

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Article 326 of the Constitution provides that the elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of every State shall be on the basis of adult suffrage, that is to say, a person should not be less than 21 years of age. It has been found that many of the countries have specified 18 years as the voting age. In our country some of the State Governments have adopted 18 years of age for elections to the local authorities. The present-day youth are literate and enlightened. Lowering of voting age would provide to the unrepresented youth of the country an opportunity to give vent to their feelings and help them become a part of the political process. The present-day youth are very much politically conscious. It is, therefore, proposed to reduce the voting age from 21 years to 18 years.

NEW DELHI;

B. SHANKARANAND.

The 9th December, 1988.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to amend article 326 of the Constitution to reduce the voting age from 21 years to 18 years. It is estimated that as a result of this reduction in voting age, the number of votes will be increased by 47 million. If the Bill is enacted and brought into operation, the electoral rolls have to be revised to include all those persons who are between the age of 18 and 21 years. It is not possible to precisely estimate for expenditure involved in the revision of electoral rolls. On a modest estimate given by the Election Commission, it is estimated that this would come to anywhere between rupees 1 crore and 1.50 crores. Some more expenditure is also likely to be involved in the conduct of elections, in the form of printing of additional ballot papers, the establishment of more number of polling stations, etc. It is not possible to precisely estimate the expenditure that would be incurred on this account.

The Bill, if enacted and brought into operation, would not involve any other expenditure, either recurring or non-recurring.