

Bill No. VI of 2025

THE SUSTAINABLE FASHION (PROMOTION AND
REGULATION) BILL, 2025

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AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 7TH FEBRUARY, 2025

Bill No. VI of 2025

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to provide a framework for promoting sustainable fashion practices in the country, upholding environmental and social justice, and to establish a framework for transitioning the fashion industry towards a circular economy, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

- 5 **1.** (1) This Act may be called the Sustainable Fashion (Promotion and Regulation) Act, 2025.
- (2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Short title and commencement.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

(a) "circular economy" means an economic system aimed at minimizing waste and making the most of resources through recycling, upcycling, and sustainable production practices;

(b) "Commission" means the Sustainable Fashion Commission of India established under section 3 of this Act; 5

(c) "fashion" includes a popular trend or a lifestyle, specially in styles of dress and ornament or manners of behaviour or the business of creating, promoting or studying styles in vogue or the designing, production and marketing of new styles of goods such as, clothing, accessories, craft and cosmetics; and the words "fashion industry" with their grammatical variations and cognate expressions, shall be construed accordingly; 10

(d) "Green Certification" means an official recognition awarded to fashion businesses that meet prescribed environmental and social standards; 15

(e) "prescribed" means prescribed by the rules made under this Act; and

(f) "sustainable fashion" means such practices in the fashion industry that reduce environmental harm and uphold social justice, as may be prescribed. 20

CHAPTER II

SUSTAINABLE FASHION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Constitution of the Sustainable Fashion Commission of India.

3. (1) **The Central Government shall, within one year from the date of commencement of this Act, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute, a body to be known as the Sustainable Fashion Commission of India, which shall be responsible for carrying out the functions assigned under this Act.** 25

(2) **The Commission shall have its head office in Delhi and may, with the prior approval of the Central Government, establish regional offices at other locations across India to enhance its reach and effectiveness.** 30

(3) **The Commission shall be a body corporate, with perpetual succession and a common seal, empowered to acquire, hold, and dispose of property (both movable and immovable), enter into contracts, and initiate or respond to legal proceedings in its corporate name.** 35

Composition of the Commission.

4. (1) The Commission shall consist of the following:

(i) **a Chairperson, who shall be a person having not less than ten years of experience in sustainable fashion, to be appointed by the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed;**

(ii) **not exceeding three Members, who shall be persons having at least seven years of practical experience in fields such as sustainable fashion, textile innovation, or environmental management, to be appointed by the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed;** 40

(iii) **eight *ex-officio* Members, to be nominated by the Central Government, one each from the following Union Ministries:** 45

(a) **Ministry of Textiles;**

(b) **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change;**

(c) **Ministry of Women and Child Development;**

- 5
- (d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry;
 - (e) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy;
 - (f) Ministry of Corporate Affairs;
 - (g) Ministry of Tribal Affairs; and
 - (h) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; and
- (iv) five non-official members to be appointed by the Central Government from non-governmental organisations, academic institutions, or industry experts having at least five years of specialized knowledge or experience in sustainable fashion.

10 (2) The salaries, allowances and terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission shall be as prescribed by the Central Government.

(3) The Union Ministry of Textiles shall provide necessary secretarial assistance to the Commission.

15 5. (1) The Chairperson and other Members of the Commission may at any time resign from their office by writing under their hand addressed,—

(a) in the case of the Chairperson, to the Secretary, Union Ministry of Textiles; and

(b) in any other case, to the Chairperson of the Commission.

20 (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Central Government may remove from the Commission any member who, in its opinion, has—

(a) been adjudged as an insolvent; or

25 (b) been convicted of an offence which involves moral turpitude; or

(c) become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a member; or

(d) so abused his position as to render his continuance in office detrimental to the public interest; or

30 (e) acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to prejudicially affect his functions as a Member.

35 6. (1) The Commission shall meet at least once every six months at such time and place and shall observe such rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings, including the quorum at its meetings, as may be prescribed:

Provided if, in the opinion of the Central Government or the Chairperson, any business of an urgent nature is to be transacted, a meeting of the Commission at such time as deemed fit for the aforesaid purpose, may be convened.

40 (2) The Chairperson shall preside at the meetings of the Commission.

(3) If for any reason the Chairperson is unable to attend any meeting of the Commission, any senior Member of the Commission chosen by the Members present at the meeting shall preside at the meeting.

45 (4) All questions which come before any meeting of the Commission shall be decided by a majority of votes of the members present and voting and in the event of equality of votes, the Chairperson or, in his absence, the person presiding, shall have and exercise a second or casting vote.

Resignation and removal of Chairperson and Members.

Meetings of the Commission.

Punishment for default in holding meetings.

