

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

Bill No. LV of 2016

THE WOMEN WELFARE BILL, 2016

A

BILL

to provide for welfare of women by providing fund and creating employment opportunities and for matters connected therewith or 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 Welfare Act, 2016.

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

5 (3) It shall come into force at once.

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, in other cases the Central Government;

(b) "fund" means Women Welfare Fund set up under Section 3:

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

Women
Welfare Fund.

3. (1) The Central Government shall by notification in the Official Gazette set up a Fund to be known as Women Welfare Fund for the purposes of taking welfare measures for Women.

(2) The Fund shall consist of contributions by Central Government and State governments in such ratio as may be prescribed and donations received from organisations and individuals. 5

Reservation
of jobs in
Central
Government.

4. The Central Government shall reserve at least thirty-three per cent of jobs for women in all Central Government Services and organisations under its control.

Appropriate
Government
to undertake
Welfare
Measures for
Women.

5. The appropriate Government shall,—

(i) set up such number of women employment centres in every district as may be prescribed to provide assistance to women for employment or self employment; 10

(ii) reserve land or housing sites for women;

(iii) provide free health care facilities and maternity benefits upto first two children;

(iv) set up women hostels wherein all facilities shall be provided free of cost; 15

(v) pay sustenance allowance or old age pension to women who are destitute or widows and having no source of regular income;

(vi) provide free training to women for taking up employment or self employment;

(vii) provide scholarships to girl students; and

(viii) reserve at least thirty per cent of seats for women in all educational institutions including higher professional and technical institutions. 20

Central
Government
to provide
funds for
special
Courts.

6. The Central Government shall provide funds to the State governments for setting up of special courts for women in every district.

Central
Government
to ensure loan
to women.

7. The Central Government shall ensure that every commercial bank, including private and foreign banks provide loans to women at the rate of five per cent simple interest for setting up self employment units. 25

Power to
make rules.

8. 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

Women constitute fifty per cent of the population in the country. Though sixty-ninth years have passed since independence, yet there has been no improvement in the condition of women. Several efforts taken by the Government have yielded some results, yet much has to be done to improve their lot. The women do not have ample access to schools or employment opportunities. Only a concrete reservation system in educational institutions or government jobs or special employment or self employment opportunities will help them. Crimes against women are increasing and it takes very long for disposal of cases. Special courts can only help quick disposal of cases.

There is no social security for women in distress. The Government should make some provision for them. Therefore, it is proposed to bring a comprehensive legislation for women welfare.

Hence this Bill.

SASIKALA PUSHPA

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for setting up of Women Welfare Fund consisting of contributions by Central Government and other sources. Clause 5 provides for setting up of employment centres, reservation of land or housing sites and providing hostels, pensions, scholarships, etc. to women by the appropriate Government. Clause 6 of the Bill contains the provision for setting up of special courts in every district by the Central Government.

It is likely to involve a recurring expenditure of about rupees ten thousand crore per annum and rupees two thousand crore by way of non-recurring expenditure.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 8 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.

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(Shrimati Sasikala Pushpa, M.P.)