

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE  
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2085.  
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 02<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST, 2023.**

**JAN VISHWAS (AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS) BILL, 2023**

**2085. SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:  
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BHAIYA):  
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:  
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

**वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री**

- (a) whether the Government has approved amendments to the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 to decriminalise offences and impose penalties instead;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Joint Committee has submitted its report on the Bill;
- (d) if so, the details of recommendations made and the reaction of the Government thereon; and
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government for promoting ease of doing business and ease of living in the country?

**ANSWER**

**वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोम प्रकाश)  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(SHRI SOM PARKASH)**

- (a) & (b):** Yes, Sir. The Cabinet approved the proposal to move motion before Parliament for consideration and passing along with official amendments to the JanVishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 as reported by the Joint Committee of Parliament on 12.07.2023. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 seeks to decriminalise 183 provisions across 42 Central Acts administered by 19 Ministries/Departments. Decriminalisation is proposed to be achieved in the following manner: -
- i. Both imprisonment and/or fine are proposed to be removed in 60 provisions.
  - ii. Imprisonment is proposed to be removed and fine retained in 2 provisions.
  - iii. Imprisonment is proposed to be removed and fine enhanced in 7 provisions.
  - iv. Imprisonment and fine are proposed to be converted to penalty in 108provisions.
  - v. Compounding of offences is proposed to be introduced in 6 provisions.

- (c):** Yes, Sir. The Joint Committee on the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022 had adopted its report on 13.03.2023. Thereafter, the Report of the Committee was laid before Rajya Sabha on 17.03.2023 and in Lok Sabha on 20.03.2023.
- (d):** The Committee recommended some further clause-specific amendments in the Bill after its detailed examination. These amendments have been accepted and incorporated in the Bill. In addition, the Committee also made some general recommendations which provide advice and guidance for future efforts related to decriminalisation. and the same are given below:
- (i) Continuation of similar exercise in future by reviewing other acts and bringsimilar legislations before Parliament,
  - (ii) Issuing advisory to States/UTs for undertaking similar exercise,
  - (iii) Issuing advisory to States Governments to review legislations which are in theirexclusive domain,
  - (iv) Appointment of a group to examine other acts and carry out exercise similar tothe Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023,
  - (v) Ministry of Law to look into aspects of incorporating an adjudication mechanismalong with appellate authority for adjudication of penalty,
  - (vi) Wherever feasible, removal of imprisonment may be accompanied with levyingof penalty instead of fine to avoid increase in litigation.

One of the general recommendations given by the Committee was that the Government may also look into legalities and other consequences of giving retrospective effect if feasible,to the proposed amendments ,taking into consideration the administrative and financial aspects. Accordingly, the concerned Ministries / Department examined the matter and found that giving retrospective effect to the proposed amendments is not feasible.

- (e):** Other steps taken by the Government for promoting ease of doing business and ease of living in the country are placed at Annexure.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2085 FOR 02.08.2023.**

Initiatives taken by the Government for promoting ease of doing business and ease of living in the country are as follows:

**A. Reducing Compliance Burden on Businesses and Citizens**

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade coordinates with Ministries/Departments and States/Union Territories (UTs) for initiatives to reduce compliance burden on citizen and business activities. The objective of this exercise is to improve Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living by Simplifying, Rationalizing, Digitizing and Decriminalizing Government to Business and Citizen Interfaces across Ministries/States/UTs. The key focus areas of the initiative are:

- i. Simplification of procedures related to applications, renewals, inspections, filing records, etc.
- ii. Rationalization of legal provisions, by repealing, amending or omission of redundant laws,
- iii. Digitization of government processes by creating online interfaces, and
- iv. Decriminalization of minor, technical or procedural defaults.

**B. Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP)**

Under the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP), all States/UTs in the country are assessed on the basis of reforms undertaken by them on designated parameters. BRAP covers both business-centric and citizen-centric reforms spread across various reform areas like Investment Enablers, Access to Information and Transparency, Online Single Window System, Land Allotment, Construction Permits Enablers, Labour Regulation Enablers, Environment Registration Enablers, Inspection Enablers, Obtaining Utility Permits, Contract Enforcement, Citizen-centric Certificates, Public Distribution System, Healthcare, etc.

Till date five editions of BRAP (2015, 2016, 2017-18, 2019 and 2020) have been completed. The assessment under BRAP, 2022 is in its final stage.

**C. National Single Window System (NSWS)**

The setting up of National Single Window System (NSWS) was announced in the Budget 2020-21 with the objective to provide “end to end” facilitation and support to investors, including pre-investment advisory, provide information related to land banks and facilitate clearances at Centre and State level. Envisioned as a one-stop shop for investor related approvals and services in the country, the National Single Window System (NSWS) was soft-launched on 22nd September 2021 by Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry.

A total of 32 Central Ministries and 22 States/UTs are onboarded on NSWS till date. More than 1,00,000+ unique business profiles have been created on the system. More than 2,70,000+ applications have been submitted till date with 1,30,000+ clearances already granted through NSWS. More than 500+ investors have availed benefits of various schemes hosted on NSWS including Vehicle Scrapping Scheme, Ethanol Policy, Indian Footwear and Leather Development Policy and National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules under PLI scheme.