

Bill No. 67 of 2008

THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008

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BILL

further to amend the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Vice-President's Pension (Amendment) Act, 2008.

Short title and commencement.

(2) Clause (i) of section 2 shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of January, 2006 and the remaining provisions of this Act shall come into force at once.

30 of 1997.

2. In section 2 of the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act),—

Amendment of section 2.

(i) in sub-section (1), for the words “of twenty thousand rupees”, the words “at the rate of fifty per cent. of the salary of the Vice-President” shall be substituted;

(ii) in sub-section (2), for clause (c), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(c) to secretarial staff consisting of a Private Secretary, an Additional Private Secretary, a Personal Assistant and two Peons and office expenses not exceeding sixty thousand rupees per annum.”

Amendment
of section 3A.

3. In section 3A of the principal Act, for the words “unfurnished residence”, the words and brackets “furnished residence (including its maintenance)” shall be substituted.

Insertion of
new section 6.

4. After section 5 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

Power to
remove
difficulties.

“6. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act as amended by the Vice-President’s Pension (Amendment) Act, 2008, the Central Government may, by order, do anything not inconsistent with such provisions for the purpose of removing the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiration of two years from the date on which this Act comes into force.

(2) Every order made under sub-section (1) shall be laid before each House of Parliament.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997, former Vice-Presidents are entitled to a pension of rupees twenty thousand per mensem for remainder of his life. The salary of the Vice-President is being increased with effect from 1st January, 2006 in order to bring parity in the salaries of constitutional functionaries. Therefore, it is proposed to make a former Vice-President entitled to a pension at the rate of fifty per cent. of the salary of the Vice-President per mensem with effect from 1st January, 2006.

2. The former Vice-Presidents are also entitled to one Personal Assistant and one Peon and rupees twelve thousand per annum as office expenses. In order to maintain parity with other dignitaries, it is proposed that the strength of the personal staff of a former Vice-President be increased by providing a Private Secretary, an Additional Private Secretary and an extra Peon. Further, keeping in view the inflation over the years, the office expenses are proposed to be increased from rupees twelve thousand per annum to rupees sixty thousand per annum.

3. The spouse of a deceased Vice-President is entitled to an unfurnished accommodation without maintenance. In order to maintain parity in extension of various facilities to the spouses of deceased Presidents, it is proposed to make the spouse of a deceased Vice-President also entitled to a furnished residence including its maintenance.

4. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objects.

NEW DELHI;
The 15th October, 2008.

SHIVRAJ V. PATIL.

PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION UNDER ARTICLE 117 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

[Copy of letter No. 10/19/96-M&G dated the 21st October, 2008 from Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Minister of Home Affairs to the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha]

The President, having been informed of the subject matter of the Vice-President's Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2008, recommends the introduction of the Bill in Lok Sabha under article 117(1) of the Constitution as also the consideration of the Bill by Lok Sabha under article 117(3) of the Constitution.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 2 of the Bill provides for an increase in the pension of the former Vice-President and facilities of additional secretarial staff consisting of a Private Secretary, an Additional Private Secretary and a Peon and increased office expenses of rupees sixty thousand per annum to a former Vice-President.

2. Clause 3 of the Bill provides for an increase in the entitlement of the spouses of deceased Vice-Presidents to furnished residence (including its maintenance) for the remainder of his or her life.

3. The implementation of aforesaid provisions would involve certain expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that the additional expenditure on pension under sub-clause (i) of clause 2 of the Bill will be of the order of rupees seven lakh sixty-five thousand per annum. Also an additional non-recurring expenditure of rupees twelve lakh ninety-six thousand two hundred and fifty towards arrears in pension will be there. The expenditure on provision of additional secretarial staff and increased office expenses under sub-clause (ii) of clause 2 of the Bill will be of the order of rupees thirteen lakh fifty-two thousand seven hundred and forty-eight approximately as per percent rates. It is not feasible to assess as the expenditure under clause 3 of the Bill on providing furnished accommodation to the spouses of deceased Vice-President as the actual expenditure has to be reimbursed.

4. This Bill, if enacted, will not incur any other recurring or non-recurring expenditure.

ANNEXURE

EXTRACTS FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S PENSION ACT, 1997

(30 OF 1997)

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2. (1) * * * * *

(2) Subject to any rules that may be made in this behalf, every such person shall, for the remainder of his life, be entitled—

Pension to retiring Vice-Presidents.

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(c) to secretarial staff; and office expenses not exceeding rupees twelve thousand per annum;

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3A. Subject to any rules that may be made in this behalf, the spouse of a person who dies—

Free accommodation to spouse of Vice-President.

(a) while holding the office of Vice-President, or

(b) after ceasing to hold office as Vice-President either by the expiration of his term of office or by resignation of his office,

shall be entitled to the use of unfurnished residence without payment of licence fee, for the remainder of her life.

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LOK SABHA

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BILL

further to amend the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997.

(Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Minister of Home Affairs)