

L. A. BILL No. IX OF 2023.

A BILL

further to amend the Pandharpur Temples Act, 1973.

Mah. IX of 1974. 5 WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Pandharpur Temples Act, 1973, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; it is hereby enacted in the Seventy-fourth Year of the Republic of India, as follows :—

1. This Act may be called the Pandharpur Temples (Amendment) Act, 2023. Short title.

Mah. IX of 1974. 10 2. In section 32A of the Pandharpur Temples Act, 1973, after sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be added, namely :— Amendment of section 32A of Mah. IX of 1974.

“(5) The term of office of nominated members of the Advisory Council shall be co-terminus with the term of the members, appointed by the State Government, on Shri Vitthal-Rukmini Temples Committee.”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The Pandharpur Temples Act, 1973 (Mah. IX of 1974) has been enacted to *inter alia* provide for the abolition of all the hereditary rights, privileges of ministrants and priestly classes functioning in the Temples of God Vitthal and Goddess Rukmini at Pandharpur as also for the acquisition of such rights and privileges and for the vesting of such rights and privileges in a Committee established for the purpose and for providing for better administration and governance of those Temples.

2. Section 32A of the said Act provides for constitution of an Advisory Council for advising the Shri Vitthal-Rukmini Temples Committee in discharge of its duties and functions more efficiently, consisting of persons having special knowledge and practical experience in various fields, including the religious rites and ceremonies and the traditions and practices of the God Vitthal and Goddess Rukmini and other Saints and for the matters connected therewith.

However, the term of office of nominated members of the Advisory Council is not provided in the Act. The Government therefore considers it expedient to provide in the said Act that the term of office of nominated members of the Advisory Council shall be co-terminus with the term of Members appointed by the State Government on the Shri Vitthal-Rukmini Temples Committee. For the above purposes section 32A of the Pandharpur Temples Act, 1973, is proposed to be amended suitably.

3. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

Mumbai,
Dated the 8th March 2023.

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS,
Deputy Chief Minister.

**MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE
SECRETARIAT**

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**[A Bill further to amend the
Pandharpur Temples Act, 1973.]**

[SHRI DEVENDRA FADNAVIS,
Deputy Chief Minister.]

RAJENDRA BHAGWAT,
Principal Secretary,
Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.