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News: Draft Explosives Bill

Explosives Bill 2024

- The **Government of India** aims to replace the **Explosives Act 1884** with the new **Explosives Bill 2024**.
- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has **proposed** the draft bill.

Key Provisions of Explosives Bill 2024

- **Designation of Licensing Authority:** Under the proposed bill, the **Union government** will designate the authority responsible for granting, suspending, or revoking licences.
- Currently, the **Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)** operates under the **DPIIT** and serves as the regulatory body.
- **Specified Quantity in Licences:** Licences will specify the quantity of explosives that a licensee can manufacture, possess, sell, transport, import, or export for a specified period.

- **Penalties for Violations:** The proposed bill outlines stricter penalties for violations. Offenders may face imprisonment for up to three years, a fine of Rs 1,00,000, or both for manufacturing, importing or exporting explosives in violation of regulations.
- Possession, use, sale, or transportation of explosives in violation may lead to imprisonment for up to two years, a fine of Rs 50,000, or both, whereas the current fine stands at Rs 3,000.
- **Streamlined Licensing Procedures:** Efforts are underway to enhance the efficiency of licensing procedures, making it easier for businesses to obtain necessary permits while maintaining stringent safety standards.

Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)

- Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) is formed under **Explosives Act, 1884 and Petroleum Act, 1934.**
- The PESO, formerly known as the Department of Explosives, since its inception in 1898, has been serving the nation as a nodal agency for regulating the safety of hazardous substances such as explosives, compressed gas and petroleum.
- PESO works under **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**

- Headquarters of the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) is in Nagpur.
- The organisation has provided training to law enforcement, security, and intelligence personnel in handling explosives safely, filling a critical gap in the country's training resources.