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PART-V

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATION

The 24th August, 2026.

No.LB.76/LA/2026/2. – The Meghalaya Forest Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026 introduced in the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly on the 24th August, 2026 together with the statement of objects and Reasons is published under Rule 71 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly for general information.

THE MEGHALAYA FOREST AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

(As passed by the Assembly)

A

BILL

further to amend the Meghalaya Forest Authority Act, 1991 (Meghalaya Act No. 3 of 1991).

Be it enacted by the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly in the Sixty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows: -

Short title and Commencement

1. (1) This Act may be called the Meghalaya Forest Authority (Amendment) Act, 2026.

2. It shall come into force with effect from the date of notification in the Official Gazette.

Insertion of additional Section

2 In the Meghalaya Forest Authority Act, 1991 (Meghalaya Act No.3 of 1991), after section 6, the following new sections 6A and 6B shall be inserted, namely:-

Grants of money by State Government to Authority

6A. The State Government may, after due appropriation made by the State Legislature by law in this behalf, pay to the Authority by way of grants or loans such sums of money for being utilized for the purpose of this Act.

Constitution of Meghalaya Forest Authority Fund

6B. (1) There shall be constituted a Fund to be called the Meghalaya Forest Authority Fund where: -

(a) Any grants and loans made to the Authority by the State Government or any other source as may be decided by the State Government, could be received.

(b) Sums could be incurred as expenditure for the purpose of the Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS

Operationalisation of the Meghalaya Forest Authority Act, 1991 (Meghalaya Act No.3 of 1991) requires specific provisions in the Act to provide for grants of money by the State Government to the Authority and constitution of a Fund to be known as the Meghalaya Forest Authority Fund to credit such money and other amounts to be received by the Authority.

It is therefore proposed to insert additional sections 6 A and 6 B in the Meghalaya Forest Authority Act, 1991 (Meghalaya Act No. 3 of 1991) to provide for the above.

Hence the Bill.

(CONRAD K. SANGMA)
Minister In-charge,
Forest & Environment Department.

Secretary
Meghalaya Legislative Assembly
Shillong.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

The Bill will involve annual expenditure of about Rs. 50,00,000 (rupees fifty lakh) only from the Consolidated Fund of the State of Meghalaya.

MEGHALAYA ACT 3 OF 1991

THE MEGHALAYA FOREST AUTHORITY ACT, 1991

(As passed by the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly on the 1st April, 1991)

[Received the assent of the Governor on the 16th April,1989]

(Published in the *Gazette of Meghalaya,* Extraordinary,

dated 17th April, 1991)

An

Act

To provide for the constitution of an Authority for the unified control of forest in the State

WHEREAS, there is need to further adopt measures to prevent indiscriminate felling of trees in the State.

AND WHEREAS, for that purpose it is exeedient to have an authority with persons from the State Government and the District Council as members;

AND WHEREAS, concurrence of all the Chief Executive Members of the District Councils in the State have been obtained;

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Meghalaya in the Forty-Second Year of the Republic of India as follows :-1. (1) Short title, extend and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Meghalaya Forest Authority Act, 1991.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Meghalaya.

(3) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 2nd March, 1991.

2. Definitions. – In this Act unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context –

(a) "Authority" means the Meghalaya Forest Authority constituted under Section 3;

(b) "District Council" means an Autonomous District Council constituted under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India; and

(c) "Forest" means all classes of forests but excludes reserved forests, Government or Government protected forests and any area recorded as forests in Government records.

3. Constitution of the Authority.- (1) There shall be constituted the Meghalaya Forest Authority with a Board of Governors comprising of the Chief Minister, the Minister-in-charge, Forests and Environment and the Chief Executive Members of the Autonomous District Councils in the State.

(2) The Chief Minister shall be the Chairman, the Minister-incharge, Forests and Environment, the Deputy Chairman and an Officer of the State Forests Department, not below the rank of a Conservator of Forests to be nominated by the State Government; the Member - Secretary of the Board of Governors.

(3) In the event that there is no Council of Ministers in the State or Executive Committee in any District Council the Governors as the case may be, of the Board shall, for the time being, *be appointed* by the Governor of Meghalaya.

4. Functions of the Authority.– (1) The functions of the Authority shall be to advise the State Government and the District Council on proper co-ordination and implementation of States and District Council Forest lows and the preparation of forest plans and schemes and other matters connected with the preservation of forest in the State.

5. Meetings of the Authority and Quorum.– (1) The Authority shall meet as often as may be necessary and all matters in a meeting shall be decided by the majority members present with Chairman casting his votes only in case of a tie.

(2) The quorum for any meeting shall be four including the person presiding.

(3) Every meeting shall be presided over by the Chairman and in his absence, by the Deputy Chairman.

6. Officers and Staff.– (1) The Member-Secretary shall be the Chief administrative officer of the Authority and shall exercise, supervision and control over its day to day affairs, authenticated letters other papers emanating from it and maintain or cause to be maintained accounts and other records.

(2) The Authority may with prior approval of Government appoints such other officers and staff as may be necessary for carrying out its functions under this Act.

7. Power to make Rules.– The state Government may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

8. Act not to be in derogation of any other laws.– The provisions of this Act shall not be in derogation of any other law on forests operating in the States.

9. Repeal and Saving.– (1) The Meghalaya Forest Authority Ordinance, 1991 is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal any action taken or anything done under the Ordinance so repealed shall be deemed to have been taken or done under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

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