

Bill Summary

The Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2018

- The Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2018 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister of State for Culture, Mr. Mahesh Sharma, on December 28, 2018. It amends the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951.
- The Act was enacted to provide for the erection and management of a National Memorial to perpetuate the memory of those killed or wounded on April 13, 1919, in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar. In addition, it provides for a Trust to manage the National Memorial.
- **Composition of Trustees:** Under the 1951 Act, the Trustees of the Memorial include: (i) the Prime Minister, as Chairperson, (ii) the President of the Indian National Congress, (iii) the Minister in-charge of Culture, (iv) the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, (v) the Governor of Punjab, (vi) the Chief Minister of Punjab, and (vii) three eminent persons nominated by the central government. The Bill amends this provision to remove the President of the Indian National Congress as a Trustee. Further, it clarifies that when there is no Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, then the leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha will be the Trustee.
- The Act provides that the three trustees nominated by the central government will have a term of five years and will be eligible for re-nomination. The Bill allows the central government to terminate the term of such a nominated trustee before the expiry of his term without assigning any reason.

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