

**L. A. BILL No. XLII OF 2023.**

*A BILL*

*to amend the Seeds Act, 1966, in its application to  
the State of Maharashtra.*

54 of 5  
1966.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Seeds Act, 1966, in its application to the State of Maharashtra, for the purposes hereinafter appearing ; it is hereby enacted in the Seventy-fourth Year of the Republic of India, as follows :—

**1.** This Act may be called the Seeds (Maharashtra Amendment) Short title.  
Act, 2023.

Amendment of section 19 in 54 of 1966. **2.** In section 19 of the Seeds Act, 1966, in its application to the State of Maharashtra (hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”), clauses (b) and (c) shall be deleted. 54 of 1966.

Insertion of new section 19A in 54 of 1966. **3.** After section 19 of the Principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :— 5

Punishment for certain offences. **“19A. (1)** Notwithstanding anything contained in section 19, if any person,—

(a) contravenes any provision of section 7 ; or

(b) prevents a Seed Inspector from taking sample under this Act ; or 10

(c) prevents a Seed Inspector from exercising any other power conferred on him by or under this Act,

he shall, on conviction, be punishable,—

(i) for the first offence, with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three months, but which may extend to three years, or with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees but which may extend to fifty thousand rupees, or with both ; and 15

(ii) for the second and subsequent offence, with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to five years, or with fine which shall not be less than twenty-five thousand rupees but which may extend to one lakh rupees, or with both. 20

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the offence punishable under this section shall be cognizable and non-bailable.” 2 of 25 1974.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Seeds Act, 1966 (54 of 1966) is enacted to provide for regulating the quality of certain seeds for sale, and for matters connected therewith. Section 7 of the said Act prohibits sale and supply of any adulterated, non-standard and misbranded seeds of any notified kind or variety by any person.

2. Section 19 of the said Act provides for punishment for contravention of any provision of the Act or any rule made thereunder. Under section 19 punishment for first offence is fine, which may extend to five hundred rupees and for second offence is imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both. This punishment is very lenient.

3. Many dealers and sellers of seeds take disadvantage of this lenient penal provision, for making quick money by producing and selling adulterated, non-standard or misbranded seeds. Such sale causes financial loss to the farmers. To deter such dealers and sellers, the Government of Maharashtra considers it expedient to insert a new section in the Seeds Act, 1966, in its application to the State of Maharashtra, to provide for stringent punishment for sale or supply of adulterated, non-standard or misbranded seeds and to make such offence cognizable and non-bailable.

4. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

Mumbai,  
Dated the 2nd August, 2023.

DHANANJAY MUNDE,  
Minister for Agriculture.



*ANNEXURE TO THE L.A. BILL No. XLII OF 2023—  
THE SEEDS (MAHARASHTRA AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023.*

*(Extracts from the Seeds Act, 1966)*

**(LIV of 1966)**

**1. to 18.**                   \*                   \*                   \*                   \*                   Penalty.

**19.** If any person,—

(a)                   \*                   \*                   \*                   \*

(b) prevents a Seed Inspector from taking sample under this Act ; or

(c) prevents a Seed Inspector from exercising any other power conferred on him by or under this Act,

he shall, on conviction, be punishable—

(i) for the first offence with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, and

(ii) in the event of such person having been previously convicted of an offence under this section, with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.

**20. to 25.**                   \*                   \*                   \*                   \*





**MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE  
SECRETARIAT**

**[L. A. BILL No. XLII OF 2023.]**

**[A Bill to amend the Seeds Act, 1966, in its  
application to the State of  
Maharashtra.]**

[SHRI DHANANJAY MUNDE,  
Minister for Agriculture.]

JITENDRA BHOLE,  
Secretary (1) (I/C),  
Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.