

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA

BILL NO. 5-PLA-2022

THE PUNJAB RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

A  
BILL

further to amend the Punjab Rural Development Act, 1987.

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the Seventy-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

Short title and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Punjab Rural Development (Amendment) Act, 2022.

(2) It shall come into force on and with effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Substitution of section 7 of Punjab Act 6 of 1987.

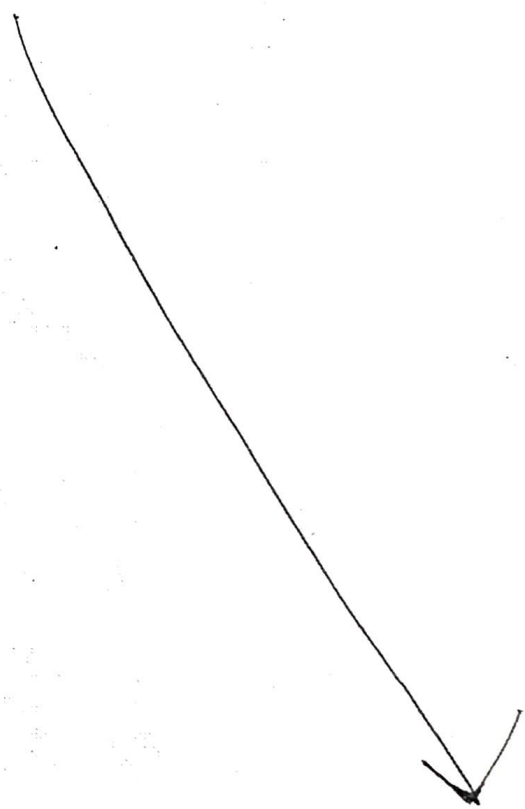
2. In the Punjab Rural Development Act, 1987, for section 7, the following section shall be substituted, namely:-

"7. The Fund shall be applied for the following purposes, namely:-

Purposes for which the Fund may be applied.

- (i) for construction or repair of approach roads to mandis or procurement centres and street lights thereon enabling farmers in transportation of their produce;
- (ii) for construction or development of new mandis or procurement centres and development of old or katcha mandis or procurement centres;
- (iii) for making arrangements for supply of drinking water and for improving sanitation in the mandis or procurement centres;
- (iv) for providing well equipped rest houses or night shelters or sheds for farmers and labour engaged in procurement operations;
- (v) for augmenting storage facilities in mandis to store procured stocks so as to strengthen the procurement and marketing systems in the State;
- (vi) to provide relief to debt stressed farmers of the State to eliminate any possibility of distress sale;

- (vii) for development of hardware or software related to procurement or linking of land records, crop survey, bio-authentication of farmers at the mandi or State level which may improve transparency and facilitate the procurement activities;
- (viii) for installation or purchase of computerized electronic weighbridge or weighment facilities or quality testing equipment's or sieving facilities in the mandis or procurement centres and its integration with e-procurement module;
- (ix) for automation and mechanization of mandis with facility of cleaning, sorting, drying, analyzing quality of grains, small shipping silo, bag sacking and stitching; and
- (x) for carrying out such purposes which may lead to strengthening of mandis or procurement operations."



STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Punjab Rural Development Board was established in the year 1987 under The Punjab Rural Development Act, 1987

Rural Development Fee is levied and collected as per section 5 of the Act, 1987 and spent as per Section 7 of the Punjab Rural Development Act, 1987.

From October, 2020, GOI has been insisting upon State Governments for aligning, the purposes for which Rural Development Fee paid by Government of India is utilised, with the revised principles conveyed by it on 24.02.2020.

Government of India since then had withheld the payment of Rural Development Fee on Paddy, in 2020 and later paid with the caveat that in case the needful is not done by way of legislation, the amount may be recovered in the form of adjustments in payables in future. Rural Development Fee levied on Paddy 2021 and Wheat 2022 has been withheld thereafter by GOI due this reason.

The proposed amendments were approved for implementation in the form of Ordinance in Council of Ministers Meeting held on 13.04.2022. However, Hon'ble Governor of Punjab conveyed that as there is no urgency, the same may be taken up as bill in the next Assembly Session. Therefore, it shall be appropriate to amend Section 7 of the Punjab Rural Development Act, 1987 as bill namely "Punjab Rural Development (Amendment) Bill 2022" to place before the next Assembly Session.

BHAGWANT MANN  
Chief Minister, Punjab.

CHANDIGARH:  
THE 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2022

SURINDER PAL,  
SECRETARY.

N.B. - The above Bill was published in the Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), dated the 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 under the proviso to rule 121 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha (Punjab Legislative Assembly).