

Best Practice 07: Madhya Pradesh Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2024

Overview

The **Madhya Pradesh Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2024** aims to enhance the **Ease of Living** and **Ease of Doing Business** in the state. This landmark legislation is the first of its kind in India, amending eight state acts across five departments to decriminalize 64 provisions. It was passed by the Vidhan Sabha on **December 19, 2024**.

Pre-Reform Scenario

Prior to this amendment, many provisions in state laws included criminal penalties for minor, technical, or procedural defaults. This situation created a climate of fear among citizens and businesses, as even minor violations could lead to imprisonment, clogging the justice delivery system and diverting attention from serious offenses.

Objective

The primary objective of the bill is to simplify compliance for businesses and citizens, rationalize criminal provisions, and ensure that penalties are proportional to the severity of the offenses committed. The aim is to create a more business-friendly environment while maintaining the integrity of the law.

Implementation

The bill was developed under the leadership of the Chief Minister **Dr. Mohan Yadav** and was approved through various stages:

- **Senior Secretaries Committee meeting on December 6, 2024.**
- Vetting by the **Law and Legislative Affairs Department.**
- Approval by the **Cabinet Committee** for presentation in the Vidhan Sabha on **December 10, 2024.**
- Presentation in the Vidhan Sabha on **December 17, 2024**, followed by detailed deliberation leading to its passage on **December 19, 2024.**

Key Features

1. **Decriminalization:** Removal of imprisonment and fines in certain provisions, along with decriminalization of minor offenses.
2. **Rationalization of Penalties:** Ensuring penalties are proportionate to the severity of the offense.
3. **Simplified Compliance:** Streamlined processes for businesses and citizens, reducing unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles.
4. **Compounding of Offenses:** Introduction of compounding for specific offenses to simplify resolution.
5. **Establishment of Adjudicating Officers and Appellate Authorities:** To facilitate effective implementation and adjudication of cases.

Impact

The benefits of the Amendment Bill include:

1. Reduction of fear among citizens and businesses regarding imprisonment for minor violations.
2. Balance between the severity of offenses and the prescribed punishments, promoting adherence to the law.
3. Alleviation of pressure on the justice system by focusing on serious offenses and streamlining administrative adjudication mechanisms.
4. Improved quality of life for citizens and enhanced operational conditions for businesses, fostering economic growth.
5. A model for future legislative amendments aimed at simplifying laws and regulations.

Replicability

The principles established by this amendment can serve as a guiding framework for future reforms in various laws across other states and departments, promoting the rationalization of legal provisions.