
A BILL

further to amend the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; it is hereby enacted in the Sixty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

1. This Act may be called the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2018.
2. In section 73AAA of the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960 (hereafter referred to as “the principal Act”), in sub-section (3), after the words “co-terminus with the term of the committee” the words “and on the expiry of the term of the committee, the members shall be deemed to have vacated their offices as members of the committee” shall be added.

3. In section 73CB of the principal Act, for sub-section (15), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:

“(15) Where in respect of any society, the term of its committee has expired before the date of commencement of Maharashtra Co-operative Society (Amendment) Act, 2018, the election to such committee shall be held by State Co-operative Election Authority within a period of six months from the date of such commencement:

Provided that, in respect of such a society, the committee shall continue to hold the office till such a period of six months or declaration of results of election of such a society whichever is earlier:

Provided further that, in case of society doing business of banking, the requisition made or guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India or the National Bank shall prevail.”.

4. In section 166 of the principal Act, sub-section (4) shall be deleted.
STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960 (Mah. XXIV of 1961), governs all the co-operative societies having different objects, classifications and sub-classifications. The provisions of the said Act governs the management aspect of the co-operative societies and protects the interest of its members.

Sub-section (3) of section 73AAA provides that, the term of the office of the elected members of the committee and its office bearers shall be five years from the date of election and the term of the office bearers shall be co-terminus with the term of the committee. When election could not be held before the expiry of the term of the committee, the present committee has to continue to work till the new committee comes in existence, which is violating the earlier provisions under section 73AAA, that is term of five years and as such, in such circumstances, there is a need to amend section 73AAA, by additional provision thereby, enabling the Registrar to undertake the action as contemplated by section 77A.

As per the provisions of section 73CB of the said Act, all elections of the Co-operative Societies are to be conducted by the State Co-operative Election Authority. As per sub-section (15) of the said section 73CB, election to the committee and consequent election to the office bearers which is due on the date of commencement of the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2013 (Mah. XVI of 2013), or may become due after such date, until 31st March 2013 shall be held before the 30th June 2015. The State Co-operative Election Authority, since 11th September 2014, that is the date on which the said authority was established, is conducting elections for more than three years and the elections of majority of Co-operative Societies have been completed. However, in cases where the Co-operative Societies whose election have not been held due to certain reasons, it is not lawful that the committee of such societies shall continue to hold its office even after the expiry of its term. In view of this, it is proposed to substitute sub-section (15) of the said section 73CB to provide that, in cases of committees, whose term has expired, the State Co-operative Election Authority shall hold election to such a committee within a period of six months from the date of commencement of the proposed Act and such a committee shall continue to hold the office till a period of six months from the date of such commencement or declaration of results of election of members of committee of such society, whichever is earlier.

It is also proposed to delete sub-section (4) of section 166 of the said Act to make it in consonance with section 73CB and 73I of the said Act.

2. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

Mumbai, dated the 22nd March, 2018.

SUBHASH DESHMUKH,
Minister for Co-operation.