



Ambedkar Times

Weekly

Editor-in-Chief: Prem Kumar Chumber

Contact: 001-916-947-8920

Fax: 916-238-1393

E-mail: chumbermedia@yahoo.com, editor@ambedkartimes.com

VOL- 12

ISSUE- 40

December 16, 2020

California (USA)

www.ambedkartimes.com

www.deshdoaba.com

DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Prem K. Chumber
Editor-in-Chief:

www.ambedkartimes.com

Democracy and social justice are interrelated social processes. The one is incomplete in the absence of the other. Democracy offers freedom space to realize equality and experience fraternity. Equality and fraternity are the two essential ingredients of social justice, which achieves its true form with the addition of liberty. Thus the trinity of liberty, equality and fraternity constitutes the essence of social justice and the institution of democracy provides the requisite realm for its realization. Though many scholars' boasts of ancient origins of democracy in India but it would be prudent to argue that democracy achieves its roots in the real sense of the term with the adoption of the constitution in independent India. Bodhisattva Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, Chairman of Constitutional Drafting Committee, worked very hard to incorporate various provisions for the realization of social justice in the Indian society. He was of the firm views that if social and economic parity remains an elusive to the multitude of poor and historically socially excluded people in the country, then the very purpose of having parliamentary democracy would not be served efficiently. He reiterated the seminal point during his engaging discussions at various important forums within and outside the Indian parliament that for social justice to prevail in the country, India needs effective participation of the downtrodden in all the different spheres of the society.

The demand for social justice was also raised at various platforms during the freedom struggle movement in colonial India. Ad-Movements in North and South India, Justice Party in South India, Babu Mangu Ram Muggowalia from Punjab, Swami Achhuta Nand Ji from Uttar Pradesh, Baba Ghasi Das Ji from Madhya Pradesh, Thanthai Periyar E. V. Ramasamy (Tamilnadu) promoted the principles of rationalism, self-respect, women's rights and eradication of caste, Sri Narayana Guru from Kerala raised a consistent campaign for the prevalence of social justice in the Indian society. Babu Mangu Ram Muggowalia presented a number of resolutions to the British Government for the removal of untouchability and special provisions for the inclusion of socially excluded sections of the society in the public realm of power and social domain.

Babu Mangu Ram Muggowalia joined hands with Bodhisattva Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar in his struggle for equal rights for the socially excluded people of India. When Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar speeded its movement into the political agile lands of Punjab with the formation of Punjab chapter of Scheduled Castes Federation, there was a tremendous response from the grassroots. That was precisely the contributions of Ad Dharm movement which laid the foundation stone of social justice campaign in the state in the mid-1920s. But the irony of the matter is that even after more than six decades of India's independence, Dalits in the country are still subjected to various types of atrocities and social discriminations. Though the Indian state, while making the optimum use of various anti untouchability clauses of the constitution, is doing its best to bridle the monster of caste, but still is more needed to be done at the social level where the people should come forward to internalize the values of liberty, equality and fraternity in order to realize the true sense of democracy and social justice.

Covid-19 Cast Shadow as Khalsa Institutions Celebrate 551st Guru Nanak's Parkash Purab

Colourful Procession "Nagar Kirtan" undertaken Khalsa College to Golden Temple with Scaled Down participation amid Covid



Amritsar (November 28, 2020) A colourful religious procession 'Nagar Kirtan' was today organized by Khalsa educational institutions under Khalsa College Governing Council (KGC) to mark the 551st Parkash Purab of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The Covid-19 cast a long shadow over the march as the participation was cut down from 30,000 students to bare minimum merely by the management in the scaled down ceremony.

Only the teaching, non-teaching and select senior classes' students took part in the religious procession as per KGC's century old practice to celebrate the Gurburab annually. The march which took off from historic Khalsa College however reached Golden Temple amidst much-fanfare, hymn singing and religious fervour. The participants forming queues by keeping social-distancing, chanted holy hymns from Gurbani and paraded through various parts of the city to pay obeisance at Harmandar Sahib.

The display of Gatkas (Sikh martial art), music of the bands, PT Show and beating of the drums was witnessed but in a scaled down manner. The procession, led by the decorated palanquin in which the Guru Granth Sahib was placed, had the participants clad in colourful dresses and attires as they held prayers at Aka Takht to culminate the march.

The PanjPiaras (five beloveds), the top management functionaries, Principals and staff passed through GT Road, Putlighar, Railway Station, Bhandari Bridge, Hall Gate, Hall Bazar, Kotwali and finally reached at Ghanta Ghar outside the Golden Temple

precincts. Though an annual feature, the procession is different this time due to the coronavirus restrictions leading to lesser gathering, said KGC honorary secretary Rajinder Mohan Singh Chhina.

He said the procession was aimed to highlight the philosophy and teachings of Guru Nanak, which advocated universal brotherhood, humanity and peaceful co-existence. They appealed all to follow the teachings of the Guru.

The parade also highlighted the protection of environment and checking pollution as no plastic was used throughout the procession. The volunteers from NCC and NSS cleaned the roads through which the procession passed. Chhina and KCA Principal Dr. Mehal Singh thanked the district ministration for all the help extended for the successful completion of the parade.

KGC Joint Secretary Ajmer Singh Heir, Sardool Singh Mannan, Rajbir Singh, Members Lakhwinder Singh Dhillon, Sukhdev Singh Abdal, Gurpreet Singh Gill, Principals Dr. R. K. Dhawan, Dr. Manju Bala, Dr. Surinderpal Kaur Dhillon, Dr. Harpreet Kaur, Dr. Kamaljit Kaur, Dr. H. B. Singh, Dr. Jaspal Singh, Dr. Manpreet Kaur, Dr. Inderjit Singh Gogoani, S. Nanak Singh, Dr. Kawaljit Singh, S. A. S. Gill, Puneet Kaur Nagpal, Nirmal Kaur, Gurinderjit Kaur, Under Secretary D. S. Rataul, Other.

