

Monthly Policy Review

December 2014

Highlights of this Issue

[Winter session of Parliament ends \(p. 2\).](#)

A total of 11 Bills were passed by Parliament, 8 Bills were passed by Lok Sabha and are pending in Rajya Sabha. 16 new Bills were introduced in Parliament.

[Ordinance to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 2013 promulgated \(p. 2\)](#)

The amendments exempt certain types land use from Social Impact Assessment and consent requirements, and provide that provisions of compensation, rehabilitation, and resettlement will apply to certain other Acts.

[Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2014 and 15 other new Bills introduced in Parliament \(p. 5\)](#)

New Bills include the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, and the Anti-Hijacking Bill.

[Coal mines Bill passed by Lok Sabha, e-auction started, Ordinance re-promulgated \(p. 3\)](#)

The Bill seeks to allocate coal mines cancelled by the Supreme Court, and is currently pending in Rajya Sabha. The Ordinance gives effect to the contents of the Bill.

[Insurance Laws \(Amendment\) Ordinance, 2014 promulgated, \(p. 5\)](#)

The Ordinance increases the cap for foreign equity in Indian insurance companies from 26% to 49%, and incorporates certain other amendments suggested by the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha.

[Textiles Undertaking Bill, 2014 and 10 other Bills passed by Parliament \(p. 8\)](#)

The Labour Laws (Amendment) Bill, Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, the two Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bills, and the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill were among the other Bills which were passed by Parliament.

[Companies \(Amendment\) Bill, 2014 among 8 Bills passed by Lok Sabha \(p. 7\)](#)

Other Bills that were passed by Lok Sabha, and are pending in Rajya Sabha, include the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, the Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Bill, and the Public Premises (Amendment) Bill.

[Parliamentary Committees submit reports on various Bills \(p. 6, 11, 17\)](#)

Reports on the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, the Factories (Amendment) Bill, and the Constitution 119th (Amendment) Bill for transfer of land between India and Bangladesh, were submitted.

[CAG submits reports on various policies of the government \(p. 11, 19, 20\)](#)

CAG reports were submitted on railway finances, special economic zones, and the Indira Awas Yojana.

[Department of Consumer Affairs releases five draft Bills \(p. 17\)](#)

These include amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Guidelines for Swachh Bharat Mission issued \(p. 12\)](#)

Separate guidelines for Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) were issued. The Swachh Bharat Kosh has been established, which can receive Corporate Social Responsibility funds.

January 2, 2015

Parliament

Tanvi Deshpande (tanvi@prsindia.org)

Winter session of Parliament ends

The winter session of Parliament began on November 24 and had 22 sittings until December 23. A total of 11 Bills were passed by Parliament during the session. Key Bills passed include the Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 2014, the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by certain Establishments) Amendment Bill, 2011, and the Textiles Undertakings (Nationalisation) Laws (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2014.

Eight Bills were passed by Lok Sabha, and are pending in the Rajya Sabha, including the Coal Mines (Special Provision) Bill, 2014, the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2014, and the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

Bills that were introduced in this session include the Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill, 2014 which would enable introduction of the Goods and Services Tax, the Lokpal and Lokayuktas and other related Law (Amendment), Bill, 2014, and the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

For more information, please see [here](#).

Macroeconomic Developments

Tanvi Deshpande (tanvi@prsindia.org)

Retail inflation increases to 5.8% in November; WPI dips to 0%

The Consumer Price Index inflation increased from 5.5% in October 2014 to 5.8% in November 2014. This was on account of a slight increase in food inflation in fruits, and increase in inflation of the transport and communication sectors.^{1,2} The Wholesale Price Index inflation fell from 1.8 % in October to 0 % in November, driven by a decrease in inflation of primary food articles and manufactured food products.¹

IIP decreases by 4.2% in October 2014

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) decreased by 4.2% in October 2014 (year-on-year), lower than the increase of 2.5% in September 2014.³ This was largely due to a decrease of 7.6% in manufacturing production (weight 75%) in October.

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged

In its Fifth bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement on December 2, 2014, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to hold all policy rates at the same level.⁴ Thus, the repo rate was kept unchanged at 8% and the cash reserve ratio for banks at 4% of net demand and time liabilities (roughly speaking, all deposits).

Though inflation has eased steadily, the RBI felt that there is still uncertainty in its evolution and therefore, a change in monetary stance at this stage would be premature. However, it has indicated that there could be a change in stance early next year, including outside the policy review cycle (i.e., outside the bi-monthly statements), if the current inflation momentum and changes in inflation expectations continue and fiscal developments are encouraging (i.e., lower fiscal deficit is achieved).

India's Balance of Payments for July to September 2014

In the second quarter (July-September) of 2014-15, India's current account deficit (CAD) stood at USD 10.1 billion, an increase of USD 4.9 billion from its value in the second quarter of 2013-14.⁵ The CAD is now 2.1% of GDP, an increase from 1.7% of GDP in the first quarter.

Table 1: India's Balance of Payments for July-September 2014 (in USD billion)

Items	Q2: 2013- 14	Q1: 2014- 15	Q2: 2014- 15
A. Current Account	-5.2	-7.8	-10.1
B. Capital Account and Financial Account	5.6	8.6	11.8
C. Errors and Omissions	-0.4	-0.8	-1.7
Change in reserves (A+B+C)	10.4	-11.2	-6.9

Sources: RBI; PRS.

Land

Joyita Ghose (joyita@prsindia.org)

Ordinance to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 2013 promulgated

The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 was promulgated on December 31, 2014.⁶ The ordinance amends the Right to

Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. Key amendments relate to:

- **Application of the Act:** The Act excludes 13 other Acts from its purview, such as the National Highways Act, 1956 and the Railways Act, 1989. However, the Act required that the government specify which provisions relating to compensation, rehabilitation, and resettlement (R&R) would apply to these Acts, within one year of the enactment of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, through a notification. These provisions could not be less than those specified under the Act. The Ordinance states that compensation, and R&R provided under these Acts should be as specified under the Land Acquisition Act, 2013.
- **Exemptions for certain categories of land use:** The Ordinance creates five special categories of land use: (i) defence, (ii) rural infrastructure, (iii) affordable housing, (iv) industrial corridors, and (v) infrastructure projects including Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects where the central government owns the land. The following provisions of the Act will not apply to these categories: (i) conducting a Social Impact Assessment, (ii) obtaining the prior consent of 80% of affected families if land is for a private company, or 70% if land is for a PPP, and (iii) restrictions on acquiring irrigated multi-cropped land.
- **Return of unutilised land:** The Act requires that if land acquired under it remains unutilised for five years or more, it is returned to the original owners or the land bank. The Ordinance makes the period after which land must be returned the time specified for setting up a project, or five years, whichever is later.
- **Offences by government officials:** The Act states that if an offence is committed by the government, the head of the department will be deemed guilty unless he can show that the offence was committed without his knowledge, or that he had exercised due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence. The Ordinance replaces this to state that if an offence is committed by a government official, he cannot be prosecuted without prior sanction.

The Ordinance must be approved within six weeks from the start of the next Parliament session, or it shall lapse.

Energy

Prachee Mishra (prachee@prsindia.org)

The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014 passed by Lok Sabha, Ordinance re-promulgated

Lok Sabha passed the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014 on December 12, 2014.⁷ The Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 10, 2014.

The Bill replaces the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014 that was promulgated on October 21, 2014.⁸ It seeks to provide a mechanism for allocating the coal mines cancelled by the Supreme Court.

The Bill also seeks to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 (CMN Act) and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). The CMN Act is the primary legislation determining the eligibility for coal mining in India. The MMDR Act regulates mine development in India.

Under the CMN Act, coal mining was allowed only for central government companies and private companies engaged in a specified end-use such as power, iron and steel, and coal washing. The Bill seeks to enable private companies to mine coal for sale in the open market.

The Bill creates three categories of mines: Schedule I, II and III. Schedule I mines include all 204 coal mines cancelled by the Supreme Court. Schedule II includes the 42 Schedule I mines that are currently under production. Schedule III mines includes the 32 Schedule I mines earmarked for a specified end-use.

The Bill specifies the method of allocation for these mines, the eligibility for allocation and the purpose for which coal mined from these mines can be used. All the 204 Schedule I mines may be allocated through competitive bidding, of which Schedule II and Schedule III mines may be allocated only to companies engaged in specified end use. That said, any of these mines may be allotted, without auction, to a government company or to a private company engaged in power generation that has bid through competitive auction on the basis of tariff.

The Bill also provides for the process by which the mine will be transferred from the current holder of the mining lease if the bid is won by a different company. The Bill is currently pending in Rajya Sabha.

The government re-promulgated the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Second Ordinance, 2014 on December 26, 2014 to bring effect to the Bill.⁹ The Ordinance must be approved within six weeks from the start of the next Parliament session, or it shall lapse.

The Ministry of Coal notified the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Rules, 2014 on December 11, 2014.¹⁰ The Rules provide guidelines on the eligibility and compensation for prior allottees.

For more details on the Bill, please see [here](#).

Ministry of Coal starts E-Auction of first batch of coal mines

The Ministry of Coal started the process of e-auction for 24 under-production coal mines on December 25, 2014.¹¹ The auction will be conducted according to the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014 and the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Rules, 2014.

