

# Parliament as a Vehicle of Social Change



Lok Sabha Secretariat  
New Delhi  
January 2003

**PARLIAMENT AS A VEHICLE  
OF SOCIAL CHANGE**

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**January 2003**

© 2003 Lok Sabha Secretariat

Published under Rule 382 of the *Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha* (Tenth Edition) and printed by Jainco Art India, 13/10, W.E.A., Saraswati Marg, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110 005.

## PREFACE

Parliament is the supreme representative body articulating the hopes, aspirations and grievances of the people. As a promoter of equity in the society, one of the primary concerns of Parliament has been to bring forth social change. During the last fifty years of its existence, the Parliament of India has successfully acted as an instrument of transformation of the society *inter alia* by enacting an array of social legislations empowering the weaker sections of the society, bringing parity between men and women and establishing an equitable social and economic system for the people.

This background paper, prepared on the basis of material drawn from published sources, encapsulates some of the important legislative measures taken by Parliament to bring about social change in India and also delineates the role of Parliament in educating the masses to adapt themselves according to the needs of new challenges and circumstances. The views wherever expressed in the paper may not be construed as those of the Government of India or the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

New Delhi,  
January 2003

G.C. MALHOTRA,  
*Secretary-General,*  
*Lok Sabha*

---

---

# PARLIAMENT AS A VEHICLE OF SOCIAL CHANGE

---

---

The relationship between politics and society is symbiotic. In fact, politics is one of the ways by which society expresses itself. Political institutions and structures are best understood in their social context and they reflect the needs and aspirations of a given society, in a given time, and are geared to realise specific social objectives. In the background of this broad perspective, one can understand the role of Parliament—the highest legal political institution—as an instrument for defining, underlining and effecting social change.

Political institutions and structures not only reflect the society, they also influence and change it. In this context, Parliament plays a direct and conditioning role in bringing about social change and effecting social transformation. It makes laws which are administered by the Executive. By laws, policies of the Government are laid down for implementation. Once enacted, a law may be amended from time to time so as to keep it in tune with the emerging needs and situations.

While discussing the role of Parliament in legislation, it goes without saying that in a parliamentary system, the initiative for legislation in most of the cases emanates from the Executive. But what emerges from the Executive Desk is only a draft. Parliament debates and discusses the draft, and if necessary, amends it and then accords the seal of approval to the legislative proposal. It may also be mentioned that it is not only through legislation that Parliament performs its role in social change, but other aspects of Parliament's power and responsibility also have a bearing on the process of social transformation.

Being people's institution, Parliament is also the lifeline of modern governmental activity. It is on the floor of the House that certain primary processes are set into motion which have the capacity to open the way to orderly change and innovation. If change is forced on society without its consent, it is bound to cause disaffection and revulsion. But if strategies evolved to transform society take into account people's will and if people's will and public opinion is consulted while initiating social change, a majority of the people will accept the change without demur.

It is in the context of consulting public opinion by the Government while initiating social changes that one finds Parliament as the most authentic institution that represents people's will. Of course, there is the Press, social organizations, the civil society and social action groups which do reflect popular will but they cannot claim to be as authentic and effective as Legislatures, for the latter enjoy a constitutional status, legitimacy and wider access to the people and in fact represent their hopes, aspirations and also ventilate their grievances.

In its representational role, Parliament performs important functions but then it not only represents, it also provides necessary leadership to society. Members of Parliament or for that matter, legislators cannot be viewed only as the representatives of the people; they are also their leaders. Naturally, therefore, they provide a definite direction to the society. They mould the society. Since in the parliamentary form of government the Executive is the creation of the Legislature and the Legislature exercises control over the Executive, no Government can afford to ignore the suggestions made by members on the floor of the House.

### **Social Reform Legislations in India\***

Though the social reform movements in India had begun much earlier than the movement for independence, not much headway could be made in this regard until 1947, when India became independent. Efforts to reform the society, in fact, got real impetus only after the independence and the setting up of independent legislative institutions in India. The national leadership wanted to initiate social change of fundamental character in order to ensure equality of individuals in their social relationships. The leaders realized that orthodoxy, inequalities and social evils that existed in the society could be removed through legislative measures. To make the society move forward to ensure social justice and equality for all, law had to provide a new ideal and new thought to initiate social change. It was in this context that the role of Parliament was highlighted by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, in the Provisional Parliament on 22 September 1951, when he said:

Customs prevailing in the society are, no doubt, important but customs are not static. They keep on changing. Obviously, in a democracy, Parliament can play an important role in changing customary law. In earlier days when the institution of Parliament was non-existent, people regulated their life by making their own customs. But today this work rightfully belongs to Parliament and to no one else...to say that nowhere custom could be altered, amended and changed is really to abrogate the authority of Parliament.

### **Philosophy of the Constitution**

Before an attempt is made to highlight the role and achievements of Indian Parliament in effecting social change, it is imperative to throw light on the aims and objectives stipulated in the Constitution to usher in a progressive and egalitarian society.

---

\*See **Annexure** for a select list of Important Social Welfare Legislations enacted by the Parliament of India.

When the Constitution of India was being framed, the Founding Fathers kept in view the mass poverty, age-old inequities and glaring social and economic disparities in the country. They, therefore, made specific provisions in the Constitution which were designed to bring about social and economic transformation in a peaceful and democratic manner. The spirit of the Constitution is reflected in the Preamble itself which declared the resolve of the people to constitute India into a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular and Democratic Republic. The Preamble also pronounces the resolve to secure for the people Justice—social, economic and political; Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; Equality of status and opportunity; and to promote among them all, Fraternity, assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation. The Preamble, as has been widely acclaimed, reflects the broad framework of ideas which are deeply ingrained in our ancient heritage and are part of the Indian ethos for which the Constitution stands and the fundamentals on which it has been founded. The Preamble remained unchanged till 1976 when, after the 42nd Amendment, the words 'Socialist' and 'Secular' were added as also 'unity and integrity of the nation'.

