



The Climate Fund for Women Bill, 2019

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The Climate Fund for Women Bill, 2019

An Act to set up climate fund for women to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change and adapt to climate change in order to empower them for resilience and adjustment against unfavorable and hostile impacts of climate change on agriculture.

1. Short title, extent and commencement

- a. This Act may be called as ‘The Climate Fund for Women Act, 2019’.
- b. It shall extend to the whole of Commonwealthland.
- c. It shall come into force on such date as the Government may, by notification in the official Gazette appoint:

2. Objectives

- a. To integrate women as change agents in climate change mitigation framework in agriculture and allied sectors.
- b. To provide financial assistance to women for contingency circumstances in the event of Climate Change-induced disasters.

3. Definitions

In this Bill, if otherwise specifically specified:

- a. “Agriculture” means any produce from soil or tree for food in form of human consumption and allied sectors.
- b. “Climate Change” means a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.
- c. “Mitigation” means efforts to reduce or prevent impacts of climate change on women with respect to agriculture.
- d. “Resilience” means the ability of a system and its components to anticipate, absorb, accommodate or recover from the hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner, including through ensuring the preservations, restorations or improvement of its essential basic structure & functions
- e. “Adaptation” means adjustments in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.
- f. “Disaster” means unexpected natural/ human induced events due to climate change leading to adverse impact on agriculture.

- g. "Fund" means Climate fund for women established under Section 5.
- h. "Carbon emitting industries" means the industries emitting carbon and increasing carbon footprints through their production process. This may include industries related to fossil fuels, plastic, automobiles, textile and others.
- i. "Government" means the Government of Commonwealthland.
- j. "Authority" means the National Women Climate Fund Authority (NWCFA) set up Government.
- k. "NGOs" means a non-profit organization that operates independently of any government, typically one whose purpose is to address a social or political issue.
- l. "State Level Bodies" means State bodies created for the purpose of this act.
- m. "SHG" means Self Help Groups comprising of citizens from different strata of society not exceeding 10 members of governing body and registered with the government.

4. Creation of Climate Fund for Women

- a. The Government may, by notification in the official gazette constitute a fund to be called Climate Fund for Women.
- b. The Government shall ensure that women engaged in the agricultural and allied sectors will be the primary beneficiaries of this Fund.
- c. A corpus amount of 1 million USD will be drawn from Consolidated Fund of Commonwealthland after due appropriation made by Commonwealthland Parliament by law.
- d. The cess/surcharge charged upon Carbon Emitting Industries will become part and of this Fund as specified by the Government from time to time.
- e. This Fund shall also include such sum as may be received in the form of donations, endowments, by any person or institution through philanthropy for the purpose of climate change, women empowerment and agricultural innovations.

5. Utilisation of Climate Fund for Women

The Government shall ensure that the Fund is utilised in the following ways:

- a. Capacity building and Skill Training to promote and fund women led and women focused sustainable agricultural practices. For this, 30% of the Fund shall be allocated.

- b. Climate Smart Agriculture to provide greater access to renewable sources of energy, new technological innovations and farming equipment for women through subsidies, tax exemptions and cheaper loans. Government shall ensure 30% of the funds be earmarked for it.
- c. Implementation of a Gender Sensitive Approach to Climate induced Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery Activities.
- d. Contingency in the event of a climate change induced disasters. It can be in the form of relief, rehabilitation and recovery.

6. 'National Women Climate Fund Authority'(NWCFA)

- a. *Constitution:* The Government shall establish for the purposes of this bill, an authority to be known as the National Women Climate Fund Authority (NWCFA).
- b. *Composition:* The Authority shall consist of a Chairperson and such number of other members, not exceeding Fifteen, as may be prescribed by the Government and, unless the rules otherwise provide, the National Authority shall consist of the following:—
 - i. The Minister for Environment, who shall be the Chairperson of the NWCFA, ex officio;
 - ii. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Social Welfare, respectively shall be the ex officio members;
 - iii. 6 experts of repute who have special knowledge of, and professional experience in Climate change, agriculture, finance, law, policy and gender studies.
 - iv. 5 members representing Women Farmers Welfare Associations, NGOs, Government shall ensure that adequate representation is given to women members in the Authority.
- c. The term of office and conditions of service of members of the Authority shall be such as may be prescribed.
- d. *Meeting of the Authority:* The Authority shall meet as and when necessary and at such time and place as the Chairperson of the Authority may think fit. However, there should not be more than a three-month gap between the meetings in a financial year.

