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THE ANDHRA PRADESH GAZETTE

PART IV-A EXTRAORDINARY

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 17]

AMARAVATI,

THURSDAY,

14th NOVEMBER, 2024.

ANDHRA PRADESH BILLS

ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The following Bill was introduced in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on 14th November, 2024.

L. A. Bill No. 17 of 2024

A BILL FURTHER TO AMEND THE ANDHRA PRADESH MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS REGISTRATION ACT, 1968.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Andhra Pradesh in the Seventy-Fifth Year of the Republic of India, as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Andhra Pradesh Medical Practitioners Registration (Amendment) Act, 2024. Short title and commencement,
(2) It shall come into force on such date, as the Government may, by notification in the Andhra Pradesh Gazette, appoint.
2. In the Andhra Pradesh Medical Practitioners Registration Act, 1968, in Chapter II, in section 6, in clause (b), the expression "a deaf, mute or a leper" shall be omitted. Amendment of section 6.
Act No. 23 of 1968.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease is an infection caused by slow-growing bacteria called *Mycobacterium leprae*. With advances in medicine, leprosy is now completely curable and can be rendered non-contagious by administering first dose of Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT).

To ensure elimination of discrimination of persons affected by leprosy and other aspects, the National Human Rights Commission issued a comprehensive advisory dated 14th January, 2022 and one of the major recommendations of the Advisory is to amend 97 laws providing for discrimination of leprosy affected persons in a time bound manner to end discrimination of such persons. The NHRC has found that there are twenty (20) laws which are discriminatory to the persons affected by leprosy pertaining to the State of Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Pradesh Medical Practitioners Registration Act, 1968 is one among the others. The NHRC has therefore requested to initiate appropriate actions for amendment of these laws in a time bound manner to end discrimination of persons affected by leprosy.

Further, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India in their Letter dt. 13.10.2023 has stated that certain statutory provisions are in force in the State of Andhra Pradesh, which have direct or indirect effect discriminating against persons with disabilities including Leprosy cured persons. One among such laws is the Andhra Pradesh Medical Practitioners Registration Act, 1968 and recommended to amend the Act to remove the words "a deaf, mute or a leper" from the highlighted provisions.

As per the provisions of The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (Central Act No.49 of 2016), it is the mandate of the Government to ensure removing of all sorts of discrimination against persons with disabilities and provide them with equal opportunity in all walks of life in the society.

In view of the above advisories and to end discrimination of persons affected by leprosy and other aspects, the Government has decided to amend the Andhra Pradesh Medical Practitioners Registration Act, 1968 by removing the words "a deaf, mute or a leper" in clause (b) of section 6 in the Act.

This Bill seeks to give effect to the above decisions.

SATYA KUMAR YADAV,
Minister for Health, Family Welfare
and Medical Education.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 1 (2) of the Bill authorize the Government to issue notification in respect of matters specified therein. The notification so issued which is intended to cover matters mostly of procedural in nature is to be laid on the table Legislature of the State and will be subject to any modification made by the Legislature.

The above provision of the Bill regarding Delegated Legislation are thus of a normal type and are mainly intended to cover matters of procedure.

SATYA KUMAR YADAV,
Minister for Health, Family Welfare
and Medical Education.

**MEMORANDUM UNDER RULE 95 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THE ANDHRA PRADESH
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**

The Andhra Pradesh Medical Practitioners Registration (Amendment) Bill, 2024 after it is passed by the Legislature of the State, may be submitted to the Governor for his assent under article 200 of the Constitution of India.

SATYA KUMAR YADAV,
Minister for Health, Family Welfare
and Medical Education.

PRASANNA KUMAR SURYADEVARA,
Secretary-General to State Legislature.