

**Bill No. 143 of 2019**

THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS COMMISSION  
BILL, 2019

By

SHRI K. NAVASKANI, M.P.

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**BILL**

*to provide for the establishment of a National Agriculture and Farmers Commission for welfare of farmers and comprehensive development of agriculture and for matters connected therewith.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

**1.** (1) This Act may be called the National Agriculture and Farmers Commission Act, 2019.

Short title,  
extent and  
commencement.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

5 (3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

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

Definitions.

10 (a) "agriculture" includes horticulture, animal husbandry, Forestry, dairy and poultry farming, pisciculture, and other allied activities, whether or not undertaken jointly with agriculture;

(b) "agricultural produce" includes paddy, wheat, coarse cereals, pulses, sugarcane, gram, cotton, oilseeds, vegetables, fruits, jute, coconut, tobacco, areca nuts and such other agricultural produce as may be notified by the Central Government, from time to time;

(c) "Commission" means National Agriculture and Farmers Commission established under section 3; 5

(d) "farmer" means any person who cultivates land or causes it to be cultivated for agricultural or horticultural purposes;

(e) "Fund" means the Agriculture and Farmers Development Fund constituted under section 5; and 10

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

Establishment  
of National  
Agriculture  
and Farmers  
Commission.

**3. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish a Commission to be known as the National Agriculture and Farmers Commission for carrying out the purposes of this Act.**

**(2) The Commission shall consist of—** 15

**(a) a Chairperson, having special knowledge in the field of agriculture; and**

**(b) such number of members including agricultural economist, agriculture scientist and experts in matters related to the farmers, to be appointed by the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed.**

**(3) The Central Government shall provide such number of experts, officers and staff to Commission, as may be required for its efficient functioning.** 20

**(4) The salary and allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson, members, experts and officers and staff of the Commission shall be such as may be prescribed.**

Functions of  
the  
Commission.

**4. The Commission shall—** 25

(a) determine the minimum support price of agricultural produce;

(b) maintain the price of agricultural produce at appropriate levels;

(c) issue the executive instructions to various agencies;

(d) monitor the import and export of agricultural produce;

(e) formulate measures for the welfare of farmers from the adverse effects on agriculture; 30

(f) prepare the national policy, from time to time, to increase the productivity of agriculture produce;

(g) investigate into the incidents of suicide by the farmers;

(h) frame the rules to carry out the provisions of this Act for the welfare of agriculture and farmers; 35

(i) protect the agricultural bio-diversity;

(j) protect the farmers from the fluctuations in prices of agricultural produce in market;

(k) advice the Central Government in matters related to the farmers and agriculture; and 40

(l) undertake such other functions as may be assigned to it, from time to time, by the Central Government.

**5. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Fund to be known as the Agriculture and Farmers Development Fund for carrying out the purposes of this Act.**

Constitution of the Agriculture and Farmers Development Fund.

5 **(2) The Central Government and the State Governments shall contribute to the Fund in such ratio as may be prescribed.**

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

Central Government to provide requisite funds.

10 **7. The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.**

Act to have overriding effect.

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

Power to make rules.

15 (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  
20 be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under the rule.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In the absence of any firm principle regarding intervention in the market by Government to solve the problems faced by the agricultural sector and the farmers, problems are remaining unchanged as ever. In the current scenario, an autonomous, powerful intervention by Government institutions for the protection of interests of farmers and the agriculture bio-diversity is very essential. Developed countries like European Union, United States of America, Japan etc. provide production subsidy so that innovative domestic initiatives may be taken to protect the farmers from the adverse effects of agriculture related problems. Different Commissions have been set up for different categories in our country, but there is no autonomous, empowered and dedicated Commission for the welfare of the agricultural sector till now despite the fact that half of our population is dependent on agriculture which could protect the rights of farmers. The dedicated Commission for agriculture sector welfare of farmers is needed.

Efforts are required to be made to increase the income of farmers. Monitoring in right way is needed to be done by bringing the implementation of crop insurance scheme into the purview of the Commission and farmers be protected from speculative forces like share market and future market. On the lines of SEBI like institution which works for more than three crore share holders, an agriculture regulatory institution is needed for twenty seven crore farmers which may look into the problem of farmers and present their view point before Government effectively.

The Bill, therefore, seeks to establish a National Agriculture and Farmer's Commission to introduce new dimensions in the field of agriculture and to work for protection, benefit and welfare of the farmers to bring positive bearing on economic progress of country.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;  
*June 26, 2019.*

K. NAVASKANI

## FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for the constitution of a National Commission for Agriculture and Farmers. It also provides that the Central Government shall make available necessary experts, officers and staff for the efficient functioning of the Commission. Clause 5 provides for the constitution of an Agriculture and Farmers Development Fund. Clause 6 provides that the Central Government shall provide requisite funds to the Commission for carrying out the provisions of this Act. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, is likely to involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that an annual recurring expenditure of about rupees five hundred crore would be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees one hundred crore 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 the 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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*(Shri K. Navaskani, M.P.)*