- D S Rataul
Deputy Director
Public Relation Department
Khalsa College Governing College,
Amritsar.

Relief, Not Fines for Small Businesses

The past nine months have been a roller coaster for all of us. The seemingly endless pandemic has resulted in all of us being forced into a new way of living. It has been harder on some than others. Small business owners and their employees are certainly among those most heavily impacted. California has gone from stay-at-home orders to watch lists, blueprints, and regional shutdowns. At every step, and sometimes in between, the rules for businesses have changed. We have seen many businesses remain closed while others have remained open or bounced between being open or closed. In the worst cases, some businesses have closed forever. For businesses still hanging on, the struggle has been persistent, and I was baffled by the notion that we should be threatening them with fines of up to \$10,000. Still, that notion took form in a proposal brought forward by our Public Health Department as an urgency ordinance.

The ordinance that was proposed was too broad, too aggressive, and frankly, too subjective for me to support it. Put simply; the ordinance gave the county and cities the authority to fine a business when found not to be compliant with any regulations or requirements within a public health order. That sounds straightforward

enough, but the resolution went beyond the county's standard for enforcing ordinances. First, the business owner may not be held responsible for the violation. The ordinance included the property owner as the potentially responsible party. Further, it gave the Public Health Department the authority to designate anyone they saw fit as an enforcement officer. That means it would not necessarily be the Sheriff, Code Enforcement, or even a health inspector going into businesses to investigate violations. Under this ordinance, any county employee could be given the authority to enter a business and cite them for a perceived violation.

I say perceived violation because not only are enforcement officers potentially untrained county employees, but they would not be required to even witness a violation under the ordinance. If adopted, the enforcement officer could issue citations based on "investigations" or simply being told by other county staff a violation occurred. This incredibly low burden of proof could have gone a long way to creating undue allegations. The ordinance did include an appeal process, but only when the fines were for more than \$1000. With the fines being as much as \$500 for every day a perceived violation occurs, I am sure many would be

granted the opportunity for an appeal. However, the appeal process would require a \$750 deposit (unless proof of an inability to pay can be provided) and no guarantee of recouping the deposit if the appeal fails. Many businesses have already put everything they have into finding ways to comply with ever-changing health orders. One incident could be the deciding factor in whether or not the business can remain open or close forever.

Ultimately, that is my biggest concern with the ordinance. A business struggling to keep the lights on could see fines as high as \$10,000, plus "administrative fees," and then they close for good. When a business closes permanently or even for 72 hours, that means employees and the business owner have no money coming in. While some were fortunate early on to receive financial assistance through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), many small businesses, particularly minority-owned businesses, received little to no aid.

I understand the need to protect lives during the pandemic. The county has several ways to enforce public health orders that we can rely on for that. If we start adding to small businesses' financial struggles, though, that could mean more people

without t h e means to pay bills, rent, or put food on the table. I w o u l d m u c h r a t h e r

we find businesses struggling to comply and find ways to help them through education or providing resources. We can stop the spread of COVID-19 and help people maintain their livelihood, which I aim to achieve. Based on the more than 3000 public comments we receive on the ordinance, I think many people in the county agree with me and are as glad as I am the ordinance was pulled from consideration.


Thank you for reading – and as always, if you want to contact me, call me at 916-874-5491, or e-mail me at SupervisorFrost@saccounty.net.

Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes all or part of the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, Rio Linda, Elverta, Gold River, Rancho Murieta, North Highlands, Carmichael, Foothill Farms and Fair Oaks



**Sue Frost
Supervisor**

Essential commodity Act



भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एन.-अ.-27092020-222038
CG-DL-E-27092020-222038

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II—खण्ड 1
PART II—Section 1
प्रतिबन्धक से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं- 47] नई दिल्ली, रविवार, सितम्बर 27, 2020/ अश्विन 5, 1942 (शक)
No. 47] NEW DELHI, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020/ASVINA 5, 1942 (SAKA)

इस भाग में दिव्य पुस्तक दी जाती है जिससे कि यह अलग संकलन के रूप में रखा जा सके।
Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(Legislative Department)

New Delhi, the 27th September, 2020/Asvina 5, 1942 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 26th September, 2020 and is hereby published for general information:—

THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2020
No. 22 OF 2020
[26th September, 2020.]

An Act further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-first Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020. Short title and commencement.
(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 5th day of June, 2020.

2. In section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, after sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:— Amendment of section 3.

(1A) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1),—

(a) the supply of such foodstuffs, including cereals, pulses, potato, onions, edible oilseeds and oils, as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify, may be regulated only under extraordinary circumstances which may include war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity of grave nature;

2 THE GAZETTE OF INDIA EXTRAORDINARY [PART I]—Sec. 1]

(b) any action on imposing stock limit shall be based on price rise and an order for regulating stock limit of any agricultural produce may be issued under this Act only if there is—

(i) hundred per cent. increase in the retail price of horticultural produce, or

(ii) fifty per cent. increase in the retail price of non-perishable agricultural foodstuffs,

over the price prevailing immediately preceding twelve months, or average retail price of last five years, whichever is lower.

Provided that such order for regulating stock limit shall not apply to a processor or value chain participant of any agricultural produce, if the stock limit of such person does not exceed the overall ceiling of installed capacity of processing, or the demand for export in case of an exporter.

