



ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ రాజపత్రము

**THE ANDHRA PRADESH GAZETTE**

**PART IV-A EXTRAORDINARY**

**PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY**

No. 12 ] AMARAVATI, WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2024.

**ANDHRA PRADESH BILLS  
ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The following Bill was introduced in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

**L. A. Bill No. 12 of 2024**

**A BILL FURTHER TO AMEND THE ANDHRA PRADESH PANCHAYAT  
RAJ ACT, 1994.**

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Andhra Pradesh in the Seventy-Fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

- (1) This Act may be called the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Act, 2024. Short title and commencement,

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification, in the Andhra Pradesh Gazette, appoint.
- In the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1994, in section 19, sub-section (3) along with the provisos thereunder shall be omitted. Amendment to Section 19. Act No. 13 of 1994.



### **STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

The "Two Children norm" in sub section (3) of section 19, which disqualifies individuals with more than two Children from contesting Local Body Elections was introduced into the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act while framing the Act in 1994 (Act No. 13 of 1994). The APPR Act 1994 came into effect from the 30<sup>th</sup> May 1994. The objective of adopting the norm was to control the population explosion prevailed in 1980-1990s which was regarded as a dangerous trend to nation's food security and linked to poverty related issues like malnutrition, unemployment, disease, reduced productivity etc., (Which hamper the health, education, social and economical wellbeing of a nation.)

Accordingly, the population control measures were adopted by several state Governments. The state of Andhra Pradesh has gone a step ahead and introduced the "Two Children norm" in the Local Body Elections.

After 30 years of implementation of Two Children norm (in the elections held to the 3 tiers of Panchayat Raj Institutions namely Gram Panchayats, Mandal PrajaParishads and ZillaPrajaParishads), the Government reviewed the population policy for the State of Andhra Pradesh and observed the following:-

According to National Family Health Survey (NFFIS-5) the Total Fertility Rate(TFR) has dropped from 3.7 children in 1992-93 to 2.1 children in 2019-21 in rural areas, reflecting a significant decrease.

This decline can be attributed to various factors including increased awareness on family planning, improved healthcare, higher literacy in especially women and enhanced financial stability. A decline in TFR, implies lower birth rate, which in turn will result in old age population. The NFHS survey shows that the share of under-15 population in the country has therefore further declined from 28.6% in 2015-16 to 26.5% in 2019-21.

Thus, it is observed that, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in the state of Andhra Pradesh is reported at 1.6 where as the optimal replacement rate is estimated at 2.1. If the Total Fertility Rate is allowed to continue at 1.6 level, it will become dis-advantageous to the demographic dividend for the state of Andhra Pradesh in the future. Considering the importance of



the future of next generations in the State and based on the feedback received from elected representatives of PRIs, the Government felt it desirable to maintain the optimal replacement rate at 2.1.

*Further, while the intention behind the two- children norm was to address the ill effects of population explosion, it's practical implications and effectiveness need reassessment in the light of current demographic realities. With TFR decreasing and family sizes naturally shrinking, the direct impact of this provision on population control is diminishing. Thus, the norm may inadvertently exclude potentially capable candidates from local governance, irrespective of their qualifications and ability to contribute effectively. ”*

The Government's contention to review and potentially omit the two-children norm from AP Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 is timely and supported by demographic data and evolving societal norms. By aligning legislation with current fertility trends and democratic principles, the state can foster a more inclusive and representative system of local governance.

As such, the amendment to the Act would reflect a progressive step towards ensuring that electoral eligibility criteria are fair, equitable, and conducive to effective local governance.

Thus, in view of the circumstances enunciated above, Government have decided to "omit" sub-section (3) of Section 19 of the AP Panchayat Raj Act 1994 (Act 13 of 1994) considering the prevailing situation of declining Total Fertility Rate (TFR) as discussed above. The amendment would facilitate that a person having more than two children shall be qualified hereafter for contesting election.

The bill seeks to give effect to the above decision.

**KONIDALA PAWAN KALYAN,**  
Deputy Chief Minister,  
PR&RD, RWS and EFS&T.



**MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION**

Clause 1 (2) of the Bill authorize the Government to issue notification in respect of matters specified therein. The notification so issued which is intended to cover matters mostly of procedural in nature is to be laid on the table Legislature of the State and will be subject to any modification made by the Legislature.

The above provision of the Bill regarding Delegated Legislation are thus of a normal type and are mainly intended to cover matters of procedure.

**KONIDALA PAWAN KALYAN,**  
Depuy Chief Minister,  
PR&RD, RWS and EFS&T.



**MEMORANDUM UNDER RULE 95 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THE ANDHRA PRADESH  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.**

The Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2024 after it is passed by the Legislature of the State may be submitted to the Governor for his assent under article 200 of the Constitution of India.

**KONIDALA PAWAN KALYAN,**  
Deputy Chief Minister,  
PR&RD, RWS and EFS&T.

**PRASANNA KUMAR SURYADEVARA,**  
Secretary-General to State Legislature.