

**THE ASSAM FOREST (REMOVAL AND STORAGE OF FOREST PRODUCE)
REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022**

A .

BILL

further to amend the Assam Forest (Removal and Storage of Forest Produce) Regulation Act, 2000.

Preamble Whereas it is expedient to amend the Assam Forest (Removal and Storage of Forest Produce) Regulation Act, 2000, hereinafter referred as the principal Act, in the manner hereinafter appearing; Assam Act
No. XII of
2000

It is hereby enacted in the Seventy-third Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

Short title,
extent and
commencement

1. (1) The Act may be called the Assam Forest (Removal and Storage of Forest Produce) Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2022.
- (2) It shall have the like extent as the principal Act.
- (3) It shall come into force at once.

Amendment of
section 7

2. In the principal Act, in section 7, for the words "imprisonment which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both," appearing in between the words "punished with" and "and the court", the words "fine of rupees 2000 (two thousand) which may extend to rupees 1,00,000 (one lakh)" shall be substituted.

Amendment of
section 14

3. In the principal Act, in section 14, in fourteenth line, for the words "or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with both" appearing after the word "rupees", the words "which may extend to rupees 10,000 (ten thousand)" shall be substituted.

Das
CHECKED BY THE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT
ON 13.12.2022

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Bill namely "The Assam Forest (Removal & Storage of Forest Produce) Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2022" seeks to amend the Assam Forest (Removal & Storage of Forest Produce) Regulation Act, 2000.

In order to reduce the compliance burden it has been envisaged that the Section 7 and Section 14 of the Act may be implemented more efficiently to reduce the Regulatory Compliance Burden.

Therefore, the Department has proposed for Amendment of the Assam Forest (Removal & Storage of Forest Produce) Regulation Act, 2000. The Act requires amendment in the present-day scenario to regulate and control removal of forest produces outside the State of Assam and the setting up of establishment of trading depot for forest produce.

As a part of reducing compliance burden initiative of Government of India; Environment and Forest Department has proposed to amend the Assam Forest (Removal & Storage of Forest Produce) Regulation Act, 2000 by introducing "The Assam Forest (Removal & Storage of Forest Produce) Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2022".

Hence, the Bill.



(Shri Chandramohan Patowary)

Minister-in-charge

Environment and Forest Department, Assam

Minister

Environment & Forests,

Act East Policy Affairs

Welfare of Minorities Deptt, Assam



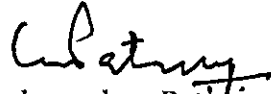
(Shri Hemen Das)

Principal Secretary

Assam Legislative Assembly

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

There is no financial involvement in the proposed Bill.



(Shri Chandramohan Patowary)
Minister-in-charge
Environment and Forest Department, Assam

Minister
Environment & Forests,
Act East Policy Affairs
Welfare of Minorities Deptt, Assam

MEMORANDUM OF DELEGATED LEGISLATION

There is no delegation of legislative powers to the executive in the proposed Bill.



(Shri Chandramohan Patowary)
Minister-in-charge
Environment and Forest Department, Assam

Minister
Environment & Forests,
Act East Policy Affairs
Welfare of Minorities Deptt, Assam

Extract of the existing provisions of Section 7 and Section 14 of Assam Forest (Removal & Storage of Forest Produce) Regulation Act, 2000

Penalty provision of the Act

Penalty 7. Any person who contravene any of the provisions of Section 3 shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both, and the Court trying the offence may further order that the forest produce in respect of which the offence was committed and the vessel or vehicle or animal with which the offence was committed, shall be confiscated to the Government.

Provided that in case of a second or subsequent offence under this Act, the fine shall be double the above amount.

Penalty for refusal to produce things or Furnish information.

14. Whoever

wilfully refuses or is unable to produce licence or document or wilfully refuses or fail to give such information which under the provisions of this Act or the rules made there under, is required to be produced or furnished or otherwise furnishes information which he knows or believes to be false or does not believe to be true;

OR

forcibly resists the arrest or attempts to evade arrest or obstructs any Forest Officer or Police Officer to enter or to effect arrest or seizure under the powers conferred by the Act or the Rules made thereunder, shall be guilty of an offence under this Act, and on conviction, be punished with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with both.