

Workers

National Fishermen's Forum

Reg. No: 487/85

BYE - LAWS

1. Name : Name of this organisation will be National Fishermen's Forum.
2. Area of Operation: All over India.
3. Office: Office address of this organization will be. National Fishermen's Forum, Cherurashmi Centre, Valiathura, Trivandrum - 695 008, Kerala.
4. Objectives:
 - a. To foster unity and solidarity and mutual concern among the fishworkers of India.
 - b. To work for achieving the legitimate rights of fishworkers and to provide legal help to protect their rights.
 - c. To highlight and represent the regional struggle of members to the Central Government, concerned State Governments and authorities.
 - d. To represent and demand from the Central Government, as well as State Governments, facilities for the development of the small - scale traditional and self - employed fishworkers.
 - e. To collect and disseminate relevant information regarding the fishworkers struggle, the developments in the fishing industry and ecological problems.
 - f. To work for the enactment of proper legislations to protect the interests of the fishworkers and fish resourcers.
 - g. To involve and settle the disputes among the fishworkers and between members.
 - h. To plan and impliment any other progressive programmes to achieve the objectives of this union, mentioned above.

5. Membership:

- a. Anyone who involve in the work of fishing, ie., in catching fish either in sea or lake or rivers and also those who involve in fishmarketing ie., who sell fish by headload or by cycles or who works in fish processing industry.
- b. The members should have reached eighteen years of age and should be citizens of India.
- c. Fish workers unions, working at district level or state level and registered under trade union act can also be given membership in this Forum.
- d. Members should observe and act according to the rules and regulations of the Forum.
- e. Those who would like to become members of the Forum should apply in the prescribed form to the General Secretary of the Forum.
- f. Each member will have to pay a membership fee of Rupees One hundred, for which a receipt and a certificate of membership will be issued.
- g. The annual subscription is Rupees One Hundred.
- h. Those who do not pay the subscription fee for three consecutive years will be losing their membership subsequently.
- i. If the Executive Committee permits, the membership may be retained after paying the arrears.
- j. Those who are not members of the Forum, but nominated to the Committee shall be given temporary membership. But the total number of temporary members should be less than half of the total number of members.
- k. All members are entitled to all benefits and rights prescribed in the Bye-law.

6. Membership Register:

A Membership Register should be kept at the forum office for verification in which the names and addresses of the members should be written. The register can be verified by members and officials of the union during office hours, ie., from 10 am to 5 pm on all working days except Sundays and Government declared holidays at its registered Office.

7- Structure of the Forum:

a. General Body :

- (i) The members of the Forum constitutes the General body of the Forum.
- (ii) Representations of an organisation in the Forum: A member trade union shall send one representative for every one thousand of its members, but a minimum of two and maximum of five. Each representative of such kind will have the rights of one member. The list of the representatives to the general body of the Forum should be countersigned by the respective President and the Secretary of the member union. Their term will be two years.
- (iii) The General body of the Forum should be convened at least once in a year but may be convened in an emergency at any time and the quorum of the meeting will be one third of the total number of members of the General body.
- (iv) Notice for an ordinary general body meeting should be given at least fifteen days early, but for an emergency meeting seven days is enough. For the election meeting notice should be given at least twenty days before the meeting.
- (v) The General body will have the power to take any decisions to achieve the objectives of the Forum.
- (vi) The election meeting of the Forum shall be convened once in three years which will elect a chairman^{Person}, one General Secretary and seven committee members. The elected nine members have the right to co-opt six members of the executive and so the total number of committee members will be fifteen.

b. Forum Fund:

- (i) The membership fees, subscriptions, donations and other collections constitute the Forum Fund.
- (ii) The Forum will have an account in its name in a Bank and it will be operated by the Chairman^{Person} and General Secretary.
- (iii) All assets of the Forum will be in the name of the Chairman^{Person} and General Secretary.
- (iv) The General Secretary of the Forum should present accounts and audited financial statements along with the report of the Forum in the annual general body meeting.

- (v) The General Secretary is permitted to keep up to Rupees Five Hundred in cash for the day to day needs of the Forum.
- (vi) The Forum Fund should be utilised only for purposes mentioned in section five of the Indian Trade Union Act.
- (c) The Executive Committee:
- (i) The Executive Committee consists of fifteen people of whom nine are elected by the General body meeting specifically held for the election, and six others nominated by the elected Committee members. The Chairman ^{Person} and the General Secretary will be elected by the General body.
- (ii) The term of office of the executive committee will be three years.
- (iii) Three more secretaries may be appointed by the executive committee if needed, and their responsibilities shall be specified.
- (iv) The executive committee shall meet at least once in six months and the quorum of the meeting will be nine. Notice for the meeting shall be given at least 14 days early.
- (v) The general secretary is in charge of convening the executive committee meeting. But in extra-ordinary circumstances the Chairman ^{Person} also has powers to convene the executive committee as well as general body meetings.
- (vi) The executive committee meeting should be convened if five committee members ask for it in writing.
- (vii) The Committee shall plan and impliment programmes according to the objectives of the Forum and the policies of the General Body.
- (viii) The committee shall organise seminars, educational meetings and such other programmes to enlighten the Forum members.
- (ix) The committee shall took into the suggestions and decisions of the General body and act accordingly.
- [x] Those who do not attend the executive Committee meetings consecutively for three meetings will loose their committee membership subsequently.

[xi] The executive committee have the power to suspend any office bearers or members who act against the interests of the Forum.

[xii] If any vacancy arise in the Executive Committee, it shall be filled by the Chairman through nomination but it should be ratified in the next executive committee meeting.

[d] Chairman: ^{Person}

[i] The Chairman shall convene and preside over the meeting of the Forum. ^{Person}

[ii] The chairman will have only a casting vote in the meeting ^{Person}

[iii] The chairman shall sign and verify the minutes and records of the meeting ^{Person}

[iv] The general supervision of the Forum is to be done by the Chairman ^{Person}

[v] The Chairman shall officially represent the Forum in other meetings and shall release official public statements on behalf of the Forum. ^{Person}

[vi] In the absence of Chairman another Committee member shall be elected to chair the proceedings. ^{Person}

[e] General Secretary:

[i] The General Secretary shall convene the meetings on the advice of the Chairman and is in charge of keeping the membership register and other records up to date, taking record of the meeting and presenting it in respective meetings. ^{Person}

[ii] He shall look after the assets of the Forum, prepare the financial budget and keep the financial accounts of the proper Forum.

[iii] The above said responsibilities of the General Secretary may also be delegated to other Secretaries, but with the consent of the Executive Committee.

[iv] All the records and accounts of the Forum must be kept open for the verification during office hours which will be from 10 am to 5 pm on all working days except Sundays and Government declared holidays.