

L.C. BILL No. XXII OF 2026.

A BILL

*further to amend the Maharashtra Fruit Nurseries and Sale of Fruit Plants
(Regulation) Act, 1969.*

5 **(As passed by the Legislative Council on the 10th July, 2026.)**

Mah.
XLV of
1969. WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Maharashtra Fruit
Nurseries and Sale of Fruit Plants (Regulation) Act, 1969, for the purposes
hereinafter appearing; it is hereby enacted in the Seventy-seventh Year of the
Republic of India as follows:—

10 **1.** This Act may be called the Maharashtra Fruit Nurseries and Sale of Short title.
Fruit Plants (Regulation) (Amendment) Act, 2026.

Mah.
XLV of
1969. **2.** In section 14 of the Maharashtra Fruit Nurseries and Sale of Fruit Amendment
Plants (Regulation) Act, 1969,— of section 14
of Mah. XLV
of 1969.

(1) for the portion beginning with the words “he shall, on conviction,” and ending with the words “five thousand rupees or both”, the following portion shall be substituted, namely:—

“he shall, on conviction,-

(i) for the first offence, be punishable with fine which may extend to ⁵ fifteen thousand rupees;

(ii) for the second or subsequent offence, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees or with both;”;

(2) in the marginal note, for the word “Penalties.”, the word “Offences.”¹⁰ shall be substituted.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Maharashtra Fruit Nurseries and Sale of Fruit Plants (Regulation) Act, 1969 (Mah. XLV of 1969) was enacted to provide for the licensing and regulation of fruit nurseries and the sale of fruit plants in the State, with a view to ensuring the supply of genuine pedigree fruit plants to growers and safeguarding agricultural productivity. Section 14 of the said Act presently provides that any person who contravenes any provision of the Act or obstructs an enforcement officer in the exercise of powers conferred upon him or in the discharge of his duties shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees, or with both.

2. Decriminalising minor contraventions of the provisions of the Acts have been key policy priorities of the Government. The Government seeks to reduce the punishment for minor and technical regulatory violations to promote ease of doing business. Section 14 of the said Act provides for imprisonment, or fine, or with both, for offences specified therein. The Government, considers it expedient to remove the punishment of imprisonment in respect of a first contravention and to substitute the same with an enhanced fine and to prescribe more stringent punishment with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees, or with both for second and subsequent contraventions.

3. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

Mumbai,

Dated the 9th July, 2026.

BHARAT GOGAWALE,
Minister for Horticulture.

*ANNEXURE TO THE L.C. BILL NO. XXII OF 2026.—
THE MAHARASHTRA FRUIT NURSERIES AND SALE OF FRUIT
PLANTS (REGULATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026.*

*(Extracts from the Maharashtra Fruit Nurseries and Sale of Fruit Plants
(Regulation) Act, 1969)*

(Mah. XLV of 1969)

1. to 13.

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14. If any person—

Penalties.

(a) contravenes any of the provisions of this Act, or contravenes the provisions of any rule made thereunder the contravention of which is made punishable under this section, or

(b) obstructs any officer or person in the exercise of any powers conferred or in the performance of any duty imposed on him by or under this Act;

he shall, on conviction, be punished with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or both.

15. to 21.

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MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE
SECRETARIAT

[L.C. BILL No. XXII OF 2026.]

**[A Bill further to amend the Maharashtra
Fruit Nurseries and Sale of Fruit Plants
(Regulation) Act, 1969.]**

[SHRI BHARAT GOGAWALE,
Minister for Horticulture.]

**(As passed by the Legislative Council on
the 10th July, 2026.)**

DR. VILAS ATHAWALE,
Secretary-III,
Maharashtra Legislative Council.