

THE KERALA MOTOR TRANSPORT WORKERS'  
PAYMENT OF FAIR WAGES (AMENDMENT)  
BILL, 2022

(As passed by the Assembly)

A

*BILL*

*further to amend the Kerala Motor Transport Workers' Payment of Fair Wages Act, 1971.*

*Preamble.*—WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Kerala Motor Transport Workers' Payment of Fair Wages Act, 1971 (23 of 1971) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

BE it enacted in the Seventy-fourth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the Kerala Motor Transport Workers' Payment of Fair Wages (Amendment) Act, 2023.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Government may, by notification in the Gazette, appoint.

2. *Amendment of section 2.*—In the Kerala Motor Transport Workers' Payment of Fair Wages Act, 1971 (23 of 1971), (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act) in section 2,—

(i) the existing clause (a) shall be re-lettered as clause (ab) and before clause (ab) as so re-lettered, the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(a) “authority” means the authority appointed under section 3A of the Act;

(aa) “Deputy Labour Commissioner” means the Deputy Labour Commissioner of the State having jurisdiction in the respective areas;”;

(ii) after clause (ab), as so re-lettered, the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

(ac) “Inspector” means the Chief Inspector or any Inspector appointed under section 4 (1) of the Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961 (Central Act 27 of 1961);

(ad) “Labour Commissioner” means the Labour Commissioner of the State of Kerala;”;

(iii) after clause (d) the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

(e) “Government” means Government of Kerala.

3. *Insertion of new section 3A.*—After section 3 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“3A. *Claims arising out of non-payment of fair wages and penalty thereof.*—(1) The Government may, by notification in the Gazette, appoint an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Labour Commissioner of the State Government as authority to hear and decide for any specified area, all claims arising out of payment of less than the fair wages to the motor transport workers employed or paid in that area, including all matters incidental to such claims.

(2) Where a motor transport worker has any such claim of the nature referred to in sub-section (1), he himself or any legal practitioner or any official of a registered trade union authorised in writing to act on behalf of such worker or any Inspector or any person acting with the permission of the authority appointed under sub-section (1) may apply to such authority for a direction under sub-section (3):

Provided that every such application shall be presented in such form as may be prescribed, within six months, from the date on which the fair wages become payable:

Provided further that any such application may be admitted after the said period of six months, if the authority is satisfied that the applicant had sufficient cause for not making the application within such period.

(3) When any application under sub-section (2) is entertained, the authority shall hear the applicant and the employer responsible for the payment of fair wages under section 3, or give them an opportunity of being heard, and after such further enquiry, if any, as it may deem necessary, the authority may, without prejudice to any other penalty to which the employer may be liable under this Act, direct that payment shall be made to the motor transport worker, of the amount by which the amount actually paid to him falls short of the fair wages actually payable to him, together with the payment of such compensation as the authority may think fit, not exceeding ten times the amount of such deficit.

(4) If any amount directed to be paid under sub-section (3) is not paid by the person liable for the payment thereof, within the time limit fixed by the authority in this behalf, the authority shall, on application made to it by the person entitled thereto, either directly or by any person authorised by him in writing, issue a certificate for that amount to the Collector, who shall recover the same as arrears of public revenue due on land and pay the same to the person entitled thereto.

(5) Any person aggrieved by an order under sub-section (3) may, within sixty days from the date of receipt of the order, prefer an appeal to the Labour Commissioner (hereinafter referred to as the appellate authority):

Provided that no appeal shall be admitted unless, at the time of preferring the appeal, the appellant either produces a certificate issued by the authority to the effect that he has deposited an amount equal to the amount required to be paid under sub-section (3) or deposits such amount with the appellate authority.

(6) The appellate authority may, after giving the parties to the appeal an opportunity of being heard, confirm, modify or revise the decision of the authority.”.

4. *Amendment of section 4.*—In section 4 of the principal Act, for the words “five hundred rupees”, the words “two thousand rupees” shall be substituted.

5. *Amendment of section 6.*—In sub-section (1) of section 6 of the principal Act, for the word “authority”, the word “Inspector” shall be substituted.

---

