

Bill No. 112 of 2022

THE SPECIAL IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT FUND
(FOR FOREST AREAS) BILL, 2022

By

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH, M.P.

A

BILL

*to provide for the constitution of a Special Irrigation Development
Fund for the development of irrigation facilities in the
forest areas and for matters connected therewith.*

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Special Irrigation Development Fund
(For Forest Areas) Act, 2022.

Short title
and extent.

Definitions.

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

(a) ‘forest area’ means any district where more than thirty-three percent of the total geographical area is covered by forests and has been declared as the forest area by the State Government concerned or the Central Government, as the case may be, for the purposes of this Act;

5

(b) ‘Fund’ means the Special Irrigation Development Fund constituted under section 3 of this Act; and

(c) ‘prescribed’ means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

Special Irrigation Development Fund.

3. (1) The Central Government shall set up a Fund to be known as the Special Irrigation Development Fund for the development of the irrigation facilities in the forest areas of the country.

10

(2) The Central Government shall, from time to time, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, contribute such amount to the Fund as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act.

State Government/Union Territory Administration to send details of the infrastructure and cost required for the development of irrigation facility in forest areas.

4. (1) A State Government or the Union territory Administration, as the case may be, shall forward the details of the required infrastructure and the estimated cost of the irrigation development project of the forest areas falling in their respective territories to the Central Government.

15

(2) The Central Government on receipt of such details, shall provide funds to the State Government or the Union territory Administration, as the case may be, for the development of irrigation facilities in the forest areas in such manner as may be prescribed.

20

(3) The funds provided under sub-section (2) shall be used for the following purposes:—

(i) expeditious completion of ongoing irrigation projects in forest areas;

25

(ii) construction of small ponds for the use of farmers in the forest areas;

(iii) digging wells/ bore wells in the forest areas;

(iv) installing electric pumps for irrigation in the forest areas;

(v) providing pipes for irrigation to the farmers living in the forest areas;

(vi) meeting costs incurred on implementing the “Lift Irrigation Scheme” based on the water resources of the forest areas;

30

(vii) renovation of old ponds/water reservoirs in forest areas; and

(viii) construction of canals.

(4) The State Government/Union territory administration getting funds under sub-section (2) shall furnish the details of expenditure incurred on the irrigation development works in forest areas to the Central Government in such manner and in such time as may be prescribed.

35

(5) In case any State Government/Union territory administration fails to utilise the funds for the purpose it was released or fails to produce the details under sub-section (4), the Central Government shall withhold funds to such State Government/Union territory administration.

40

Power to make rules.

5. (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.
- 5

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has put some restrictions on the use of forest land for non-forest purposes. Due to this, irrigation projects and other development activities cannot be undertaken in the forest areas. It is neither justified nor appropriate to deprive the people who have been living in forest areas since time immemorial from getting facilities for their upliftment. A large number of proposals relating to irrigation projects in the forest areas are pending approval in the Ministry concerned. Due to lack of irrigation facilities, people living in the forest areas have to depend on rain despite having the water reservoirs. Due to non-availability of irrigation facilities, the production in forest areas is low which compels them to live in extreme poverty. The agricultural production has suffered due to increase in number of small holdings as a result of division in families. The small holdings has also made it difficult for them to run their families. In case, the irrigation facility is provided even in small holdings of land it may enable the farmers to sustain their lives. Therefore, the Government should take initiative to create a fund for the betterment of farmers.

It is becoming more and more difficult for the farmers living in forest areas to cultivate their lands due to non-availability of irrigation facilities. Farmers are committing suicide due to heavy indebtedness to local money lenders who charge high rates of interest. To save the farmers of the forest areas from the hardship presently being faced by them, there is a need to constitute a Special Irrigation Development Fund for the forest areas.

The State Governments do not have sufficient funds for the development of Irrigation Projects in the forest areas. Therefore, there is a need to set up a fund by the Central Government for the development of Irrigation Projects in the forest areas to facilitate better irrigation facilities in the forest areas and to ensure better living standard to the farmers of these areas.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;

SUNIL KUMAR SINGH

7 March, 2022.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for constitution of a Special Irrigation Development Fund for the forest areas. Clause 4 provides for the release of funds to the State Governments for the development of irrigation projects in the forest areas. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve an annual recurring expenditure of rupees fifty thousand crore from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees five thousand crore is also likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 5 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

A

BILL

to provide for the constitution of a Special Irrigation Development Fund for the
development of irrigation facilities in the forest areas and for matters
connected therewith.

(Shri Sunil Kumar Singh, M.P.)