The Constitution expressly provides in Part III for the right to equality, including abolition of untouchability (articles 14 to 17), the right to freedom (articles 19, 20, 21 and 22), right against exploitation (articles 23 and 24), right to freedom of religion (articles 25 to 28), cultural and educational rights (articles 29 and 30) and right to constitutional remedies (article 32). As per the Constitution, the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them. It also enumerates that there shall be equality of opportunity for all in matters relating to employment or appointment to any Office under the State. Above all, the Constitution clearly states that the State shall not make any law which takes away or abridges the rights conferred under Part III and that any law made in contravention of it or which changes the basic structure of the Constitution, shall, to the extent of such contravention, be void.

The Directive Principles of State Policy as enshrined in Part IV of the Constitution are essentially in the nature of certain directions to the State while making laws. The Constitution provides that the Directive Principles are not enforceable by any Court but the principles therein laid down are nevertheless fundamental in the governance of the country and it shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles in the making of laws. Essentially, the Directive Principles enshrine the ideal of social and economic democracy and are humanitarian in social precepts, which aim at the realization of the goal of a welfare state.

Over the years, several legislations have been enacted with a view to providing just and humane conditions of work, maternity relief, living wages, participation of workers in management of industries, public health, promotion of educational and economic interests of Scheduled



Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and other weaker sections and protecting and improving the environment and safeguarding forests and wild life, etc.

The core of the Directive Principles is enshrined in article 38 that echoes the Preamble and lays down that "the State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of the national life."

It has been further provided therein that the State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing adequate opportunities of livelihood to all citizens, that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as to serve the common good, etc (article 39). Besides, the State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want (article 41); endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India (article 44); early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years (article 45). Article 46 calls for promotion of educational and economic interests of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the society.

### **Legislation Relating to Welfare and Empowerment of Women**

It has been the consistent endeavour of the Parliament of India to translate the ideas and ideals of the Constitution into reality. The Constitution guarantees equality before law to all citizens and prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them. Rightly, therefore, during its initial years, it passed various laws which aimed at social reforms by giving the rightful place to women and other weaker sections in the society and many other progressive measures, some of which are mentioned below.

While the Constitution guarantees certain fundamental rights and freedoms such as freedom of speech, right to life and personal liberty that may be termed positive rights, there are certain indirect rights such as prohibition of discrimination. Through article 14, the Constitution confers equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India, for all citizens. While article 15 prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, etc., article 15(3) makes a provision enabling the State to allow affirmative discrimination in favour of women. Similarly, article 16 provides for equality of opportunities in matters of public employment for all citizens.

Article 39, mentions that the State shall direct its policy towards securing for all citizens, men and women, equality, the right to a means

of livelihood and equal pay for equal work. Article 51A(e) imposes a fundamental duty on every citizen to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.

By adopting the principle of adult franchise, the Constitution of India seeks to establish a democratic republic by giving the adult population direct or indirect share in the Government. The special attention given to the needs of women to enable them to enjoy and exercise their constitutional status and equality along with other special provisions aimed at their participative role in society, make the Constitution a social document aimed at facilitating social change.

To uphold their constitutional rights, several legislative measures have been enacted. They are aimed to provide protection to women at the work place, against social discrimination, violence and atrocities, child marriages, dowry deaths, rape, etc.

***The Equal Remuneration Act of 1976*** has been enacted to provide for equal pay to men and women for equal work.

***The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955*** sought to codify and amend the customary laws relating to marriage and introduced monogamy and divorce amongst the Hindus for the first time. The Act has been amended to provide for the right of a girl to repudiate a child marriage before attaining maturity whether or not the marriage has been consummated. Besides, common grounds for both husband and wife to seek divorce, a woman has certain additional grounds to seek judicial separation or divorce under the ***Hindu Marriage Act as amended in 1976***. One of such grounds is that the husband has, since the solemnization of the marriage, been guilty of rape, sodomy or bestiality. ***The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956***, provided that a Hindu wife was entitled to be maintained by her husband during her life-time and that a widowed daughter-in-law was entitled to receive maintenance from her father-in-law. Another significant piece of legislation passed by Parliament was the ***Hindu Succession Act, 1956***, providing for total equality between men and women as far as inheritance to property was concerned. Parliament enacted the ***Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act In 1956***, which codified laws relating to minority and guardianship. It provides that a child is minor till the age of 18 and natural guardian of such a child is first the father and after him the mother. The prior right of the mother in this regard is recognised only to the custody of a child below five years of age. The Act directed that in deciding cases of guardianship, the courts must take the welfare of the child as the paramount consideration. To promote the ideal of secularism, the ***Special Marriage Act of 1954***, provided that marriages can be registered under this Act even though partners belong to different religious faiths. Due to this Act, it is not necessary that parties should abandon their religion before they could marry and register under the Act.

Divorce is a phenomenon having significant social ramifications in all the communities in India. The provisions with regard to divorce are contained in Section 13 of the ***Hindu Marriage Act, 1955*** and Section 27 of the ***Special Marriage Act, 1954***. These Acts provide common grounds on which divorce can be sought by a husband or a wife. The ***Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986***, specifies rights which a Muslim divorced woman is entitled to at the time of divorce and protects her interests. By the ***Parsi Marriage and Divorce (Amendment) Act, 1988***, the scope of some of the provisions of the Parent Act enacted in 1936 has been enlarged so as to bring them on the lines of the ***Hindu Marriage Act, 1955***.