The entire mine allocation process for Schedule II coal mines will be completed by March 23, 2015. Of the 24 mines proposed to be auctioned, seven are for the power sector, 16 for iron & steel plants, cement and coal preparation plants (CPPs) and one mine for steel sector.

According to the Ministry, only companies with a specified end-use are allowed to participate in the auction. Companies can sell the surplus coal only to Coal India Limited (CIL) at respective bid price or the notified price of CIL.

Mines set aside for iron & steel, cement and CPPs will be auctioned through Ascending Forward Auction. In such cases, qualified bidders will quote incremental bids above the pre-determined floor price. Mines for power sector will be auctioned through 'Descending Reverse Auction' where floor price is determined based on the power tariff.

The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 introduced in Lok Sabha

The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 19, 2014.¹² The Bill amends The Electricity Act, 2003. It seeks to segregate the distribution network from the electricity supply business. Key features of the Bill include:

Segregation of distribution and supply: Under the Act, the distribution licensee both distributes and supplies electricity to the consumers. Under the Bill, the distribution licensee will provide for

the distribution of electricity and enable the supply of electricity. The Bill creates a supply licensee who would be authorised to supply electricity to the consumers. The Bill also provides for the transfer of license and power purchase agreements from the distribution licensee to the supply licensee.

Supply: The appropriate commission (Central or State Regulatory Commission) may grant a license to multiple suppliers for supply within the same area of supply. The Bill enables consumers to choose to buy electricity from several supply licensees. Consumers can also switch suppliers by giving a notice.

Tariff: The appropriate commission shall determine the tariff for distribution of electricity. The method and principles of determining tariff for supply shall be specified by the State Regulatory Commission. The prices shall be market determined subject to a ceiling price that shall be announced by the Commission.

National Renewable Energy Policy: The Act provides for a National Electricity Policy. The Bill seeks to provide for an additional National Renewable Energy policy.

Penalties: The Bill increases the penalties for licensees for failure to comply with directions of the appropriate commission. Penalties for all companies will increase from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 10 crore at the central level and from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 1 crore at the state level. For companies generating renewable energy, the penalty will be Rs 1 crore and Rs 10 lakh at the central and state levels respectively.

Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana launched

The Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana was launched by the Ministry of Power on December 3, 2014.¹³ The scheme seeks to improve the supply of electricity in rural areas. This scheme will replace the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY).

Components: Components of the scheme include: (i) separation of agricultural and non-agricultural electricity feeders to improve supply for consumers in rural areas, (ii) strengthening and augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution infrastructure in rural areas, and (iii) rural electrification by carrying forward targets specified under the RGGVY.

Outlay: Total outlay for the scheme over the implementation period (until 2021-22) will be Rs

82,308 crore which will include budgetary support of Rs 68,900 crore.

Eligibility: All discoms including the power sector discoms and state power departments will be eligible for financial assistance.

Authorities: The Rural Electrification Corporation Limited will be the nodal agency for the implementation of the scheme. A Monitoring Committee will approve operational guidelines prepared by the nodal agency and also monitor the scheme. The Committee will be chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Power. A Project Management Agency will be appointed to ensure the timely implementation of the project.

Funding: The government will provide 60% of the project cost as grant, discoms will raise 10% as their own funds, and 30% will be borrowed from financial institutions and banks. The government may provide additional assistance of 15% subject to achievement of a few targets such as the timely completion of projects.

Finance

Constitution Amendment Bill related to GST introduced in Lok Sabha

Prianka Rao (prianka@prsindia.org)

The Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 19, 2014.¹⁴ It seeks to amend the Constitution to introduce the goods and services tax (GST), and imposes concurrent powers on the centre and states to do so.

Earlier, the Constitution (115th Amendment) Bill, 2011, also in relation to the introduction of GST, was introduced in Lok Sabha in 2011. It lapsed with the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha.¹⁵

At present, goods and services are taxed by both the centre and the states. As per the Constitution, some taxes are levied by both the centre and the states, whereas others are levied by only one of the two. For taxes imposed by states, rates may vary across different states.

Under the 2014 Bill, the GST subsumes various central indirect taxes including the Central Excise Duty, Countervailing Duty, Service Tax, etc. It also subsumes state value added tax, octroi and entry tax, luxury tax etc.

Salient features of the 2014 Bill include:

- **Power to impose GST:** The Bill amends the Constitution to empower Parliament and state legislatures to make laws with respect to goods and services tax.
- **Integrated GST:** The Bill inserts a new Article in the Constitution to empower only the centre to levy and collect GST on supplies in the course of inter-state trade or commerce. The tax collected would be divided between the centre and the states.
- **GST Council:** The Bill creates a GST Council consisting of the union finance minister, the minister of state for revenue and finance ministers of all states. The GST Council shall make recommendations on the goods and services that will be subjected to and exempted from GST, the rates including floor rates with bands, model GST law, special provision to special status states, etc. Decisions will be made by at least three-fourth majority, with the centre having one-third of the vote and the states two-thirds.
- **Additional Tax on supply of goods:** An additional tax (not to exceed 1%) on the supply of goods in the course of inter-state trade or commerce would be levied and collected by the centre. Such additional tax shall be assigned to the states for two years, or as recommended by the GST Council.
- **Compensation to states:** Parliament may, by law, provide for compensation to states for revenue losses arising out of the implementation of the GST, on the GST Council's recommendations. This would be for a period up to five years.
- **Goods exempt:** Alcoholic liquor is exempted from the purview of the GST. Further, the GST Council is to decide when GST would be levied on petroleum crude, high speed diesel, motor spirit (petrol), natural gas, and aviation turbine fuel.

Insurance Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 promulgated

Joyita Ghose (joyita@prsindia.org)

The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 was promulgated on December 27, 2014.¹⁶ The ordinance gives effect to the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2014 which was proposed by the Select Committee of Rajya Sabha while examining the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2008 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in December 2008.¹⁷ It was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, which submitted its report in December 2011. It was further referred to a Select Committee of Rajya Sabha in August 2014. The Select Committee submitted its report on December 10, 2014.¹⁸ The report included the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2014 which incorporates the changes recommended by the Select Committee.

The Ordinance gives effect to the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2014, as proposed by the Select Committee of Rajya Sabha. The Ordinance amends the Insurance Act, 1938, the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972, and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999. It raises the foreign equity cap in Indian insurance companies from 26% to 49%. In addition, it mandates that companies or co-operatives in the life, general, or health insurance business have a minimum equity capital of Rs 100 crore.

For more details on the recommendations of the Select Committee, please see the next item.

Select Committee Report on Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2008 submitted

Tanvi Deshpande (tanvi@prsindia.org)

The Select Committee appointed in September 2014 tabled its report on the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2008 in Rajya Sabha on December 10, 2014.¹⁹

Key recommendations of the Committee include:

- **Foreign Shareholding:** The composite foreign equity investment cap of 49% in Indian companies should be inclusive of all forms of foreign direct investment and foreign portfolio investments.
- **Refund of premium:** The Bill requires the premium collected to be repaid if an insurance policy is rejected. The Committee recommended that if an insurance policy is liable to be rejected on grounds of mis-statement or deliberate concealment of facts, refund of premium cannot be claimed.
- **Capital Requirements:** The Bill has minimum capital requirement at Rs 100 crore for general and life insurance companies, and Rs 50 crore for health insurance companies. Capital requirements

may be retained at the level of Rs 100 crore, with a priority given to health insurance.

- **Security Appellate Tribunal:** The composition as well as qualifications for the members of the Security Appellate Tribunal should be reviewed to provide for appointment of insurance experts as its members. The Committee recommends necessary modifications in the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 to give effect to this suggestion.

For a PRS Report Summary, please see [here](#).

Payment and Settlement (Amendment) Bill, 2014 passed by Lok Sabha

The Payment and Settlement Systems (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 8, 2014.²⁰ It was passed by Lok Sabha on December 9, 2014. The Bill was referred to a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha on December 23, 2014.

The Bill amends the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, which was enacted to regulate and supervise payment systems in India. The Act designates the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the authority to regulate such systems. These systems include inter-bank transfers such as the National Electronics Funds Transfer (NEFT) system, the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) System, ATMs, credit cards, mobile banking, etc. Salient features of the amendments include the following.

- The Act provides for the system provider (such as the Clearing Corporation of India Limited who provides the system) to act as a central counterparty for system participants (such as banks). Therefore, all system participants can transact with each other through the central counterparty, and will carry credit risk only against such central counterparty. The Act provides for ways to settle outstanding dues in case of insolvency or liquidation of a system participant. The Bill adds provisions that address the issue of settling dues when the central counter party faces insolvency or liquidation.
- The Bill authorises the RBI to specify a percentage of the amount collected from customers by the system provider which must be kept in a separate account or in liquid assets. The purpose is to enhance customer protection by reducing the risk of default by the system provider.

- Following the global financial crisis of 2007-08, the G-20 countries decided to take some steps to reform the over the counter (i.e., those not traded through an exchange) derivatives markets. This included setting up Trade Repositories which collate, store and disseminate electronic data related to derivatives and financial transactions. It also included assigning a 20 character globally unique Legal Entity Identifier to participants in financial transaction. The Bill defines these terms. It extends the provisions of the Act to Trade Repositories and identifies RBI as the regulator. RBI will also be the authority for issuance of the Legal Entity Identifier.

The Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Bill, 2014 passed by Lok Sabha

Apoorva Shankar (apoorva@prsindia.org)

The Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 19, 2014, and passed by Lok Sabha on December 22, 2014.²¹

The Bill seeks to amend the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976. The Act provides for the incorporation, regulation and closure of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). RRBs are banks that provide loans and advances to small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, cooperative societies, artisans, etc. The Bill seeks to do the following:

- **Sponsor banks:** Under the Act, sponsor banks must provide managerial and financial assistance to RRBs for the first five years. The Bill allows such assistance to continue beyond five years.
- **Authorised and issued capital:** The Bill raises the amount of authorised capital of RRBs from Rs 5 crore, as provided by the Act to Rs 2,000 crore. The Act prohibited the authorised capital to be reduced below Rs 25 lakh. The Bill raises this lower limit to Rs 1 crore. Similarly, the Bill also raises the lower limit for issued capital from Rs 25 lakh under the Act, to Rs 1 crore.
- **Source of capital:** The Bill allows RRBs to raise their capital from sources other than the central and state governments, and sponsor banks.
- **Shareholding by states:** If the central government wishes to reduce a state government's shareholding in an RRB

below 15%, it will be required to consult the concerned state government.

- **Directors:** The Bill seeks to allow shareholders to elect directors based on the equity share capital issued to them. Where such equity share capital issued is 10%, one director can be elected, between 10% and 25% two directors can be elected, and three can be elected for 25% and above. If required, the central government can also appoint their official to the board of an RRB. The minimum tenure of directors is sought to be raised to three years (from two) and the maximum tenure is limited to a total of six years. The Act does not put a ceiling on the maximum tenure.

For a PRS Bill Summary, please see [here](#).

Corporate Affairs

Prianka Rao (prianka@prsindia.org)

Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2014 passed by Lok Sabha

The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 12, 2014, and passed by Lok Sabha on December 17, 2014.

The Bill amends the Companies Act, 2013. It introduces amendments in relation to Related Party Transactions, fraud reporting by auditors, making common seal optional, and jurisdiction of special courts to try certain offences, etc. Salient features of the Bill include:

- **Minimum paid up share capital:** The Act requires a private company to have a minimum paid-up share capital of Rs 1 lakh or higher. Further, it requires a public company to have a minimum paid up shared capital of Rs 5 lakh or higher. The Bill removes the requirement of a minimum paid up share capital amount for private and public companies.
- **Penalty for acceptance of public deposits:** The Bill introduces a provision which states that when a company:
 - (i) accepts any deposit which is in contravention to provisions specified in the Act or rules under it, or
 - (ii) fails to repay the deposit or any interest within the time specified in the Act, or time allotted by a Tribunal, it will be subject to certain penalties.

The penalties include: (i) a fine between Rs 1 crore and Rs 10 crore, in addition to the deposit or interest that is due, and (ii) up to seven years imprisonment and fine between Rs 25 lakh to Rs 2 crore, or both, for the defaulting officer. If it is proved that the defaulting officer of the company did so willfully, he will be liable for action related to fraud.

- **Related Party Transactions:** The Act requires a company to obtain prior approval by a special resolution before entering into any contract or transactions. A member of the company, who is a related party to the transaction, is prohibited from voting on this special resolution. The Bill replaces the requirement of a special resolution with an ordinary resolution.
- **Special Courts:** The Act permits the centre to establish special courts for trial of all offences under the Act. The Bill restricts the jurisdiction of special courts to only try offences where punishment is imprisonment of two years or more.

Textiles

Joyita Ghose (joyita@prsindia.org)

Textiles Undertakings (Nationalisation) Laws (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2014 passed by Parliament

The Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Laws (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 1, 2014, and was passed by Parliament on December 8, 2014.²² The Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Laws (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2014 was notified on December 17, 2014.²³

The Act replaces the Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Laws (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2014 which was promulgated on October 24, 2014.²⁴

In 2011, the Supreme Court held that NTC must vacate land on which Toyo Poddar Cotton Mills Limited, Mumbai (managed by NTC under the Textiles Undertakings (Nationalisation) Act, 1995) stood, as the lease-hold tenure had expired.²⁵ NTC had argued that it not vacate the premises as lease-hold rights were with the central government. The Maharashtra Rent Control Act,

1999, under which NTC was asked to vacate the land, exempts land leased by the central government.

The Act amends the Sick Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Act, 1974 and the Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Act, 1995, in order to continue with the leasehold rights vested with National Textile Corporation (NTC) on completion of lease-hold tenure.²⁶

Salient features of the Act include:

- Lease-hold rights of the textile undertakings will vest with the central government. These rights will be exercised by NTC on behalf of the central government.
- No court may order the divestment of property vested with NTC by the central government. Court proceedings directing lease-hold land to be divested from NTC will not be maintained or continued. These new provisions will be applied retrospectively. Thus, these provisions will be deemed to have been in force from the time that each Act was enacted.

For a PRS Bill Summary, please see [here](#).

Law and Justice

Prianka Rao (prianka@prsindia.org)

Bill to amend the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 introduced in Lok Sabha

The Lokpal and Lokayuktas and other related Law (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 18, 2014.²⁷ It was referred to the Standing Committee on Law and Justice on December 22, 2014.

The Bill amends the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 and the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946. Salient amendments include:

- **Leader of opposition party:** The Act provides for a Selection Committee for making appointments to the Lokpal. The Committee includes the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha. The Bill amends this provision to state that the leader of the single largest opposition party in the House will be part of the Selection Committee, in the absence of a recognised LoP in Lok Sabha.

- **Absence of member:** The Act states that the appointment of a Chairperson or member of the Lokpal will not be invalid for reasons of vacancy in the Selection Committee. The Bill adds that the proceedings of the Committee will not be invalidated due to the absence of a member either.
- **Declaration of assets:** The Act requires a public servant to declare his assets within 30 days of assuming office. The details of such a declaration include liabilities and assets jointly owned by him, his spouse and dependent children.

The Bill requires that the declaration now contain information of all his assets, including: (i) movable and immovable property owned by him or his family, and (ii) debts and liabilities incurred by him. Relevant provisions related to public servants under the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the All India Services Act, 1951, would also apply.

- **Amendments to the DPSE Act:** The DPSE Act, 1946, provides for a Directorate of Prosecution which is headed by a Director, of a rank not below that of Joint Secretary, for conducting prosecution of cases. The Bill introduces an eligibility criterion in this regard. It states that an officer of the rank of Joint Secretary, eligible to become a Special Public Prosecutor may be appointed as Director of Prosecution. In the absence of such a candidate, an advocate with at least 15 years experience in handling cases of corruption, money laundering, etc., may be appointed to this post.

For a PRS Bill Summary, please see [here](#).

The Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014 passed by Lok Sabha

The Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 3, 2014.²⁸ It was passed by Lok Sabha on December 8, 2014.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Bill is a periodic measure for updating the list of laws in force. The laws addressed in the Bill have either ceased to be in force, have become obsolete, or their retention as separate Acts is unnecessary.

In all, the Bill seeks to repeal 90 laws and pass amendments to two laws.

- **Repealing of certain laws:** The Bill repeals certain laws that are listed in its First Schedule. Of the 90 Acts, 88 are being repealed entirely. As they are amendment Acts, the changes have been incorporated into the principal Acts.
- **Amendment of certain laws:** The Bill amends some provisions of two Acts, the Railways (Amendment) Act, 2008 and the Indian Maritime University Act, 2008. These amendments rectify typographical errors in both Acts.

For a PRS Bill summary, please see [here](#).

Standing Committee submits report on the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2014

The Standing Committee on Law and Justice submitted its report on the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2014 on December 18, 2014.²⁹ The Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on September 11, 2014 and was referred to the Committee on September 19, 2014.³⁰

The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2014 seeks to repeal 36 Acts. Of these, four are principal Acts, while the remaining 32 are amending Acts.

Salient recommendations of the Committee are:

- **Passage of the Bill:** The Committee recommended that the Bill be passed. However, it stated that the Employment of Manual Scavenging and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993, one of the four principal acts, must not be repealed.
- **Manual Scavenging Act:** The Committee noted that the Manual Scavenging Act, 1993 was enacted by Parliament in exercise of its powers under Article 252 of the Constitution. However, the Constitution also requires that the state legislatures pass resolutions to this effect, for the act to be enforced. Six states are yet to pass resolutions in this regard. Thus, the Committee recommended that the Act not be repealed unless the centre receives resolutions from the concerned state legislatures as mandated by the Constitution.
- **Amending Acts:** In the context of amending acts, the Committee suggested that the government should consider providing a sunset clause for their automatic repeal. This would ensure that they do not remain in statute books after their purpose is achieved.

- **Simplifying laws:** The Committee also recommended that the law must be drafted in an easy and understandable language.

Act constituting National Judicial Appointments Commission gets presidential assent

The Constitution (99th Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 received presidential assent on December 31, 2014.³¹

The Constitution (99th Amendment) Act, 2014 amends the constitution to create a National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC). NJAC will make recommendations to the President for the appointment of Supreme Court and High Court judges, and the transfer of High Court judges. The NJAC Act, 2014 provides for the procedure to be followed by the NJAC.

For more details, please see [here](#) and [here](#).

Transport

Prachee Mishra (prachee@prsindia.org)

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2014 passed by Lok Sabha

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 15, 2014 and passed by Lok Sabha on December 18, 2014.³² It seeks to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

The Central Motor Vehicles (Sixteenth Amendment) Rules, 2014, that provide details on the licensing and registration of e-carts and e-rickshaws, were notified on October 8, 2014.³³ For a PRS Rules Summary, please see [here](#).

