ORDINANCES, 2020


MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(Legislative Department)

New Delhi, the 10th January, 2020/Pausha 20, 1941 (Saka)

THE MINERAL LAWS (AMENDMENT)
ORDINANCE, 2020

No. 1 of 2020

Promulgated by the President in the seventieth year of the Republic of India.

An Ordinance further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and to amend the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015.

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 1

PRELIMINARY

1. (1) This Ordinance may be called the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

CHAPTER II

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINES AND MINERALS (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) ACT, 1957.

2. In the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (hereafter in this Chapter referred to as the principal Act), after section 4A, the following section shall be inserted, namely:

"4B. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 4A, the Central Government may, in the interest of maintaining sustained production of minerals in the country, prescribe such conditions as may be necessary for commencement and continuation of production by the holders of mining leases who have acquired rights, approvals, clearances and the like under section 8B."

3. In section 5 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), after the proviso, the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:

"Provided further that the previous approval of the Central Government shall not be required for grant of reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease in respect of the minerals specified in Part A of the First Schedule, where,

(i) an allocation order has been issued by the Central Government under section 11A; or

(ii) a notification of reservation of area has been issued by the Central Government or the State Government under sub-section (1A) or sub-section (2) of section 17A; or"
(iii) a vesting order or an allotment order has been issued by the Central Government under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015.”.

4. In section 8A of the principal Act, in sub-section (4), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

“Provided that nothing contained in this section shall prevent the State Governments from taking an advance action for auction of the mining lease before the expiry of the lease period.”.

5. After section 8A of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“8B. (1) The provisions of this section shall apply to minerals, other than the minerals specified in Part A and Part B of the First Schedule.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the successful bidder of mining leases expiring under the provisions of sub-sections (5) and (6) of section 8A and selected through auction as per the procedure provided under this Act and the rules made thereunder, shall be deemed to have acquired all valid rights, approvals, clearances, licences and the like vested with the previous lessee for a period of two years:

Provided that subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, such new lessee shall apply and obtain all necessary rights, approvals, clearances, licences and the like within a period of two years from the date of grant of new lease.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, it shall be lawful for the new lessee to continue mining operations on the land, in which mining operations were being carried out by the previous lessee, for a period of two years from the date of commencement of the new lease.”.

6. In section 10C of the principal Act, in sub-section (2), the following shall be inserted, namely:—
“Provided that the holder of non-exclusive reconnaissance permit who carries out the prescribed level of exploration in respect of deep seated minerals or such minerals as may be notified by the Central Government, may submit an application to the State Government for the grant of any prospecting licence-cum-mining lease as per the procedure laid down under section 11 or a mining lease as per the procedure laid down under section 10B and with a view to increase the reconnaissance and prospecting operations of such minerals, the Central Government shall prescribe such procedure, including the bidding parameters for selection of such holders.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, the expression “deep seated minerals” means such minerals which occur at a depth of more than three hundred meters from the surface of land with poor surface manifestations.”

Amendment of section 11A.

7. In section 11A of the principal Act,—

(i) in the marginal heading, after the words “or mining lease”, the words “or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease in respect of coal or lignite” shall be inserted;

(ii) in sub-section (1)—

(a) in the opening portion, for the words “in respect of an area containing coal or lignite”, the words “or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease in respect of coal or lignite” shall be substituted;

(b) for the long line, the following long line shall be substituted, namely:—

“to carry on coal or lignite reconnaissance or prospecting or mining operations, for own consumption, sale or for any other purpose as may be determined by the Central Government”;

(c) the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—
“Provided that the auction by competitive bidding under this section shall not be applicable to coal or lignite—

(a) where such area is considered for allotment to a Government company or corporation or a joint venture company formed by such company or corporation or between the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, for its own consumption, sale or for any other purpose as may be determined by the Central Government;

(b) where such area is considered for allotment to a company or corporation that has been awarded a power project on the basis of competitive bid for tariff (including Ultra Mega Power Projects).”;

(iii) in sub-section (3),—

(a) after the words “mining lease”, the words “or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease” shall be inserted;

(b) for the words “competitive bidding or otherwise”, the words “competitive bidding or through allotment” shall be substituted.