7. Functions of NWCFA

Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Authority shall have the following functions:

- a. To act as the Fund disbursing body.
- b. To act as the coordinating and monitoring body for Fund Management.
- c. Responsible for raising funds other than the corpus amount.
- d. To constitute a Research & Development Centre for the purpose of this Bill.
- e. To set up State level bodies to implement the provisions of this Bill.
- f. To lay down guidelines to be followed by the State level bodies in drawing up the state level plans.
- g. State bodies shall be accountable to the Authority and responsible for the following:
 - i. To establish Self Help Groups (SHG) Federations at different tiers of governance to channelise funds for the purpose of this Bill.
 - ii. Loans and subsidies for new technological innovations and farming equipment shall be routed through state bodies.
 - iii. Capacity building & Skill Trainings shall be operationalised through state bodies. State bodies can collaborate with non-government organisations for implementing training programs at grassroot level. Monitoring of such training shall be done by state bodies.
 - iv. A consortium of women climate change leaders shall be identified recognised and appreciated through state bodies. This shall be done through intra and inter-state workshops, conferences and dialogues.

8. Accounts and Audit

The Government shall ensure that-

- a. The proceeds to the fund shall be non-lapsable and non transferable for any purpose other than the bill.
- b. Fund shall be subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of Commonwealthland.
- c. Authority shall conduct impact assessment and social audit through a competent authority.
- d. Authority shall prepare once every year, in such form and at such time as may be prescribed, an annual report giving a true and full account of its activities during the previous year and copies and shall cause the same to be laid before Parliament within one month of its receipt.

9. Miscellaneous

- a. The Government may use national and international assessment reports on Climate change, Women & Agriculture for setting up targets and devising strategies to utilise funds.
- b. The Government shall direct the Authority on various aspects for utilisation & management of fund.
- c. The Government shall strive to ensure that the fund should achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Goal number 13 on 'Climate Action' ensuring no one is left behind in the process.

10. Power of Government to make rules

- a. The Government may make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.
- b. Every rule made by the Government, and every notification issued by the Government under this Act, shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made or issued, before Parliament.

Statement of Objects and reasons

Climate change induces changes in precipitation patterns, extreme weather events and can also disrupt food availability and also affect food quality. The impact of climate change threaten our health by affecting the food we eat, weather we experience, air we breathe and water we drink. Extreme heat, heavy downfall and flooding affects our infrastructure, agriculture, forestry, transportation, food prices. According to the National Statistical Organisation (NSO), the agricultural sector employs 80 per cent of all economically active women in Commonwealthland. They comprise 33 per cent of the total agriculture labour force and 48 per cent of the self-employed farmers. In spite of their large contribution, women continue to remain invisible in the policy discourse on agriculture and climate change, thereby, depriving them of the resources which are instrumental to mitigate climate change and also from decision-making processes which devise strategies and mechanisms to cope with the impact of climate change. On the other hand, men have access to different institutional entitlements such as insurance, financial benefits and legal assistance in the event of disasters accelerated by climate change Women are often precluded from such entitlements due to the lack of ownership of the land they cultivate.

This Bill provides for the setting up of Climate Fund for Women to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change and simultaneously adapt to climate change. It also provides support to empower women to become resilient and adjust to unfavorable and hostile effects of Climate Change on Agriculture.

Minister
Government of Commonwealthland

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Section 5 of the Bill contemplates for an initial expenditure of 1 million USD to be drawn from Consolidated Fund of Commonwealthland. Further, the cess/surcharge realized from carbon emitting industries and sums in form of donations, endowments, by any person or institution through philanthropy for the purpose of climate change, women empowerment and agricultural innovations shall form part of the corpus for the Climate fund for Women Bill.

Minister
Government of Commonwealthland

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

The Bill seeks to delegate powers to Government of Commonwealthland to frame rules for detailed working of the various provisions of the Bill. The rules shall be laid before the Commonwealthland Parliament as per procedure.

Minister
Government of Commonwealthland