Concerted efforts have also been made to accord social and political equality to women with men. Apart from the laws relating to marriage, guardianship, inheritance, succession, etc. which provide sufficient safeguards to the rights and interests of women, Parliament has passed several other laws which seek to ameliorate the general conditions of women in our society. Foremost in this category are the laws prohibiting dowry and providing protection to women from violence of all kind. To curb the practice of taking dowry which is most derogatory to the dignity of Indian women, Parliament enacted the ***Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961***.

Besides, the ***Indian Penal Code***, the ***Code of Criminal Procedure*** and the ***Evidence Act*** provide for special protection for women because of certain historical reasons. These laws have sufficient provisions to protect women in regard to their personal safety, liberty, property and reputation. Over a period of time, Parliament has amended and re-amended legislations to make these laws more effective to deal with problems faced by women in their day-to-day life. Parliament has passed several laws, which take care of problems like sexual exploitation of women, their indecent representation, etc.

The Constitution prohibits traffic in human beings. Accordingly, the ***Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956*** was enacted which banned prostitution in its commercialized form as an organized means of living. The Act was amended in 1978 and 1986 to rectify the inadequacies noticed in the application of the law. The amended Act has now been titled as the ***Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1986***. It covers all persons, male or female, who are exploited sexually for commercial purposes. It makes punishment of offences involving children and minors more stringent. It also provides for setting up of Special Courts for the speedy trial of cases under this Act.

***The Child Marriage (Restraint) Act, 1929*** and subsequent amendments *inter alia* raised the age for marriage of a girl from 15 years to 18 years and that of a boy from 18 years to 21 years. Violation of these provisions was made a cognisable offence. ***The Factory Act of 1948*** and subsequent amendments provide for establishment of creche where 30 and more women (including casual and contract labourers) were employed.

Similarly, the *Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971*, the *Indecent Representation of Women (Protection) Act, 1986*, the *Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987* and anti-rape laws enacted by Parliament have certainly gone a long way in improving the lot of women.

The spread of consumerism and the race for advertising consumer items have posed another problem before the society. Sometimes there is a tendency to depict women in an abhorrent manner to push the sale of different products. The *Indecent Representation of Women (Protection) Act, 1986* was passed by Parliament with the idea of protecting the dignity of women. The Act prohibits all advertisements, publications, etc. which contain indecent representation of women in any form.

The practice of *sati*<sup>\*</sup>, was the most inhuman and barbarous treatment meted out to Indian women. Provisions in the Indian Penal Code regarding murder, suicide, culpable homicide, etc. were found to be inadequate to deal with the crime of *sati*. Parliament felt that the need of distinguishing *sati* from other crimes like murder, suicide, etc. required a fresh legal intervention to tackle the malady. Accordingly, the *Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987* was passed by Parliament, which enlarged the scope of the definition of *sati*. The Act provides maximum penalty, *i.e.* death or life-imprisonment for the crime of *sati* or its glorification.

Parliament is currently considering a Bill on Protection of Women from domestic violence.

The *National Commission for Women Act, 1990*, was passed by Parliament for establishing a National Commission for Women. The main task of the Commission is to study and monitor all matters relating to constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women and to review existing laws and suggest amendments wherever necessary. The Commission also monitors the proper implementation of all the legislative measures enacted from time to time to protect the rights of women so as to enable them to achieve equality in all spheres of life and equal participation in the development of the nation.

## **Empowering Women**

The Indian Parliament has attempted reservation for women by legislation. Representation to women in civic bodies and municipalities has been given by the enactment of the Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth Amendments to the Constitution, whereby compulsory and minimum reservation of one-third seats has been made in elections to *panchayats* and municipalities and in posts of Chairpersons of all local bodies in the country. By this amendment, hundreds and thousands of women have entered public offices and gained access to political life.

---

<sup>\*</sup>The practice of self-immolation by wife on the funeral pyre of her husband when the husband dies.

## **Women's Reservation Bill**

Emboldened by the acceptance and passing of the Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth Amendments to the Constitution, a more ambitious move was made with the introduction of the *Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill 1996*, popularly known as the *Women's Reservation Bill*, in the Eleventh Lok Sabha on 12 September 1996. The Bill sought to reserve not less than one-third of the total number of seats filled by direct election in the Lok Sabha and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States for women. The Bill was then referred to a Joint Committee of Parliament. The Bill, however, lapsed with the dissolution of the Eleventh Lok Sabha. Again the Bill was revived as the Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Bill, 1998 in the Twelfth Lok Sabha but it lapsed on the dissolution of that House. On 23 December 1999, the Bill was re-introduced as the Constitution (Eighty-fifth Amendment) Bill, 1999 and is pending in the present *i.e.* the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

## **Committee on Empowerment of Women**

Two identical resolutions were moved in the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha on 8 March 1996 on the occasion of the International Women's Day for constituting a Standing Committee of Parliament that would examine measures initiated in regard to gender justice and equality of women in the country so far and come out with clear-cut recommendations in the direction of the issue of empowerment of women. In pursuance of the same, the Committee on Empowerment of Women was constituted on 29 April 1997.

The functions assigned to the Committee are primarily to review and monitor the Governmental measures in the field of securing equality of status and dignity of women in all matters and to suggest necessary correctives for improving their overall status and condition. Apart from this, the Committee is also to examine the measures taken by the Government for education and adequate representation of women in legislative bodies/services and in other fields. The Committee would also consider the reports of the National Commission for Women.

## **Ratification of the UN Convention and other International Declarations**

The desire of the world community to protect women's rights became international law, with the adoption of a Convention on the *Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)* by the UN General Assembly. The Convention is the only legal, binding international instrument, dealing with the rights of women, though States have the right to incorporate any law or all the 30 articles of the Convention in keeping with their culture and practice. On 25 June 1993, India ratified CEDAW with a declaration in respect of article 16

(1 & 2)\* and a reservation in respect of article 29(1)\*\*. These pertain to India's policy of non-interference in the personal affairs of any community without its initiative and consent, difficulty in registration of such marriages and the binding clause of compulsory arbitration or adjudication by the International Court of Justice.