8. In section 13 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2),—

(i) after clause (a), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:

(aa) the conditions as may be necessary for commencement and continuation of production by the holders of mining leases, under section 4B;

(ab) the conditions to be fulfilled by the new lessee for obtaining all necessary rights, approvals, clearances, licences and the like under the proviso to sub-section (2) of section 8B;

(ac) the level of exploration in respect of deep seated minerals or such minerals and the procedure,
including the bidding parameters for selection of
the holders under the proviso to sub-section (2) of
section 10C;

(ii) for clause (d), the following clauses shall be
substituted, namely:—

(d) the terms, conditions and process of
auction by competitive bidding and allotment in
respect of coal or lignite;

(da) the regulation of grant of reconnaissance
permit, prospecting licence, mining lease or
prospecting licence-cum-mining lease in respect of
coal or lignite;

(db) the details of mines and their location, the
minimum size of such mines and such other
conditions which may be necessary for the purpose
of coal or lignite reconnaissance, prospecting or
mining operations;

(dc) utilisation of coal or lignite including
mining for sale by a company;".

9. In section 17A of the principal Act, in sub-section
(2A), in the proviso, the words and letter "Part A and"
shall be omitted.

CHAPTER III

AMENDMENTS TO THE COAL MINES (SPECIAL
PROVISIONS) ACT, 2015

10. In section 4 of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions)
Act, 2015 (hereafter in this Chapter referred to as the
principal Act),—

(i) in sub-section (2),—

(a) in the opening portion, for the words “in respect
of any area containing coal”, the words “or
prospecting licence-cum-mining lease in respect of
coal” shall be substituted;

(b) for the long line, the following long line shall
be substituted, namely:—
“to carry on coal reconnaissance or prospecting or mining operations, for own consumption, sale or for any other purpose as may be determined by the Central Government, and the State Government shall grant such reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence, mining lease or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease in respect of Schedule I coal mine to such company as selected through auction by competitive bidding under this section.”;

(ii) sub-section (3) shall be omitted.

11. In section 5 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1),—

(i) for the words, brackets and figures “sub-sections (1) and (3)”, the words, brackets and figures “sub-sections (1) and (2)” shall be substituted;

(ii) for the words “or mining lease in respect of any area containing coal”, the words “mining lease or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease in respect of such Schedule I coal mine” shall be substituted;

(iii) in the first proviso, for the words “in accordance with the permit, prospecting licence or mining lease, as the case may be”, the words “as may be determined by the Central Government” shall be substituted.

12. In section 8 of the principal Act,—

(i) in sub-section (4), in clause (d), for the words “a mining lease”, the words, “prospect licence, mining lease or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease, as the case may be” shall be substituted;

(ii) in sub-section (8), for the words “a prospecting licence or a mining lease”, the words, “prospect licence, mining lease or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease” shall be substituted;

(iii) in sub-section (9), for the words “a prospecting licence or a mining lease”, the words, “prospect licence, mining lease or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease” shall be substituted;
(iv) after sub-section (12), the following subsections shall be inserted, namely:—

"(13) The vesting order or allotment order may be terminated by the nominated authority in such manner as may be prescribed.

(14) Upon termination of vesting order or allotment order, the nominated authority may auction the coal mine under section 4 or allot the coal mine under section 5 as may be determined by the Central Government.

(15) The successful bidder or allottee of the coal mine whose vesting order or allotment order has been terminated shall be deemed to be the prior allottee for the purposes of immediate next auction or allotment of the said coal mine."

Amendment of section 9.

13. In section 9 of the principal Act,—

(i) in the opening portion, for the portion beginning with the words "The proceeds arising out of land" and ending with the words "as may be prescribed.", the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"The compensation for land and mine infrastructure in relation to a Schedule I coal mine as valued in accordance with section 16 shall be deposited by the successful bidder or allottee with the nominated authority and shall be disbursed maintaining, inter alia, the following priority of payments and in accordance with the relevant laws and such rules as may be prescribed—"

(ii) in clause (b), for the words "compensation payable", the words "amount payable" shall be substituted."

