

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

**BILL**

*further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1976(LXXXV of 1976) and the Conduct of General Elections Order, 2002(Chief Executive's Order No.7 of 2002)*

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1976 (LXXXV of 1976) and the Conduct of General Elections Order, 2002 (*Chief Executive's Order No.7 of 2002*) for the purposes thereafter, appearing:-

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2013.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of section 12, Act LXXXV of 1976.**- In the Representation of the People Act, 1976 (Act LXXXV of 1976), in section 12, for sub-section (3), the following shall be substituted, namely;

“(3) Every nomination paper shall be delivered to the Returning Officer by the Candidate or by his proposer or seconder or if, so authorize in writing by the Candidate, by his nominee and the Returning Officer shall acknowledge receipt of the nomination paper specifying the date and time of receipt.”

3. **Amendment of the Chief Executive's Order No. 7 of 2002.**- In the Conduct of General Elections Order, 2002 (Chief Executive's Order No.7 of 2002), Article 8EE, shall be omitted.

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

The Representation of the People Act, 1976 was amended by Ordinance No. LXXXIII dated 19-10-2002 and the Conduct of General Elections Order, 2002 was amended vide Chief Executive's Order No. 31 dated 19-10-2002 to provide that the nomination paper of a candidate shall be filed by the candidate in person. The *malafide* motive was to prevent the leaders of the major political parties, who were abroad at the time, from filing their nomination papers.

The Bill seeks to amend the above mentioned laws so as to again allow a candidate to file his nomination paper in person or through his proposer or seconder or duly authorized nominee.

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Member-in-Charge