India has also unreservedly endorsed the *Mexico Plan of Action (1975)*, the *Nairobi Forward looking Strategies (1985)*, the *Beijing Declaration* as well as the *Platform for Action (1995)* in this regard.

## **Legislation for Welfare of Children**

The problems of children have also attracted the attention of Parliament. The National Policy for Children was adopted by Parliament in 1974 which describes the country's children as one 'supremely important asset'. A National Children's Fund was constituted in 1979 to create a source of assistance for innovative programmes of child development. The National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development, undertakes research, evaluation and training in the field of voluntary action and child development.

The Government announced the National Policy on Child Labour in August 1987. The action plan under the National Child Labour Policy comprises, a legislative action plan; focussing of general development

---

\* Article 16(1) of the Convention reads: States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations and in particular shall ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women: (a) The same right to enter into marriage; (b) The same right freely to choose a spouse and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent; (c) The same rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution; (d) The same rights and responsibilities as parents, irrespective of their marital status, in matters relating to their children; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount; (e) the same rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights; (f) The same rights and responsibilities with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship and adoption of children, or similar institutions where these concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount; (g) The same personal rights as husband and wife, including the right to choose a family name, a profession and an occupation; (h) The same rights for both spouses in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property, whether free of charge or for a valuable consideration.

(2) The betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory.

\*\* Article 29.(1) reads: Any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which is not settled by negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration. If within six months from the date of the request for arbitration the parties are unable to agree on the organization of the arbitration, any one of those parties may refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice by request in conformity with the Statute of the Court.

programmes for benefiting children wherever possible, and project-based action plans in areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage/quasi-wage employment. Under the project based action plan, 12 National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) were initially started in eight States. There are currently 100 such project going on in 13 child labour endemic States. A major activity undertaken under the NCLP is the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, stipend, health care, etc. to children withdrawn from employment.

There are a number of Acts which deal with the regulation of child workers. In conformity with the provisions of the Constitution of India, almost all the Acts prohibit the employment of children in dangerous occupations below the age of 14 years. No employer can employ a child unless he produces a certificate of physical fitness from a prescribed authority that remains valid for a period of one year. Thus ***the Factories Act, 1948*** requires medical examination up to the age of 18 years. Employment of adolescents below the age of 17 years is not permitted in any factory during night. Children below 18 years cannot be employed in certain dangerous occupations. They cannot be employed between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

***The Mines Act, 1952*** prohibits employment of children below 18 years of age and their presence in any part of a mine that is below ground level or in an opencast working, in which any mining operation is being carried on. ***The Plantations Labour Act, 1951*** which is applicable to all tea, coffee and rubber plantations prohibits employment of children under 12 years of age and the child can be employed only between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. The maximum working hours prescribed for a child and adolescent are 27 hours a week. ***The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958*** and ***the Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961*** prohibit employment of children below 14 years in any ship (registered in India) and motor transport undertaking, respectively. ***The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933*** declares any agreement, whether written or oral, void in which the child's parent or guardian pledges the labour of a child below 15 years of age, in return for any payment or benefit and makes both the contracting parties liable to a fine.

***The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986*** is a comprehensive Act which deals exclusively with the evils of child labour. The Act defines a 'child' as a person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age. The Act prohibits the engagement of children in certain employments and regulates the conditions of work of children in certain other employments.

The Act prohibits employment of children in certain occupations and processes (mentioned in the Schedule in Part 'A' & Part 'B' of the Act) like the transport of passengers, goods or mail by railways, work in

catering establishments at railway stations, work relating to construction of a railway station or any port, beedi-making, carpet weaving, cement manufacture, soap manufacture and building and construction industry.

The Act also provides for constituting a ***Child Labour Technical Advisory Committee*** to advise the Central Government for the purposes of addition of occupations and processes to the Schedule of the Act. The Act stipulates that the period of work of a child on each day shall be so fixed that no period exceeds three hours and that no child shall work for more than three hours before he has had an interval for rest of at least one hour. The spread-over of child work shall not exceed six hours and, he/she shall not be permitted to work between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. and to work overtime. The employer is bound to maintain a register of child workers and should provide information to labour Inspector. The appropriate government can make rules for the health and safety of the children. Any person, police officer or Inspector can file a complaint before a Metropolitan Magistrate if any provision of the Act is violated.

With a view to fulfilling the constitutional mandate, a major announcement was made on 15 August 1994 for withdrawing child labour working in hazardous occupations and rehabilitating them through Special Schools. As a follow up, a series of steps were taken by the Government. A high-powered body, the *National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL)* was constituted on 26 September 1994 mainly to lay down policies and programmes for elimination of child labour particularly in hazardous industries.

Poverty has been identified as a major factor compelling parents to send their children to work. Lack of awareness and educational opportunity and ineffective enforcement of child labour related laws contribute to the existence and acceptance of this social evil. The improvement in the living and working conditions of parents and improvement in the economic conditions is considered crucial to the elimination of child labour. The support of Ministry of Rural Development has been enlisted in this context. The ultimate objective of the child labour Programme is to convert working children into productive and participative members of the society. For fulfilment of this objective there cannot be a more powerful and potent weapon than education and making universal Elementary Education a reality.

It is significant to mention here that through the ***Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002*** it has been provided that the State should provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen in such manner as the States may, by law, determine. This amendment has introduced a new article 21A in the Constitution under the Chapter on Fundamental Rights and article 45 under the Directive Principles of State Policy has been substituted with the provision that the State should endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.



