

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

BILL

further to amend certain Election Laws

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend certain Elections Laws for the purposes hereinafter appearing:

It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. **Short title and Commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2014.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 49, Act LXXXV of 1976.** - In the Representation of People Act, 1976 (LXXXV of 1976), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 49, after sub-section (3), the following sub-section (4), shall be inserted, namely:-

“(4) A candidate shall open a dedicated single bank account in a scheduled bank for election expenses and except as otherwise provided in this section or by the Election Commission, make all payment of election expenses from that account.”

3. **Insertion of new section 51A, Act LXXXV of 1976.** - In the said Act, after section 51, the following new section 51A, shall be inserted, namely:-

“51A. **Publication of declaration.**- (1) The Returning Officer shall immediately after the receipt of a declaration under this chapter transmit a copy of the declaration to the Election Commission.

(2) The Election Commission shall immediately publish the declarations submitted by the candidates on its website on receipt of the same from the Returning Officer.”

4. **Amendment of section 13, Chief Executive’s Order No. 18 of 2002.**- In the Political Parties Order, 2002 (Chief Executive’s Order No. 18 of 2002), in section 13,

(a) in sub section (1), after paragraph (a) , the following new paragraph (aa), shall be inserted, namely:-

“(aa) details of bank accounts with credit debit statement of each such account;”

(b) after sub-section (2), the following new sub-section (3), shall be inserted, namely:-

“(3) The Election Commission shall, within thirty days of submission of consolidated statement of accounts by a political party, publish it on its website.

5. Insertion of new section 7C, Chief Executive's Order No. 01 of 2002.- In the Election Commission Order, 2002, (Chief Executive's Order No. 01 of 2002), after section 7B, the following new section 7C, shall be inserted, namely:-

**"7C. Electoral and political finances unit.-** (1) The Election Commission shall establish an electoral and political finances unit for monitoring, audit and publication of election expenses.

(1) The Election Commission may specify detailed procedures for monitoring, audit and publication of election expenses by the electoral and political finances unit."

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

The aforementioned amendments in the Representation of the People's Act, 1976 and the Election Commission Order, 2002 are required to improve transparency and accountability in funding and expenditures for the election Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and UN Convention against Corruption.

2. The Bill seeks to achieve above said objectives.

Sd/-

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