

Bill No. XCVI of 2022

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

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further to amend the Constitution of India.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2022.

Short title and commencement.

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

2. In the Constitution of India, after article 44, the following new article shall be inserted, namely:—

Insertion of new article 44A.

"44A. The State shall take all necessary steps to control population growth by promoting small family norms by all reasonable incentives and education through print and electronic media and other means as may be deemed appropriate to achieve a stable population."

Control of population.

3. In article 51A, after clause (k) the following shall be inserted, namely:—

Amendment of article 51A.

"(l) to encourage, incentivise and adopt small family norms and set targets towards achieving a stable population."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

India is the second most populous country after China with the highest birth rate in the world. According to a report, India is slated to become the world's most populous country with a population of 1.6 billion by 2030.

India has had a State-sponsored family planning programme since 1951. Of late, the programme has shown some results. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has fallen from around 6 at the time of independence, to around 2.3. The results of the programme have, however, been skewed. It is very unfortunate that despite the availability of various birth control means and family planning programmes, the population is continuing to rise menacingly. This has caused over-crowding due to which law and order situation is also deteriorating. Unemployment is rising rapidly causing frustration amongst unemployed, particularly amongst the youth who are being lured by anti-national and anti-social elements. There is unparalleled transformation of human values, social institutions and economic structures. Agricultural land holdings are becoming smaller and smaller and farming is becoming uneconomical. As a result, many farmers are committing suicides. The housing needs are far beyond the available finances and the shortage is appalling. Educational and health care facilities are far from satisfactory. If the population is not stabilized, achieving a quality life would be a distant proposition.

Further, the benefits of collective efforts of national building have been squandered by the rise in population or evident from economic data. India's per capita GDP in 1998 was 413 dollars and it has grown to about 2016 dollars in the year 2018. However, during this period, our population is estimated to have grown from 1 billion to 1.4 billion. Had there been a stable population during this period, the per capita GDP would have been higher by another 40 per cent. Certainly, a rising population limits the ability of the State to provide better quality of life to its citizens, since a large chunk of national income is spent on maintaining the existing facilities.

It is, therefore, imperative that a focused approach must be taken to check the increasing population. The Bill seeks to insert a new article in Part IV of the Constitution enjoining upon the State to take all steps to control population growth by promoting small family norms and achieve a stable population. The Bill also makes it a fundamental duty for citizens to adopt small family norms and work towards achieving a stable population in the country.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

Hence, this Bill.

DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE.

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(Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde, M.P.)