## Labour Welfare and Social Security Measures

Apart from the social reform laws mentioned above, which are definitely aimed at improving the social conditions of women and children, many other important laws were passed by Parliament that fall in the category of labour welfare and social security measures. Notable welfare Acts in this regard are: the ***Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966***, the ***Factories Act, 1948***, the ***Mines Act, 1952***, and the ***Plantation Labour Act, 1951***.

The ***Bidi and Cigar Workers Act*** makes provisions for the welfare of the workers in bidi and cigar establishments and to regulate their conditions of the work and for matters connected therewith. Among others, the Act prohibits the employment of women in any industrial premises except between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. The ***Factories Act*** imposes certain restrictions in regard to the working hours for women in factories. The ***Mines Act*** provides that women shall not be employed in a mine that is below ground and that a woman employed in a mine above ground shall be allowed an interval of at least 11 hours after one days' work. The ***Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948*** provides multi purpose social security benefits to women workers in specified establishments. ***The Maternity Benefits Act, 1961*** confers various rights upon women workers during their confinement arising out of pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage, etc.

Parliament passed, the ***Family Courts Act, 1984*** to establish such Courts for speedy settlement of family disputes. The Act provides for setting up Family Courts in every city or town with a population exceeding one million. The ***Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987*** provides for constitution of legal services authorities to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities. It also mentions that a woman or victim of trafficking in human beings will be entitled to legal assistance for filing and defending her case.

Yet another significant legislation that Indian Parliament has passed is the ***Persons with Disabilities, Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act, 1995***.

Apart from these, there are five Welfare Funds for beedi, cine and certain categories of non-coal mine workers. The Funds have been set up for the welfare of these workers under the ***Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1946***; the ***Limestone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1972***; the ***Iron Ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976***; the ***Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1976***; and the ***Cine Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1981***.

In order to give effect to the objectives laid down in the above Acts, various welfare schemes have been formulated and are under

operation in the fields of Health, Social Security, Education, Housing Recreation and Water Supply.

### **Legislation for Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**

Parliament has always been concerned about the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It has taken, from time to time, various steps to ameliorate their socio-economic conditions and has always been vigilant in matters concerning the implementation of constitutional safeguards provided for them. Parliament has passed several important laws concerning welfare of persons belonging to these communities.

Article 17 of the Constitution of India provides for Abolition of Untouchability. "Untouchability" is abolished in practice in any form. The enforcement of any disability arisen out of untouchability shall be an offence punishable in accordance with the law. An important measure of far-reaching consequences passed by Parliament was the ***Untouchability (Offences) Act in 1955***. The Act provided penalties for preventing a person on the ground of untouchability, from entering a place of public worship and offering prayers or taking water from a sacred tank, well or spring. Penalties were also provided for enforcing any kind of social disability such as denying access to any shop, restaurant, public hospital or educational institution, hotel or any place of public entertainment, or denying the use of any road, river, well, tank, water tap, bathing ghat, etc. The Act was amended in 1976 and the original Act was renamed as the ***Protection of Civil Rights Act***. The new Act has enlarged its scope and made penal provisions more stringent. The ***Representation of the People Act, 1951***, has also been amended by Parliament to provide that persons convicted of any offence under the ***Protection of Civil Rights Act*** would be disqualified from contesting election to Parliament and State Legislatures.

Further to check and deter crimes against Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), the ***Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989*** passed by the Parliament was brought into force w.e.f. 30 Jan. 1990 with main objective "to prevent the commission of offences of atrocities against the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, to provide for Special Courts for the trial of such offences and for the relief and rehabilitation of the victims of such offences and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto".

The bonded labour system in the country has been abolished through the ***Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976***, which prevents the economic and physical exploitation of the weaker sections of society. Since a majority of the bonded labour belongs to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, enactment of the legislative measures by Parliament has given them a new hope. Parliament has also passed the ***Inter-State Migrant Workman Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services, Act, 1979*** in this regard.

## **National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**

Article 338 of the Constitution of India provides for National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The composition of the Commission is subject to the provisions of any law made by the Parliament. Some of the duties of the Commission include to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution and to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; to make recommendations to the measures that should be taken by the Union or any State Government for effective implementation of those safeguards and other measures for the protection, welfare and socio economic development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Besides, a National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation has been set up to assist the socially and economically Backward Classes in their developmental efforts. The *National Commission for Minorities* has been given a statutory status with vast powers by an Act passed by Parliament.

## **Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**

Apart from initiating and effecting social change in a directed manner through the instruments of legislation and planning, the Parliament through its Committee System and discussions also helps in preparing public opinion for the changes to be brought about. In 1967, members of Parliament pointed out the need to set up a Standing Parliamentary Committee with powers to look into the implementation of safeguards provided to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Accordingly, a *Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes* was constituted on 18 December, 1968. The Committee examines *inter alia* the reports submitted by the *National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes*; the measures taken by the Union Government in respect of matters within the purview of the Union Government including the Administrations of the Union Territories; and such other matters as may appear fit to the Committee or be referred to it by the House. The Committee prepares report on the working of the welfare measures in regard to these communities.

## **Land Reform Measures and other Progressive Legislations**

When India achieved Independence, nearly 75 per cent of its population depended on agriculture for their livelihood. For the task of nationbuilding, certain drastic changes in the socio-economic structure had to be brought about. That a change in the economic structure leads to a change in the social structure appeared to have been recognized when agrarian reforms were launched on a large scale in India. Land distribution in India was governed by the iniquitous feudal

order. To change the economic relationship in the agricultural sector, a land reform policy was approved by Parliament that removed impediments to the modernization of agriculture and led to the reduction of gross inequalities in the agrarian economy and rural society. The system of Zamindari was abolished and ownership of land was conferred on the actual tillers. Ceilings were imposed on land holdings and surplus land was distributed among the landless. Holdings were consolidated with a view to making agriculture more convenient and productive. Similarly, the Privy Purses being paid to the former rulers were abolished and Banks were nationalized so that greater resources could be made available for the welfare of the weaker and backward sections of the society. Passing various legislative measures by Parliament did all these.