The Bill brings e-carts and e-rickshaws under the ambit of the Act. The Bill defines e-carts and e-rickshaws as special purpose battery powered vehicles, having three wheels, and with power up to 4000 watts. They are defined as separate from motor vehicles.

Under the Act, a person shall be granted a learner's licence to drive a public transport vehicle, only if he has held a driving licence to drive a light motor vehicle for at least one year. The Bill exempts e-rickshaw and e-cart drivers from this requirement.

For a PRS Bill Summary, please see [here](#).

Parliament passes the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2013 and Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2013 and the Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Bill, 2013 were passed by the Parliament on December 2, 2014.^{34,35} Both the Bills amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, which submitted its report on June 26, 2013.³⁶ The Bill was passed with the following changes:

- **Inspection:** Any person authorised as a Surveyor by the Director-General of Shipping may inspect the ships.
- **Power to make rules:** The central government's power to make rules will include making rules on: (i) standards, requirements and measures to ensure compliance with the Anti-Fouling Systems, (ii) procedure and fee for inspection and issuance of Anti-Fouling Systems Certificate for Indian and foreign ships, and (iii) procedure for collecting, handling and disposal of wastes.
- **Penalties:** The amendments increase the amount of penalties. Penalty for: (i) failing to comply with the requirements of the Anti-Fouling Systems may be up to Rs 15 lakh for an Indian ship, (ii) attempting to proceed to sea without the Anti-Fouling Systems Certificate may be up to Rs 3 lakh, (iii) failing to comply with the rules for control of waste materials may be up to Rs 1.5 lakh, (iv) failing to maintain records of Anti-Fouling Systems may be up to Rs 1.5 lakh, and (v) failing to comply with inspection of ship and verification of records may be up to Rs 1.5 lakh.

For more details, please see [here](#).

Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, which submitted its report on November 20, 2013.³⁷ The Bill was passed with the following changes:

- **Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance:** The declaration of Compliance, which states that the ship meets the requirements of the Maritime Labour Convention, can be issued by the Director-

General of Shipping or by any officer, authority or organisation authorised by him.

- **Agreement with seafarers:** The terms of agreement with the crew shall be determined after consultation with Indian organisations with a large representation of the seamen and their employers. Such organisations will be notified by the central government.
- **Engaging young persons in night work:** A young person can be engaged in night work for training or performing a specific duty. Such work should not be detrimental to the person's health and should be permitted by the Director-General of Shipping.
- **Dispute resolution:** The amendments allow the Shipping Master to settle disputes between seafarers and their employers at the instance of either party for a disputed amount up to Rs 5 lakh. However, at the instance of either party, the central government may increase the amount up to Rs 10 lakh.

For more details, please see [here](#).

CAG Report on Railways' Finances

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) published a report on the accounts and finances of Indian Railways, for the year ending March 31, 2013, on November 28, 2014.³⁸ The report looks at various indicators such as earnings, expenditure, reserves, operational efficiency of Indian Railways.

Key observations and recommendations included in the report are:

Lack of proper accounting

- Indian Railways is not following the rules laid down in the Financial Code and Engineering Code for accounting of financial transactions and the execution of projects. The Financial Code lays down general rules and orders on financial matters of the railways. The Engineering Code lays guidelines on the construction activities of the railways. In the absence of proper records, determining expenditure incurred in executing a project becomes difficult. This increases the risk of both material and financial losses.
- CAG recommended that the Ministry of Railways put in place a monitoring mechanism to ensure that provisions laid down in the codes are followed in order to maintain financial discipline.

Unchecked expenditure

- Cases of expenditure in excess to sanctioned estimates have remained unchecked for decades. This has led to an absence of checks over expenditure on capital works.
- CAG recommended that the cost of assets created under each work by the field units (divisions, construction organizations, etc.) must be correctly accounted for.

Labour

Prianka Rao (prianka@prsindia.org)

Standing Committee submits report on Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2014

The Standing Committee on Labour submitted its report on the Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2014 on December 22, 2014.³⁹ The Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on August 7, 2014 and was referred to the Standing Committee on September 16, 2014.

The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2014 seeks to amend the Factories Act, 1948 in relation to definitions of a factory and hazardous processes, rule making power of the centre, safety and facilities for workers etc.⁴⁰ Salient recommendations of the Committee are:

- **Hazardous substance:** The Bill replaces the term 'hazardous process' with 'hazardous substance'. The Committee recommended that both terms be retained to ensure clarity in interpretation.
- **Definition of a factory:** The Bill specifies that the state government may raise the minimum number of workers employed in the definition of a factory to 20 (if power is used) and 40 (if power is not used). The Committee rejected this threshold set by the Bill. It stated that state governments are empowered under the Concurrent List to propose their own amendments to the Factories Act from time to time. It was unnecessary for a central law to provide a threshold limit for the same.
- **Work hours:** The Bill seeks to increase the working hours from 10.5 hours to 12 hours. The Committee suggested that this amendment must be revisited. If it is to be included, the Bill must include provisions to ensure that the workers are compensated with adequate remuneration for the extra

hours and are not subjected to harassment.

- **Overtime:** The Bill increases the maximum number of overtime hours from 50 hours per quarter to 100 hours, extendable by another 25 hours. In the Committee's opinion, increasing overtime hours across factories would have an adverse impact on employment generation. It suggested that industries/seasonal factories where increasing the overtime hours is inevitable should be identified, and overtime hours be raised, with adequate safeguards.

Urban Development

Joyita Ghose (joyita@prsindia.org)

The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2014 passed by Lok Sabha

The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 11, 2014 and passed by Lok Sabha on December 15, 2014.⁴¹

The Bill seeks to amend the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. The Act provides for the speedy eviction of unauthorised occupants from public premises, including those of government companies and corporations. Salient features of the Bill include:

- **Definition of public premises:** The Bill seeks to include the following in the definition of public premises: (i) premises of companies where 51% or more shares are owned by the central government and partly by one or more state government, including metro properties, (ii) in relation to Delhi, premises owned by the New Delhi Municipal Council, and premises owned by the central government, state government, or jointly by both governments.
- **Process of eviction:** The Bill seeks to specify certain time limits on the process of eviction. For example, it specifies that eviction must take place within 15 days of the Estate Officer's order. This may be extended by another 15 days. Appeals to the Estate Officer's orders should be disposed off within one month, as far as possible.

For the PRS Bill Summary, please see [here](#).

The NCT of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill, 2014 passed by Parliament

The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 15, 2014.⁴² It was passed by Parliament on December 23, 2014.

The Bill seeks to amend the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act, 2011.⁴³

The Act prohibits punitive action against certain forms of unauthorised construction till December 31, 2014. It also requires, by that date, relocation of slum dwellers, regulation of street vendors, regularisation of unauthorised colonies and village abadi areas, policy of farm houses constructed beyond permissible limits and policy of all other areas in line with the Master Plan for Delhi, 2021. The Bill extends this time by three years, to December 31, 2017.

The Bill was amended in Lok Sabha to extend the date by which construction should have taken place in order that no punitive action is taken. This date was changed from February 8, 2007 to June 1, 2014 for unauthorised colonies and village *abadi* areas.

For more details, please see [here](#).

Sanitation

Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) Guidelines, 2014

Prachee Mishra (prachee@prsindia.org)

The Ministry of Urban Development issued guidelines for Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) (SBM-U).⁴⁴ SBM-U is a sub-mission of the Swachh Bharat Mission and will be in effect till October 2, 2019.

Objectives: The objectives of SBM-U include: (i) elimination of open defecation, (ii) eradication of manual scavenging, and (iii) effecting behavioural change on healthy sanitation practices.

Outlay: The total estimated cost of implementation of SBM-U is Rs 62,009 crore. The funding share of the central and state government will be Rs 14,623 crore and Rs 4,874 crore respectively. The remaining funds

will be generated through private sector participation, market borrowing, etc.

Components: Key SBM-U components include: (i) construction of household toilets, community toilets, and public toilets, (ii) solid waste management, and (iii) public awareness.

Funding: States will contribute a minimum of 25% funds towards all components to match 75% central share. All urban local bodies (ULB) must first explore the possibility to take up the projects in public private partnership mode. State governments can also generate funds for ULBs as additional incentives over and above the minimum 25% share.

Management structure: SBM-U will have a three-tier management structure at the national, state and local level. The national management will include: (i) the National Advisory and Review Committee, and (ii) the SBM-U National Mission Directorate. The state management will include: (i) a High Powered Committee, and (ii) SBM-U State Mission Directorate.

Monitoring and Evaluation: States/ UTs will be required to send monthly and quarterly progress reports with regard to targets and achievements. A District Level Review and Monitoring Committee will be constituted for monitoring of projects under the chairpersonship of a Member of Parliament.

Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Guidelines, 2014

Joyita Ghose (joyita@prsindia.org)

Guidelines for the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) were released by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation on December 18, 2014.⁴⁵ The Swachh Bharat Mission, which seeks to improve sanitation levels in the country, consists of two sub missions: (i) Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), for rural areas and (ii) Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), for urban areas.

Key features of the Guidelines include:

- **Institutional framework:** At the village level, the gram panchayat/Village Water and Sanitation Committees will be responsible for the implementation of the programme. Village Water and Sanitation Committees will be constituted as sub-committees of the gram panchayats. States will establish Block Programme Management Units to support gram panchayats. Mission units will

be established at the district, state, and national levels.

