

Bill No. LXI of 2008

THE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AUTHORITY
BILL, 2008

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BILL

to provide for the establishment of a National Food Security Authority and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the National Food Security Authority Act, 2008.

Short title and
commencement.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 31st day of October, 2008.

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

Definitions.

5 (a) "National Authority" means the National Food Security Authority constituted under sub-section (1) of section 3.

(b) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

Constitution
of National
Food Security
Authority.

3. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification, constitute a National Authority to be known as the National Food Security Authority to exercise the powers conferred on, and to perform the functions assigned to it under this Act.

(2) The National Authority shall consist of the following persons, namely:—

(a) a Chairperson, who shall be of the rank of Cabinet Secretary having domain knowledge and professional expertise in the field of agriculture and food security. 5

(b) not more than three members of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India to be appointed by the Central Government from amongst persons having experience in the fields of agriculture, food security management, economics, Consumer Affairs and judiciary: 10

Provided that if the powers of the National Authority are vested in an individual, such individual shall be entitled to the same powers and functions and shall be assisted or provided with the same secretarial support and technical expertise as are available to the National Authority consisting of more than one person under this Act. 10

(3) The head office of the National Authority shall be in Delhi. 15

(4) The National Authority may appoint such number of officers and employees as it considers necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions under this Act.

(5) The qualifications and experience, terms of office and allowances of the members, officers and employees of the National Authority shall be such, as may be prescribed.

Functions of
National
Authority.

4. The powers and functions of the National Authority, shall *inter alia*, include,— 20

(i) to gather information in respect of food from across different countries as well as from within the country, global national cropping patterns and prepare global inventory for consumption habits and weather patterns affecting rains;

(ii) to advise Government with regard to timing and modalities for trade in food and inputs thereof; 25

(iii) to suggest cropping patterns designed to meet consumer preferences for domestic consumption as well as for exports to other countries;

(iv) to study and consider the impact of changes in global climate on food production and make appropriate recommendations thereon;

(v) to consider and advise on linkages between food insecurity and energy security; and 30

(vi) to advise the Government and such other matters as may be referred to it from time to time.

Annual Report.

5. The National Authority shall prepare, once every year, in such form and at such time as may be prescribed, an annual report, giving summary of its activities during the previous year and submit it to the Central Government. 35

Power to make
rules.

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

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:— 40

(a) the composition of the National Authority,

(b) the method of the appointment of the Chairperson and members of the National Authority,

(c) any matter or matters not expressly provided for in the Act, but considered necessary for the appointment and functioning of the National Agency. 45

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

As a result of global warming, there is a drastic change in the climatic conditions. Weather cycles are also changing. Agricultural productivity is on the verge of decline. Cost of production per tonne would rise because of rising cost of inputs. Besides, as a result of various factors, consumer tastes and preferences are also undergoing a drastic change. Hence, there is a need for establishment of a National Food Security Authority to study and consider the impact of changes in global climate on food production and make appropriate recommendations to the Government from time to time.

Hence the Bill.

N. K. SINGH

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill seeks to constitute the National Food Security Authority and makes provisions for salary and allowances of the Members, officers and employees of the Agency.

The Bill, if enacted will involve an additional expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that a sum of rupees two hundred crore may involve as recurring expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non-recurring expenditure of rupees fifty crore is also likely to be incurred.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 6 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. The rules will relate to matters of details only. As such the delegation of legislative power is of normal character.

RAJYA SABHA

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(Shri N.K. Singh, M.P.)