

Bill No. 108 of 2023

THE POKKALI FARMING (PROTECTION, ENRICHMENT
AND WELFARE) BILL, 2023

By

SHRI HIBI EDEN, M.P.

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BILL

*to provide for the protection, enrichment and welfare of Pokkali farmers and
for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.*

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

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

5 **1.** (1) This Act may be called the Pokkali Farming (Protection, Enrichment and
Welfare) Act, 2023.

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

(2) It extends to the whole territory of India.

10 (3) It shall come into force on such date, not being later than three months from
the date of assent of the President, as the Central Government may, by notification
in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Definitions.

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

(a) "pokkali farming" means the farming of paddy and prawn in a coordinated manner in the coastal areas of the country;

(b) "coastal areas" means the areas specified as such by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette; and

(c) "farmer" means a person engaged in pokkali farming.

CHAPTER II

PROTECTION AND ENRICHMENT OF POKKALI FARMING

Declaration of Pokkali farming as an industry.

3. The Central Government shall declare pokkali farming as an industry and shall take necessary steps to provide all necessary facilities and support for the growth and development of the industry.

Measures of Pokkali farming.

4. **The Central Government shall take necessary measures for the protection of pokkali farming, including,—**

(a) **measures to protect the rights of the farmers;**

(b) **measures to prevent the exploitation of the farmers;**

(c) **measures to ensure that the farmers get a fair price for their produce;**

(d) **measures to prevent the conversion of pokkali farming land for other purposes;**

(e) **measures to provide technical support and assistance to the farmers;**

(f) **measures to promote research and development in the field of pokkali farming;**

(g) **measures to provide financial assistance to the farmers for the purpose of improving the quality of their produce;**

(h) **measures to provide market support to the farmers; and**

(i) **measures to promote the export of Pokkali farming produce.**

CHAPTER III

MISCELLANEOUS

Central Government to provide funds.

5. **The Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, provide adequate funds for carrying out the purposes of this Act.**

Power to remove difficulties.

6. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to it to be necessary for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no such order shall be made under this section after the expiry of a period of two years from the commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

Power to make rules.

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

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:

(a) the manner in which the protection and enrichment of pokkali farming shall be carried out;

5 (b) the manner in which the rights of the farmers shall be protected;

(c) the manner in which the exploitation of the farmers shall be prevented;

(d) the manner in which the farmers shall be provided with a fair price for their produce;

10 (e) the manner in which the conversion of pokkali farming land shall be prevented;

(f) the manner in which technical support and assistance shall be provided to the farmers; and

(g) the manner in which research and development in the field of pokkali farming.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Pokkali farming system, which involves the coordinated cultivation of paddy and prawn in the coastal areas, is a unique and important aspect of the Indian agricultural sector. Despite its significance, this traditional system has been facing various challenges in recent years, such as land conversion, exploitation of farmers, and a lack of technical support and financial assistance.

The need is to provide for the protection and enrichment of Pokkali farming, so as to preserve this traditional system and ensure its growth and development. It is also required to declare Pokkali farming as an industry and provide all necessary facilities and support for its growth and development. It also provides for measures to protect the rights of farmers, prevent their exploitation, and ensure they receive a fair price for their produce. Measures to promote and encourage the growth of Pokkali farming, including providing technical support, promoting research and development, and providing financial assistance to farmers for the purpose of improving the quality of their produce is also required to be taken.

The present Bill aims to address the challenges faced by Pokkali farmers and ensure that this unique and valuable system continues to thrive and contribute to the Indian agricultural sector.

The Bill, therefore, proposed for the protection and enrichment of Pokkali farming, so as to ensure the growth and development of this important traditional system and the well-being of its farmers.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
March 13, 2023.

HIBI EDEN

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 4 of the Bill provides for Central Government to take various measures for the protection and enrichment of pokkali farming. Clause 5 provides for the Central Government to provide adequate funds for carrying out the purposes of this Act. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that a recurring expenditure of about rupees hundred crore per annum would be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non-recurring expenditure of rupees fifty crore is also likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 7 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.

LOK SABHA

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(Shri Hibi Eden, M.P.)