



# Right to Sit

## Why in News

Recently, the **Tamil Nadu** government has tabled a **bill to amend Tamil Nadu Shops and Establishments Act, 1947**.

- The **bill** sought to add a subsection **to mandatorily provide seating facilities for the employees**.

## Key Points

- **Highlights of the Bill:**
  - **Proposed Amendment:** The proposed **Section 22-A** to the Act reads that the premises of every establishment shall have suitable seating arrangements for all employees so that they may take advantage of any opportunity to sit.
  - **Need of the Bill:** Persons employed in shops and establishments are made to stand throughout their duty time resulting in **varied health issues**.
  - **Significance:** It would benefit thousands of employees of large and small establishments, particularly those working in textile and jewellery showrooms.
- **Similar Legislation:** A few years ago, workers of textile showrooms in Kerala had gone on a protest demanding the 'Right to Sit'.
  - This prompted the Kerala government to amend the Kerala Shops and Establishments Act in 2018 to provide seating arrangements for them.

## Way Forward

- The Right to Sit is a novel step in pursuance of **Article 42 of Indian Constitution** (part of **Directive principles of State Policy**) which prompts the State to make provisions for just and humane conditions at work.
- Therefore, Parliament should take cognizance of this and make Right to Sit a law on pan-India basis.

**Source: TH**