

Bill No. CII of 2022

THE SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE OF
TAMIL NADU BILL, 2022

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to provide for special financial assistance to the State of Tamil Nadu for the purpose of sustainable and balanced development of growth-oriented infrastructure such as affordable housing, drinking water, roads, sanitation, creation of grain and fodder banks, skill development, textile parks, food processing zones, cloud seeding and welfare schemes for women, children, senior citizens and people living below the poverty line in the State and encouraging traditional water conservation through lakes, ponds, wells rainwater harvesting and afforestation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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 Financial Assistance to the State of Tamil Nadu Act, 2022.

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. There shall be paid such sums of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India, every year, as Parliament may by due appropriation provide, as special financial assistance to the State of Tamil Nadu to meet the costs of such schemes of development as may be undertaken by the State Government of Tamil Nadu with the approval of the Union Government for the purposes of—

- (a) improvement of drinking water facilities;
- (b) implementation of schemes aimed at improving the health and educational standards of the girl child;
- (c) providing for welfare measures aimed at improving the condition of agricultural and migrant labourers;
- (d) providing for measures aimed at lowering of infant mortality rate, improving the maternal health and promoting institutional delivery;
- (e) providing employment to members of families living below poverty line and unemployed youth through skill development;
- (f) providing water and sanitation facilities in rural and urban areas;
- (g) creating good quality infrastructure of roads, rail, highways, street lights, schools, colleges and transport;
- (h) creating awareness amongst people about disaster preparedness plan and training them to deal with disasters;
- (i) creation and maintenance of water conservation bodies such as check dams;
- (j) digging of open wells, ponds and desiltation of such bodies from time to time under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005;
- (k) encouraging and providing irrigation facilities to the farming sector and promotion of sustainable practices like organic farming coupled with modern facilities like drip irrigation and sprinklers to farmers;
- (l) capping of water guzzling sugarcane area and promotion of drought resilient crops;
- (m) promotion of rain water harvesting and watershed development to ensure replenishment of groundwater;
- (n) afforestation particularly on vacant or barren and waste land with the help of villagers and village Panchayats including community afforestation;
- (o) promotion for growing fodder and setting up fodder and food grain banks at conspicuous places;
- (p) initiating welfare measures for improving the conditions of agricultural workers, senior citizens, women, children and poor people;
- (q) establishing cold storages and warehouses for farmers;
- (r) settling the debt of farmers;
- (s) providing compensation and relief to farmers and agricultural labourers for any damage to crops caused due to rainfall deficit, pest attack, flood, hailstorm or any other natural calamity;
- (t) promotion of research and development through Krishi Vigyan Kendra in agriculture and drought management to ensure better and inexpensive inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides;
- (u) promotion of sectors like livestock and poultry;

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(v) promoting food processing industries based on local agricultural products; textile parks;

5 (w) implementation of social awareness campaigns through Non-Governmental organisations and Self-Help Groups relating to farmer credit, water literacy and drought management through change in cropping pattern;

(x) promotion and implementation of cloud seeding through silver iodide; and

(y) such other provisions as the State Government of Tamil Nadu may deem necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

10 3. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the President of India may, by order, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act which appears to him to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty: Power to remove difficulty.

Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

15 4. 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. Act to supplement other laws.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The State of Tamil Nadu needs assistance from the Central Government for the successful completion of various schemes being undertaken at present with an aim to improve the standard of life of the people, improve the level of education and health condition of the girls, to encourage the girl students of families living below poverty line to pursue higher education and also to provide incentives for people living below poverty line to pursue higher education. The condition of farmers and agricultural labourers in the State, their welfare and protection are of paramount importance. Central assistance to the State is also needed for the holistic development and further reduction in the maternal and infant mortality rates.

Recurring droughts have made the farmers of the State to seek support from the Government. The situation wherein droughts have been a frequent occurrence during the past fifty years has to be stopped through massive water conservation with check dams and other structures to arrest rain water run off.

The traditional methods of water conservation through digging of open wells, ponds, lakes and such other bodies and time to time desiltation of such water bodies need to be undertaken. Rain water harvesting has to be promoted as a mass movement in the State. Afforestation on a large scale particularly on barren lands and wastelands has to be promoted involving villagers and village Panchayats by providing incentives which can certainly arrest the desertification. Unfortunately certain backward regions of the State are not much developed in comparison to other urban regions of the State in terms of infrastructure facilities, such as, potable water, roads, electricity, sanitation and other development indicators such as employment, per capita income and education particularly of the girl child. Welfare measures for the senior citizens, widows, physically handicapped or infirm do not exist in these regions of the State. Tamil Nadu has to be allocated its fair share of resources by the Central Government. As a welfare State, the Government has to provide all these facilities and work towards giving a requisite push for overall and all round development of the State.

Hence, this Bill.

KANIMOZHINVN SOMU.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 2 of the Bill provides for special financial assistance to the State of Tamil Nadu to be paid out of the Consolidated Fund of India, every year, as Parliament may by due appropriation provide, to meet the costs of such schemes of development, as may be undertaken by the State of Tamil Nadu with the approval of the Central Government. The Bill, therefore, on enactment, will involve expenditure out of the Consolidated Fund of India. As the sums of moneys which will be given to the State of Tamil Nadu as special financial assistance by appropriation by law made by Parliament will be known only after the welfare schemes to be implemented by the State Government with the approval of the Central Government are identified, it is not possible to give the estimates of recurring expenditure, which would be involved out of the Consolidated Fund of India at this state.

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

RAJYA SABHA

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(Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu, M.P.)