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La Gazette de L'État de Poudouchéry

The Gazette of Puducherry

PART - I

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EXTRAORDINAIRE

EXTRAORDINARY

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வெளியீடு

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GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY LAW DEPARTMENT

No. 701/2016-LD/Repub.

Puducherry, dated 16th June 2020.

NOTIFICATION

The following Notifications published by the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department), Government of India, New Delhi, in the Gazette of India, is hereby republished for general information of the public.

- The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (No. 08 of 2020).
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (No. 09 of 2020).
- The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020 (No. 10 of 2020).
- The Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Service Ordinance, 2020 (No. 11 of 2020).

(By order)

N. MURUGAVEL,
Under Secretary to Government (Law).

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(Legislative Department)

*New Delhi, the 5th June, 2020/Jyaishta 15, 1942 (Saka)***THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT)
ORDINANCE, 2020**

NO. 8 OF 2020

Promulgated by the President in the Seventy-first Year
of the Republic of India.An Ordinance further to amend the Essential
Commodities Act, 1955.WHEREAS for the purposes of increasing the
competitiveness in the agriculture sector and enhancing
the income of the farmers, the regulatory system needs to
be liberalised while protecting the interests of consumers;AND WHEREAS Parliament is not in session and the
President is satisfied that circumstances exist which
render it necessary for him to take immediate action;NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers
conferred by clause (1) of article 123 of the Constitution,
the President is pleased to promulgate the following
Ordinance:—Short title and
commencement.1. (1) This Ordinance may be called the Essential
Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

Amendment of
section 3.2. In section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act,
1955, after sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall
be inserted, namely:—

10 of 1955.

‘(1A) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-
section (1), —(a) the supply of such food stuffs, 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;

(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 subsection 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 product, 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.’.

RAM NATH KOVIND,
President.

Dr. G. NARAYANA RAJU,
Secretary to the Government of India.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE**(Legislative Department)***New Delhi, the 5th June, 2020/Jyaishtha 15, 1942 (Saka)***THE INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE (AMENDMENT)
ORDINANCE, 2020****No. 9 OF 2020**

Promulgated by the President in the Seventy-first Year
of the Republic of India.

An Ordinance further to amend the Insolvency and
Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

WHEREAS the entire ecosystem for implementation of
the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 is in place;

AND WHEREAS the provisions relating to corporate
insolvency resolution process and liquidation process for
corporate persons under the Code are in operation;

AND WHEREAS COVID-19 pandemic has impacted
business, financial markets and economy all over the world,
including India, and created uncertainty and stress for business
for reasons beyond their control;

AND WHEREAS a nationwide lockdown is in force since
25th March, 2020 to combat the spread of COVID-19 which
has added to disruption of normal business operations;

AND WHEREAS it is difficult to find adequate number of
resolution applicants to rescue the corporate person who may
default in discharge of their debt obligation;

AND WHEREAS it is considered expedient to suspend
under sections 7, 9 and 10 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy
Code, 2016 to prevent corporate persons which are
experiencing distress on account of unprecedented situation,
being pushed into insolvency proceedings under the said Code
for some time;

AND WHEREAS it is considered expedient to exclude the
defaults arising on account of unprecedented situation for the
purposes of insolvency proceeding under this code;

AND WHEREAS Parliament is not in session and the
President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it
necessary for him to take immediate action;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of article 123 of the Constitution, the President is pleased to promulgate the following Ordinance:-

1. (1) This Ordinance may be called the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

Short title and commencement.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. After section 10 of the principle Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

Insertion of new section 10A.

“10A. Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 7, 9 and 10, no application for initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process of a corporate debtor shall be filed, for any default arising on or after 25th March, 2020 for a period of six months or such further period, not exceeding one year from such date, as may be notified in this behalf:

Suspension of initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process.

Provided that no application shall ever be filed for initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process of a corporate debtor for the said default occurring during the said period.

Explanation.—For the removal of doubts, it is hereby clarified that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any default committed under the said sections before 25th March, 2020.”

3. In section 66 of the principal Act, after sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:-

Amendment of section 66.

“(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, no application shall be filed by a resolution professional under sub-section (2), in respect of such default against which initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process is suspended as per section 10A.”

RAM NATH KOVIND,
President.

Dr. G. NARAYANA RAJU,
Secretary to the Government of India.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE**(Legislative Department)***New Delhi, the 5th June, 2020/Jyaishta 15, 1942 (Saka)***THE FARMERS' PRODUCE TRADE AND COMMERCE
(PROMOTION AND FACILITATION) ORDINANCE, 2020****No. 10 OF 2020**

Promulgated by the President in the Seventy-first Year of the Republic of India.

An Ordinance 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.

WHEREAS Parliament is not in session and the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of article 123 of the Constitution, the President is pleased to promulgate the following Ordinance.

**CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY**

Short title and
commencement.

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

(2) It shall come into force at once.

Definitions.

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

(a) "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, piggery, 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;

(b) "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.

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

(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 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 “notify” and “notified” shall be construed accordingly;

(h) “person” includes—

(a) an individual;

(b) a partnership firm;

(c) a company;

(d) a limited liability partnership;

(e) a co-operative society;

(f) a society; or

(g) 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 Ordinance;

(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—

- (a) farm gates;
- (b) factory premises;
- (c) warehouses;
- (d) silos;
- (e) cold storages; or
- (f) 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 Ordinance, 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.