Amendment of section 18.

14. In section 18 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), for the words and figure "allotment of Schedule I coal mines is not complete", the words and figures "allotment of Schedule II coal mines is not complete, or vesting order or allotment order issued under this Act has been
terminated in case of a coal mine under production,” shall be substituted.

15. In section 20 of the principal Act,—

(i) in sub-section (1), for the words “A successful bidder or allottee or coal linkage holder shall”, the words “A successful bidder or allottee shall” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) A successful bidder or allottee may also use the coal, mined from a particular Schedule I coal mine, in any of its plants or plant of its subsidiary or holding company engaged in same specified end-uses in such manner as may be prescribed.”.

16. In section 31 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2),—

(i) in clause (b), for the words “prospecting licence or mining lease”, the words “prospecting licence, mining lease or prospecting licence-cum-mining lease” shall be substituted;

(ii) after clause (I), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(la) the manner of termination of vesting order or allotment order under sub-section (13) of section 8;”.

RAM NATH KOVIND,  
President.

DR. G. NARAYANA RAJU,  
Secretary to the Govt. of India.
THE TAXATION AND OTHER LAWS (RELAXATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE, 2020

No. 2 OF 2020

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

An Ordinance to provide relaxation in the provisions of certain Acts and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

WHEREAS, in view of the spread of pandemic COVID-19 across many countries of the world including India, causing immense loss to the lives of people, it has become imperative to relax certain provisions, including extension of time limit, in the taxation and other laws;

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: -
CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

1. (1) This Ordinance may be called the Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation of Certain Provisions) Ordinance, 2020.

(2) Save as otherwise provided, it shall come into force at once.

2. (1) In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) “specified Act” means-

(i) the Wealth-tax Act, 1957; 27 of 1957.


(iii) the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988; 45 of 1988.


(vi) the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015; 22 of 2015.

(vii) Chapter VIII of the Finance Act, 2016; or 28 of 2016.

(viii) the Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Act, 2020; 3 of 2020.

(b) “notification” means the notification published in the Official Gazette.

(2) The words and expressions used herein and not defined, but defined in the specified Act, the Central Excise Act, 1944, the Customs Act, 1962, the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 or the Finance Act, 1994, as the case may be, shall have the meaning respectively assigned to them in that Act.

CHAPTER II
RELAXATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF SPECIFIED ACT

3. (1) Where, anytime limit has been specified in, or prescribed or notified under, the specified Act which falls during the period from the 20th day of March, 2020 to the 29th day of June, 2020 or such other date after the 29th day of June, 2020 as the Central Government may, by notification, specify in this behalf, for the completion or compliance of such action as-

(a) completion of any proceeding or passing of any order or issuance of any notice, intimation, notification, sanction or approval or such other action, by whatever name called, by any authority, commission or tribunal, by whatever name called, under the provisions of the specified Act; or
(b) filing of any appeal, reply or application or furnishing of any report, document, return, statement or such other record, by whatever name called, under the provisions of the specified Act; or

(c) in case where the specified Act is the Income-tax Act, 1961,-

(i) making of investment, deposit, payment, acquisition, purchase, construction or such other action, by whatever name called, for the purposes of claiming any deduction, exemption or allowance under the provisions contained in-

(I) sections 54 to 54GB or under any provisions of Chapter VI-A under the heading "B.—Deductions in respect of certain payments" thereof; or

(II) such other provisions of that Act, subject to fulfillment of such conditions, as the Central Government may, by notification, specify; or

(ii) beginning of manufacture or production of articles or things or providing any services referred to in section 10AA of that Act, in a case where the letter of approval, required to be issued in accordance with the provisions of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, has been issued on or before the 31st day of March, 2020,

and where completion or compliance of such action has not been made within such time, then, the time limit for completion or compliance of such action shall, notwithstanding anything contained in the specified Act, stand extended to the 30th day of June, 2020, or such other date after the 30th day of June, 2020, as the Central Government may, by notification, specify in this behalf:

Provided that the Central Government may specify different dates for completion or compliance of different actions.

Provided further that such action shall not include payment of any amount as is referred to in sub-section (2).