Provided further that nothing contained in this sub-section shall apply to any order, relating to the Public Distribution System or the Targeted Public Distribution System, made by the Government under this Act or under any other law for the time being in force.

Explanation.—The expression "value chain participant", in relation to any agricultural produce, means and includes a set of participants, from production of any agricultural produce in the field to final consumption, involving processing, packaging, storage, transport and distribution, where at each stage value is added to the product.

3. (1) The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 is hereby repealed. Ord. 8 of 2020

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of the said Act as amended by this Act. 10 of 1955.

DR. G. NARAYANA RAJU,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

UPLOADED BY THE MANAGER, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, MINTO ROAD, NEW DELHI-11002 AND PUBLISHED BY THE CONTROLLER OF PUBLICATIONS, DELHI 110054.

MGIPRND—050G—27-09-2020.

The framers produce and trade act

(1)

(2)

(3)

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India
सौ.जी.-सौ.एन.-अ.-27092020-222039
CG-DL-E-27092020-222039

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II—खण्ड 1
PART II—Section 1
प्रधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 46] नई दिल्ली, सोमवार, सितम्बर 27, 2020/आश्विन 5, 1942 (शका)
No. 46] NEW DELHI, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020/ASHWINA 5, 1942 (SAKA)

इस भाग में विनय पृष्ठ संख्या दी जाती है जिससे कि यह अलग संकलन के रूप में रखा जा सके।
Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(Legislative Department)
New Delhi, the 27th September, 2020/Asvina 5, 1942 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 24th September, 2020 and is hereby published for general information:—

THE FARMERS' PRODUCE TRADE AND COMMERCE (PROMOTION AND FACILITATION) ACT, 2020
No. 21 of 2020
[24th September, 2020.]

An Act to provide for the creation of an ecosystem where the farmers and traders enjoy the freedom of choice relating to sale and purchase of farmers' produce which facilitates remunerative prices through competitive alternative trading channels; to promote efficient, transparent and barrier-free inter-State and intra-State trade and commerce of farmers' produce outside the physical premises of markets or deemed markets notified under various State agricultural produce market legislations; to provide a facilitative framework for electronic trading and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-first Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I
PREAMBULARY

1. (1) This Act may be called the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 5th day of June, 2020.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "electronic trading and transaction platform" means a platform set up to facilitate direct and online buying and selling for conduct of trade and commerce of farmers' produce through a network of electronic devices and internet applications, where each such transaction results in physical delivery of farmers' produce;

(b) "farmer" means an individual engaged in the production of farmers' produce by self or by hired labour or otherwise, and includes the farmer producer organisation;

(c) "farmers' produce" means,—

(i) foodstuffs including cereals like wheat, rice or other coarse grains, pulses, edible oilseeds, oils, vegetables, fruits, nuts, spices, sugarcane and products of poultry, piggyery, goatery, fishery and dairy intended for human consumption in its natural or processed form;

(ii) cattle fodder including oilcakes and other concentrates; and

(iii) raw cotton whether ginned or unginned, cotton seeds and raw jute;

(d) "farmer producer organisation" means an association or group of farmers, by whatever name called,—

(i) registered under any law for the time being in force; or

(ii) promoted under a scheme or programme sponsored by the Central or the State Government;

(e) "inter-State trade" means the act of buying or selling of farmers' produce, wherein a trader of one State buys the farmers' produce from the farmer or a trader of another State and such farmers' produce is transported to a State other than the State in which the trader purchased such farmers' produce or where such farmers' produce originated;

(f) "intra-State trade" means the act of buying or selling of farmers' produce, wherein a trader of one State buys the farmers' produce from a farmer or a trader of the same State in which the trader purchased such farmers' produce or where such farmers' produce originated;

(g) "notification" means a notification published by the Central Government or the State Governments in the Official Gazette and the expressions "notified" and "notified" shall be construed accordingly;

(h) "person" includes—

(i) an individual;

(ii) a partnership firm;

(iii) a company;

(iv) a limited liability partnership;

(v) a co-operative society;

(vi) a society; or

(vii) any association or body of persons duly incorporated or recognised as a group under any ongoing programmes of the Central Government or the State Government;

(i) "prescribed" means prescribed by the rules made by the Central Government under this Act;

(j) "scheduled farmers' produce" means the agricultural produce specified under any State APMC Act for regulation;

(k) "State" includes the Union territory;

(l) "State APMC Act" means any State legislation or Union territory legislation in force in India, by whatever name called, which regulates markets for agricultural produce in that State;

(m) "trade area" means any area or location, place of production, collection and aggregation including—

(i) farm gates;

(ii) factory premises;

(iii) warehouses;

(iv) silos;

(v) cold storages; or

(vi) any other structures or places,

from where trade of farmers' produce may be undertaken in the territory of India but does not include the premises, enclosures and structures constituting—

(i) physical boundaries of principal market yards, sub-market yards and market sub-yards managed and run by the market committees formed under each State APMC Act in force in India; and

(ii) private market yards, private market sub-yards, direct marketing collection centres, and private farmer-consumer market yards managed by persons holding licenses or any warehouses, silos, cold storages or other structures notified as markets or deemed markets under each State APMC Act in force in India;

(n) "trader" means a person who buys farmers' produce by way of inter-State trade or intra-State trade or a combination thereof, either for self or on behalf of one or more persons for the purpose of wholesale trade, retail, end-use, value addition, processing, manufacturing, export, consumption or for such other purpose.