### **Role of Parliament in the Planning Process**

All these welfare measures clearly show that by enacting legislations in various areas of social life, the Indian Parliament has, in fact, set in motion the process of social change in a significant manner. But Parliament does not seek to change the societal structure only by enacting laws. There are other means also through which Parliament, directly or indirectly, guides and controls changes in a society. Planning is one of them. The parliamentary role in planning comes when the Planning Commission puts out a draft outline of a Five Year Plan for public discussion. The Plan document is discussed in the Indian Parliament on the floor of the House as well as in the Committees. Members take an active part in the discussion on the plan on many occasions. First, there is a debate on the Draft Outline of the Plan. There is also a debate on the Plan in its final form. Then there are debates on the annual reports and mid-term appraisals of Five Year Plans. These discussions may result in the adoption of motions or resolutions moved by the Government. The Plan indirectly gets statutory sanction from Parliament when the financial and appropriation Bills moved by the Government are passed.

### **Social Change Through Various Parliamentary Devices**

Members of Parliament have been utilizing, from time to time, various parliamentary devices such as Questions, Adjournment Motions, Calling Attention, Notices, Short Duration Discussions, etc. for not only eliciting information from Government on various issues but also for focusing the Government's attention on social problems which require urgent attention. For example, on many occasions, Parliament has discussed matters concerning the welfare of the weaker sections of the society.

Various programmes and policies formulated and implemented by the Government for the welfare of the people or proposals about such programmes come under close scrutiny in Parliament when different Ministries/Departments submit their Demands for Grants each year for Parliament's approval. Particular mention in this respect may be made

of the Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) which were constituted in 1993. These Committees have in their own way played a significant role in social change in the sense that while the DRSCs enable the members to discuss in depth the Demands for Grants of various Ministries and Departments of Government of India, Bills are also referred to them for examination.

Discussions in Parliament have great educative value. Opinions expressed by members in the House on social issues help people in assessing what is good and what is bad for them. This is particularly important as the Parliament is a great educator. It disseminates information among the people and increases their awakening and awareness. It helps in moulding the social consciousness of the people and they become amenable to socio-economic changes. Thus, the Parliament is a great instrument of social change.

---

---

**SELECT LIST OF IMPORTANT SOCIAL WELFARE LEGISLATIONS  
ENACTED BY THE PARLIAMENT OF INDIA**

---

---

## ANNEXURE

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

1. The Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951.

(During the first fifteen months of the working of the Constitution, certain difficulties had been brought to light by judicial decisions and pronouncements specially in regard to Fundamental Rights. Thus, the citizen's right to freedom of speech and expression under article 19(1)(a) had been held by some courts to be so comprehensive as not to render a person culpable even if he advocated murder and other crimes of violence. Again, although the citizen's right, under article 19(1)(g), to practice any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade or business was subject to "reasonable restrictions" which the laws of the State might impose "in the interest of the general public", and although these words were comprehensive enough to cover any scheme of nationalisation which the State might undertake, it was considered desirable to place the matter beyond doubt by a clarificatory addition to article 19(6). Article 31 had also given rise to unanticipated difficulties for, notwithstanding the provisions of clauses (4) and (6) of article 31, the implementation of important measures of agrarian reforms passed by the State Legislatures had been held up due to dilatory litigation.

The main objects of the Act, *inter alia*, were, accordingly, to amend article 19 for the purpose indicated above and to insert provisions fully securing the constitutional validity of the *Zamindari* abolition laws in general and certain specified State Acts in particular. The Act amplified article 15(3) so as to ensure that any special provisions that the State may make for the educational, economic or social advancement for any backward class of citizens may not be challenged on the ground of being discriminatory).

2. The Constitution (Eighth Amendment) Act, 1960.

(Extension of reservation of seats for SCs/STs and Anglo-Indians in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies for another ten years).

3. The Constitution (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1971.

(In the *Golak Nath's case*, the Supreme Court reversed by a narrow majority, its own earlier decisions upholding the power of

Parliament to amend all parts of the Constitution, including Part III relating to the Fundamental Rights. The result of the judgment was that the Parliament was considered to have no power to take away or curtail any of the Fundamental Rights even if it became necessary to do so for giving effect to the Directive Principles of State Policy and for the attainment of the objectives set out in the Preamble to the Constitution. The Act, therefore, amended the Constitution to provide expressly that Parliament has power to amend any part of the Constitution).

4. The Constitution (Twenty-fifth Amendment) Act, 1971.

(Article 31 of the Constitution specifically provided that no law providing for the compulsory acquisition or requisitioning of property which either fixed the amount of compensation or specified the principles on which and the manner in which the compensation was to be determined and given could be called in question in any court on the ground that the compensation provided by that law was not adequate. In the *Bank Nationalisation case*, the Supreme Court had held that the Constitution guaranteed right to compensation, that is, the equivalent in money of the property compulsorily acquired. Thus, in effect, the adequacy of compensation and the relevancy of the principles laid down by the Legislature for determining the amount of compensation had virtually become justifiable inasmuch as the Court could go into the question whether the amount paid to the owner of the property was what might be regarded reasonable as compensation for loss of property. In the same case, the Court had also held that a law which sought to acquire or requisition property for a public purpose should also satisfy the requirements of article 19(1)(f).