(2) Where any due date has been specified in, or prescribed or notified under, the specified Act for payment of any amount towards tax or levy, by whatever name called, which falls during the period from the 20th day of March, 2020 to the 29th day of June, 2020 or such other date after the 29th day of June, 2020 as the Central Government may, by notification, specify in this behalf, and such amount has not been paid within such date, but has been paid on or before the 30th day of June, 2020, or such other date after the 30th day of June, 2020 as the Central Government may, by notification,
specify in this behalf, then, notwithstanding anything contained in
the specified Act,—

(a) the rate of interest payable, if any, in respect of such
amount for the period of delay shall not exceed three-fourth per
cent. for every month or part thereof;

(b) no penalty shall be levied and no prosecution shall be
sanctioned in respect of such amount for the period of delay.

Explanation. — For the purposes of this sub-section, “the period of
delay” means the period between the due date and the date on which
the amount has been paid.

CHAPTER III

AMENDMENT TO THE INCOME-TAX ACT, 1961

4. In the Income-tax Act, 1961, with effect from the 1st day of April, 2020,—

(i) in section 10, in clause (23C), in sub-clause (i), after the word
“Fund”, the words and brackets “or the Prime Minister’s Citizen
Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES
FUND)” shall be inserted;

(ii) in section 80G, in sub-section (2), in clause (a), in sub-clause
(iii), after the word “Fund”, the words and brackets “or the Prime
Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations
Fund (PM CARES FUND)” shall be inserted.

CHAPTER IV

AMENDMENTS TO THE DIRECT TAX VIVAD SE VISHWAS
ACT

5. In section 3 of the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Act, 2020,—

(a) in third column, in the heading, for the figures, letters and
words “31st day of March, 2020”, the figures, letters and words
“30th day of June, 2020” shall be substituted;

(b) in fourth column, in the heading, for the figures, letters and
words “1st day of April, 2020”, the figures, letters and words
“1st day of July, 2020” shall be substituted.

CHAPTER V

RELAXATION OF TIME LIMIT UNDER CERTAIN INDIRECT
TAX LAWS

6. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Central Excise
Act, 1944, the Customs Act, 1962 (except sections 30, 30A, 41, 41A,

46 and 47), the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 or Chapter V of the Finance Act, 1994, as it stood prior to its omission vide section 173 of the Central Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017 with effect from the 1st day of July, 2017, the time limit specified in, or prescribed or notified under, the said Acts which falls during the period from the 20th day of March, 2020 to the 29th day of June, 2020 or such other date after the 29th day of June, 2020 as the Central Government may, by notification, specify, for the completion or compliance of such action as-

(a) completion of any proceeding or issuance of any order, notice, intimation, notification or sanction or approval, by whatever name called, by any authority, commission, tribunal, by whatever name called; or

(b) filing of any appeal, reply or application or furnishing of any report, document, return or statement, by whatever name called,

shall, notwithstanding that completion or compliance of such action has not been made within such time, stand extended to the 30th day of June, 2020 or such other date after the 30th day of June, 2020 as the Central Government may, by notification, specify in this behalf.

Provided that the Central Government may specify different dates for completion or compliance of different actions under clause (a) or clause (b).

CHAPTER VI

AMENDMENT TO THE FINANCE ACT (NO. 2), 2019

7. In section 127 of the Finance Act (No.2), 2019, -

(i) in sub-section (1), for the words “within a period of sixty days from the date of receipt of the said declaration”, the words, figures and letters “on or before the 31st day of May, 2020” shall be substituted;

(ii) in sub-section (2), for the words “within thirty days of the date of receipt of the declaration”, the words, figures and letters “on or before the 1st day of May, 2020” shall be substituted;

(iii) in sub-section (4), for the words “within a period of sixty days from the date of receipt of the declaration”, the words, figures and letters “on or before the 31st day of May, 2020” shall be substituted;

(iv) in sub-section (5), for the words “within a period of thirty days from the date of issue of such statement”, the words, figures
and letters “on or before the 30th day of June, 2020” shall be substituted.