CHAPTER II
PROMOTION AND FACILITATION OF TRADE AND COMMERCE OF FARMERS' PRODUCE

3. Subject to the provisions of this Act, any farmer or trader or electronic trading and transaction platform shall have the freedom to carry on the inter-State or intra-State trade and commerce in farmers' produce in a trade area.

4. (1) Any trader may engage in the inter-State trade or intra-State trade of scheduled farmers' produce with a farmer or another trader in a trade area:

Provided that no trader, except the farmer producer organisations or agricultural co-operative society, shall trade in any scheduled farmers' produce unless such a trader has a permanent account member allotted under the Income-tax Act, 1961 or such other document as may be notified by the Central Government.

(2) The Central Government may, if it is of the opinion that it is necessary and expedient in the public interest so to do, prescribe a system for electronic registration for a trader, modalities of trade transaction and mode of payment of the scheduled farmers' produce in a trade area.

(3) Every trader who transacts with farmers shall make payment for the traded scheduled farmers' produce on the same day or within the maximum three working days if procedurally so required subject to the condition that the receipt of delivery mentioning the due payment amount shall be given to the farmer on the same day.

Provided that the Central Government may prescribe a different procedure of payment by farmer producer organisation or agriculture co-operative society, by whatever name called, linked with the receipt of payment from the buyers.

5. (1) Any person (other than individual), having a permanent account member allotted under the Income-tax Act, 1961 or such other document as may be notified by the Central Government or any farmer producer organisation or agricultural co-operative society may establish and operate an electronic trading and transaction platform for facilitating inter-State or intra-State trade and commerce of scheduled farmers' produce in a trade area:

Provided that the person establishing and operating an electronic trading and transaction platform shall prepare and implement the guidelines for fair trade practices such as mode of trading, fees, technical parameters including inter-operability with other platforms, logistics arrangements, quality assessment, timely payment, dissemination of guidelines in local language of the place of operation of the platform and such other matters.

(2) If the Central Government is of the opinion that it is necessary and expedient in public interest so to do, it may, for electronic trading platforms, by rules—

(a) specify the procedure, norms, manner of registration; and

(b) specify the code of conduct, technical parameters including inter-operability with other platform and modalities of trade transaction including logistics arrangements and quality assessment of scheduled farmers' produce and mode of payment, for facilitating fair inter-State and intra-State trade and commerce of scheduled farmers' produce in a trade area.

6. No market fee or cess or levy, by whatever name called, under any State APMC Act or any other State law, shall be levied on any farmer or trader or electronic trading and transaction platform for trade and commerce in scheduled farmers' produce in a trade area.

7. (1) The Central Government may, through any Central Government Organisation, develop a Price Information and Market Intelligence System for farmers' produce and a framework for dissemination of information relating thereto.

(2) The Central Government may require any person owning and operating an electronic trading and transaction platform to provide information regarding such transactions as may be prescribed.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, the expression "Central Government Organisation" includes any subordinate or attached office, Government owned or promoted company or society.

CHAPTER III
DISPUTE RESOLUTION

8. (1) In case of any dispute arising out of a transaction between the farmer and a trader under section 4, the parties may seek a mutually acceptable solution through conciliation by filing an application to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate who shall refer such dispute to a Conciliation Board to be appointed by him for facilitating the binding settlement of the dispute.

(2) Every Board of Conciliation appointed by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate under sub-section (1), shall consist of a chairperson and such members not less than two and not more than four, as the Sub-Divisional Magistrate may deem fit.

(3) The chairperson shall be an officer serving under the supervision and control of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate and the other members shall be persons appointed in equal numbers to represent the parties to the dispute and any person appointed to represent a party shall be appointed on the recommendation of that party:

Provided that, if any party fails to make such recommendation within seven days, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate shall appoint such persons as he thinks fit to represent that party.

(4) Where, in respect of any dispute, a settlement is arrived at during the course of conciliation proceedings, a memorandum of settlement shall be drawn accordingly and signed by the parties to such dispute which shall be binding upon the parties.

(5) If the parties to the transaction under sub-section (1) are unable to resolve the dispute within thirty days in the manner set out under this section, they may approach the Sub-Divisional Magistrate concerned who shall be the "Sub-Divisional Authority" for settlement of such dispute.

(6) The Sub-Divisional Authority on its own motion or on a petition or on the reference from any Government agency take cognizance of any contravention of the provisions of section 4 or rules made thereunder and take action under sub-section (7).

(7) The Sub-Divisional Authority shall decide the dispute or contravention under this section in a summary manner within thirty days from the date of its filing and after giving the parties an opportunity of being heard, he may—

(a) pass an order for the recovery of the amount under dispute; or

(b) impose a penalty as stipulated in sub-section (1) of section 11; or

(c) pass an order for restraining the trader in dispute from undertaking any trade and commerce of scheduled farmers' produce, directly or indirectly under this Act for such period as it may deem fit.

(8) Any party aggrieved by the order of the Sub-Divisional Authority may prefer an appeal before the Appellate Authority (Collector or Additional Collector nominated by the Collector) within thirty days of such order who shall dispose of the appeal within thirty days from the date of filing of such appeal.

(9) Every order of the Sub-Divisional Authority or Appellate Authority under this section shall have force of the decree of a civil court and shall be enforceable as such, and decretal amount shall be recovered as arrears of land revenue.

(10) The manner and procedure for filing a petition or an application before the Sub-Divisional Authority and appeal before the appellate authority shall be such as may be prescribed.

