

Bill No. XXXI of 2018

THE DOWNTRODDEN, BACKWARD AND OPPRESSED YOUTH
(DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE) BILL, 2018

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BILL

to provide for the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive national policy for ensuring overall development of the youth belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and those from Other Backward Classes and oppressed categories from the religious and linguistic minorities and for their welfare to be undertaken by the State and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Downtrodden, Backward and Oppressed Youth (Development and Welfare) Act, 2018.

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

5 (3) It shall come into force with immediate effect.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:—

Definitions.

(a) "appropriate Government" means in the case of a State, the Government of that State and in all other cases, the Central Government;

10 (b) "backward" means those youth who belong to castes which have been declared, by notification in the Official Gazette, as backward by the appropriate Government from time to time;

(c) "downtrodden youth" means the youth belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes not provided with opportunities;

(d) "oppressed youth" means the youth who have been cruelly or unjustly treated in the society due to faith or religion, caste or creed or language or have been oppressed with poverty as such;

(e) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(f) "youth" means any person who has attained the age of eighteen years but is not above the age of thirty-five years.

National policy for the downtrodden, backward and oppressed youth.

3. (1) The Central Government shall, as soon as may be, formulate a comprehensive national policy for the overall development and welfare of the downtrodden, backward and oppressed youth of the nation for implementation throughout the country.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of sub-section (1) of Section 3, the national policy referred to therein may provide for;

(a) free higher education, including medical, technical and information technology;

(b) free coaching training for admission to management courses with assured admission in management institutes of repute;

(c) books, stationery, equipments and educational gadgets free of cost;

(d) scholarships in deserving cases;

(e) free hostel facilities;

(f) free public transport facilities;

(g) monthly pocket expenses allowances at such rate as may be prescribed;

(h) free entertainment facilities;

(i) free access to all libraries and technical institutions;

(j) training in sports to every eligible youth covered under this Act and facilities and appropriate incentives to participate in sports activities, events and tournaments in and outside the country;

(k) provision for free of cost healthy and nutritious meals to all the youth covered under this Act in the schools, colleges, universities, hostels and technical institutions;

(l) free medical and healthcare;

(m) providing modern apprenticeship in business, trade, vocation etc., in factories and commercial establishments;

(n) providing military training to physically fit youth covered under this Act and those successfully completing training to be given preference for recruitment in defence services;

(o) free of cost coaching and study material for all India Services and other competitive examinations which are conducted by Union Public Service Commission, State Public Service Commissions and other examination bodies such as of Railways, Banks Staff Selection Commission and other bodies of the Government at the Centre, States and Union Territories;

(p) such other facilities, incentives and welfare measures as may be prescribed from time to time.

Appropriate Government to implement national policy.

4. It shall be the duty of every appropriate Government to implement in letter and spirit the national policy formulated under this Act.

- 5 **5. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the appropriate Government shall provide gainful employment to the youth covered under this Act as per their ability and qualification after completing their education or training, as the case may be, and in case that Government fails to provide them employment, the youth shall be paid unemployment allowance on monthly basis at such rate as may be prescribed by the Central Government until they are given gainful employment.**
- 10 **6. (1)** The appropriate Government shall appoint such number of expert committees in the capital of every State and Union Territory and in every district as it may deem necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act comprising renowned educationists and psychologists and others to recommend some trade or vacation related education or training to be imparted to the youth covered under this Act after passing their Secondary or Matriculation examination.
- 15 (2) The appropriate Government shall establish such number of youth hostels on the lines of international youth hostels at conspicuous places in the country for the youth covered under this Act as it may deem necessary for the purposes of this Act.
- (3) The appropriate Government shall promote youth cooperatives at villages and district levels for establishing their village industries ventures, dairy projects, food processing, poultry, fair price shops, LPG distribution, etc. and provide requisite financial assistance and guidance to them for procuring raw materials and promoting marketing, etc.
- 20 (4) The appropriate Government shall ensure the availability of requisite credit at nominal rate of interest from the Banks and other Financial Institutions to the youth covered under this Act for their self employment projects.
- 25 (5) The appropriate Government shall extend such welfare measures to the youth covered under this Act as that Government may deem appropriate and necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
- 7. The Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, provide requisite funds for carrying out the purposes of this Act.**
- 8.** The Central Government may by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for to carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Employment and unemployment allowance.

Miscellaneous provisions.

Central Government to provide requisite funds.

Power to make rules.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The youth are always at the centre stage of socio-political activities in our nation. To maintain this strength, a clear cut youth policy is required to rid the youth of problems relating to education, poverty, nutrition, employment opportunities, self employment, vocational training, health, sports, etc. The country at present has no institutional mechanism to harness the potential of our youth and channelise their energy for the betterment of the country. The plight of the youth belonging to downtrodden communities such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) who have been oppressed for centuries is even worse. Even today the downtrodden youth have to face social ostracisation. Though thanks to the reservation policy propounded and given by the messiah of the downtrodden Babasaheb B.R. Ambedkar, many of them have made some progress but the downtrodden youth still require special attention because there is a need to instill a sense of belonging among the downtrodden, backward and oppressed youth of the nation by providing them all opportunities for their overall development so that they too contribute to the progress of the country to their full potential. The facilities and opportunities should be provided as a matter of right. Good education should be their right and it should not be a privilege of the elite only. Employment needs to be guaranteed to them and if employment opportunity is not provided they have to be given unemployment allowance. They have to be linked directly with the production processes by eliminating the disparities between the rural and urban downtrodden youth. For this a comprehensive national policy for the downtrodden backward and oppressed youth should be in place to ensure their all round development which is the need of the hour and an absolute necessity. The state has to extend welfare measures for them and enable them to fight against fanaticism, fundamentalism and separatism.

Hence this Bill.

AMAR SHANKAR SABLE

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for a national policy for the downtrodden backward and oppressed youth under which various facilities are to be provided to such youth. Clause 5 provides for employment opportunities and payment of unemployment allowance by the Government. Clause 7 makes it mandatory for the Central Government to provide requisite funds to carry out the provisions of the Bill. The Bill, if enacted, will involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is not possible at present to quantify the funds that may involve but it is estimated that a sum of rupees thirty thousand crore may involve as recurring expenditure per annum.

Non-recurring expenditure to the tune of rupees twenty thousand crore may also involve for creating assets and infrastructure.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 8 of the Bill gives power to the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. The rules will relate to matters of details only.

The delegation of legislative power is of normal character.

RAJYA SABHA

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to provide for the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive national policy for ensuring overall development of the youth belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and those from Other Backward Classes and oppressed categories from the religious and linguistic minorities and for their welfare to be undertaken by the State and for matter connected therewith and incidental thereto.

(Shri Amar Shankar Sable, M.P.)