

## **A progress report highlighting achievements of the Legislative Department.**

### **I. Open governance and accountable administration:-**

Keeping in view the Government's policy to repeal the obsolete and redundant laws, 1824 redundant Central Acts have been identified by Two Member Committee constituted by PMO. So far 1428 Acts have been repealed by various enactments. Further, 229 Acts pertaining to State Governments have been sent to respective State Governments for repealing. As per information received, 65 Acts have been repealed by State Governments and information for remaining Acts is awaited. Thus action has been taken on 1657 Acts. Action on remaining 167 Acts is under process.

### **II. E-Governance**

#### **Updation and Uploading of India Code and Central Acts**

With a view to ease of access by general public, Central Acts from 1947 to 2017 (English Version) and from 1947 to 2016 (Hindi Version) have been updated and uploaded on the website of the Legislative Department. These Acts can be viewed and downloaded by general public free of cost.

### **III. Institution / Electoral Reforms:**

#### **ii) Extension of e-postal ballot system to service voters including armed forces personnel.**

Notification dated 21st October, 2016 was issued for amending Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 to facilitate e-postal ballot to service voters, including armed forces personnel. The armed forces personnel serving in remote and border areas would be greatly benefitted since the present system of two-way transmission of ballot paper by the postal services has not been able to meet the expectations of the service voters. With the issue of the said Notification, a long pending and near unanimous demand of the service voters has been fulfilled.

#### **ii) Expansion of voting facilities available to NRI voters (Overseas electors)**

The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 2017 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 to provide proxy voting facility for overseas electors in addition to the existing facility of voting in person. After enactment of the Bill, overseas electors would be in a position to cast their votes either in person or through a proxy, thereby ensuring their enhanced participation in the democratic process as enshrined in the Constitution.

**IV) Removal of gender disparities:**

**The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriages) Bill, 2017**

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriages) Bill, 2017 was passed by Lok Sabha on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 and the same is pending in Rajya Sabha. The said Bill provides to protect the rights of married Muslim women and to prohibit divorce by pronouncing talaq having the effect of instantaneous and irrevocable divorce by their husbands. It provides that any pronouncement of such talaq shall be void and illegal with a punishment of up to 3 years and made such offence as cognizable and non-bailable. It also enables the married Muslim Women to such subsistence allowance for her and her children and also the custody of children as may be determined by Magistrate.

**V) Ease of doing Business:**

**The Specific Relief (Amendment) Bill, 2017**

The Specific Relief (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was passed by the Lok Sabha on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 and the said Bill is pending in Rajya Sabha. This Bill proposes to amend the Specific Relief Act, 1963 to provide for Specific Performance of Contracts as a general rule and refusal of the same by Courts in particular circumstances as an exception. It also provides for enforcement of substituted performance of Contracts and refrains the Court from staying the continuance of infrastructure projects, if it involves delay.

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