

Twelfth Kerala Legislative Assembly

Bill No. 216

**THE KERALA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS'
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008**

736/2008.

THE KERALA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS'
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008

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further to amend the Kerala Agricultural Workers' Act, 1974.

Preamble.—WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Kerala Agricultural Workers' Act, 1974, for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

BE it enacted in the Fifty-ninth Year of the Republic of India, as follows:—

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the Kerala Agricultural Workers' (Amendment) Act, 2008.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. *Amendment of Section 9.*—In section 9 of the Kerala Agricultural Workers' Act, 1974 (18 of 1974), for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) Every land owner holding more than 40 ares in extent of agricultural land shall pay contribution to the Fund at the rate of twenty five paise per Are per annum for the land held by him in excess of 40 ares or part thereof in the manner prescribed.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Sub-section (1) of section 9 of the Kerala Agricultural Workers' Act, 1974 lays down that every Land Owner holding more than half hectare but less than one hectare in extent of agricultural land shall pay contribution to the Fund at the rate of Rupees Ten per annum for the land held by him and those holding one hectare and in excess thereof in extent of agricultural land shall contribute Fifteen Rupees per annum per hectare of land or part thereof held by him. Considering the present money value, the rate fixed 30 years ago is very low and due to sub division and fragmentation the number of landowners who are eligible to pay the landowners contribution have considerably decreased. Moreover considering the benefits now being extended to the agricultural

workers, the present rate of landowners contribution has to be enhanced to meet the various welfare benefits to be rendered as per the provision of the Scheme. Hence it is found necessary that the relevant provision in the Act has to be suitably amended so as to increase the landowners contribution payable to the Fund.

2. The Bill seeks to achieve the above object.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

The Bill, if enacted and brought into operation, would not involve any additional expenditure from the consolidated fund of the State.

P. K. GURUDASAN

EXTRACT FROM THE KERALA AGRICULTURAL
WORKERS' ACT, 1974
(18 OF 1974)

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“9. *Contribution to the Fund.*—(1) Every land owner holding more than half a hectare but less than one hectare in extent of agricultural land shall pay contribution to the Fund at the rate of rupees ten per annum for the land held by him and those holding one hectare and in excess thereof in extent of agricultural land shall contribute fifteen rupees per annum per hectare of land or part thereof held by him in the manner prescribed.

(2) Every registered agricultural worker shall pay contribution to the Fund at the rate of two rupees per mensem.

(3) Any loan, grant or advance made by the Government of India, the State Government, a local body, or any other institution shall be credited to the Fund.

The loan, grant or advance made by any authority or institution shall be utilised for no purpose other than the purpose for which it was given”.