- **Planning:** Each district must prepare a project proposal, which will be used to prepare a state plan, annually. Five annual plans will be merged into a five year plan.
- **Implementation:** Key components of the Mission include: preparation of state plans, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities, capacity building of stakeholders, construction of households toilets, and community sanitary complexes, and solid and liquid waste management.
- **Funding:** The Mission will be jointly funded by the central and state governments. The contribution of each government will vary across components. For example for IEC, the construction of individual household toilets (except certain special category states), and solid and liquid waste management the central government will provide 75% of the funds and the state government 25% of the funds required.

For details, please see the PRS Blog on the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), [here](#).

Swachh Bharat Kosh Guidelines, 2014

Joyita Ghose (joyita@prsindia.org)

The Swachh Bharat Kosh has been set up for the collection of Corporate Social Responsibility funds for the Swachh Bharat Mission.

The Swachh Bharat Kosh Guidelines, 2014 were published on November 25, 2014 by the Ministry of Finance.⁴⁶

Key features of the Guidelines include:

- **Institutional framework:** The Kosh will be administered by a Governing Council, chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Expenditure. Members will include Secretaries of Planning, Rural Development, and Urban Development, among others.
- **Activities to be financed:** The following types of activities may be financed: (i) construction of community/individual toilets in rural areas, urban areas, in government schools, and aanganwaadis, (ii) construction activity for water supply to these toilets, and (iii) any other activity approved by the Governing Council.
- **Selection of projects:** Ministries will propose activities to the Governing Council, which will select projects to be undertaken.

State governments can also apply for funds through central Ministries. Donors who contribute more than Rs 10 crore can also make suggestions on projects.

- **Implementation:** Implementation of projects will be done by existing institutions at the state, district, and sub-district level. The costing of projects will be guided by similar centrally sponsored schemes.
- **Monitoring:** Central Ministries will monitor the utilisation of funds received from the Kosh and will submit quarterly reports to the Governing Council. The progress on projects will be reviewed by the Finance Minister and Prime Minister.

Home Affairs

Anviti Chaturvedi (anviti@prsindia.org)

The Anti-Hijacking Bill, 2014 introduced and the Anti-Hijacking (Amendment) Bill, 2010 withdrawn

The Ministry of Civil Aviation introduced the Anti-Hijacking Bill, 2014 in Rajya Sabha on December 17, 2014.⁴⁷ The Bill repeals the Anti-Hijacking Act, 1982. An earlier Bill seeking to amend the Anti-Hijacking Act, 1982, was pending in Rajya Sabha and was withdrawn.

The Anti-Hijacking Bill, 2014 seeks to give effect to the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft signed in Beijing on September 10, 2010. Key provisions in the Bill include:

- **Definition of hijacking:** The Bill defines hijacking as seizing control of an aircraft in service by force, or coercion, or any form of intimidation, or by technological means. An aircraft is in service from the time it is being prepared for a flight by ground personnel or crew, until 24 hours after landing.
- **Related offences:** The Bill punishes the following with respect to aircraft hijacking: (i) attempt and abetment, (ii) making a credible threat, (iii) agreeing with another to commit the offence and acting on the agreement, (iv) participating as an accomplice, (v) assisting a person to evade investigation, prosecution, or punishment, and (v) contributing in any manner toward

commission of hijacking, or knowing that hijacking is to be committed.

- **Punishment for hijacking:** The Bill provides for death penalty for hijacking or its related offences if it results in the death of a hostage or security personnel. In all other cases, punishment will be imprisonment for life and fine. Moveable and immoveable property of the accused can also be confiscated.
- **Power to seize or attach property:** The Bill confers the power to seize or attach property of the accused on the investigating officer in certain cases. The designated courts also have the power to order attachment of property during trial.

For a PRS Bill Summary, please see [here](#).

Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2014 introduced in Lok Sabha

The Ministry of Home Affairs introduced the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2014 in Lok Sabha on December 23, 2014.⁴⁸ Key features of the Bill include:

- **Requirement of continuous stay:** Under the Act, an applicant for citizenship by registration or naturalisation is required in some cases to have one year's continuous stay in the country before applying. The Bill allows for breaks during this prescribed period. Breaks of up to 30 days in total will be permitted during one year of stay.
- **Registration for Overseas Citizenship:** Under the Bill, a minor whose parent(s) are Indians citizens or the spouse of an Indian citizen shall be permitted to apply for Overseas Citizen of India Card. Currently, such minors and spouses are not eligible for Overseas Citizenship. An Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) is entitled to benefits such as a multiple-entry, multi-purpose life-long visa to visit India.
- **Merger of the PIO and OCI schemes:** The Bill provides that Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) will be deemed to be Overseas Citizens of India cardholders from a date notified by the central government.

For a PRS Bill Summary, please see [here](#).

Expert Study Group on cyber crimes

The Ministry of Home Affairs set up an Expert Study Group to examine and make recommendations related to cyber crimes on

December 24, 2014.⁴⁹ The Committee comprises five academicians and professionals as members, while its Convenor is a Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Terms of reference of the Expert Group include:

- Preparing a roadmap for effectively addressing cyber crimes, and providing recommendations on all aspects of the issue.
- Recommending partnerships with the public and private sector, and international and domestic non-governmental organisations on the issue of cyber crimes.

Cabinet approves Amendments to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act

The Cabinet approved amendments to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 on December 24, 2014.⁵⁰ The amendments propose to increase the strength of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council from the current strength of 50 members to 58 members.

Environment

Joyita Ghose (joyita@prsindia.org)

Standing Committee Report on Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2013

The Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests (Chairperson: Mr Ashwani Kumar) submitted its report on the Wild Life Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2013 on December 11, 2014.⁵¹

The Standing Committee did not review the Bill, since the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has decided to withdraw it. The Committee recommended that the government conduct a review of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and draft a comprehensive Bill.

For a PRS Report Summary, please see [here](#).

Recommendations of the High Level Committee on environmental laws

The High Level Committee (Chair: TSR Subramanian) to Review Various Acts Administered by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change submitted its report on November 18, 2014.⁵²

The Committee reviewed the following laws: (i) Indian Forests Act, 1927, (ii) Wild Life

(Protection) Act, 1972, (iii) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, (iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, (v) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and (vi) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Recommendations of the Committee include:

- A National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) at the national level, and State Environmental Management Authorities (SEMAs) at the state level, should be created to grant environmental clearances and monitor compliance with conditions of approval.
- A new law, the Environmental Laws (Management) Act, should be enacted, to give legal status to NEMA and SEMA, outline penalties for non compliance with conditions of approval, and create special courts to try cases under the proposed Act.
- The Committee recommended specific amendments to the Indian Forests Act, 1927, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- The Committee recommended inducting relevant provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 in the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and repealing these two Acts.

For a PRS Report Summary, please see [here](#).

Climate talks in Lima

The Lima Call for Climate Action was adopted at the 20th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on December 14, 2014.⁵³

The UNFCCC, signed in 1992, is an international climate treaty which seeks to limit the increase in average global temperatures and address climate change. At present there are 195 signatories to the treaty. India became a signatory to the treaty in June 1992 and ratified it in November 1993.

All the signatories of the UNFCCC meet at Conferences of Parties (COPs) to assess progress on the treaty. The 20th COP was held at Lima, Peru from December 1-20, 2014.

One of the key outcomes of the 20th COP was that signatories agreed to communicate their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) in advance of the next COP. INDCs are

commitments made by countries, in which they specify actions that they will take to address climate change.

Additionally, countries agreed on a draft text for an international climate treaty expected to come into force in 2020. The draft treaty is expected to be finalised at the next COP to be held Paris in 2015. The draft text outlines measures relating to mitigation, technology development and transfer, adaptation, facilitating implementation and compliance, etc.

Education

Apoorva Shankar (apoorva@prsindia.org)

The Indian Institutes of Information Technology Bill passed by Parliament

The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIIT) Bill, 2014 was passed by Parliament on December 1, 2014.⁵⁴

The Bill seeks to provide each of the four existing IIITs, an independent statutory status. These are situated in Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and two in Madhya Pradesh. It proposes to declare them as institutes of national importance.

For a PRS Bill Summary, please see [here](#).

The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill passed by Parliament

The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was passed by Parliament on December 9, 2014.⁵⁵ The Central Universities (Amendment) Act, 2014 was notified on December 17, 2014.⁵⁶

The Act amends the Central Universities Act, 2009 by setting up a central university in Bihar, in addition to the existing one. The existing central university of Bihar will be renamed Central University of South Bihar. The new university will be called Mahatma Gandhi Central University.

For a PRS Bill Summary, please see [here](#).

The School of Planning and Architecture Bill passed by Parliament

The School of Planning and Architecture Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 2, 2014 and passed by Parliament on December 10, 2014.⁵⁷ The School of Planning and

Architecture Act, 2014 was notified on December 18, 2014.⁵⁸

The Act declares three existing Schools of Planning and Architecture (SPAs) as institutes of national importance. This includes SPA New Delhi, SPA Bhopal and SPA Vijayawada. The main functions of these SPAs include:

- Undertake research and innovation in architecture, planning, and allied activities,
- Supervise and control the residence and regulate the discipline of students,
- Hold examinations and grant degrees, diplomas and other titles, and
- Notify and make appointments to various posts with prior approval of the centre.

