

Thirteenth Kerala Legislative Assembly  
Bill No. 170

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**THE KERALA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS'  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2012**

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**(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2012**

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*BILL*

*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 Sixty-third 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, 2012.

(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),—

(a) in sub-section (2), for the words “five rupees”, the words “ten rupees” shall be substituted;

(b) in sub-section (4), for the words “an amount equal to that of the contribution”, the words “an amount equal to that of the fifty per cent of the contribution” shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The contribution made by the workers is the major source of income to the Agricultural Workers' Welfare Fund Board constituted under section 11 of the Kerala Agricultural Workers' Act, 1974. In 1990, when the Board was constituted, the rate of contribution payable to the Fund by an agricultural worker was two rupees per mensem which was later enhanced to five rupees per mensem with effect from August, 2003. In order to increase the income of the Board and to bring a solution to the financial crisis to some extent the Agricultural Workers' Welfare Fund Board has requested the Government to enhance the rate of contribution of the workers from five rupees to ten rupees per month. The Government have accepted the proposal. However, the Government have decided to keep the existing contribution payable by the

Government to the Fund without any change. Hence, the Government have decided to amend sub-section (2) and (4) of section 9 of the said Act for the above purposes.

This 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.

SHIBU BABY JOHN.

EXTRACT OF RELEVANT PORTIONS 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 forty 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 forty ares or part thereof in the manner prescribed.

(2) Every registered agricultural worker shall pay contribution to the Fund at the rate of five 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.

(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.

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