

13 MAY 2005

**Bill No. 67 of 2005**

**THE COMMERCIAL CROPS WORKERS (WELFARE) BILL, 2005**

By

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY, M.P.

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**BILL**

*to provide for certain welfare measures for commercial crops workers and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.*

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Commercial Crops Workers (Welfare) Act, 2005.

Short title,  
extent and  
commencement.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

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

Definitions.

(i) "commercial crops" means and includes rubber, coffee, tea, cashew, spices, cardamom and such other crop as may be declared a commercial crop by the Central Government;

10 (ii) "fund" means the Commercial Crops Workers Welfare Fund constituted under section 3 of this Act;

(iii) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act; and

(iv) "workers" means workers engaged in an activity connected with the production of commercial crop.

Commercial Crops Workers Welfare Fund.	3. (1) The Central Government shall set up a fund to be known as Commercial Crops Workers Welfare Fund.	
	(2) The fund shall be administered by a Committee consisting of:—	
	(i) a Chairman who shall be appointed by the Central Government;	
	(ii) one member to represent commercial crops growers;	5
	(iii) one member to represent commercial crops workers; and	
	(iv) one representative from each of the States where commercial crops are grown who shall be nominated by the respective State Governments.	
Contribution to the fund.	4. (1) The Central Government and every State Government where commercial crops are cultivated, shall contribute to the fund in such ratio as may be prescribed.	10
	(2) The Commercial crops growers shall also contribute to the fund in such ratio as may be determined by the Central Government.	
Utilisation of the fund.	5. The Fund shall be used for the following purposes:—	
	(i) payment of unemployment/sustenance allowance to workers during off season period;	15
	(ii) free health facilities for the workers and their families in the hospitals to be set up for the purpose;	
	(iii) free educational facilities to the children of workers;	
	(iv) payment of compensation to workers who are injured during work;	
	(v) payment of compensation to families of workers who die in harness;	20
	(vi) payment of premium of group life insurance cover of workers;	
	(vii) payment of disability allowance in case of workers who meet with accidents and are not able to work;	
	(viii) payment of old age pension to those workers who have attained sixty years of age and are not gainfully employed;	25
	(ix) provision of suitable facilities like canteen, health, recreation, drinking water, etc. at work places; and	
	(x) payment of bonus to workers.	
Power to make rules.	6. The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.	30

#### STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Millions of workers are engaged in the commercial crops sector. There is no statutory mechanism for their welfare. In the absence of suitable legislation, they are harassed and denied their rightful dues and benefits.

Therefore, it is proposed to set up a fund for the welfare of commercial crops workers.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;  
*April 13, 2005.*

ABDULLAKUTTY

#### FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for the setting up of a fund for the benefit of commercial crops workers. The fund shall be administered by a Committee. Clause 4 provides that Central Government shall contribute to the fund. Therefore, the Bill, if enacted, will involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is likely that a recurring expenditure of about rupees five hundred crore may be involved every year. A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees one hundred crore will also be involved.

**MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION**

**Clause 6 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 powers is of a normal character.**

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*(Shri Abdullakutty, M.P.)*