

Bill No. 53 of 2023

THE SALT WORKERS WELFARE BILL, 2023

By

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE, M.P.

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BILL

to provide for the protection from exploitation and welfare measures for the salt workers in the country by setting up a welfare fund, for payment of old age pension, healthcare, educational facilities for their children and for payment of minimum wages and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Salt Workers Welfare Act, 2023.

Short title and commencement.

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

2. (a) “appropriate Government” means in the case of a State, the Government of that State and in other cases the Central Government;

Definitions.

(b) “employer” means any person who employs, whether directly or through any other person, or contractor, whether on behalf of himself or on behalf of any other person, one or more labourer or workers for work connected with salt making from sea or salt lake, as the case may be, including handling of salt;

(c) “welfare fund” means the Salt Workers Welfare Fund constituted under section 4; 5

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

(e) “salt worker” means any person engaged in making salt from sea or lake water on land by digging shallow wells and pumping out brine or in a chemical factory or any related occupation as a wage earner, whether in cash or kind, for his livelihood and includes a person engaged through a contractor or engaged as a self employed person. 10

Formulation of National Policy for Salt and Salt Workers.

3. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, formulate a National Policy of Salt and Salt Workers.

(2) The National Policy formulated under sub-section (1) shall include,— 15

- (a) a common salt policy for the entire country;
- (b) declaration of salt as an agricultural product; and
- (c) welfare measures and social security for the salt workers.

Constitution of Salt Workers Welfare Fund.

4. **The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Fund to be known as the Salt Workers Welfare Fund for carrying out the purposes of this Act.** 20

Utilisation of Fund.

5. **The Fund shall be utilised for,—**

- (a) **providing healthcare facilities for the salt workers;**
- (b) **conducting of medical check-up camps at least once in a year for the salt workers;** 25
- (c) **payment of compensation to the next kin in case of death of salt workers;**
- (d) **housing facility at subsidised rate;**
- (e) **payment of old age pension;**
- (f) **providing water supply for drinking and other purposes;**
- (g) **providing educational facility to the children of salt workers; and** 30
- (h) **undertaking such other welfare measures which the appropriate Government deems fit.**

Responsibility of the appropriate Government.

6. It shall be the responsibility of the appropriate Government to,—

- (a) undertake welfare measures for the salt workers;
- (b) ensure payment of minimum wages to the salt workers; and 35
- (c) ensure job security to the salt workers.

Central Government to provide funds.

7. **The Central Government shall, after due appropriation by Parliament, provide funds to Governments of concerned States for carrying out the purposes of this Act.**

Overriding effect of the Act.

8. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force dealing with the subject matter of this Act. 40

Power to remove difficulties.

9. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government, may make such order to give such direction, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as appears to it to be necessary or expedient for the removal of the difficulty and any such order shall be final. 45

10. (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.

5 (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
10 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

Salt is a Central subject and land is a State subject. A body need to be constituted to set up common rules and regulations for the salt farmers. Salt workers are seasonal workers with marginal source of income. There is lack of social and health securities for salt workers. They are exposed to hazardous work-environmental factors and work in extreme climatic conditions. Workers also suffer from different occupational health condition as well as due to lack of education and awareness they pay no attention to the occupational health hazardous conditions. There is lack of motivation towards use of personal protective equipment. All the workers have oral abusive habits and poor personal hygiene. The salt workers settlements lack basic amenities like potable drinking water, toilets and waste management systems. Government should pay attention towards the salt workers health and socio-economic status.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
16 *January*, 2023.

RAHUL SHEWALE

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 4 of the Bill provides for constitution of Salt Workers Welfare Fund. Clause 7 provides for funds to the State Governments for carrying out the purposes of the 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 one crore will be involved per annum.

No non-recurring expenditure is likely to be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 10 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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