



# Standing Committee Report Summary

## The Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2011

- The Standing Committee on Home Affairs, chaired by Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, submitted its 157<sup>th</sup> Report on 'The Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2011' on March 28, 2012.
- The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 12, 2011. It seeks to amend the Arms Act, 1959 that lays down the law with respect to arms and ammunition.
- Section 7 of the Act forbids the manufacture, sale, and use of prohibited arms and ammunition unless it has been specially authorised by the central government. Section 27(3) prescribes that any contravention of Section 7 that results in the death of any person 'shall be punishable with death'.
- The Bill amends the Act to replace the mandatory death sentence. Under the Bill violators 'shall be punishable with death or imprisonment for life and shall also be liable to fine'.

### Recommendations of the Committee

The Standing Committee recommended that the Bill be referred to the Law Commission of India for a detailed examination of the issues involved.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> It is noteworthy that in a recent judgment dated February 01, 2012 (in State of Punjab vs. Dalbir Singh), the Supreme Court has declared the 'mandatory' death penalty prescribed under the Act as unconstitutional.

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