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PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA

Bill No. 14-PLA-2017

§ THE PUNJAB PANCHAYATI RAJ (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017

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BILL

further to amend the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1994.

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the Sixty-eighth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Punjab Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Act, 2017. Short title and commencement.

(2) It shall come into force on and with effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 11, for sub-sections (2) and (3), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely :— Amendment in section 11 of Punjab Act 9 of 1994.

“(2) One-half of the total number of offices reserved under sub-section (1) shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes :

Provided that a fraction of seat shall not be treated a seat for the purpose of reservation.

(3) One-half (including the number of offices reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes) of the total number of offices (to be filled by direct election) in every Gram Panchayat shall be reserved for women :

Provided that a fraction of seat shall not be treated a seat for the purpose of reservation.”.

3. In the principal Act, in section 12,—

(i) in sub-section (1), for the existing proviso, the following provisos shall be substituted, namely :— Amendment in section 12 of Punjab Act 9 of 1994.

“Provided that one-half of the total number of offices of the Sarpanches of Gram Panchayats in the district reserved under sub-section (1) shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes :

Provided further that a fraction of an office (seat) shall not be treated an office (seat) for the purpose of reservation.”; and

(ii) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—

“(2) One-half of the total number of offices of Sarpanches in the district shall be reserved for women including such offices, reserved for women belonging to Scheduled Castes under sub-section (1) :

Provided that a fraction of an office (seat) shall not be treated an office (seat) for the purpose of reservation.”.

Amendment in section 102 of Punjab Act 9 of 1994.

4. In the principal Act, in section 102, for sub-sections (2) and (3), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely :—

“(2) One-half of the total number of seats reserved under sub-section (1) shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes :

Provided that a fraction of an office (seat) shall not be treated an office (seat) of the purpose of reservation.

(3) One-half (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat Samiti shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in the Panchayat Samiti area :

Provided that a fraction of an office (seat) shall not be treated a seat for the purpose of reservation.”.

Amendment in section 106 of Punjab Act 9 of 1994.

5. In the principal Act, in section 106, for clause (b), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(b) one-half of the total number of offices of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Panchayat Samitis in the district, shall be reserved for women and such offices shall be allotted by rotation :

Provided that a fraction of an office (seat) shall not be treated an office (seat) for the purpose of reservation.”.

6. In the principal Act, in section 165, for sub-sections (2) and (3), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely :—

Amendment in section 165 of Punjab Act 9 of 1994.

“(2) One-half of the total number of seats reserved for the members of the Scheduled Castes under sub-section (1) shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes :

Provided that a fraction of an office (seat) shall not be treated an office (seat) for the purpose of reservation.

(3) One-half (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Zila Parishad shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Zila Parishad :

Provided that a fraction of an office (seat) shall not be treated an office (seat) for the purpose of reservation.”.

7. In the principal Act, in section 169, for clause (b), the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

Amendment in section 169 of Punjab Act 9 of 1994.

“(b) one-half of the total number of offices of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Zila Parishads in the State of Punjab shall be reserved for women :

Provided that a fraction of an office (seat) shall not be treated an office (seat) for the purpose of reservation.”.

STATEMENTS OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Women in the State of Punjab constitute 47.23% part of the total population but they are still behind in different fields as compared to the men population. Therefore to empower the women, the representation of women in the direct election of the members of Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads is required to be enhanced from 33% to 50%. Further, the enhanced representation of women in the offices of Sarpanches of Gram Panchayats, Chairmen Panchayat Samitis/Zila Parishads will empower and strengthen them by creating more political awareness. Hence this Bill.

TRIPT RAJINDER SINGH BAJWA,
Rural Development &
Panchayat Minister, Punjab.

CHANDIGARH:
The 20th June, 2017.

SHASHI LAKHANPAL MISHRA,
Secretary.

N.B.—The above Bill was published in the *Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary)*, dated the 20th June, 2017 under the proviso to rule 121 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha (Punjab Legislative Assembly).