9. (1) The Agriculture Marketing Adviser, Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Government of India or an officer of the State Government to whom such powers are delegated by the Central Government in consultation with the respective State Government may, on its own motion or on a petition or on the reference from any Government Agency, take cognizance of any breach of the procedures, norms, manner of registration and code of conduct or any breach of the guidelines for fair trade practices by the electronic trading and transaction platform established under section 5 or contravention of the provisions of section 7 and, by an order within sixty days from the date of receipt and for the reasons to be recorded, he may—

(a) pass an order for the recovery of the amount payable to the farmers and traders;

(b) impose a penalty as stipulated in sub-section (2) of section 11; or

(c) suspend for such period as he deems fit or cancel the right to operate as an electronic trading and transaction platform.

Provided that no order for recovery of amount, imposition of penalty or suspension or cancellation of the right to operate shall be passed without giving the operator of such electronic trading and transaction platform an opportunity of being heard.

(2) Every order made under sub-section (1) shall have force of the decree of a civil court and shall be enforceable as such and the decretal amount shall be recovered as arrears of land revenue.

10. (1) Any person aggrieved by an order under section 9 may, prefer an appeal within sixty days from the date of such order, to an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India to be nominated by the Central Government for this purpose:

Provided that an appeal may be admitted even after the expiry of the said period of sixty days, but not beyond a total period of ninety days, if the appellant satisfies the appellate authority, that he had sufficient cause for not preferring the appeal within the said period.

(2) Every appeal made under this section shall be made in such form and manner, and shall be accompanied by a copy of the order appealed against and by such fees as may be prescribed.

(3) The procedure for disposing of an appeal shall be such as may be prescribed.

(4) An appeal filed under this section shall be heard and disposed of within a period of ninety days from the date of its filing:

Provided that before disposing of an appeal, the appellant shall be given an opportunity of being heard.

CHAPTER IV
PENALTIES

11. (1) Whoever contravenes the provisions of section 4 or the rules made thereunder shall be liable to pay a penalty which shall not be less than twenty-five thousand rupees but which may extend up to five lakh rupees, and where the contravention is a continuing one, further penalty not exceeding five thousand rupees for each day after the first day during which the contravention continues.

(2) If any person, who owns, controls or operates an electronic trading and transaction platform, contravenes the provisions of sections 5 and 7 or the rules made thereunder shall be liable to pay a penalty which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees but which may extend up to ten lakh rupees, and where the contravention is a continuing one, further penalty not exceeding ten thousand rupees for each day after the first day during which the contravention continues.

CHAPTER V
MISCELLANEOUS

12. The Central Government may, for carrying out the provisions of this Act, give such instructions, directions, orders or issue guidelines as it may deem necessary to any authority or officer subordinate to the Central Government, any State Government or any authority or officer subordinate to a State Government, an electronic trading and transaction platform or to any person or persons owning or operating an electronic trading and transaction platform, or a trader or class of traders.

13. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Central Government or the State Government, or any officer of the Central Government or the State Government or any other person in respect of anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or of any rules or orders made thereunder.

14. The provisions of this Act shall have effect, notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any State APMC Act or any other law for the time being in force or in any instrument having effect by virtue of any law for the time being in force.

15. No civil court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceedings in respect of any matter, the cognizance of which can be taken and disposed of by any authority empowered by or under this Act or the rules made thereunder.

16. Nothing contained in this Act, shall be applicable to the Stock Exchanges and Clearing Corporations recognised under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 and the transactions made thereunder.

17. (1) The Central Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) the system of electronic registration for a trader and modalities of trade transaction of scheduled farmers' produce under sub-section (2) of section 4;

(b) the procedure of payment under proviso to sub-section (3) of section 4;

(c) the manner and procedure for filing a petition or an application before the Sub-Divisional Authority and appeal before the appellate authority under sub-section (10) of section 8;

(d) the information regarding transactions under sub-section (2) of section 9;

(e) the form and manner and the fee payable for filing an appeal under sub-section (2) of section 10;

(f) the procedure for disposing of an appeal under sub-section (3) of section 10;

(g) any other matter which is to be or may be prescribed.

18. Every rule made by the Central Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

19. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to it to be necessary for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of the period of three years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before each House of Parliament.

20. (1) The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020 is hereby repealed.

14. The provisions of this Act shall have effect, notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any State APMC Act or any other law for the time being in force or in any instrument having effect by virtue of any law for the time being in force.

15. No civil court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceedings in respect of any matter, the cognizance of which can be taken and disposed of by any authority empowered by or under this Act or the rules made thereunder.

16. Nothing contained in this Act, shall be applicable to the Stock Exchanges and Clearing Corporations recognised under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 and the transactions made thereunder.

17. (1) The Central Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) the system of electronic registration for a trader and modalities of trade transaction of scheduled farmers' produce under sub-section (2) of section 4;

(b) the procedure of payment under proviso to sub-section (3) of section 4;

(c) the manner and procedure for filing a petition or an application before the Sub-Divisional Authority and appeal before the appellate authority under sub-section (10) of section 8;

(d) the information regarding transactions under sub-section (2) of section 9;

(e) the form and manner and the fee payable for filing an appeal under sub-section (2) of section 10;

(f) the procedure for disposing of an appeal under sub-section (3) of section 10;

(g) any other matter which is to be or may be prescribed.

18. Every rule made by the Central Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

19. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to it to be necessary for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of the period of three years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before each House of Parliament.

20. (1) The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020 is hereby repealed.

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

DR. G. NARAYANA RAJU,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

UPLOADED BY THE MANAGER, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, MINTO ROAD, NEW DELHI-110002 AND PUBLISHED BY THE CONTROLLER OF PUBLICATIONS, DELHI-110054.

