

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 2ND DECEMBER, 2016

Bill No. LI of 2016

THE WOMEN (RESERVATION IN SERVICES) BILL, 2016

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BILL

to provide for reservation of posts and appointments for women in services under the Central Government and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Women (Reservation in Services) Act, 2016.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

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

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

Definitions.

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

(c) "services" means the service in connection with the affairs of the Central Government and includes the service in any public sector undertaking or enterprise of any authority under the control of the Central Government.

(a) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act; and 5

(b) "public sector undertakings or enterprises" includes all public sector undertakings, enterprises, Banks and financial institutions wholly owned or managed by the Central Government or in which fifty-one per cent. shares are held by the Central Government.

Reservation
for women in
services.

3. There shall be reserved thirty-three per cent. of all appointments and posts in services for women. 10

Relaxation in
eligibility
conditions.

4. The Central Government shall make such provisions relating to relaxation in eligibility conditions, as may be prescribed, for appointment of women in services.

Power to
make rules.

5. The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

India's economic liberalization and rapid growth over the past two decades have helped expose people to more liberal views about women. As a result, more women are stepping out of traditional roles. Female doctors, lawyers, police officers and bureaucrats are common and are now everyday sight in cities. Yet women make up only twenty-two per cent of the work force and though seventy-nine per cent of rural women work in agriculture and more than ninety per cent are in the informal sector with little social protection or land ownership.

In India, women are so deeply engrossed in family affairs and burdened with such heavy domestic responsibilities that in spite of their capabilities, education and aptitude, most of them are unable to enter into Government services on time. Women have only marginal representation in services connected with the affairs of the Union. They are capable of efficiently carrying out various responsibilities connected with the assignments.

It is welcome step that in Gujarat, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh thirty three posts are reserved for females in all Government services. This will help end gender bias and prove to be a great leap towards women empowerment. In order to create a level playing field for all its citizens, women may be provided with preferential precedence and reservation in Government services is expected to considerably increase opportunity for women.

In a bid to boost women's empowerment it is proposed that women get due representation in Government services, it is necessary to reserve thirty-three per cent of all post and services under the Central Government, including public sector undertakings and enterprises; for women by providing them relaxation in matters of age limit, requisite educational qualifications, experience and other conditions of eligibility.

Hence this Bill.

SASIKALA PUSHPA

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 5 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. As the rules will relate to matters of detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

RAJYA SABHA

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(Shrimati Sasikala Pushpa, M.P.)