

Twelfth Kerala Legislative Assembly
Bill No. 226

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

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860/2008.

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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' (Second Amendment) Act, 2008.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. *Amendment of Section 9.*—After sub-section(3) of section 9 of the Kerala Agricultural Workers Act, 1974 (18 of 1974), the following sub-section shall be added, namely:—

“(4) The Government shall contribute to the Fund every year, by way of grant, an amount equal to that of the contribution paid by registered agricultural workers in every financial year.”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Kerala Agricultural Workers' Act, 1974 does not provide for contribution from the Government to the Kerala Agricultural Workers Welfare Fund. At present, the income of the fund is insufficient to pay the welfare benefits to the workers under the scheme. There exists a huge amount of arrear in the payment of benefits. Therefore the Government have decided to pay an amount equal to that of the contribution from the workers to the Fund every year as Government contribution and to amend the Kerala agricultural Workers Act, 1974 accordingly.

2. The Bill seeks to achieve the above object.

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FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

As per clause 2 of the Bill, Government shall contribute to the Fund every year, an amount equal to that of the contribution paid by registered agricultural workers in every financial year. It is anticipated that, in this financial year, an amount of Rs. 6.5 crores will be collected as contribution to the Fund. If so, Government will have to pay Rs. 6.5 crores from the Consolidated Fund. Then there will be a recurring annual expenditure of not less than Rs. 6.5 crores 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.

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