CHAPTER VII

AMENDMENT TO THE CENTRAL GOODS AND SERVICES TAX ACT, 2017

8. After section 168 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, the following section shall be inserted, namely:-

‘168A. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Government may, on the recommendations of the Council, by notification, extend the time limit specified in, or prescribed or notified under, this Act in respect of actions which cannot be completed or complied with due to force majeure.

(2) The power to issue notification under sub-section (1) shall include the power to give retrospective effect to such notification from a date not earlier than the date of commencement of this Act.

Explanation.— For the purposes of this section, the expression “force majeure” means a case of war, epidemic, flood, drought, fire, cyclone, earthquake or any other calamity caused by nature or otherwise affecting the implementation of any of the provisions of this Act.”.

RAM NATH KOVIND,
President.

DR. G. NARAYANA RAJU,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.
PART II — Section 1

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 24th April, 2020/Vaisakha 4, 1942 (Saka)

CORRIGENDA

In the Taxation and other Laws (Relaxation of certain provisions) Ordinance, 2020 (No. 2 of 2020) as published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 1, Issue No. 21, dated the 31st March, 2020, —

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DR. G. NARAYANA RAJU,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.
THE SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2020

No. 3 OF 2020

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

An Ordinance further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.

WHEREAS India, as the rest of the world, is grappling with Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic which has severe health and economic ramifications for the people of the country;
AND WHEREAS the Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic has shown the importance of expeditious relief and assistance and therefore, it is necessary to take certain emergency measures to prevent and contain the spread of said pandemic;

AND WHEREAS in order to manage and control such situation, it has become necessary to raise resources by reduction of salaries and allowances of Members of Parliament;

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 Salary, Allowances And Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. In the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, in section 3, after sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(1A) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the salary payable to Members of Parliament under sub-section (1) shall be reduced by thirty per cent. for a period of one year commencing from the 1st April, 2020, to meet the exigencies arising out of Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic.”.

RAM NATH KOVIND,
President.

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

In the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (No. 3 of 2020) as published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 1, dated the 7th April, 2020 (Issue No. 22) at page No. 2, in section 1, for the marginal heading, read “Short title and commencement.”.

DR. G. NARAYANA RAJU,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(Legislative Department)

New Delhi, the 9th April, 2020/Chaitra 20, 1942 (Saka)

THE SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF
MINISTERS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2020

No. 4 OF 2020

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

An Ordinance further to amend the Salaries and
Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952.

WHEREAS, India, as the rest of the world, is
grappling with Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic
which has severe health and economic ramifications for
the people of the country;
AND WHEREAS, the Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic has shown the importance of expeditious relief and assistance and therefore, it is necessary to take certain emergency measures to prevent and contain the spread of said pandemic;

AND WHEREAS, in order to manage and control such situation, it has become necessary to raise resources by reduction of sumptuary allowances of Minister;

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 Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. In the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952, section 5 shall be numbered as sub-section (1) thereof, and after sub-section (1) as so numbered, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:

“(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the sumptuary allowance payable to each Minister under that sub-section shall be reduced by thirty per cent. for a period of one year commencing from the 1st April, 2020, to meet the exigencies arising out of Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic.”

RAM NATH KOVIND,
President.

DR. G. NARAYANA RAJU,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.
The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020

No. 5 of 2020

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

An ordinance further to amend the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.

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 Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

3 of 1897.

2. In section 1 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in sub-
section (2), the words “except the territories which, immediately before the 1st November, 1956, were
comprised in Part B States” shall be omitted.

3. After section 1 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:-

‘1A. In this Act, unless the context otherwise
requires,—

(a) “act of violence” includes any of the
following acts committed by any person against a
health care service personnel serving during an
epidemic, which causes or may cause—

(i) harassment impacting the living or
working conditions of such healthcare service personnel and preventing him from discharging
his duties;

(ii) harm, injury, hurt, intimidation or danger
to the life of such healthcare service personnel,
either within the premises of a clinical
establishment or otherwise;

(iii) obstruction or hindrance to such
healthcare service personnel in the discharge of
his duties, either within the premises of a clinical
establishment or otherwise; or

(iv) loss or damage to any property or
documents in the custody of, or in relation to,
such healthcare service personnel;

