

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE  
(1999-2000)**

**(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**

**THE REHABILITATION COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2000  
(AS INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA)**

**SIXTH REPORT**

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**JULY, 2000/SRAVANA, 1922(Saka)**

## **CONTENTS**

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

APPENDIX: The Rehabilitation Council of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

ANNEXURE: Minutes of the Tenth sitting of the Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2000.

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE (**  
**1999-2000)**

**Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora-Chairman**

**MEMBERS**  
**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Daud Ahmad
3. Shri Alam Amir
4. Shri Ashok Argal
5. Shri Denzil B. Atkinson
6. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay
7. Smt. Sandhya Bauri
8. Shri Joachim Baxla
9. Shri Ambati Brahmaniah
10. Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai Chaudhuri
11. Smt. Phoolan Devi
12. Shri Krishan Lal Diler
13. Shri Virendra Kumar
14. Shri C. Kuppusami
15. Shri Parsuram Majhi
16. Shri Brahma Nand Mandal
17. Shri Ramjee Manjhi
18. Shri Bherulal Meena
19. Shri Rupchand Murmu
20. Shri Raj Narain Passi
21. Shri R.S. Patil
22. Shri Madhab Rajbangshi
23. Shri P.A. Sangma
24. Shri Ram Shakal
25. Shri Charanjit Singh
26. Shri Khelsai Singh
27. Dr. Ram Lakhani Singh
28. Shri Mansukhbhai Vasava
29. Dr. N. Venkataswamy

**RAJYA SABHA**

30. Shri Ram Kumar Anand
31. Shri B.P. Apte
32. Dr. (Mrs.) P. Selvie Das
33. Shri Mohd. Azam Khan
34. Shri Ramachandra Khuntia
35. Shri Fali S. Nariman
36. Shri C.O. Poulse

37. Shri Mirza Abdul Rashid
38. Shri Ka.Ra Subbian,
39. Ms. Frida Topno

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri Joginder Singh- Joint Secretary
2. Shri J.P.Sharma-Deputy Secretary
3. Shri B.D. Swan - Under Secretary
4. Shri S.K.Saxena- Committee Officer

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (1999-2000) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the report on their behalf present this Sixth Report on **The Rehabilitation Council of India (Amendment) Bill,2000** of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

2. The Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 2 May, 2000 and was referred to the Committee by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha under Rule 331E(b) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha for examination and Report.

3. The Committee wish to express their sincere thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for placing before them detailed written notes on the subject and for furnishing the information the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Bill.

4. The Committee considered the Bill clause-by-clause and also considered and adopted their Report on **The Rehabilitation Council of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000** at their sitting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2000.

**NEW DELHI;**  
**25 July, 2000**  
**3 Sravana,1922(Saka)**

**DR.SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA**  
**Chairman,**  
**Standing Committee on**  
**Labour and Welfare.**

## REPORT

The Committee was informed that the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 came into force on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1993. The Act conferred statutory status on the Rehabilitation Council which was set up in 1986 as a registered society. The Council is responsible for laying down training policies and programmes for various categories of professionals in the area of disability. In addition, the Act, inter alia provides for the maintenance of a Central Rehabilitation Register for professionals possessing recognised qualifications in the area of rehabilitation.

2. The Committee was further informed that the main reasons for bringing the amendments are:

1. to make its implementation more effective and broad based;
2. to bring the Act in consonance with the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995;
3. recognising professionals working in the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres and National Institutes; and
4. exempting medical professionals in some specific disciplines from registration under RCI Act (physical medicine, rehabilitation, orthopaedics, ENT, ophthalmic, Psychiatry and para medics).

3. The Rehabilitation Council of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000 seeks to amend the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 to achieve the following objectives:

**(i) Preamble of the Act** is proposed to be expanded so as to include promotion of research in rehabilitation and special education as one of the mandates assigned to Rehabilitation Council of India.

**(ii) Chapter I, Section 2( i) Clauses ( c ),(d),(e),(h) and (o)** – Definition of ‘handicapped’, ‘locomotor disability’, ‘mental retardation’ and ‘visually handicapped’ are proposed to be brought in tune with the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. It is also proposed to add a new clause to define ‘rehabilitation’ on the lines given in PWD Act, 1995 as ‘rehabilitation’ has not been defined.

**(iii) Chapter II, Section 3(3) – sub-clauses (a) & (b)** – to specify the experience and qualification of the Chairperson and to increase the number of members representing the Ministries of Central Government from the prescribed three to a maximum of seven.

**(iv) Chapter III, -**

**(a) Section 13(2)** – to exempt medical professionals in specific disciplines from registration under the Act on the recommendation of the Ministry of Health.

**(b) Section 19** – to add two provisos so as to make it obligatory on RCI to register the personnel working in Vocational Rehabilitation Centres of the Ministry of Labour and National Institutes under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on recommendations of the respective Ministry.

**(c) Section 22** – the limitation period for appeal is being increased from 30 days to 60 days.

**5. The Committee note that the term ‘special education’ used in the Rehabilitation Council of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000 has not been defined in Clause 3 of the Bill which is one of the essential qualifications for appointment of Chairperson of the RCI. The Committee are, therefore, of the view that the term ‘special education’ should be suitably defined and incorporated in Clause 3 of the Bill.**

**6. The Committee further note that the proposed amendments have been made to make the implementation of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 more effective and broad based by - ( i ) bringing the definitions given in the Act in conformity with those given in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995; (ii) increasing the number of members representing the Ministries of the Central Government on the Rehabilitation Council of India; (iii) providing for qualifications for the Chairperson of the Council; (iv) enhancing the period of appeal from thirty days to sixty days; (v) recognising professionals working in the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres and National Institutes as persons working in the area of disability; and (vi) exempting medical professionals, in some specific disciplines, namely, physical medicine, rehabilitation, orthopaedics, ENT, ophthalmic, psychiatric and paramedics from the requirement of the registration under the Act. The Committee, therefore, approve the remaining clauses of the Bill in its entirety and support them without any amendment.**

**NEW DELHI;**

**25 July, 2000  
3 Sravana,1922(Saka)**

**DR.SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA  
Chairman,  
Standing Committee on  
Labour and Welfare.**