

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

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BILL

further to amend the Rulers of Acceding States (Abolition of Privy Purses and Privileges) Order, 1972

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Rulers of Acceding States (Abolition of Privy Purses and Privileges) Order, 1972 (P.O. No.15 of 1972), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.** - (1) This Act may be called the Rulers of Acceding States (Abolition of Privy Purses and Privileges) (Amendment) Act, 2017.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of Article 5, Order 15 of 1972.** - In the Rulers of Acceding States (Abolition of Privy Purses and Privileges) Order, 1972 (P.O. No.15 of 1972), in Article 5, after clause (2), the following new clause shall be added, namely:-

“(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (1) and subject to clause (2), the Federal Government may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, increase maintenance allowance of a Ruler or, as the case may be, a dependent of a Ruler.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Article 5 (a & b) of the Rulers of Acceding States (Abolition of Privy Purses and Privileges) Order, 1972 (P.O. No.15 of 1972) do not provide for enhancement in maintenance allowance as proposed by the Cabinet. The maintenance allowance was sanctioned to the Rulers of Acceding States or their dependents in lieu of privy purses at the relevant time but due to inflationary pressure has lost its worth. The Cabinet, therefore, in its meeting held on 24th May, 2006 read with Cabinet Decision dated 15.11.2007, decided to enhance the monthly maintenance allowance to ex-rulers of all merged and acceding States and their dependents by 200% subject to minimum allowance of Rs.25,000 per annum. Besides, the Cabinet in its meeting held on 15.7.2016 approved the Amendment to the "Rulers of Acceding States (Abolition of Privy Purses and Privileges) Order, 1972. This object can be achieved by suitably amending the provisions of Article 5 of the Presidential Order No.15 of 1972.

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MINISTER-IN-CHARGE