

AS INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

Bill No. 67 of 2018

**THE COMPULSORY TEACHING OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BILL, 2018**

By

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL, M.P.

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BILL

to provide for compulsory teaching of environmental education in all educational institutions and for matters connected therewith or 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 Compulsory Teaching of Environmental Education in Educational Institutions Act, 2018. 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.

Definitions.

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

(a) "Advisory Council" means the Advisory Council for Environmental Education constituted under section 6;

(b) "appropriate Government" means in the case of a State, the Government of that State and in all other cases, the Central Government; 5

(c) "educational institution" means a primary or a middle or a secondary or a senior secondary level school imparting education to children, or any college, institute or university imparting higher education recognized by the Government or established under an Act of the Central Government or a State Government, by whatever name such institution is called; 10

(d) "environmental education" means education through which individuals gain awareness of their environment and acquire knowledge, skills and values to enable them to act individually as well as collectively to solve present and future environmental problems; and

(e) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act. 15

Compulsory teaching of environmental education.

3. From such date, as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify, environmental education shall be taught as a compulsory subject in all educational institutions from such class onwards as may be determined by the Central Government on recommendation of the Advisory Council.

Appropriate Government to issue directions for compulsory teaching of environmental education.

4. The appropriate Government shall, immediately after issuance of the notification under section 3, issue directions for compulsory teaching of environmental education in all educational institutions within its jurisdiction. 20

Appointment of teachers for imparting environmental education.

5. Subject to such matters as may be prescribed, the appropriate Government shall ensure appointment of such number of teachers with such qualifications, as may be specified, for teaching environmental education in educational institutions. 25

Constitution of Advisory Council for Environmental Education.

6. (1) The Central Government shall, within three months of the coming into force of this Act, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute an Advisory Council for Environmental Education.

(2) The Advisory Council shall consist of such number of persons, having special knowledge or practical experience in the field of environmental education, as the Central Government may deem fit. 30

Functions of the Advisory Council.

7. The Advisory Council shall perform the following functions, namely:—

(a) recommend to the Central Government the syllabus of environmental education for each standard at the school and university level;

(b) recommend to the Central Government the class from which onwards environmental education shall be taught in educational institutions; 35

(c) recommend to the appropriate Government the qualifications of teachers to be appointed in educational institutions for teaching environmental education;

(d) recommend to the appropriate Government the institutions which may be given recognition for training teachers in environmental education for the purpose of their appointment in educational institutions; and 40

(e) co-ordinate with the appropriate Government and the educational institution authorities with a view to ensuring effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

8. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the provisions of this Act shall apply to minority institutions only if the management of such institutions convey to the appropriate Government their willingness to include the teaching of environmental education text books in their school curriculum.

Application of
Act on
minority
educational
institutions in
certain
situation.

9. The appropriate Government shall derecognize educational institutions, which does not comply with the provisions of section 4, after giving such institution a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

Derecognition
of educational
institutions
for non-
compliance of
the provisions
of this Act.

10. The Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, provide adequate funds to the State Governments for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Central
Government
to provide
fund.

11. The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

Overriding
effect of the
Act.

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

Power to
make rules.

(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both the Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

One of the biggest worries grappling the world today is environmental degradation. Fast paced urbanization, industrialization and deforestation have led to enormous levels of environmental pollution and created wide imbalances in the ecology.

Education is an important instrument through which individuals could be imparted the awareness and consciousness to address the concerns surrounding our environment and to act individually as well as collectively to solve the present and future environmental issues.

The Honourable Supreme Court of India in its directive of 1991 had made it compulsory for environment education to be included in the school and college curricula. But it has been observed that the Supreme Court's directive has not been implemented effectively so far.

The Bill, therefore, seeks to make it mandatory for environmental education to be taught as a compulsory subject at all levels of education.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;

RAJENDRA AGRAWAL

February 16, 2018.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 5 of the Bill provides for appointment of environment education teachers in all schools. Clause 6 provides for constitution of Advisory Council for environment education by the Central Government. Clause 10 provides for payment of adequate funds to the States for carrying out the purpose of the Act. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. At this stage, it is not possible to give exact estimate of expenditure, both recurring and non-recurring, which will be involved from the consolidated Fund of India, if the Bill is enacted into a law. However, it is estimated that a recurring expenditure of about rupees one hundred crore will be involved per annum from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees one hundred crore is also likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 12 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purpose 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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(*Shri Rajendra Agrawal, M.P.*)