The framers agreement on aurance of price act

(1)

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India
सौ.जी.-डी.एन.-अ.-27092020-222040
CG-DL-E-27092020-222040

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II — खण्ड 1
PART II — Section 1
प्रवृत्तित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

क्रं. 45] नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, दिनांक 27, 2020/असिना 5, 1942 (साका)
No. 45] NEW DELHI, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020/ASVINA 5, 1942 (SAKA)

इस भाग में निम्न पृष्ठ संख्या दी जाती है जिससे कि यह अलग संकलन को रूप में रखा जा सके।
Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(Legislative Department)
New Delhi, the 27th September, 2020/Asvina 5, 1942 (Saka)

The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 24th September, 2020 and is hereby published for general information:—

THE FARMERS (EMPOWERMENT AND PROTECTION) AGREEMENT ON PRICE ASSURANCE AND FARM SERVICES ACT, 2020
No. 20 of 2020 [24th September, 2020.]

An Act to provide for a national framework on farming agreements that protects and empowers farmers to engage with agri-business firms, processors, wholesalers, exporters or large retailers for farm services and sale of future farming produce at a mutually agreed remunerative price framework in a fair and transparent manner and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-first Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. (1) This Act may be called the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020. Short title and commencement.
(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 5th June, 2020.

(2)

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "APMC yard" means the physical premises covering Agriculture Produce Market Committee Yard, by whatever name called, established for regulating markets and trade in farming produce under any State Act;

(b) "company" means a company as defined in clause (20) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013; 18 of 2013.

(c) "electronic trading and transaction platform" means a platform set up to facilitate direct and online buying and selling for conduct of trade and commerce of farming produce through a network of electronic devices and internet applications;

(d) "farm services" includes supply of seed, feed, fodder, agro-chemicals, machinery and technology, advice, non-chemical agro-inputs and such other inputs for farming;

(e) "farmer" means an individual engaged in the production of farming produce by self or by hired labour or otherwise, and includes the Farmer Producer Organisation;

(f) "Farmer Producer Organisation" means an association or group of farmers, by whatever name called,—

(i) registered under any law for the time being in force; or

(ii) promoted under a scheme or programme sponsored by the Central Government or the State Government;

(g) "farming agreement" means a written agreement entered into between a farmer and a Sponsor, or a farmer, a Sponsor and any third party, prior to the production or rearing of any farming produce of a predetermined quality, in which the Sponsor agrees to purchase such farming produce from the farmer and to provide farm services.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this clause, the term "farming agreement" may include—

(i) "trade and commerce agreement", where the ownership of commodity remains with the farmer during production and he gets the price of produce on its delivery as per the agreed terms with the Sponsor;

(ii) "production agreement", where the Sponsor agrees to provide farm services, either fully or partially and to bear the risk of output, but agrees to make payment to the farmer for the services rendered by such farmer; and

(iii) such other agreements or a combination of agreements specified above;

(h) "farming produce" includes—

(i) foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils, all kinds of cereals like wheat, rice or other coarse grains, pulses, vegetables, fruits, nuts, spices, sugarcane and products of poultry, piggy, goatry, fishery and dairy, intended for human consumption in its natural or processed form;

(ii) cattle fodder, including oilcakes and other concentrates;

(iii) raw cotton, whether ginned or unginned;

(iv) cotton seeds and raw jute;

(i) "firm" means a firm as defined in section 4 of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932; 9 of 1932.

(j) "force majeure" means any unforeseen external event, including flood, drought, bad weather, earthquake, epidemic outbreak of disease, insect-pests and such other events, which is unavoidable and beyond the control of parties entering into a farming agreement;

(3)

(k) "notification" means a notification published by the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, in the Official Gazette and the expression "notified" shall be construed accordingly;

(l) "person" includes—

(i) an individual;

(ii) a partnership firm;

(iii) a company;

(iv) a limited liability partnership;

(v) a co-operative society;

(vi) a society; or

(vii) any association or body of persons duly incorporated or recognised as a group under any ongoing programmes of the Central Government or the State Government;

(m) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(n) "Registration Authority" means an authority notified as such by the State Government under section 12;

(o) "Sponsor" means a person who has entered into a farming agreement with the farmer to purchase a farming produce;

(p) "State" includes Union territory.

CHAPTER II
FARMING AGREEMENT

3. (1) A farmer may enter into a written farming agreement in respect of any farming produce and such agreement may provide for—

(a) the terms and conditions for supply of such produce, including the time of supply, quality, grade, standards, price and such other matters; and

(b) the terms related to supply of farm services;

Provided that the responsibility for compliance of any legal requirement for providing such farm services shall be with the Sponsor or the farm service provider, as the case may be.

(2) No farming agreement shall be entered into by a farmer under this section in derogation of any rights of a share cropper.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, the term "share cropper" means a tiller or occupier of a farm land who formally or informally agrees to give fixed share of crop or to pay fixed amount to the land owner for growing or rearing of farming produce.

(3) The minimum period of the farming agreement shall be for one crop season or one production cycle of livestock, as the case may be, and the maximum period shall be five years.

Provided that where the production cycle of any farming produce is longer and may go beyond five years, in such case, the maximum period of farming agreement may be mutually decided by the farmer and the Sponsor and explicitly mentioned in the farming agreement.

(4) For the purposes of facilitating farmers to enter into written farming agreements, the Central Government may issue necessary guidelines along with model farming agreements, in such manner, as it deems fit.

(4)

4. (1) The parties entering into a farming agreement may identify and require as a condition for the performance of such agreement compliance with mutually acceptable quality, grade and standards of a farming produce.