The Act amended the Constitution to surmount the difficulties placed in the way of giving effect to the Directive Principles of State Policy by the aforesaid interpretation.)

5. The Constitution (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Act, 1971.

(Abolition of Privy Purses).

6. The Constitution (Twenty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1972.

(Inclusion of the Kerala Land Reforms Act, 1963 in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution).

7. The Constitution (Thirty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1974.

(The Chief Ministers' Conference held on 23 July 1972 had made important suggestions with regard to reduction in the level of ceiling on land holdings, application of ceiling on the basis of land held by a family and the withdrawing of exemptions. The suggestions of the Chief Ministers' Conference were accepted by the Government of India and necessary guidelines were issued to the State Governments for the revision of ceiling laws.



The Act amended the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution to include therein the revised ceiling laws which had till then been enacted in broad conformity with the aforesaid guidelines so that they may have the protection under article 31B of the Constitution and any uncertainty or doubt regarding their validity is removed.)

8. The Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976.  
(*Inter alia* insertion of the words 'Socialist Secular' in the Preamble to the Constitution; and insertion of Fundamental Duties).
9. The Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978.  
(The Act amended the Constitution to take away from the category of Fundamental Rights the right to property, which had been the cause of several amendments of the Constitution, and make it only a legal right; to put the right to life and liberty on a secure footing; to provide safeguards against the misuse of the emergency provision; to guarantee the right of the media to report freely and without censorship the proceedings in Parliament and State Legislatures; to minimise judicial delays; and to remove or correct the distortions which came into the Constitution by reason of the amendments enacted during the period of the Internal emergency).
10. The Constitution (Forty-fifth Amendment) Act, 1980.  
(Extension of reservation of seats for SCs, STs and Anglo-Indians in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies for another ten years).
11. The Constitution (Forty-seventh Amendment) Act, 1984.  
(inclusion of land reforms Acts in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution).
12. The Constitution (Forty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1984.  
(Providing constitutional sanctity to the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council).
13. The Constitution (Fifty-first Amendment) Act, 1984.  
(Reservation of seats for STs in the Lok Sabha for Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram and similar reservation in the Legislative Assemblies of Nagaland and Mizoram).
14. The Constitution (Fifty-seventh Amendment) Act, 1987.  
(Readjustment of the 51st Amendment regarding the number of seats reserved for STs).
15. The Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Act, 1988.  
(Lowering of the voting age from 21 years to 18 years).

16. The Constitution (Sixty-second Amendment) Act, 1989.  
(Extension of reservation of seats in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies for SCs, STs and Anglo-Indians beyond 40 years for a further period of ten years).
17. The Constitution (Sixty-fifth Amendment) Act, 1990.  
(Provision for setting up of the National Commission for SCs and STs).
18. The Constitution (Sixty-sixth Amendment) Act, 1990.  
(Inclusion of land reforms Acts in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution).
19. The Constitution (Seventy-second Amendment) Act, 1992.  
(Increase in the reservation of number of seats for STs in the Tripura Legislative Assembly).
20. The Constitution (Seventy-third Amendment) Act, 1992.  
(*Inter alia*, reservation of seats in panchayats for the SCs and STs and reservation of not less than one-third of the total seats for women).
21. The Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Act, 1992.  
(*Inter alia*, reservation of seats for SCs and STs in urban and local bodies and reservation of not less than one-third of the total seats for women).
22. The Constitution (Seventy-sixth Amendment) Act, 1994.  
(69 per cent reservation for SCs, STs and Backward Classes in educational institutions and appointments for posts in the services under the State in Tamil Nadu and inclusion of the same in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution).
23. The Constitution (Seventy-seventh Amendment) Act, 1995.  
(Reservation in promotion for SCs and STs).
24. The Constitution (Seventy-eighth Amendment) Act, 1995.  
(Inclusion of land reforms Acts in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution).
25. The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.
26. The Constitution (Seventy-ninth Amendment) Act, 1999.  
(Extension of reservation of seats for the SCs, STs and Anglo-Indians in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies for another ten years).

27. The Constitution (Eightieth Amendment) Act, 2000.  
(Provision for an alternative scheme for sharing taxes between the Union and the States).
28. The Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Act, 2000.  
(To treat the vacancies which could not be filled up by direct recruitment on account of non-availability of the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes as 'Backlog Vacancies' and to exclude them from the ceiling of fifty per cent reservation).
29. The Constitution (Eighty-second Amendment) Act, 2000.  
(Restoration of the relaxation of the qualifying marks and standards of evaluation in matters of reservation in promotion for SCs and STs).
30. The Constitution (Eighty-third Amendment) Act, 2000.  
(Providing that no reservation in panchayats need to be made in favour of the Scheduled Castes in Arunachal Pradesh wholly inhabited by tribal population).
31. The Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Act, 2002.  
(Provision for freezing readjustment of seats for the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies based on the recent Census till 2026).
32. The Constitution (Eighty-fifth Amendment) Act, 2002.  
(Reservation in promotion for SCs and STs).
33. The Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002.  
(Provision for compulsory education for all children between the age of six and fourteen years. The Act also added a new clause in art. 51A with a view to making it a fundamental duty of a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years).

## **HEALTH**

1. The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
2. The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
3. The Spirituous Preparation (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955.
4. The Indian Red Cross Society (Amendment) Act, 1956 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.

5. The Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and subsequent Amendment Act.
6. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.
7. The Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Act, 1972 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
8. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
9. The Ear Drums and Ear Bones (Authority for use for Therapeutic Purposes) Act, 1982.
10. The Eyes (Authority for use for Therapeutic Purposes) Act, 1982.
11. The Mental Health Act, 1987.
12. The Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994.
13. The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 and subsequent Amendment Act,
14. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.
15. The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999.

