

Lok Sabha passes Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 in Parliament

The Bill aims at giving further boost to Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business

The Bill proposes to amend 183 provisions to be decriminalized in 42 Central Acts administered by 19 Ministries/Departments

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The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 was passed in Lok Sabha here today.

The Bill was first introduced in Lok Sabha on 22nd December 2022. Subsequently, it was referred to the Joint Committee of the Parliament. The Joint Committee on the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022 held detailed discussions with all the 19 Ministries/Departments along with Legislative Department and Department of Legal Affairs. The Committee conducted clause-by-clause examination of the Bill through a series of 9 sittings between 09.01.2023 and 17.02.2023. The Committee finally adopted its Report in its sitting held on 13.03.2023.

The Report of the Committee has been laid before Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on 17th March 2023 and 20th March 2023 respectively. The Committee recommended a few more amendments in the Bill. Committee also made 7 general recommendations, out of which, 6 recommendations have been accepted by all the Ministries/Departments concerned.

Through The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023, a total of 183 provisions are being proposed to be decriminalized in 42 Central Acts administered by 19 Ministries/Departments. Decriminalization is proposed to be achieved in the following manner: -



(i) Both Imprisonment and/or Fine are proposed to be removed in some provisions.

(ii) Imprisonment is proposed to be removed and fine retained in few provisions.

(iii) Imprisonment is proposed to be removed and Fine enhanced in few provisions.

(iv) Imprisonment and Fine are proposed to be converted to Penalty in some provisions.

(v) Compounding of offences is proposed to be introduced in few provisions.

For effective implementation of the above, the bill proposes measures such as (a) pragmatic revision of fines and penalties commensurate to the offence committed; (b) establishment of Adjudicating Officers; (c) establishment of Appellate Authorities; and (d) Periodic increase in quantum of fine and penalties

It is also ensured that degree and nature of punishment is commensurate with the severity of the offence.

The benefits of the Amendment Bill are outlined as under:

1. The Amendment Bill will contribute to rationalizing criminal provisions and ensuring that citizens, businesses and the government departments operate without fear of imprisonment for minor, technical or procedural defaults.
2. The nature of penal consequence of an offence committed should be commensurate with the seriousness of the offence. This bill establishes a balance between the severity of the offence/violation committed and the gravity of the prescribed punishment. The proposed amendments ensure the adherence to law by businesses and citizens, without losing the rigor of the law.
3. The criminal consequences prescribed for technical/procedural lapses and minor defaults, clog the justice delivery system and puts adjudication of serious offences on the back burner. Some of the amendments proposed in the Bill are to introduce suitable administrative adjudication mechanisms, wherever applicable and feasible. This would go a long way in reducing undue pressure on the justice system, reduce the pendency of cases and help in a more efficient and effective justice dispensation.
4. Decriminalization of provisions which affect citizens and certain categories of government employees will help them live without the fear of imprisonment for minor violations.
5. The enactment of this legislation would be a landmark in the journey of rationalizing laws, eliminating barriers and bolstering growth of businesses. This legislation would serve as a guiding principle for future amendments in various laws. Consolidated amendments in various laws with a common objective will save time and cost for both Government and Business alike.



Ministry/Department-wise List of 42 Acts

(Covered under The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023)

Sl. No.	Name of the Acts	Name of Ministries / Departments
1.	The Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937	D/o Agriculture, & Farmers Welfare
2.	The Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972	D/o Commerce
3.	The Rubber Act, 1947	
4.	The Tea Act, 1953	
5.	The Spices Board Act, 1986	
6.	The Legal Metrology Act, 2009	
7.	The Cantonments Act 2006	D/o Defence
8.	The Government Securities Act, 2006	D/o Economic Affairs
9.	The High Denomination Banknotes (Demonetization) Act, 1978	
10.	The Public Debt Act, 1944	
11.	The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016	M/o Electronics and Information Technology
12.	The Information Technology Act, 2000	



Sl. No.	Name of the Acts	Name of Ministries / Departments
13.	The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981	M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change
14.	The Environment Protection Act, 1986	
15.	The Indian Forest Act, 1927	
16.	The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1994	
17.	The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961	D/o Financial Services
18.	The Factoring Regulation Act, 2011	
19.	The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981	
20.	The National Housing Bank Act, 1987	
21.	The Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007	
22.	The Food Corporations Act, 1964	D/o Food & Public Distribution
23.	The Warehousing Corporation Act, 1962	
24.	The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940	D/o Health & Family Welfare
25.	The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006	
26.	The Pharmacy Act, 1948	
27.	The Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002	



Sl. No.	Name of the Acts	Name of Ministries / Departments
28.	The Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867	M/o Information & Broadcasting
29.	The Cinematography Act, 1952	
30.	The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995	
31.	The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958	M/o Ports, Shipping & Waterways
32.	The Indian Post Office Act, 1898	D/o Posts
33.	The Boilers Act, 1923	Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade
34.	The Copyright Act, 1957	
35.	The Geographical Indications of Goods Act, 1999	
36.	The Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951	
37.	The Patents Act, 1970	
38.	The Trade Marks Act, 1999	
39.	The Railways Act, 1989	
40.	The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988	M/o Road Transport & Highways
41.	The Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002	D/o Revenue
42.	The Collection of Statistics Act, 2008	M/o Statistics & Programme Implementation



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