7. If any default is made in holding a meeting of the Commission in accordance with sub-section (1) of section 6, every officer of the Commission who is in default shall be punishable with a fine which may extend to one lakh rupees and in the case of a continuing default, with a further fine which may extend to five thousand rupees for everyday during which such default continues. 5

Committees of the Commission.

8. (1) **The Commission shall constitute a Committee to be known as the Scientific Advisory Committee, in such manner as may be prescribed, to inform and advise the Central Government and the Commission on sustainable fashion trends and on any other matter as deemed fit by the Central Government and the Commission in the form of a report every three months.** 10

(2) **The Commission shall constitute a Committee to be known as the Sustainable Fashion Advisory Committee, in such manner as may be prescribed, to inform and advise the Central Government and the Commission on sustainable fashion planning in achieving national sustainable fashion targets or any other matter referred to by the Central Government and the Commission.** 15

(3) **Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-sections (1) and (2), the Commission may constitute such number of committees as it deems fit for the efficient discharge of its duties and performance of its functions under this Act, in such manner as may be prescribed.** 20

(4) **Every Committee constituted under this section shall co-opt such number of persons, who are not the members of the Commission, as it may think fit and the persons so co-opted shall have the right to attend the meetings of the Committee and take part in its proceedings but shall not have the right to vote.** 25

(5) **The persons co-opted as Members of the Committee under sub-section (4) shall be entitled to receive such allowances or fees for attending the meetings of the Committee as may be fixed by the Central Government.** 30

Functions of the Commission.

9. The Commission shall—

(a) advise the Central Government upon review of the national sustainable fashion target and, if necessary, recommend changes to the target; 35

(b) advise the Central Government on matters relating to countering the adverse impacts of unsustainable fashion on vulnerable communities and eco-sensitive zones;

(c) conduct periodic reviews of the sustainable fashion plan to meet sustainable fashion targets at the national and international levels; 40

(d) prepare annual national sustainable fashion risk assessments;

(e) ensure coordination with other Ministries of the Central Government and for purposes connected therewith, to appoint nodal officers in other Ministries to ensure proper coordination between the Commission and the Central Government with the aim of implementing this Act; 45

(f) conduct awareness and training programmes for officers and personnel; and

(g) perform such other functions as may be prescribed, by the Central Government, for carrying out the objectives of this Act. 50

10. The Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, make to the Commission grants of such sums of money as the Central Government may think fit. Grants by Central Government.
- 5 11. (1) The Commission shall prepare every year, in such form and within such time as may be prescribed, an annual report, giving a full account of its activities during the previous year and copies of the report shall be forwarded to the Central Government. Annual Report.
- (2) A copy of the report received under sub-section (1) shall be laid by the Central Government, as soon as may be after it is received, before each House of Parliament. 10

CHAPTER III

NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE FASHION STRATEGY

12. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, formulate a National Sustainable Fashion Strategy within six months of the commencement of this Act. 15 National Sustainable Fashion Strategy.
- (2) The strategy shall include:
- (a) guidelines for adopting sustainable materials and technologies;
- (b) manner of conduct of awareness campaigns on sustainable consumption habits; and
- 20 (c) recommendations for suitable training programs for workers and designers on sustainable practices.
13. (1) The Central Government shall establish a Green Certification scheme for the fashion industry. Green Certification scheme.
- (2) The certification criteria shall include:
- 25 (a) use of eco-friendly materials;
- (b) waste reduction through recycling and upcycling; and
- (c) compliance with fair labour standards.
- (3) The Central Government may provide that the certified businesses shall receive official recognition and access to advisory services for sustainable practices, in such manner as may be prescribed. 30

CHAPTER IV

REGULATORY MEASURES

14. The Central Government shall prescribe standards to minimize water pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and waste generation in the fashion industry. 35 Ecological impact standards.
15. (1) Every fashion industry employer shall ensure compliance with labour laws, including fair wages, safe working conditions, and the prohibition of child labour. Fair labour practices.
- (2) The Central Government shall conduct regular inspections to ensure compliance of fair labour practices specified in section (1). 40
16. (1) Every fashion business shall adopt measures to manage waste responsibly, including recycling and safe disposal of textile waste. Waste management obligations.
- (2) The Central Government shall facilitate partnerships with private entities for the establishment of textile recycling zones in major industrial areas.

CHAPTER V

CIRCULAR ECONOMY INITIATIVES

- Promotion of circular economy practices.
17. The Central Government shall encourage businesses to adopt circular economy practices, including:
- (a) design of durable and repairable clothing; 5
 - (b) use of biodegradable and recycled materials; and
 - (c) establishment of take-back and recycling programs.
- Collaboration for research and development.
18. (1) The Central Government shall promote collaboration between industry stakeholders and academic institutions to develop sustainable materials and production methods. 10
- (2) The Central Government shall encourage the fashion industry stakeholders to allocate resources for innovation in a sustainable fashion.