## **LABOUR**

1. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
2. The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
3. The Factories Act, 1948 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
4. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
5. The Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
6. The Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948 and the subsequent Amendment Act.
7. The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
8. The Plantation Labour Act, 1951 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
9. The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.

10. The Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 and the subsequent Amendment Act.
11. The Working Journalists (Industrial Disputes) Act, 1955.
12. The Industrial Disputes (Banking Companies Decision) Act, 1955.
13. The Working Journalists (Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1955.
14. The Industrial Disputes (Amendment and Provisions) Act, 1956.
15. The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Act, 1957 (amending the Payment of Wages Act, 1936) and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
16. The Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act, 1958.
17. The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1959 (amending the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923) and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
18. The Employment Exchange (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959.
19. The Indian Trade Unions (Amendment) Act, 1960 (amending the Trade Unions Act, 1926) and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
20. The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) (Amendment) Act, 1961 (amending the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946) and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
21. The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961.
22. The Apprentices Act, 1961 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
23. The Iron Ore Mines Labour Welfare Cess Act, 1961 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
24. The Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1962 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
25. The Working Journalists (Amendment) Act, 1962.
26. The Personal Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1963.
27. The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
28. The Seamen's Provident Fund Act, 1966.
29. The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
30. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.

31. The Tea Districts Emigrant Labour (Repeal) Act, 1970.
32. The Labour Provident Fund Laws (Amendment) Act, 1971 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
33. The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
34. The Limestone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Act, 1972 and the subsequent Amendment Act.
35. The Sales Promotions Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
36. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.
37. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 and the subsequent Amendment Act.
38. The Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Cess Act, 1976.
39. The Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
40. The Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
41. The Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976.
42. The Employment of Children (Amendment) Act, 1978 (amending the Employment of Children Act, 1938).
43. The Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Act, 1979 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
44. The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979.
45. The Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Act, 1980 amending the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1946.
46. The Cine-workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
47. The Cine-workers Welfare Cess Act, 1981 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
48. The Cine-workers and Cinema Theatre Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1981.
49. The Pensions (Amendment) Act, 1982 amending the Pensions Act, 1871.

50. The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund (Repeal) Act, 1986.
51. The Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1986.
52. The Labour Welfare Fund Laws (Amendment) Act, 1987.
53. The Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Register by certain Establishment) Act, 1988.
54. The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993.
55. The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
56. The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996.
57. The Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996.

### **SOCIAL**

1. The Displaced Persons (Claims) Act, 1952.
2. The Abducted Persons (Recovery and Restoration) Amendment Act, 1952 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
3. The Rehabilitation Finance Administration Act, 1953 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
4. The Displaced Persons (Claims) Supplementary Act, 1954.
5. The Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
6. The Special Marriage Act, 1954.
7. The Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
8. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
9. The Abducted Persons (Recovery and Restoration) Continuance Act, 1955 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
10. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 1956 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
11. The Hindu Succession Act, 1956.
12. The Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956.

13. The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
14. The Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Act, 1956.
15. The Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1956.
16. The Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
17. The Women's and Children's Institution (Licensing) Act, 1956.
18. The Indian Succession (Amendment) Act, 1957 (amending the Indian Succession Act, 1925) and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
19. The Probation of Offenders Act, 1958.
20. The Public Wakfs (Extension of Limitation) Act, 1959 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
21. The Wakf (Amendment) Act, 1959 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
22. The Public Debt (Amendment) Act, 1959.
23. The Married Women's Property (Extension) Act, 1959 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
24. The Orphanages and Other Charitable Homes (Supervision and Control) Act, 1960.
25. The Hindu Marriages (Validation of Proceedings) Act, 1960.
26. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
27. The Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969.
28. The Foreign Marriage Act, 1969.
29. The Untouchability (Offences) Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1976.
30. The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Act, 1976 and the subsequent Amendment Acts.
31. The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 1978 amending the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929.
32. The Anti-Apartheid (United Nations Convention) Act, 1981.
33. The Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Act, 1982 amending the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890.



34. The Hindu Widow's Re-marriage (Repeal) Act, 1983.
35. The Lepers (Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh (Repeal) Act, 1983.
36. The Juvenile Justice Act, 1986.
37. The Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 2002.

## SOURCES CONSULTED

1. Sudarshan Agarwal, ***"Parliament as an Instrument of Social Change"***, in ***Triumph of Democracy***, edited by C.K. Jain, Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi, 1993.
2. Ghulam Nabi Azad, ***"Parliament and Social Change"***, in ***Triumph of Democracy***, edited by C.K. Jain, Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi, 1993.
3. Liyakat Ali, ***"Unorganised Labour and the Legislative Measures for their Welfare"*** in ***Social Action***, Vol.47, No.2, April-June 1997, New Delhi.
4. Shamala Pappu, ***"Role of Parliament In Empowerment of Women"*** in ***Fifty Years of Indian Parliament***, edited by G.C. Malhotra, Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi, 2002.
5. Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, ***The People, the Parliament and the Administration***, Metropolitan, New Delhi, 1982.
6. Yagya Datt Sharma, ***"Parliament and Social Change"***, ***Journal of Parliamentary Information***, Vol.XXIV, No.2, April-June, 1978.
7. P.M. Bakshi, ***"Parliament and Social Change"*** in the ***Constitution and the Parliament of India***, edited by S.L. Shakhder, National Publishing House, Delhi, 1976.
8. Jivan Mehta, ***"Parliament and Social Change"***, ***The Constitution and the Parliament of India***, edited by S.L. Shakhder, National Publishing House, Delhi, 1976.
9. S. Gopalan, ***"Towards Partnership between Men and Women in Politics: the Indian Scenario in the Parliament of India"***, ***The Eleventh Lok Sabha, 1996-97***, Lok Sabha Secretariat, 1999, New Delhi.