

Bill No. 216 of 2022

THE SCULPTORS, ARTISTS AND ARTISANS OF
RURAL AREAS UPLIFTMENT COUNCIL
BILL, 2022

By

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE, M.P.

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*to provide for the welfare of sculptors, artists and artisans in rural 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 Sculptors, Artists and Artisans of Rural Areas Upliftment Council Act, 2022.

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

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(2) It extends to the whole of India.

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

Definitions.

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

(a) “artisan” means any person engaged in making useful, decorative or artistic items manually from leaves or weeds or bamboo or any other material by traditional means in rural areas for earning his livelihood;

(b) “artist” means any person who earns his livelihood by performing arts including music, dance, drama, play, singing to entertain public or displaying of his paintings or artistic skills to public in rural areas; 5

(c) “Council” means the National Sculptors, Artists and Artisans of Rural Areas upliftment Council constituted under section 4;

(d) “Fund” means the National Sculptors, Artists and Artisans of Rural Areas Welfare Fund constituted under section 3; 10

(e) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act; and

(f) “sculptor” means any person engaged in carving of statues or making of decorative pieces or any other useful items from clay, cement, stone or any other material in rural areas for earning his livelihood. 15

The National Sculptors, Artists and Artisans of Rural Areas Upliftment Fund.

3. (1) The Central Government shall constitute a Fund to be known as the National Sculptors, Artists and Artisans of Rural Areas Upliftment Fund.

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

The National Sculptors, Artists and Artisans of Rural Areas Upliftment Council.

4. (1) The Central Government shall establish a Council to be known as the National Sculptors, Artists and Artisans of Rural Areas Upliftment Council. 20

(2) The Council shall consist of following members, namely:—

(a) Chairperson, to be appointed by the Central Government;

(b) Joint Secretary of Ministry of Textiles, Vice-Chairperson, *ex-officio*;

(c) A representative of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises conversant with problems of small enterprises of sculptors, artists and artisans in rural areas of country; 25

(d) five members representing Non-Governmental Organisations working for the welfare of sculptors, artists and artisans in rural areas, to be appointed by the Central Government; 30

(e) five members representing the sculptors, artists and artisans in rural areas, to be appointed by the Central Government; and

(f) A representative each of such other Ministries and Departments of the Government of India as may be decided by the Central Government.

(3) The salary and allowances payable to, and other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and members of the Council shall be such, as may be prescribed by the Central Government. 35

Functions of the Council.

5. (1) The Council shall administer the Fund for the welfare of sculptors, artists and artisans of rural areas.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision, the Fund shall also be used for,— 40

(a) payment of compensation to the next of kin of the sculptors, artists and artisans in the event of death during work;

(b) payment of premium for life insurance;

(c) payment of old age pension;

(d) payment of disability allowance;

5 (e) provision of free health care facility to sculptors, artists and artisans and their family members;

(f) housing facility at subsidised rate to sculptors, artists and artisans;

(g) financial assistance to sculptors, artists and artisans for production and marketing of their products and organization and advertisement of events;

10 (h) preservation, promotion, development and dissemination of art, culture, education and social welfare of sculptors, artists and artisans;

(i) empower unemployed sculptors, artists and artisans by providing them tools, techniques and financial assistance for self-employment and upliftment;

(j) imparting skill development training to the sculptors, artists and artisans;

15 (k) granting fellowship and scholarship for carrying out research in the rural areas particularly in the sculptures; and

(l) awarding the well known sculptors, artists and artisans having social impact in the society.

6. The Council shall submit every year a report, in such form and manner, as may be prescribed, of its activities to the Central Government. Annual Report.

20 7. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act. Power to make rules.

25 (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

Though various government and non-government projects, research studies, training programmes and financial/marketing assistance schemes are available to protect the interest of artisans involved in preserving such heritage of India in the form of handicrafts, the result is yet not satisfactory. It is general perception that Indian handicrafts are famous worldwide since centuries, but the fact is that apart from some artists the majority of rural sculptors, artists and artisans are starving and struggling to meet basic needs.

Due to various reasons, this great cultural heritage is being threatened by forces both from within and outside. Hence, majority of such sculptors, artists and artisans now are at saturated position and do not wish their children to continue with such occupation.

In view of the miserable condition of these sculptors, artists and artisans, it is the duty of the Government to provide social security and other financial assistance to them by formulating and implementing appropriate policies for their upliftment. Thus, it is our duty to work towards making our current and future generations more aware about our culture and tradition and help and empower the people from rural areas earning their livelihood as sculptors, artists and artisans.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;

SHRIRANG APPA BARNE

21 November, 2022.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for the constitution of a Fund for the welfare of sculptors, artists and artisans of rural areas. Clause 4 provides for establishment of a Council to administer the Fund for the welfare of sculptors, artists and artisans in the rural areas. 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 crore may be involved as recurring expenditure per annum.

A non-recurring expenditure to the tune of rupees one thousand crore may also involve from the Consolidated Fund of India.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 7 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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(Shri Shirang Appa Barne, M.P.)