

Standing Committee Report Summary

The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2014

- The Standing Committee on Law and Justice submitted its report on the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2014 on December 18, 2014. The Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on September 11, 2014 and was referred to the Committee on September 19, 2014.
- The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2014 deals with 38 Acts in all. It seeks to repeal 36 Acts, of which four are principal Acts, and 32 are amending Acts. Further, it seeks to pass minor amendments to two other laws. We present salient recommendations of the Committee.
- **Passage of the Bill:** The Committee recommended that the Bill be passed. However, it stated that the Employment of Manual Scavenging and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993, one of the 4 principal acts, must not be repealed.
- **Manual Scavenging Act, 1993:** The Committee noted that the Manual Scavenging Act, 1993 was enacted by Parliament in exercise of its powers under Article 252 of the Constitution. Article 252 permits Parliament to legislate on a matter that it is not otherwise empowered to, if states pass resolutions to that effect.

Therefore, the Constitution also requires that the state legislatures pass resolutions to this effect, for the act to be repealed. Thus, the Committee recommended that the Act not be repealed unless the centre receives resolutions from the concerned state legislatures as mandated by the Constitution.
- **Amending Acts:** In the context of amending acts, the Committee suggested that the government should consider providing a sunset clause for their automatic repeal. This would ensure that they do not remain in the statute books after their purpose is achieved.
- **Simplifying laws:** The Committee also noted that the law must be drafted in an easy and understandable language.

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