(b) “healthcare service personnel” means a person
who while carrying out his duties in relation to
epidemic related responsibilities, may come in direct
contact with affected patients and thereby is at the risk
of being impacted by such disease, and includes—

(i) any public and clinical healthcare provider
such as doctor, nurse, paramedical worker and
community health worker;

(ii) any other person empowered under the Act
to take measures to prevent the outbreak of the
disease or spread thereof; and

(iii) any person declared as such by the State Government, by notification in the Official Gazette;

(c) “property” includes---

(i) a clinical establishment as defined in the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010;

(ii) any facility identified for quarantine and isolation of patients during an epidemic;

(iii) a mobile medical unit; and

(iv) any other property in which a healthcare service personnel has direct interest in relation to the epidemic;

(d) the words and expressions used herein and not defined, but defined in the Indian Ports Act, 1908, the Aircraft Act, 1934 or the Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010, as the case may be, shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in that Act.’.

4. In section 2A of the principal Act, for the portion beginning with the words “the Central Government may take measures” and ending with the words “as may be necessary”, the following shall be substituted, namely:---

“the Central Government may take such measures, as it deems fit and prescribe regulations for the inspection of any bus or train or goods vehicle or ship or vessel or aircraft leaving or arriving at any land port or port or aerodrome, as the case may be, in the territories to which this Act extends and for such detention thereof, or of any person intending to travel therein, or arriving thereby, as may be necessary”.

5. After section 2A of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:---

“2B. No person shall indulge in any act of violence against a healthcare service personnel or cause any damage or loss to any property during an epidemic.”.

6. Section 3 of the principal Act shall be renumbered as sub-section (1) thereof, and after sub-section (1) as so
renumbered, the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:—

"(2) Whoever,—

(i) commits or abets the commission of an act of violence against a healthcare service personnel; or

(ii) abets or causes damage or loss to any property,

shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three months, but which may extend to five years, and with fine, which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees, but which may extend to two lakh rupees.

(3) Whoever, while committing an act of violence against a healthcare service personnel, causes grievous hurt as defined in section 320 of the Indian Penal Code to such person, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months, but which may extend to seven years and with fine, which shall not be less than one lakh rupees, but which may extend to five lakh rupees."

7. After section 3 of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:

"3A. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973,—

(i) an offence punishable under sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) of section 3 shall be cognizable and non-bailable;

(ii) any case registered under sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) of section 3 shall be investigated by a police officer not below the rank of Inspector;

(iii) investigation of a case under sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) of section 3 shall be completed within a period of thirty days from the date of registration of the First Information Report;

(iv) in every inquiry or trial of a case under sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) of section 3, the proceedings shall be held as expeditiously as possible, and in particular, when the examination of witnesses has once begun, the same shall be continued from day to day until all the witnesses in attendance have been examined, unless the Court finds the adjournment of
the same beyond the following day to be necessary for reasons to be recorded, and an endeavour shall be made to ensure that the inquiry or trial is concluded within a period of one year.

Provided that where the trial is not concluded within the said period, the Judge shall record the reasons for not having done so:

Provided further that the said period may be extended by such further period, for reasons to be recorded in writing, but not exceeding six months at a time.

3B. Where a person is prosecuted for committing an offence punishable under sub-section (2) of section 3, such offence may, with the permission of the Court, be compounded by the person against whom such act of violence is committed.

3C. Where a person is prosecuted for committing an offence punishable under sub-section (3) of sections 3, the Court shall presume that such person has committed such offence, unless the contrary is proved.

3D. (1) In any prosecution for an offence under sub-section (3) of section 3 which requires a culpable mental state on the part of the accused, the Court shall presume the existence of such mental state, but it shall be a defence for the accused to prove the fact that he had no such mental state with respect to the act charged as an offence in that prosecution.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a fact is said to be proved only when the Court believes it to exist beyond reasonable doubt and not merely when its existence is established by a preponderance of probability.

Explanation.—In this section, "culpable mental state" includes intention, motive, knowledge of a fact and the belief in, or reason to believe, a fact.

