

Under Rule 130 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules, the following Bill which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tamil Nadu on 1st November 2012 is published together with Statement of Objects and Reasons for general information:—

**L.A. Bill No. 44 of 2012**

***A Bill further to amend the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994.***

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tamil Nadu in the Sixty-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994.	<p><b>1.</b> (1) This Act may be called the Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Second Amendment) Act, 2012.</p> <p>(2) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification, appoint.</p> <p><b>2.</b> In section 37 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in sub-section (3), for clause (a), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">“(a) of unsound mind;”.</p> <p><b>3.</b> In section 38 of the principal Act, in sub-section (3), for clause (a), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">“(a) becomes of unsound mind;”.</p>	Short title and commencement.
		Amendment of section 37.
		Amendment of section 38.

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.**

In Tamil Nadu, 3% of the population are differently-abled. Among the differently-abled, there are many people with high educational qualification and capability of communication skills. However, deaf-mute category of people are disqualified to contest the elections under the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 (Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994), which is not justifiable. Therefore, the Government have decided to amend the said Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994 by omitting the expression "or a deaf-mute" in clause (a) of sub-section (3) of sections 37 and 38 of the said Act.

2. The Bill seeks to give effect to the above decision.

**K.P. MUNUSAMY,**  
*Minister for Municipal Administration  
and Rural Development.*

**A.M.P. JAMALUDEEN,**  
*Secretary.*