A BILL further to amend the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016.

WHEREAS both Houses of the State Legislature were not in session;

AND WHEREAS the Governor of Maharashtra was satisfied that circumstances existed which rendered it necessary for him to take immediate action further to amend the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; and therefore, promulgated the Maharashtra Public Universities (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, on the 8th December 2020;

AND WHEREAS, it is expedient to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature; it is hereby enacted in the Seventy-first Year of the Republic of India as follows :-

(1)
1. (1) This Act may be called the Maharashtra Public Universities (Second Amendment) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 8th December 2020.

2. In section 109 of the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”),—

(1) in sub-section (3), in clause (d), after the second proviso, the following proviso shall be inserted, namely :

“Provided further that, with a view to extend the date of making application for opening a new college or institution of higher learning, scrutiny of application by Board of Deans and forwarding with the approval of Management Council to the State Government and grant of a Letter of Intent by the State Government, for the year 2020-2021, the day or dates referred to in clauses (a), (c) and (d) of sub-section (3), as specified in column (2) of the Table hereto, shall be read as provided in column (3) of the said Table :

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clauses</th>
<th>Day or date provided in existing provision</th>
<th>Day or date provided for Academic Year 2021-22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a)</td>
<td>before the last day of September of the year preceding the year in which the Letter of Intent is sought.</td>
<td>on or before 31st December 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c)</td>
<td>on or before 30th of November of the year in which such application is received by the University.</td>
<td>on or before 28th February 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d)</td>
<td>on or before 31st January of the immediately following year.</td>
<td>on or before 15th April 2021.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) in sub-section (4), after clause (a), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely :

“Provided that, the Management seeking permission to start a new course of study, subject, faculty, additional division or satellite center from academic year 2021-22, may apply to the Registrar on or before the 31st December 2020.”.

3. (1) The Maharashtra Public Universities (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken (including any notification or order issued) under the corresponding provisions of the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done, taken or issued, as the case may be, under the corresponding provisions of the principal Act, as amended by this Act.
STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS

Section 109 of the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 (Mah. VI of 2017), provides for the procedure for permission for opening new college or new course, subject, faculty, division or satellite center. Clause (a) of sub-section (3) of said section 109 provides that, management seeking a Letter of Intent for opening a new college or institution of higher learning shall apply in a prescribed format to the Registrar before the last day of September of the preceding the year in which the Letter of Intent is sought. Clause (c) of the said sub-section (3) provides that, the application received within the prescribed time limit shall be scrutinized by the Board of Deans and be forwarded to the State Government with the approval of Management Council on or before the 30th November of the year in which such application is received by the University. Clause (d) thereof provides that, the State Government may grant a Letter of Intent on or before 31st January of the immediately following year after recommendation of the University. Similarly, clause (a) of sub-section (4) of said section 109 provides that, the management seeking permission to start a new course of study, subject, faculty, additional division or satellite center shall apply to the Registrar before the last day of the September of the preceding year in which the permission is sought.

2. Due to the outbreak of Corona virus (Covid-19), the procedure for permission for opening of a new college or a new course, subject, discipline, faculty, additional division or satellite center could not be carried out within the prescribed period and it was considered expedient to specify the new time schedule for the same, for the relevant academic year.

For the purpose, it was considered expedient to amend the said section 109, suitably, so as to specify the new time Schedule providing for,—

(a) the date for making application for opening a new college or institution of higher learning,

(b) the date of scrutiny of application by the Board of Deans and forwarding the same with the approval of the Management Council to the State Government,

(c) the date of grant of a Letter of Intent by the State Government, and

(d) the date of making application for seeking permission to start a new course of study, subjects, faculties, additional divisions or satellite centers.

3. As both Houses of the State Legislature were not in session and the Governor of Maharashtra was satisfied that circumstances existed which rendered it necessary for him to take immediate action further to amend the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 (Mah. VI of 2017), for the purposes aforesaid, the Maharashtra Public Universities (Second Amendnent) Ordinance, 2020 (Mah. Ord. XXI of 2020), was promulgated by the Governor of Maharashtra on the 8th December 2020.

4. The Bill is intended to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature.

Mumbai, 
Dated the 11th December 2020.

UDAY SAMANT,
Minister for Higher and Technical Education.