

**Fourteenth Kerala Legislative Assembly**

**Bill No. 175**

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**THE KERALA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS'  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019**

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(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019**

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**THE KERALA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' (AMENDMENT)**

**BILL, 2019**

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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 (18 of 1974) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

BE, it enacted in the Sixty-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, 2019.

(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),—

(1) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) Every land owner holding more than twenty Ares but less than forty Ares in extent of agricultural land shall pay contribution to the Fund at the rate of fifty paise per Are, per annum for the entire land held by him, and those holding more than forty Ares of agricultural land shall contribute one rupee per Are, per annum for the entire land held by him in such manner as may be prescribed” ;

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

(3) for sub-section (4) the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4) The Government shall contribute to the Fund every year, by way of grant, an amount equal to that of twenty five per cent of the contribution paid by the registered agricultural workers in every financial year, limited to a maximum of rupees five per capita.”.

### STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Sub-section (1) of section 9 of the Kerala Agricultural Workers Act, 1974 provides that 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. Sub-section (2) of section 9 of the said Act provides that every registered agricultural worker shall pay contribution to the Fund at the rate of five rupees per mensem. Sub-section (4) of section 9 of the said Act provides that 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.

2. At present, the income of the fund is too insufficient to pay the welfare benefits to the workers under the Scheme. Moreover considering the benefits that are being extended to the agricultural workers, the present rate of land owners contribution and agricultural workers contribution have to be enhanced to meet the various welfare benefits to be given to them as per the provisions of the Scheme. Further it is also decided to enhance the contribution by way of Grant by the Government. Hence, it is found necessary that the relevant provision in the Act has to be amended suitably so as to increase the land owners contribution and agricultural workers contribution payable to the Fund. Therefore the Government have decided to amend the said Act suitably.

3. 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.

### MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Sub-section (1) of Section 9 proposed to be substituted in the principal Act, by Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to prescribe the manner of payment of contribution to the Fund.

2. The matters in respect of which rules may be made are matters of procedure and are of routine or administrative in nature. Further, the rules, after they are made, are subject to scrutiny by the Legislative Assembly. The delegation of legislative power is, thus, of normal character.

T. P. RAMAKRISHNAN

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 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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