

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 25TH FEBRUARY, 2011

Bill No. LXIX of 2010

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2010

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BILL

further to amend the Constitution of India.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2010.

Short title.

2. In Part IVA of the Constitution, after article 51A, the following article shall be inserted, namely:—

Insertion of new article 51B.

“51B. It shall be the duty of every political party and candidate, whether such candidate is set up by any political party or not, to ensure that votes are not sought in the name of any religion, religious symbol or by inciting religious feelings of the people in any election to the House of the People or Legislative Assembly of a State or Union Territory or any local body”.

Duty of candidates and political parties during elections.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

It has been observed that during elections, some political parties and candidates seek votes in the name of religion or by inciting religious feelings. It will have an adverse effect on the society, if such trend continues. It is, therefore, necessary to put a check on such moves by amending the Constitution.

It is, accordingly, proposed to make it a fundamental duty of every political party and candidates, to ensure that votes are not sought by them in any election in the name of religion or by inciting religious feelings. Although the violation of the duty is not punishable under the existing system of Constitution, the political parties and candidates will be morally bound by such provision in the Constitution.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above objective.

Hence this Bill.

MOHAN SINGH

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(Shri Mohan Singh, M.P.)