

Fourteenth Kerala Legislative Assembly

Bill No. 238

**THE KERALA PANCHAYAT RAJ
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020**

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[Translation in English of “ 2020-ലെ കേരള പഞ്ചായത്ത് രാജ് (ഭേദഗതി) ബിൽ” published under the authority of the Governor.]

THE KERALA PANCHAYAT RAJ (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2020

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further to amend the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994.

Preamble.—WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (13 of 1994) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

BE it enacted in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India, as follows:—

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the Kerala Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. *Amendment of section 6.*—In the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (13 of 1994) in sub-section (3) of section 6,—

(i) in clause (a), for the words “less than thirteen or more than twenty three, the words “less than fourteen or more than twenty four” shall be substituted;

(ii) in clause (b), for the words “less than thirteen or more than twenty three, the words “less than fourteen or more than twenty four” shall be substituted;

(iii) in clause (c), for the words “less than sixteen or more than thirty two”, the words “less than seventeen or more than thirty three” shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Section 6 of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (13 of 1994) provides the strength of Panchayats. Sub-section (2) of the said Act, provides that after publication of the relevant figures of each census, and subject to the scale specified in sub-section (3) the total number of seats in Panchayats may be altered. As per the existing provision of sub-section (3) of section 6 of the Act, the number of seats in the case of a Village Panchayat shall not be less than thirteen or more than twenty three, in the case of a Block Panchayat it shall not be less than thirteen or more than twenty three, and in the case of a District Panchayat, the same shall not be less than sixteen or more than thirty two. The proviso to sub-section (3) provides that the ratio between the population of the territorial area of a Panchayat at any level and the number of seats in such Panchayat to be filled by election shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout the State.

In the circumstance of increase in the population of Kerala as per the census of 2011, the ratio between the population and number of seats in Panchayat have been increased considerably. The Government have decided to increase the number of seats in Panchayats by one each in order to decrease the ratio between the population and the seats in the Panchayat for the purpose of providing better administration to the general public. Accordingly the Government have decided to amend sub-section (3) of section 6 suitably.

The Bill is intended to achieve the above said object.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

The Bill, if enacted and brought into operation, would not involve any additional expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State.

A. C. MOIDEEN.

EXTRACT FROM THE KERALA PANCHAYAT RAJ ACT, 1994

(13 OF 1994)

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6. *Strength of Panchayats.*—(1) The total number of seats in a Village Panchayat, a Block Panchayat and a District Panchayat to be filled by direct election shall be notified by the Government in accordance with the scale specified in sub-section (3) with reference to the population of the territorial area of the Panchayat concerned.

(2) The Government may after, publication of the relevant figures of each census, by notification alter the total number of seats in a Panchayat notified under sub-section (1) subject to the scale specified in sub-section (3).

(3) The number of seats to be notified under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) shall not,—

(a) in the case of Village Panchayat, be less than thirteen or more than twenty three;

(b) in the case of a Block Panchayat, be less than thirteen or more than twenty three;

(c) in the case of a District Panchayat, be less than sixteen or more than thirty two;

Provided that the ratio between the Population of the territorial area of a Panchayat at any level and the number of seats in such Panchayats to be filled by election shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout the State.

(4) The procedure of fixing the strength of a Panchayat shall be such as may be prescribed.

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