Freedom to
conduct trade
and commerce in
a trade area.

Trade and
commerce of
scheduled
farmers' produce.

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 cooperative society, shall trade in any scheduled farmers' produce unless such a trader has a permanent account number allotted under the Income-tax Act, 1961 or such other document as may be notified by the Central Government.

43 of 1961.

(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 produce organisation or agriculture co-operative society, by whatever name called, linked with the receipt of payment from the buyers.

Electronic
trading and
transaction
platform.

5. (1) Any person (other than individual), having a permanent account number 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 cooperative 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:

43 of 1961.

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.

Market fee under State APMC Act, etc. in 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.

Price Information and market intelligence System.

(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 sub-ordinate 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 of this Ordinance, 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.

Dispute Resolution Mechanism for farmers.

(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 Ordinance 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 Appellant 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 contravene 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—

Suspension or cancellation of right to operate in Electronic Trading and Transaction Platform.

(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:

Appeal against cancellation of the Right to operate.

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

Penalty for
contravention of
Ordinance and
rules.

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 twentyfive thousand rupees but which may extend 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 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

Powers of
Central
Government to
issue
instructions,
directions,
orders
or
guidelines.

12. The Central Government may, for carrying out the provisions of this Ordinance, 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 Ordinance or of any rules or orders made thereunder.

Protection of
action taken in
good faith.

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

Ordinance to
have overriding
effect.

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 Ordinance or the rules made thereunder.

Bar of
jurisdiction of
civil court.

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

Ordinance not to
apply to certain
transactions.

42 of 1956.

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

Power of
Central
Government to
make rules.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the forgoing 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.

Laying of rules.

18. Every rule made by the Central Government under this Ordinance 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.

Power to remove difficulties.

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

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

RAM NATH KOVIND,
President.

Dr. G. NARAYANA RAJU,
Secretary to the Government of India.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(Legislative Department)

New Delhi, the 5th June, 2020/Jyaishta 15, 1942 (Saka)

THE FARMERS (EMPOWERMENT AND PROTECTION) AGREEMENT ON PRICE ASSURANCE AND FARM SERVICES ORDINANCE,

2020
No. 11 OF 2020

Promulgated by the President in the Seventy-first
Year of the Republic of India.

An ordinance 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.

WHEREAS Parliament is not in session and the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of article 123 of the Constitution, the President is pleased to promulgate the following Ordinance:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. (1) This Ordinance may be called the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020. Short title and commencement.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires,— Definitions.

(a) “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, piggery, goatery, 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;

(b) "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;

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

18 of 2013.

(d) "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;

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

(f) "farmer" means a person engaged in production of farming produce by self or by hired labour or otherwise, and includes Farmer Producer Organisation;

(g) "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 State Government;

(h) "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.

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

(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 Ordinance;

(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—

Farming agreement and its period.

(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 alongwith model farming agreements, in such manner, as it deems fit.

Quality, grade
and standards of
farming produce.

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 State Government or of the Central 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-

Pricing of farming produce.

(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-

Sale or purchase of farming produce.

(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).

Exemptions with respect to farming produce.

7. (1) Where a farming agreement has been entered into in respect of any farming produce under this Ordinance, 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 Ordinance.

10 of 1955.

Sponsor prohibited from acquiring ownership rights or making permanent modifications on farmer's land or premises.

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 State Government or any financial service provider to ensure risk mitigation and flow of credit to farmer or Sponsor or both.

Linkage of farming agreement with insurance or credit.

10. Save as otherwise provided in the Ordinance, 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.

Other parties to 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.

Alteration or termination of farming agreement.

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.

Establishment of Registration Authority.

(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:

Conciliation board for dispute settlement.

Provided that representation of parties in such conciliation board shall be fair and balanced.

(2) A dispute arising from any farming agreement shall be first referred to the conciliation 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.

(3) 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.

Mechanism for
dispute
resolution.

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 the Ordinance, 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.

5 of 1908.

(6) Every order passed by the Appellant 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 Appellant 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 purposes 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.

(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 dues against farmer's land.

CHAPTER IV MISCELLANEOUS

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 Ordinance, shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

Authorities under Ordinance to be public servants.

45 of 1860.

Protection of
action taken in
good faith.

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 Ordinance or any rule made thereunder.

Bar of
jurisdiction of
civil court.

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 Ordinance 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 Ordinance or any rules made thereunder.

Ordinance to
have an
overriding effect.

20. The provisions of this Ordinance 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 Ordinance:

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 Ordinance, shall continue to be valid for the period of such agreement or contract.

Ordinance not to
apply to stock
exchanges and
clearing
corporations.

21. Nothing contained in this Ordinance, shall be applicable to the stock exchanges and clearing corporations recognised under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 and the transactions undertaken therein.

42 of 1956.

Power of Central
Government to
make rules.

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

(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 (8) 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 to be, 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 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.

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

Power of State 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) the mode and manner of payment to the farmer under sub-section (4) 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 Ordinance 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 Ordinance, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, as may appear to it to be necessary for removing the difficulty.

Power to remove difficulties.

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

RAM NATH KOVIND,
President.

Dr. G. NARAYANA RAJU,
Secretary to the Government of India.