The Act specifies the nature and composition of the various bodies of the SPAs such as the Board of Governors (principal executive body), the Senate (principal academic body), and the Council (coordinator of activities of all SPAs).

For a PRS Bill Summary, please see [here](#).

Social Justice

Standing Committee submits report on Prevention of Atrocities Amendment Bill

Anviti Chaturvedi (anviti@prsindia.org)

The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Chairperson: Mr. Ramesh Bais) submitted its report on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2014 on December 12, 2014.⁵⁹ The Standing Committee endorsed the Bill, and made the following recommendations:

- The following should be made punishable offences: (i) registration of false cases, (ii) acquiring false Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe certificates, and (iii) entering an inter-caste marriage to procure Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe status to acquire land or fight elections.
- Atrocities against women belong to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe should be tried by special courts for women with women judges and women public prosecutors preferably belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe community.

For a PRS Report Summary, please see [here](#).

Standing Committee submits report on Scheduled Castes Orders Amendment Bill

Joyita Ghose (joyita@prsindia.org)

The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (Chairperson: Mr. Ramesh Bais) submitted its report on the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2014 on December 19, 2014.

The Bill adds certain communities to the list of Scheduled Castes in Haryana, Karnataka, Odisha, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The Committee agreed with these additions to the list of Scheduled Castes. Key observations and recommendations of the Committee include:

- The Committee recommended that the socio-economic and caste surveys being conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Urban Development be completed at the earliest. This will allow the government to determine which communities should be included and excluded from the list of Scheduled Castes.
- The Committee pointed out that while several new communities have been added to the list of Scheduled Castes, the percentage of reservation has remained the same. It therefore recommended taking this matter up with the Department of Personnel and Training.

For a PRS Report Summary, please see [here](#).

External Affairs

Anviti Chaturvedi (anviti@prsindia.org)

Standing Committee on External Affairs submits report on Constitution (119th Amendment) Bill, 2013

The Standing Committee on External Affairs (Chairperson: Dr. Shashi Tharoor) submitted its report on the Constitution (119th Amendment) Bill, 2013 on December 1, 2014.⁶⁰

The Bill amends the First Schedule of the Constitution to give effect to an agreement between India and Bangladesh in 1974, and its protocol which was signed in 2010. The Bill allows for transfer and acquisition of certain territories between India and Bangladesh. The Standing Committee recommended that the Bill be enacted into law.

The Standing Committee also made several general recommendations with regard to: (i) the need for development plans for areas being acquired by India, (ii) compensation and rehabilitation for Indian citizens who return from Indian enclaves in Bangladesh, (iii) security concerns with respect to influx of population after transfer and acquisition of territories, and (iv) consultations with the Government of Bangladesh to protect interests of Indian national who stay back in Bangladesh after the exchange of territories.

For PRS Report Summary, please see [here](#).

President of Russia visits India

President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin, visited India on December 10-11, 2014.⁶¹ India and Russia signed an agreement to set up at least 12 nuclear power plant units in the next two decades.⁶² Both countries also agreed to: (i) enhance the orders for materials/ equipments from Indian suppliers, (ii) set up joint ventures to allow for transfer of technology, (iii) fabricate nuclear fuel assemblies in India, and (iv) establish a Coordination Committee to oversee cooperation with respect to nuclear energy. Nineteen other agreements were signed between the two countries on issues such as defence training, joint production and exploration of hydrocarbons, etc.⁶³

Consumer Affairs

Tanvi Deshpande (tanvi@prsindia.org)

The draft Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2014

The draft Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2014 has been published by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.⁶⁴ The Bill amends the Essential Commodities Act of 1955. The Act seeks to control the production, supply and distribution of certain commodities. The key amendments proposed in the Bill are:

- The Bill adds a definition of “foodstuffs” as any substance, whether perishable or non-perishable, which is used as a final food product by human beings and also include raw food articles, which may be used as food by human beings after processing.

- The Bill seeks to ban the trading of essential commodities, including specific foodstuffs, in future markets except the items that have been specifically exempted.
- No animal, vehicle, vessel or other conveyance carrying an essential commodity will be confiscated if it can be proved to the Collector that it was done without the knowledge of the owner, and that that owner had taken all necessary precautions against the use of his vehicle.
- All offences punishable under the Act are to be cognizable as well as non-bailable. No officer below the rank of an officer-in-charge, or authorized by an officer-in-charge should be allowed to arrest a person for an offence committed under the Act.
- The Bill seeks to establish Special Courts to provide for trials for offences under the Act.

The draft Prevention of Black Marketing of Supply of Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2014

The draft Prevention of Black Marketing of Supply of Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was published by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.⁶⁵

The draft Bill seeks to amend the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supply of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. The Act provides for the detention of people who engage in activities which are against the maintenance of supply of essential commodities.

The amendments are regarding the procedure for detaining a person for offenses committed under the Act. The proposed amendments include:

- A detaining order made by an officer empowered for that purpose should remain in force with the state government for 15 days after it has been made. This limit is 12 days in the Act.
- A detainee or any person including a relative or an advocate on behalf of the detainee, may make a representation to the central government only after the detention order has been confirmed by the state government.
- A person should not be detained for more than 12 months from the date of detention, in accordance with a detention order issued by the Advisory Board. This period is a maximum of six months in the Act.

Amendments proposed to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986

Proposed amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 have been released by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.⁶⁶

The Act establishes consumer councils and other authorities to settle consumers' disputes. The amendments propose to establish a Central Consumer Protection Authority, and a Consumer Mediation Cell as an alternative to solving disputes. Key amendments proposed include:

- The definition of a manufacturer is proposed to be broadened to include any person who sells, distributes, leases, installs, or is otherwise involved in launching a product.
- A Central Consumer Protection Authority is proposed to be established, to protect and enforce the rights of consumers, and prevent unfair trade practices.
- The Authority will have the power to conduct investigations into violation of consumer rights (suo-motu or on complaint), issue safety notices and alerts to consumers against unsafe goods or services, declare consumer contracts found to be unfair to the consumer as null or void, and impose a penalty on anyone found to be violating provisions of the Act.
- Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies at the national and state levels are proposed to be established. These would be called the National Forum and State Forums and would replace the existing National Commission and State Commissions.
- A Consumer Mediation Cell is proposed to be established, and mediation is proposed as an alternate dispute redressal mechanism between the district forum and the mediator.
- A new chapter on product liability is proposed to be added. Product liability means the manufacturer's responsibility to compensate for injury caused by defective merchandise that has been provided for sale. Issues such as exemption from liability, liability of product sellers, remedial measures and product identification requirement are proposed to be introduced under the Act.

Proposed Amendments to the Legal Metrology Act, 2009

Proposed amendments to the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 have been released by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.⁶⁷

The Act establishes standards of weights and measures, and regulates trade and commerce in weights, measures and other goods. The amendments seek to modify certain penalties for the quoting or selling of non-standard units and packages. The proposed amendments include:

- Under the Act, the penalty for quoting or publishing of non-standard units and packages is a fine of up to Rs 10,000 for the first offence, and imprisonment up to one year and/or fine for subsequent offences. The penalty for the second offence is proposed to be changed to a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh and no imprisonment is specified.
- Under the Act, the penalty for using unverified weights or measures is Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000. This penalty is proposed to be changed to Rs 200 for beam scale, counter machine, and commercial weights up to 20kg and other mechanical weighting and measuring instruments up to 100 kg.
- The maximum penalty for selling of non-standard packages is proposed to be increased from Rs 1 lakh in the Act to Rs 5 lakh in the Bill.

Proposed amendments to Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986

Proposed amendments to the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 were released by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.⁶⁸ The Act established a Bureau for the development of standardisation, marking and quality certification of goods.

The proposed amendments relate to ensuring the quality and standards of goods and services under the Act. Key amendments include:

- The definition of conformity assessment is proposed to be added as the procedure used to determine whether specified requirements in relation to goods, service, article, process, etc., have been fulfilled.
- A new section is proposed to be added on quality assurance, promotion, monitoring and management. Steps to be taken by the Bureau under this section will include:

- (i) Market surveillance of goods, services, and processes to monitor their quality.
- (ii) Promotion of quality by educating consumers and the industry about quality and standards regarding these goods and services.
- (iii) Recognizing any institution which is engaged in conformity certification and inspection of goods and services.

- Indian Standard has been defined as the standard established by the Bureau, in relation to any goods, services, article, etc., regarding the quality and specifications of the goods, services, etc. Provisions are proposed to be made to have a copyright on the Indian Standard with the Bureau of Indian Standards.
- The central government may notify precious metals and other goods and articles, to be marked by a standard mark. Notified goods and articles are proposed to be sold only through retail certified by the Bureau.
- If a police officer above the rank of deputy superintendent of police is satisfied that offences under the Act have been committed, he should be allowed to search and seize the goods without a warrant.

Commerce and Industry

CAG Report on Special Economic Zones

Joyita Ghose (joyita@prsindia.org)

The Comptroller and Auditor General submitted a report on the performance of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) on November 28, 2014.⁶⁹ An SEZ is a region within a country with more liberal economic policies and governance structures than the rest of the country.

