

Standing Committee Report Summary

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2011

- The Standing Committee on Home Affairs, chaired by Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, presented its 160th Report on 'The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2011' on March 28, 2012.
- The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 29, 2011. It seeks to amend the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. It increases the period for which an association can be declared as unlawful from two years to five years. It expands the definition of 'terrorist act' to include acts that threaten the economic security of India through production, smuggling or circulation of 'high quality' counterfeit currency.
- The Bill also expands the definition of 'person' to a 'Hindu Undivided Family' (HUF) and 'an association of persons or a body of individuals'. In addition, it inserts new sections to include offences by companies, societies or trusts.
- The Committee felt that bringing an 'association of persons or a body of individuals' under the definition of 'person' gives leverage to the investigating officer and could lead to harassment. The Committee recommended that the Ministry include safeguards to prevent such harassment.
- The Committee recommended that the definition of the term 'economic security' should be included in the Bill.
- The Committee recommended that the minimum punishment for raising funds for terrorist activities should be raised to seven years, so as to provide a stronger deterrent.

Recommendations of the Committee

Some key recommendations of the Committee include:

- The Committee recommended that 'Hindu Undivided Family' should not be included in the expanded definition of 'person'. The Committee felt that a 'person' means a person only and the terminology should be restricted to its general usage in criminal law.

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