3E.(1) In addition to the punishment provided for an offence under sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) of section 3, the person so convicted shall also be liable to pay, by way of compensation, such amount, as may be determined by the Court for causing hurt or grievous hurt to any healthcare service personnel.

(2) Notwithstanding the composition of an offence under section 3B, in case of damage to any property or
loss caused, the compensation payable shall be twice the amount of fair market value of the damaged property or the loss caused, as may be determined by the Court.

(3) Upon failure to pay the compensation awarded under sub-sections (1) and (2), such amount shall be recovered as an arrear of land revenue under the Revenue Recovery Act, 1890.”.

RAM NATH KOVIND,
President.

DR. G. NARAYANA RAJU,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(Legislative Department)

New Delhi, the 24th April, 2020/Vaisakha 4, 1942 (Saka)

THE HOMOEOPATHY CENTRAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2020

No. 6 of 2020

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

An ordinance further to amend the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973.

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 Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.
2. In section 3A of the Homoeopathy Central Council
Act, 1973, in sub-section (2), for the words “within a period
of two years”, the words “within a period of three years”
shall be substituted.

RAM NATH KOVIND,
President.

DR. G. NARAYANA RAJU,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(Legislative Department)

New Delhi, the 24th April, 2020/Vaisakha 4, 1942 (Saka)

THE INDIAN MEDICINE CENTRAL COUNCIL
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2020

No. 7 of 2020

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

An ordinance further to amend the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970.

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 Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.
2. In the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970, after section 3, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:

"3A. (1) On and from the date of commencement of the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, the Central Council shall stand superseded and the President, Vice-President and other members of the Central Council shall vacate their offices and shall have no claim for any compensation, whatsoever.

(2) The Central Council shall be reconstituted in accordance with the provisions of section 3 within a period of one year from the date of supersession of the Central Council under sub-section (1).

(3) Upon supersession of the Central Council under sub-section (1) and until a new Council is constituted in accordance with the provisions of section 3, the Board of Governors constituted under sub-section (4) shall exercise the powers and perform the functions of the Central Council under this Act.

(4) The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute the Board of Governors which shall consist of not more than ten persons as its members, who shall be persons of eminence and of unimpeachable integrity in the fields of Indian Medicine and Indian Medicine education and eminent administrators, and who may be either nominated members or \textit{ex officio} members, to be appointed by the Central Government, one of whom shall be selected by the Central Government as the Chairperson of the Board of Governors.

(5) The Chairperson and other members, other than \textit{ex officio} members, shall be entitled to such sitting fee and travelling and other allowances as may be determined by the Central Government.

(6) The Board of Governors shall meet at such time and such place and shall observe such rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings, as is applicable to the Council.

(7) Two-thirds of the members of the Board of Governors shall constitute the quorum of its meetings.

(8) No act or proceedings of the Board of Governors shall be invalid merely by reason of—

(a) any vacancy in, or any defect in the constitution of, the Board of Governors; or

(b) any irregularity in the procedure of the Board of
Governors not affecting the merits of the case.

(9) A member having any financial or other interest in any matter coming before the Board of Governors for its decision shall disclose his interest in such matter before he may, if allowed by the Board of Governors, participate in such proceedings.

(10) The Chairperson and other members of the Board of Governors shall hold office during the pleasure of the Central Government.

3B. During the period when the Central Council stands superseded,—

(a) the provisions of the Act shall be construed as if for the words “Central Council”, the words “Board of Governors” were substituted;

(b) the Board of Governors shall exercise the powers and discharge the functions of the Council under this Act and for this purpose, the provisions of this Act shall have effect subject to the modification that references therein to the Central Council shall be construed as references to the Board of Governors;

3C. (1) Without prejudice to the provisions of this Act, the Board of Governors or the Central Council after its reconstitution shall, in exercise of its powers and in the performance of its functions under this Act, be bound by such directions on questions of policy, other than those relating to technical and administrative matters, as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time:

Provided that the Board of Governors or the Council after its reconstitution shall, as far as practicable, be given an opportunity to express its views before any direction is given under this sub-section.

(2) The decision of the Central Government whether a question is a matter of policy or not shall be final.”

RAM NATH KOVIND,
President.

