

# Goyal tables Jan Vishwas Bill for ease of doing biz

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Commerce and industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday in Lok Sabha introduced Jan Vishwas Bill, which seeks to decriminalise minor offences by amending 183 provisions in 42 Acts with a view to promote ease of business.

The Bill was later referred to a 31-member joint committee of Parliament for scrutiny. It proposes to amend 183 provisions across 42 Acts administered by 19 ministries.

Introducing the Bill, Goyal said that there are many laws in the country, under which punishment provisions are there for minor offences and for that people



## MUCH-NEEDED, MUCH-AWAITED

■ 183 provisions the Bill seeks to amend, across 42 Acts administered by 19 ministries

■ 31-member joint committee of Parliament to study the proposed legislation

■ The Bill looks to decriminalise minor offences

■ It envisages rationalisation of monetary penalties, depending upon the gravity of the offence

have to approach courts.

"We have to trust people. For minor mistakes, people should not be penalised. For minor offences, there should be a provision for paying fines," he said.

He said the government has taken a series of measures to promote ease of doing business.

About 1,500 old laws have been repealed, 39,000 compliances have been simplified and about 3,500 norms were introduced to decriminalise offences, the minister said. The proposed law, he said, "will also help in reducing the burden on judiciary".

The Bill was introduced amid protests by the Opposition who were demanding a discussion on the border issue with China.

Besides the decriminalisation of minor offences, the Bill envisages the rationalisation of monetary penalties, depending on the gravity of the offence, bolstering trust-based governance.

"Yet another novelty involved in the proposal is an increase of 10 per cent of the minimum amount of fine and penalty levied, after the expiry of every three years, once the Bill becomes a law," according to the statement of objects and reasons.

## Representations on lack of transparency, objectivity in collegium system: Rijiju



The government has been receiving representations from "diverse sources" on lack of transparency, objectivity and social diversity in the collegium system of appointment of Supreme Court and high court judges with the

request to improve the mechanism, Rajya Sabha was informed. In a written reply, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju also said the government has sent suggestions for supplementing the Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of judges to the high courts and Supreme Court.

MoP is a document which guides the appointment and transfer of judges in the higher judiciary.

He recalled in a bid to make the collegium system of appointments of judges "more broad-based, transparent, accountable and bringing objectivity in the system", the government brought into force the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 on April 13, 2015. PTI