Key observations and recommendations outlined in the report include:

- **Performance and socio-economic impact:** The performance of 152 SEZs which were sampled was unsatisfactory on indicators such as employment, investment, and export. For example, the actual employment provided under SEZs was 93% less than the projected employment in certain sampled units. Performance indicators used by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry did not measure the performance on employment indicators adequately. CAG recommended

that the Ministry prescribe performance indicators in accordance with the objectives of SEZs.

- **Growth pattern:** Approximately 77% of the 392 notified SEZs in India, are in industrially developed states. Additionally, 57% of SEZs were in the IT/ITES sector.
- **Land utilisation:** Operations have commenced on 62% of the land allotted for SEZs. 14% of the land for SEZs was de-notified, and used for commercial purposes in several cases. CAG recommended that the Ministry review procedures to ensure that this does not happen.
- **Tax administration:** The audit found systemic weaknesses in the tax administration of Rs 27,130 crore. CAG recommended that the Department of Revenue review the Income Tax Act, 1961 and Wealth Tax, 1957 to strengthen provisions impacting SEZs.
- **Monitoring:** The audit found that developers and unit holders were monitored poorly in the absence of an internal audit set up. CAG recommended strengthening the monitoring framework and conducting internal audits of SEZs.

Cabinet approves 100% FDI through automatic route for medical devices

Joyita Ghose (joyita@prsindia.org)

The Cabinet approved 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through automatic route for the manufacture of medical devices on December 24, 2014.⁷⁰

At present, medical devices are categorised under the pharmaceutical sector in the FDI policy. In the pharmaceutical sector, 100% FDI is permitted subject to certain conditions. FDI for brown-field (existing) projects requires the approval of the central government, while FDI for green-field (new) projects is automatic.

Medical devices will now be categorised as separate from the pharmaceutical sector and 100% FDI will be allowed through the automatic route for the manufacture of medical devices.

A definition of medical devices has been provided to identify those devices to which these changes will apply. This includes appliances to be used for the purpose of diagnosis, prevention, monitoring, and treatment of any disease, and diagnosis and treatment of any handicap, etc.

Comments invited on draft National Intellectual Property Rights Policy

Apoorva Shankar (apoorva@prsindia.org)

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, released a draft National Intellectual Property (IP) Rights Policy on December 20, 2014.⁷¹ Comments have been invited on the draft policy by January 30, 2015.⁷²

The main objectives of the draft Policy are to: (i) create awareness about the economic, cultural and social benefits of IP among all sections of society, (ii) stimulate the creation and growth of IP, (iii) facilitate an effective legal and legislative framework for IP, (iv) modernise and strengthen IP administration and management, (v) augment commercialisation of IP rights (valuation, licensing and technology transfer), and (vi) strengthen legal provisions for combating IP violations, piracy and counterfeiting.

Rural Development

Joyita Ghose (joyita@prsindia.org)

CAG Report on Indira Awas Yojana

The Comptroller and Auditor General submitted a report on the performance of the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) on December 19, 2014.⁷³ IAY is a scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development, which provides financial assistance to rural, BPL families to construct houses.

Key observations and recommendations made by CAG are detailed below:

- **Identification and selection of beneficiaries:** The housing shortage has not been assessed in 14 states. A periodic assessment of the housing shortage should be conducted. In several states beneficiaries were identified incorrectly. For example, in 12 states 36,751 non BPL households were given financial assistance of approximately Rs 89 crore.
- **Construction and quality of houses:** Out of a target of 170 lakh houses to be constructed under IAY, only 75% were constructed. There was a delay in the construction of houses by more than two years in several cases. No quality inspections were done in 55% of the gram panchayats surveyed. CAG recommended conducting regular

inspections to assess the quality of houses constructed.

- **Financial management:** The under utilisation of funds by states led to a deduction of roughly Rs 2,450 crore from the central allocation. CAG recommended that the second instalment of money to beneficiaries be made only after verification from the relevant authorities.
- **Homestead scheme:** The scheme to provide homestead sites (under IAY) to rural BPL families without agricultural land or house sites was not implemented in 17 states.
- **Monitoring:** CAG noted that current monitoring mechanisms are ineffective. It pointed out that social audits can be used to ensure that eligible beneficiaries are selected and that houses are constructed on time. State level evaluation studies should be conducted to identify implementation issues.

¹ “Index Numbers of Wholesale Price in India (BASE: 2004-05=100), Review for the Month of November, 2014”, Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, December 15, 2014.

² “Consumer Price Index Numbers on Base 2010=100 for Rural, Urban and Combined for the Month of November, 2014”, Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, December 12, 2014.

³ “Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production and Use-Based Index for the Month of October, 2014 (BASE: 2004-05=100)”, Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, December 12, 2014.

⁴ “Fifth Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2014-15”, Reserve Bank of India Press Release, December 2, 2014, <http://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/PressRelease/PDFs/IEPR1084MP1114.pdf>.

⁵ “Developments in India’s Balance of Payments during the Second Quarter (July-September) of 2014-15”, Reserve Bank of India Press Release, December 8, 2014, <http://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/PressRelease/PDFs/IEPR1176BOP1214.pdf>.

⁶ The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014, Ministry of Rural Development, December 31, 2014, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media//Ordinances/RTFCT LARR%20Ordinance%202014.pdf>.

⁷ “The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014”, Ministry of Coal, December 12, 2014, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Coal%20Mines/Coal%20mines%20Bill,%202014.pdf>.

⁸ “The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014”, Ministry of Coal, October 21, 2014, <http://www.coal.nic.in/coalmines-specialprovisions-ordinance2014.pdf>.

⁹ “The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Second Ordinance, 2014”, Ministry of Coal, December 26,

2014, <http://www.egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2014/162184.pdf>.

¹⁰ “Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Rules, 2014”, Ministry of Coal, December 11, 2014, <http://www.egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2014/162028.pdf>.

¹¹ “Coal Ministry to Commence First Batch of E-Auction of 24 Coal Mines Tomorrow”, Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Coal, December 24, 2014.

¹² “The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014”, Ministry of Power, December 19, 2014, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Electricity/Electricity%20%28A%29%20bill,%202014.pdf>.

¹³ “Office memorandum: Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana”, Ministry of Power, December 3, 2014, http://powermin.nic.in/rural_electrification/pdf/Deendayal_Upadhyaya_Gram_Jyoti_Yojana.pdf.

¹⁴ The Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill, 2014, Ministry of Finance, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Constitution%20122nd/Constitution%20122nd%20Bill.pdf>.

¹⁵ The Constitution (115th Amendment) Bill, 2011, Ministry of Finance, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Constitution%20115/Constitution%20115,%2022%20of%202011.pdf>.

¹⁶ The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014, Ministry of Law and Justice, December 27, 2014, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media//Ordinances/Insurance%20Laws%20Ordinance,%202014.pdf>.

¹⁷ The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2008, Ministry of Finance, http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/1230002517/1230002517_Insurance_Bill.pdf.

¹⁸ “Report of the Select Committee on the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2008, Rajya Sabha, December 10, 2014, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Insurance/Select%20committee%20on%20Insurance%20Laws.pdf>.

¹⁹ “Report of the Select Committee on the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2008, Rajya Sabha, December 10, 2014, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Insurance/Select%20committee%20on%20Insurance%20Laws.pdf>.

²⁰ The Payment and Settlement Systems (Amendment) Bill, 2014, Ministry of Finance, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Payment%20and%20Settlement/payment%20and%20settlement%20as%20passed%20by%20LS.pdf>.

²¹ “The Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Bill, 2014”, Ministry of Finance, December 18, 2014.

²² The Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Laws (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2014, Ministry of Textiles, [http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Textile/Textile%20Undertakings%20\(Nationalisation\)%20Laws%20\(Amendment%20And%20Validation\)%20Bill,%202014.pdf](http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Textile/Textile%20Undertakings%20(Nationalisation)%20Laws%20(Amendment%20And%20Validation)%20Bill,%202014.pdf).

²³ The Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Laws (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2014, Ministry of Law and Justice, December 17, 2014, <http://www.egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2014/162117.pdf>.

²⁴ The Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Laws (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2014, Ministry of Textiles, October 24, 2014, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media//Ordinances/NTC%20Ordinance%202014.pdf>.

²⁵ ‘National Textile Corporation Ltd. vs. Nareshkumar Badrikumar Jagad and Ors’, Supreme Court Civil Appeal No. 7448 of 2011, September 5, 2011, <http://judis.nic.in/supremecourt/imgs1.aspx?filename=38445>.