(2) For the purposes of sub-section (1), the parties may adopt the quality, grade and standards—

(a) which are compatible with agronomic practices, agro-climate and such other factors; or

(b) formulated by any agency of the Central Government or the State Government, or any agency authorised by such Government for this purpose, and explicitly mention such quality, grade and standards in the farming agreement.

(3) The quality, grade and standards for pesticide residue, food safety standards, good farming practices and labour and social development standards may also be adopted in the farming agreement.

(4) The parties entering into a farming agreement may require as a condition that such mutually acceptable quality, grade and standards shall be monitored and certified during the process of cultivation or rearing, or at the time of delivery, by third party qualified assayers to ensure impartiality and fairness.

5. The price to be paid for the purchase of a farming produce may be determined and mentioned in the farming agreement itself, and in case, such price is subject to variation, then, such agreement shall explicitly provide for—

(a) a guaranteed price to be paid for such produce;

(b) a clear price reference for any additional amount over and above the guaranteed price, including bonus or premium, to ensure best value to the farmer and such price reference may be linked to the prevailing prices in specified APMC yard or electronic trading and transaction platform or any other suitable benchmark prices;

Provided that the method of determining such price or guaranteed price or additional amount shall be annexed to the farming agreement.

6. (1) Where, under a farming agreement, the delivery of any farming produce is to be—

(a) taken by the Sponsor at the farm gate, he shall take such delivery within the agreed time;

(b) effected by the farmer, it shall be the responsibility of the Sponsor to ensure that all preparations for the timely acceptance of such delivery have been made.

(2) The Sponsor may, before accepting the delivery of any farming produce, inspect the quality or any other feature of such produce as specified in the farming agreement, otherwise, he shall be deemed to have inspected the produce and shall have no right to retract from acceptance of such produce at the time of its delivery or thereafter.

(3) The Sponsor shall,—

(a) where the farming agreement relates to seed production, make payment of not less than two-third of agreed amount at the time of delivery and the remaining amount after due certification, but not later than thirty days of delivery;

(b) in other cases, make payment of agreed amount at the time of accepting the delivery of farming produce and issue a receipt slip with details of the sale proceeds.

(4) The State Government may prescribe the mode and manner in which payment shall be made to the farmer under sub-section (3).

(5)

7. (1) Where a farming agreement has been entered into in respect of any farming produce under this Act, such produce shall be exempt from the application of any State Act, by whatever name called, established for the purpose of regulation of sale and purchase of such farming produce.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 or in any control order issued thereunder or in any other law for the time being in force, any obligation related to stock limit shall not be applicable to such quantities of farming produce as are purchased under a farming agreement entered into in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

8. No farming agreement shall be entered into for the purpose of—

(a) any transfer, including sale, lease and mortgage of the land or premises of the farmer; or

(b) raising any permanent structure or making any modification on the land or premises of the farmer, unless the Sponsor agrees to remove such structure or to restore the land to its original condition, at his cost, on the conclusion of the agreement or expiry of the agreement period, as the case may be;

Provided that where such structure is not removed as agreed by the Sponsor, the ownership of such structure shall vest with the farmer after conclusion of the agreement or expiry of the agreement period, as the case may be.

9. A farming agreement may be linked with insurance or credit instrument under any scheme of the Central Government or the State Government or any financial service provider to ensure risk mitigation and flow of credit to farmer or Sponsor or both.

10. Save as otherwise provided in this Act, an aggregator or farm service provider may become a party to the farming agreement and in such case, the role and services of such aggregator or farm service provider shall be explicitly mentioned in such farming agreement.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section,—

(i) "aggregator" means any person, including a Farmer Producer Organisation, who acts as an intermediary between a farmer or a group of farmers and a Sponsor and provides aggregation related services to both farmers and Sponsor;

(ii) "farm service provider" means any person who provides farm services.

11. At any time after entering into a farming agreement, the parties to such agreement may, with mutual consent, alter or terminate such agreement for any reasonable cause.

12. (1) A State Government may notify a Registration Authority to provide for electronic registry for that State that provides facilitative framework for registration of farming agreements.

(2) The constitution, composition, powers and functions of the Registration Authority and the procedure for registration shall be such as may be prescribed by the State Government.

CHAPTER III
DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

13. (1) Every farming agreement shall explicitly provide for a conciliation process and formation of a conciliation board consisting of representatives of parties to the agreement: Provided that representation of parties in such conciliation board shall be fair and balanced.

(6)

board formed as per the provisions of the farming agreement and every endeavour shall be made by such board to bring about settlement of such dispute.

(2) Where, in respect of any dispute, a settlement is arrived during the course of conciliation proceeding, a memorandum of settlement shall be drawn accordingly and signed by the parties to such dispute and such settlement shall be binding on the parties.

14. (1) Where, the farming agreement does not provide for conciliation process as required under sub-section (1) of section 13, or the parties to the farming agreement fail to settle their dispute under that section within a period of thirty days, then, any such party may approach the concerned Sub-Divisional Magistrate who shall be the Sub-Divisional Authority for deciding the disputes under farming agreements.

(2) On receipt of a dispute under sub-section (1), the Sub-Divisional Authority may, if—

(a) the farming agreement did not provide for conciliation process, constitute a conciliation board for bringing about settlement of such dispute; or

(b) the parties failed to settle their dispute through conciliation process, decide the dispute in a summary manner within thirty days from the date of receipt of such dispute, after giving the parties a reasonable opportunity of being heard and pass an order for recovery of the amount under dispute, with such penalty and interest, as it deems fit, subject to the following conditions, namely:—

(i) where the Sponsor fails to make payment of the amount due to the farmer, such penalty may extend to one and half times the amount due;

(ii) where the order is against the farmer for recovery of the amount due to the Sponsor on account of any advance payment or cost of inputs, as per terms of farming agreement, such amount shall not exceed the actual cost incurred by the Sponsor;

(iii) where the farming agreement in dispute is in contravention of the provisions of this Act, or default by the farmer is due to force majeure, then, no order for recovery of amount shall be passed against the farmer.