CHAPTER VI

AWARENESS INITIATIVES

- Public awareness and education.
19. (1) **The Central Government shall conduct nationwide campaigns to educate consumers about sustainable fashion.** 15
- (2) The Central Government shall encourage the educational institutions to include sustainable fashion and circular economy principles in their curriculum.

CHAPTER VII

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OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

- Penalty.
20. (1) Any person who fails to comply with ecological impact standards, fair labour practices, or waste management obligations in contravention of the provisions of this Act shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to one year or a fine, amounting to one lakh rupees which may extend to five lakhs rupees, or both. 25
- (2) If any person, after having been previously convicted of an offence punishable under this Act subsequently commits and is convicted of the same offence, he shall be liable to—
- (i) twice the punishment, which might have been imposed on a first conviction, subject to the punishment being maximum provided for the same offence; 30
 - (ii) a further fine on daily basis which may extend up to one lakh rupees, where the offence is a continuing one; and
 - (iii) his licence shall be cancelled. 35
- Whistleblower protection.
21. (1) Whosoever reports violations under this Act shall be protected against retaliation.
- (2) The Central Government shall establish a confidential mechanism for whistleblower complaints, in such manner as may be prescribed.
- Offences by companies.
22. (1) Where an offence under this Act is committed by a company, every person who, at the time the offence was committed, was in-charge of the company or was responsible for the conduct of business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly: 40

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to punishment if he proves that the contravention took place without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent such contravention.

5 (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where any offence under this Act has been committed by a company and it is proved that such an offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such
10 director, manager, secretary or other officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Explanation.— For the purposes of this section,—

(a) "company" means any body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals; and

15 (b) "director", in relation to a firm, means a partner in the firm.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS

23. Any dispute arising from any order or decision made by the Central Government under the provisions of the Act shall lie before the National Green Tribunal within six months from the date on which such a dispute
20 arose.
24. No civil court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceeding in respect of any matter which the National Green Tribunal is empowered by or under this Act to determine, and no injunction shall be granted by any
25 Court or other authority in respect of any action taken or to be taken in pursuance of any power conferred by or under this Act.
25. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.
26. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the
30 Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty:
- 35 Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of the period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.
- (2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.
27. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act.
- 40 (2) Every rule made by the Central Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive session
45 aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.
- Power to adjudicate disputes.
- Bar of jurisdiction.
- Act not in derogation of any other law.
- Power to remove difficulties.
- Power to make rules.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

India has the potential to become a global hub for sustainable fashion. However, the fashion industry significantly impacts environmental degradation and social inequality. Unsustainable fashion practices pose a dual threat, compromising both environmental preservation and social justice. The Bill aims to promote sustainable fashion practices, protect vulnerable groups, and uphold circular economy principles, establishing a comprehensive framework for sustainable fashion in India. Further, it seeks to ensure that the industry's growth aligns with environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

The fashion industry is notorious for its substantial environmental impact, including water pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and the generation of enormous waste. These unsustainable practices exacerbate social inequalities, disproportionately affecting underprivileged populations who suffer from environmental degradation and poor working conditions. The Bill addresses these critical issues by promoting sustainable production and consumption habits, endorsing circular economy principles, and enforcing stringent regulations to reduce the industry's ecological footprint.

The concept of a circular economy in the fashion industry focuses on eliminating waste through thoughtful design, promoting the long-term use of products and materials, and restoring natural systems. By encouraging practices such as recycling, upcycling, and the use of sustainable materials, the Bill aims to reduce the industry's reliance on finite resources and lessen its environmental impact. This shift towards a circular economy is expected not only to conserve the environment but also to create new business opportunities, drive innovation, and foster economic growth.

In summary, this Bill seeks to transform India's fashion industry by integrating sustainable practices and circular economy principles into its operational framework. In doing so, it will protect the environment, promote social equity, and stimulate economic development, positioning India as a leader in sustainable fashion on the global stage.

Hence, this bill.

SUJEET KUMAR

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for the constitution of the Sustainable Fashion Commission of India at the national level and clause 4 provides for its composition thereof. Clause 8 provides for constitution of Scientific Advisory Committee and Sustainable Fashion Advisory Committee by the Commission. Clause 9 *inter alia* provides that the Commission shall conduct awareness and training programmes for officers and personnel. Clause 19 provides that the Government shall conduct nationwide campaigns to educate consumers about sustainable fashion.

The Bill, if enacted, would involve both non-recurring and recurring expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. However, it is not possible to estimate the exact recurring and non-recurring expenditure at this stage.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 27 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. The delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

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to provide a framework for promoting sustainable fashion practices in the country, upholding environmental and social justice, and to establish a framework for transitioning the fashion industry towards a circular economy, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Shri Sujeet Kumar, M.P.)