- ²⁶ The Sick Textile Undertaking (Nationalisation) Act, 1974, http://texmin.nic.in/acts/act_stu.pdf; The Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Act, 1995, http://texmin.nic.in/acts/act_ntc.pdf.
- ²⁷ The Lokpal and Lokayuktas and other related Law (Amendment) Bill, 2014, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Lokpal/Lokpal%20and%20Lokayuktas%20%28A%29%202014.pdf>.
- ²⁸ The Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014, Ministry of Law and Justice, December 3, 2014, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Repealing%20and%20Amending/Repealing%20and%20Amending%20Second%20Bill%202014.pdf>.
- ²⁹ “73rd Report: The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2014”, Standing Committee on Law and Justice, December 18, 2014, <http://164.100.47.5/newcommittee/reports/EnglishCommittees/Committee%20on%20Personnel,%20PublicGrievances,%20Law%20and%20Justice/73.pdf>.
- ³⁰ The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2014, Ministry of Law and Justice, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Repealing%20and%20Amending/Repealing%20and%20Amending%20Bill,%202014.pdf>.
- ³¹ The Constitution (99th Amendment) Act, 2014, Ministry of Law and Justice, December 31, 2014 <http://www.egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2014/162235.pdf>; The National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014, Ministry of Law and Justice, December 31, 2014, <http://www.egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2014/162232.pdf>.
- ³² “The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2014”, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, December 15, 2014, [http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Motor%20Vehicles/Motor%20Vehicles%20\(A\)%20bill,%202014.pdf](http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Motor%20Vehicles/Motor%20Vehicles%20(A)%20bill,%202014.pdf).
- ³³ “The Central Motor Vehicles (Sixteenth Amendment) Rules, 2014”, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, October 8, 2014, <http://www.egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2014/161182.pdf>.
- ³⁴ “The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2014”, Ministry of Shipping, December 9, 2014, [http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Merchant%20Shipping/Merchant%20Shipping%20\(A\)%20Bill,%202013.pdf](http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Merchant%20Shipping/Merchant%20Shipping%20(A)%20Bill,%202013.pdf).
- ³⁵ “The Merchant Shipping (Second) Amendment Bill, 2014”, Ministry of Shipping, December 9, 2014, [http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Merchant%20Shipping/The%20Merchant%20Shipping%20\(Second%20Amendment\)%20Bill,%202013.pdf](http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Merchant%20Shipping/The%20Merchant%20Shipping%20(Second%20Amendment)%20Bill,%202013.pdf).
- ³⁶ “197th report: The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2013”, Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, Rajya Sabha, June 26, 2013, <http://164.100.47.5/newcommittee/reports/EnglishCommittees/Committee%20on%20Transport,%20Tourism%20and%20Culture/197.pdf>.
- ³⁷ “202nd report: The Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Bill, 2013”, Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, Rajya Sabha, November 20, 2013, <http://164.100.47.5/newcommittee/reports/EnglishCommittees/Committee%20on%20Transport,%20Tourism%20and%20Culture/202.pdf>.
- ³⁸ “Report no.-19 of 2014-Union Government (Railway) - Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Railway Finances”, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, November 28, 2014, http://www.saiindia.gov.in/english/home/Our_Products/Audit_Report/Government_Wise/union_audit/recent_reports/union_compliance/2014/Railway/Report_19/19of2014.pdf.
- ³⁹ “3rd Report: The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2014”, Standing Committee on Labour, December 22, 2014, http://164.100.47.134/Isscommittee/Labour/16_Labour_3.pdf
- ⁴⁰ The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2014, Ministry of Labour, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Factories/Factories%20%28A%29%20bill,%202014.pdf>.
- ⁴¹ The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2014, Ministry of Urban Development, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Public%20Premises/Public%20Premises%20Bill,%202014.pdf>.
- ⁴² The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill, 2014, Ministry of Urban Development, <http://www.prsindia.org/administrator/uploads/media/NCT/NCT%20of%20delhi%20laws%20bill,%202014.pdf>.
- ⁴³ The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act, 2011, Ministry of Urban Development, <http://164.100.24.219/BillsTexts/LSBillTexts/PassedBothHouses/nct%202nd.pdf>.
- ⁴⁴ “SBM Guidelines”, Ministry of Urban Development, December 2014, http://moud.gov.in/sites/upload_files/moud/files/SBM_Guide_line.pdf.
- ⁴⁵ “Guidelines for Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)”, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, December 2014, http://www.mdws.gov.in/sites/upload_files/ddws/files/guidelines_Swachh_Bharat_Mission_Gramin.pdf.
- ⁴⁶ “Swachh Bharat Kosh Guidelines, 2014”, Ministry of Finance, November 25, 2014, http://www.finmin.nic.in/the_ministry/dept_expenditure/swac_hhbarat/SWK_Operational_Guidelines2014.pdf.
- ⁴⁷ The Anti-Hijacking Bill, 2014, Ministry of Civil Aviation, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Anti%20Hijacking/Anti%20Hijacking%20Bill%202014-.pdf>.
- ⁴⁸ The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2014, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Citizenship/citizenship%20%28A%29%20bill,%202014.pdf>.
- ⁴⁹ Setting up of Expert Study Group for tackling Cyber Crimes, Ministry of Home Affairs, Press Information Bureau, December 24, 2014.
- ⁵⁰ Amendments for the seats in the Legislative Council for the successor state of Andhra Pradesh in Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, Cabinet, December 24, 2014.
- ⁵¹ “253rd Report: The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2013”, Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests, December 11, 2014, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Wildlife/SCR-%20Wild%20life%20protection.pdf>.
- ⁵² “Report of the High Level Committee to Review Various Acts Administered by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change”, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, November 18, 2014, http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/press-releases/Final_Report_of_HLC.pdf.
- ⁵³ “Lima Call for Climate Action”, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, December 14, 2014, http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/application/pdf/auv_cop20_lima_call_for_climate_action.pdf.
- ⁵⁴ The Indian Institutes of Information Technology Bill, 2014, Ministry of Human Resource Development, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/IIT%20Bill,%202014.pdf>.

⁵⁵ The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2014, Ministry of Human Resource Development, [http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Central%20University/Central%20University%20\(A\)%202014.pdf/](http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Central%20University/Central%20University%20(A)%202014.pdf/).

⁵⁶ The Central Universities (Amendment) Act, 2014, Ministry of Law and Justice, December 17, 2014, <http://www.egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2014/162116.pdf>.

⁵⁷ The School of Planning and Architecture Bill, 2014, Ministry of Human Resource Development, December 2, 2014, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/SPA/School%20of%20Planning%20and%20Architerture%20Bill%202014.pdf>.

⁵⁸ The School of Planning and Architecture Act, 2014, Ministry of Human Resource Development, December 18, 2014, <http://www.egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2014/162126.pdf>.

⁵⁹ “6th Report: The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2014”, Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, December 19, 2014, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/SC%20ST%20Atrocities/SCR%20SC%20ST%20Prevention%20of%20Atrocities%20Amendment%20Bill.%202014.pdf>.

⁶⁰ “1st Report: The Constitution (One Hundred and Nineteenth Amendment) Bill, 2013”, Standing Committee on External Affairs (2014-2015), December 1, 2014, [http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Constitution%20119/SCR-%20119th%20\(A\)%20Bill.pdf](http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Constitution%20119/SCR-%20119th%20(A)%20Bill.pdf).

⁶¹ Prime Minister’s Media Statement during Official Visit of the President of Russian Federation to India (December 10-11, 2014), Ministry of External Affairs, December 11, 2014, <http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?24484/Prime+Ministers+Media+Statement+during+the+Official+Visit+of+the+President+of+Russian+Federation+to+India+December+10+11+2014>.

⁶² Strategic Vision for Strengthening Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation, Ministry of External Affairs, Press Information Bureau, December 11, 2014.

⁶³ List of Documents Signed During the Official Visit of President of Russian Federation to India (December 10-11, 2014), Ministry of External Affairs, Press Information Bureau, December 11, 2014.

⁶⁴ The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2014, Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, <http://consumeraffairs.nic.in/consumer/writereaddata/EC%20Amendment%20Bill.pdf>.

⁶⁵ “The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supply of Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2014, Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, <http://consumeraffairs.nic.in/consumer/writereaddata/Prevention%20Black%20Market.pdf>.

⁶⁶ Comparative Statement on proposed amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, <http://consumeraffairs.nic.in/consumer/writereaddata/Comp%20Statement%20CP.pdf>.

⁶⁷ Draft amendment in Legal Metrology Act, Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, <http://consumeraffairs.nic.in/consumer/writereaddata/AmendmentLM.pdf>.

⁶⁸ Proposed amendments to Bureau of Indian Standards, Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, http://consumeraffairs.nic.in/consumer/writereaddata/Comparative%20Statement_BIS.pdf.

⁶⁹ Report 21 of 2014: Performance of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Comptroller and Auditor General, November 28, 2014, http://www.saiindia.gov.in/english/home/Our_Products/Audit_Report/Government_Wise/union_audit/recent_reports/union_performance/2014/INDT/Report_21/Report_21.html.

⁷⁰ “Review of the policy on Foreign Direct Investment in Pharmaceutical Sector – carve out for medical devices”, Press Information Bureau, Cabinet, December 24, 2014.

⁷¹ “National IPR Policy”, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, December 19, 2014, http://dipp.nic.in/English/Schemes/Intellectual_Property_Rights/IPR_Policy_24December2014.pdf.

⁷² No. 10/22/2013-IPR-III, “Press Release”, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, December 20, 2014, http://dipp.nic.in/English/acts_rules/Press_Release/pressRelease_IPR_Policy_30December2014.pdf.

⁷³ Report 37 of 2014: Performance Audit of Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Comptroller and Auditor General, December 19, 2014, http://www.saiindia.gov.in/english/home/Our_Products/Audit_Report/Government_Wise/union_audit/recent_reports/union_performance/2014/Civil/Report_37/Report_37.html.

DISCLAIMER: This document is being furnished to you for your information. You may choose to reproduce or redistribute this report for non-commercial purposes in part or in full to any other person with due acknowledgement of PRS Legislative Research (“PRS”). The opinions expressed herein are entirely those of the author(s). PRS makes every effort to use reliable and comprehensive information, but PRS does not represent that the contents of the report are accurate or complete. PRS is an independent, not-for-profit group. This document has been prepared without regard to the objectives or opinions of those who may receive it.