registered his birth in Portugal availing the above said facility has been declared, by an order issued by the Central Govt. under the Citizenship Act, 1955, as having caused his Citizenship in India.

The issue has taken a complicated turn as these thousands of Indian citizens are likely to be considered as non-citizens and there is a danger of ceasing Indian citizenship if the provisions of Indian citizenship are not interpreted by taking into this background.

Hence, this Bill.

SHANTARAM NAIK

RAJYA SABHA

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(Shri Shantaram Naik, M.P.)