

Bill No. 1 of 2020

THE MAINTENANCE OF FOOD, POTABLE WATER AND FODDER
SUPPLIES IN DROUGHT AFFECTED AREAS BILL, 2020

By

SMT. RANJEETA KOLI, M.P.

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to provide for the compulsory maintenance of food and potable water supplies for human consumption and fodder for the livestock of the farmers in drought affected areas by the Union Government in consultation with the Government of the State concerned and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-first Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Maintenance of Food, Potable Water and Fodder Supplies in Drought Affected Areas Act, 2020.
- 5 (2) It extends to the whole of India.
- (3) It shall come into force with immediate effect.

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "appropriate Government" means in the case of a State, the Government of that State and in all other cases, the Central Government;

(b) "drought affected area" means any area situated in any part of the country which has got below normal rainfall in any season of a calendar year and which in the opinion of the Central Government has been affected by drought and declared, by notification in the Official Gazette, to be a drought affected area for such period as may be specified in the notification;

(c) "food" includes cereals such as wheat, maize, barley, rice, pulses and edible oils and fuel for cooking;

(d) "fodder" includes the dry and green fodder generally fed to the livestock by the farmers and others; and

(e) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

Compulsory maintenance of food supplies in drought affected areas.

3. The Central Government shall, in consultation with the State Government in whose jurisdiction the drought affected area falls, maintain uninterrupted food supplies in such area for the inhabitants in such manner and for such time as may be prescribed.

Appropriate Government to maintain supply of potable water in drought affected areas.

4. The appropriate Government shall maintain adequate supply of potable water through tankers or through other means as it may consider appropriate in the drought affected area for such period as may be prescribed.

Appropriate Compulsory maintenance of fodder supply in drought affected areas.

5. The appropriate Government shall maintain adequate supplies of fodder in a drought affected area by procuring fodder from other States in such manner and for such period as may be prescribed.

Funds to be provided by the Central Government.

6. The Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, provide, from time to time, adequate funds for carrying out the purpose of this Act.

Savings.

7. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force.

Power to make rules.

8. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both the Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Drought in India has resulted in millions of deaths over the course of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Indian agriculture is heavily dependent on the climate *e.g.* a favourable south-west summer monsoon is critical in securing water for irrigation of crops. In some parts of the country, the failure of the monsoons result in water shortage thereby causing below-average crop yields. This is evident in major drought-prone regions such as southern and eastern Maharashtra, northern Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, Telangana, Rajasthan, Bihar and Jharkhand which play as havoc in such areas.

The Palamu division in Bihar and Kalahandi in Odisha have become synonymous with drought. It has been observed that during the drought period the inhabitants do not have food to eat and water to drink for their survival resulting in their exodus. In many areas starvation deaths also occur. The worst sufferers in such time are the mute livestock. People leave them stray to fend for themselves and without fodder and water they ultimately die. The Governments at the Centre and State provide some sort of relief to the people of such areas but the mute animals remain uncared for. It is, therefore, necessary that the supply of food and potable water and also the fodder be maintained on priority and it should remain uninterrupted so that the people do not leave such places and the livestock too get its fodder and water for its survival.

Hence this Bill.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides that the Central Government shall maintain uninterrupted food supplies in drought affected areas. Clause 4 provides that appropriate Government shall maintain adequate supply of potable water in drought affected areas. Clause 5 provides that appropriate Government shall provide adequate supplies of fodder in drought affected areas. Clause 6 provides that the Central Government shall provide adequate funds for the implementation of the Bill. The Bill, therefore, if enacted and brought into operation, will involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that a sum of rupees one thousand crores would be involved as recurring expenditure per annum from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non recurring expenditure of rupees five hundred crores is also likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 8 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Bill. As the rules will relate to matters of detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

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(Smt. Ranjeeta Koli, M.P.)