

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA

BILL NO.16-PLA-2020

**THE PUNJAB GOOD CONDUCT PRISONERS (TEMPORARY
RELEASE) AMENDMENT BILL, 2020**

A

BILL

further to amend the Punjab Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Act, 1962.

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the Seventy-first Year of the Republic of India, as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be called the Punjab Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Amendment Act, 2020. Short-title
and
commencement

(2) It shall come into force on and with effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Punjab Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Act, 1962, in section 3, in sub-section (2-A), after the second proviso, the following proviso shall be added, namely:- Amendment of
section 3 of
Punjab Act 11
of 1962.

“Provided further that during disasters under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, or epidemics under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, the State Government may, by a special notification published in the Official Gazette, allow temporary release beyond the maximum period of sixteen weeks during a calendar year, and may also waive the condition of temporary release being availed of on quarterly basis.”

3. (1) The Punjab Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Amendment Ordinance, 2020 (Punjab Ordinance No.1 of 2020) is hereby repealed. Repeal and
saving.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act, as amended by the Ordinance referred to in sub-section (1), shall be deemed to have done or taken under the principal Act, as amended by this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

As per extant provisions of The Punjab Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Act 1962, a total of 16 weeks parole in one calendar year can be given to the prisoners maintaining good conduct in Jails. This is to be availed on a quarterly basis.

The present situation of the pandemic of COVID-19 may require extension of the parole beyond 16-weeks' in a calendar year. However, there are no existing provisions for same even during exceptional circumstances like an epidemic or pandemic or any disaster. Hence, there is an urgent need to add an enabling provision in The Punjab Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Act 1962, to empower the State Government to issue suitable notification(s) for extension of parole in situations of extreme emergency like disasters, epidemics, etc.

TRIPAT RAJINDER SINGH BAJWA,
Co-operation and Jails Minister, Punjab.

CHANDIGARH
THE 27th AUGUST, 2020

SHASHI LAKHANPAL MISHRA
SECRETARY.

N.B. - The above Bill was published in the Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), dated the 27th August, 2020 under the proviso to rule 121 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha (Punjab Legislative Assembly).