(3) Every order passed by the Sub-Divisional Authority under this section shall have same force as a decree of a civil court and be enforceable in the same manner as that of a decree under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, unless an appeal is preferred under sub-section (4).

(4) Any party aggrieved by the order of the Sub-Divisional Authority may prefer an appeal to the Appellate Authority, which shall be presided over by the Collector or Additional Collector nominated by the Collector, within thirty days from the date of such order.

(5) The Appellate Authority shall dispose of the appeal within thirty days.

(6) Every order passed by the Appellate Authority under this section shall have same force as a decree of a civil court and be enforceable in the same manner as that of a decree under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

(7) The amount payable under any order passed by the Sub-Divisional Authority or the Appellate Authority, as the case may be, may be recovered as arrears of land revenue.

(8) The Sub-Divisional Authority or the Appellate Authority shall, while deciding disputes under this section, have all the powers of a civil court for the purpose of taking evidence on oath, enforcing the attendance of witnesses, compelling the discovery and production of documents and material objects and for such other purposes as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

(7)

(9) The manner and procedure for filing a petition or an application before the Sub-Divisional Authority and an appeal before the Appellate Authority shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

15. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 14, no action for recovery of any amount due in pursuance of an order passed under that section, shall be initiated against the agricultural land of the farmer. No action for recovery of these amounts from the farmer's land.

CHAPTER IV
MECHANISMS

16. The Central Government may, from time to time, give such directions, as it may consider necessary, to the State Governments for effective implementation of the provisions of this Act and the State Governments shall comply with such directions. Power of Central Government to give directions.

17. All authorities, including Registration Authority, Sub-Divisional Authority and Appellate Authority, constituted or prescribed under this Act, shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code. Authorities under Act to be public servants.

18. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Central Government, the State Government, the Registration Authority, the Sub-Divisional Authority, the Appellate Authority or any other person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under the provisions of this Act or any rule made thereunder. Protection of action taken in good faith.

19. No civil court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceedings in respect of any dispute which a Sub-Divisional Authority or the Appellate Authority is empowered by or under this Act to decide and no injunction shall be granted by any court or other authority in respect of any action taken or to be taken in pursuance of any power conferred by or under this Act or any rules made thereunder. Bar of jurisdiction of civil courts.

20. The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any State law for the time being in force or in any instrument having effect by virtue of any such law other than this Act. Act to have an overriding effect.

Provided that a farming agreement or such contract entered into under any State law for the time being in force, or any rules made thereunder, before the date of coming into force of this Act, shall continue to be valid for the period of such agreement or contract.

21. Nothing contained in this Act shall be applicable to the stock exchanges and clearing corporations recognised under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 and the transactions undertaken therein. Act not to apply to stock exchanges and clearing corporations.

22. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act. Power of Central Government to make rules.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) other purposes for which the Sub-Divisional Authority or the Appellate Authority shall have the powers of civil court under sub-section (4) of section 14;

(b) the manner and procedure for filing petition or application before the Sub-Divisional Authority, and an appeal before the Appellate Authority, under sub-section (9) of section 14;

(c) any other matter which is so, or may be, prescribed, or in respect of which provision is to be made, by rules, by the Central Government.

(3) Every rule made by the Central Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total

(8)

period of thirty days which may be extended in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

23. (1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) the mode and manner of payment to the farmer under sub-section (1) of section 6;

(b) the constitution, composition, powers and functions of the Registration Authority, and the procedure for registration under sub-section (2) of section 12;

(c) any other matter which is to be, or may be, prescribed, or in respect of which provision is to be made, by rules, by the State Government.

(3) Every rule made by the State Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of the State Legislature where it consists of two Houses, or where such Legislature consists of one House, before that House.

24. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to it to be necessary for removing the difficulty.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

25. (1) The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020 is hereby repealed. Ord. 11 of 2020.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020 shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act. Ord. 11 of 2020.

DR. G. NARAYANA RAJU,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

UPLOADED BY THE MANAGER, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, MINTO ROAD, NEW DELHI-110002
AND PUBLISHED BY THE CONTROLLER OF PUBLICATIONS, DELHI-110054

MGP/HRD-85761-27-06-2020

AD DHARM IN PUNJAB ELECTIONS

Prem K. Chumber

Editor-In-Chief: Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba

Ad Dharm movement of Punjab gained tremendous importance within a short period after its foundation in 1926. That it got recognition for a separate religion for the so called lowest of the low from the British Government speaks about its great strength. In 1931, about 500, 000 Scheduled Castes (SCs) got recorded Ad Dharm as their distinct religion. Thereafter, its record victory in the 1937 Punjab Provincial Assembly elections reinforced its popularity among the SCs. Its victory in the 1946 Punjab Provincial Assembly election to the Punjab Legislative Assembly assigned it an independent political identity. Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia, the founder of the Ad Dharm movement, was elected from Hoshiarpur constituency. It contested both the above-mentioned assembly elections in collaboration with the Unionist Party.

Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia also contested the Punjab Legislative Assembly Election of 1951, but as an Independent contestant from the Garhshankar Constituency. He was offered a ticket by the Congress to contest the assembly elections as its nominee but Babu Mangu Ram Ji refused to contest the election on the Congress ticket and the same was given to Mr Kartar Singh of village Langeri of Hoshiarpur District.