

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

**A
BILL**

further to amend the National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012 (No. VIII of 2012).

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012 for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act, 2016.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 16 Act VIII of 2012.**- In the National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012 (No. VIII of 2012), in section 16, for sub-section (2), the following new sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

“(2) The Government shall lay biannual report of the Commission, together with explanatory memorandum as to the action taken thereon before both Houses and shall stand referred to Standing Committee on Human Rights of both Houses.”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

To recognize the venerability of women in the country, special laws were framed One of the prime legislation in this regard is establishment of National Commission on the Status of Women.

The National Commission on the Status of Women was formed through an Act of the Parliament and the Parliamentary Committee confirms the name of its Chairperson. However, it has been observed that the Parliamentary Committee after confirming the Chairperson of the Commission becomes redundant. Though, a provision of the National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012 calls upon the Government to place an annual report of the Commission before the Parliament. But since then, an annual report hasn't been placed before the Parliament even after 3 years of the establishment of the Commission. Likewise, the present Act does not make it mandatory on the Government to apprise the Parliament on the nature of actions that have been/ are being taken on the report/ recommendations of the Commission. Thus, this amendment will ensure that not only a biannual report of the Commission will be presented and debated upon in the Parliament and committees thereof, but also be attached therewith an explanatory memorandum as what actions have been taken thereon by the Government. This amendment will indeed enhance the role of Parliament and make National Commission on the Status of Women more effective.

Sd/-

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Members, National Assembly.**