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PART IV—Bills introduced in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly; Reports of Select Committees presented or to be presented to that Assembly; and Bills published before introduction in that Assembly.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

LAW DEPARTMENT

Legislative

NOTIFICATION

No. 82-L.— 2nd February, 2026.—The Governor having been pleased to order, under rule 66 of the Rules

of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, the publication of the following Bill, together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons which accompanies it, in the *Kolkata Gazette*, the Bill and the Statement of Objects and Reasons are accordingly hereby published for general information:—

Bill No. 1 of 2026

THE BENGAL VAGRANCY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026.

A
BILL

to amend the Bengal Vagrancy Act, 1943.

WHEREAS the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (s) (Civil) No. (s) 83/2010 (Federation of Lepy. Organ. (Folo) & Anr. –Vs– Union of India & Ors) on 07.05.2025 *inter-alia* directed the State Government to identify the State Laws, pre or post Constitution where the discriminatory expressions in respect of leprosy affected or cured persons are still part of the statute book and to take necessary steps to remove such discriminatory provision(s);

*The Bengal Vagrancy (Amendment) Bill, 2026.**(Clauses 1, 2.)*

AND WHEREAS it has been identified that the Bengal Vagrancy Act, 1943 contains discriminatory expressions in respect of leprosy affected persons;

Ben. Act VII of
1943.

NOW THEREFORE it is expedient to amend the Bengal Vagrancy Act, 1943, for the purpose stated above and in the manner hereinafter appearing by treating “communicable Leprosy” only as a communicable disease like other communicable diseases;

It is hereby enacted in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India, by the Legislature of West Bengal, as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Bengal Vagrancy (Amendment) Act, 2026.

Short title and
commencement.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, appoint.

2. In the Bengal Vagrancy Act, 1943, —

Amendment of
Ben. Act VII of
1943.

(1) in sub-section (3) of section 8,

(i) clause (b) shall be omitted;

(ii) for clause (c), the following clause shall be substituted:—

“(c) whether the vagrant is suffering from any communicable disease;”;

(2) in sub-section (3) of section 9,—

(i) clause (a) shall be omitted;

(ii) for clause (c), the following clause shall be substituted:—

“(c) those suffering from any communicable disease;”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The Hon’ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No. (s) 83/2010 (Federation of Lepy. Organ. (Folo) & Anr. –Vs– Union of India & Ors) on 07.05.2025 *inter-alia* directed the State Government to identify the State Laws, pre or post Constitution where the discriminatory expressions in respect of leprosy affected or cured persons are still part of the statute book and to take necessary steps to remove such discriminatory provision(s) and the State Government in compliance of the said direction has identified the Bengal Vagrancy Act, 1943, which contains discriminatory expressions in respect of leprosy affected persons;

2. The Bill, namely the Bengal Vagrancy (Amendment) Bill, 2026, seeks to make certain amendments in sub-section (3) of section 8 and in sub-section (3) of section 9 of the Bengal Vagrancy Act, 1943, to remove discriminatory provision(s) in respect of leprosy affected persons by treating “communicable Leprosy” only as a communicable disease like other communicable diseases.

The Bengal Vagrancy (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

3. The Bill has been framed with the above objects in view.
4. There is no financial implication involved in giving effect to the provisions of the Bill.

KOLKATA:
The 29 th January, 2026.

DR. SHASHI PANJA,
Member-in-charge.

By order of the Governor,

SUBHRADIP MITRA,
*Pr. Secy. to the Govt. of West Bengal,
Law Department.*