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

—
1. (1) This Ordinance may be called the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

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

'(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 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 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 Govt. of India.
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.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

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

"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:

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:-

“(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 Govt. of India.
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

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.

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 freedom to conduct trade and commerce in
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 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.

(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.

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:

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 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.

(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—

(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:

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

(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.

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.

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 Govt. of India.
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(Legislative Department)

New Delhi, the 5th June, 2020/Jyaishtha 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.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

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

(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 un-ginned;

(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;

(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.

(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—

(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 sharecropper.

Explanations.—For the purposes of this sub-section, the term “sharecropper” 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 agreement and its period.
agreements, in such manner, as it deems fit.

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-

(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-thirds 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).

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.

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.

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.

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.

(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.

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.

(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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

(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.

(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 Govt. of India.
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(Legislative Department)

New Delhi, the 26th June, 2020/Ashadha 5, 1942 (Saka)

THE BANKING REGULATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2020

No. 12 OF 2020

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

An Ordinance further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

WHEREAS the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 has been introduced in the House of the People on the 3rd day of March, 2020;

AND WHEREAS the aforesaid Bill could not be taken up for consideration and passing in the House of the People;

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 Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once, except section 4, which shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may by notification, appoint:

Provided that different dates may be appointed for state co-operative banks, central co-operative banks and primary co-operative banks and any reference in any such provision to the commencement of this Ordinance shall be construed as a reference to the coming into force of that provision.

2. In the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), for section 3, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

"3. Notwithstanding anything contained in the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981, this Act shall not apply to—

(a) a primary agricultural credit society; or

(b) a co-operative society whose primary object and principal business is providing of long-term finance for agricultural development,

if such society does not use as part of its name, or in connection with its business, the words "bank", "banker" or "banking" and does not act as drawee of cheques.".

3. In section 45 of the principal Act,—

(i) in the marginal heading, for the word "reconstitution", the word "reconstruction" shall be substituted;

(ii) in sub-section (3), after the words "other creditors", the words "or grant any loans or advances or make investments in any credit instruments" shall be inserted;

(iii) in sub-section (4), after the words "During the period of moratorium", the words "or at any other time" shall be inserted;
(iv) in sub-section (5), in clauses (e), (i) and (j), for the words “date of the order of moratorium”, the words “reconstruction or amalgamation” shall be substituted;

(v) in sub-section (6), in clause (a), for the word “amalgamation”, the words “reconstruction or amalgamation” shall be substituted;

(vi) in sub-section (15), the words “or a subsidiary bank” shall be omitted.

4. In section 56 of the principal Act,—

(A) in the opening portion, for the words “The provisions of this Act, as in force for the time being,”, the words “Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the provisions of this Act” shall be substituted;

(B) in clause (a), after sub-clause (ii), the following sub-clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

(iii) references to “memorandum of association” or “articles of association” shall be construed as references to bye-laws;

(iv) references to the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, except in Part III and Part IIIA, shall be construed as references to the corresponding provisions, if any, of the law under which a co-operative bank is registered;

(v) references to “Registrar” or “Registrar of Companies” shall be construed as references to “Central Registrar” or “Registrar of Co-operative Societies”, as the case may be, under the law under which a co-operative bank is registered;’;

(C) clause (d) shall be omitted;

(D) in clause (e), sub-clauses (i) and (iii) shall be omitted;

(E) in clause (f), in section 7 as so substituted, in sub-section (2),—
(I) in clause (b), the words "or co-operative land mortgage banks" shall be omitted;

(II) in clause (c), in sub-clause (ii), the words "or a co-operative land mortgage bank" shall be omitted;

(F) clauses (fi), (fii) and (g) shall be omitted;

(G) for clause (i), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

"(i) for section 12, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

12. (1) A co-operative bank may, with the prior approval of the Reserve Bank, issue, by way of public issue or private placement,—

(i) equity shares or preference shares or special shares, on face value or at premium; and

(ii) unsecured debentures or bonds or other like securities with initial or original maturity of not less than ten years,

to any member of such co-operative bank or any other person residing within its area of operation, subject to such conditions and ceiling, limit or restriction on its issue or subscription or transfer, as may be specified by the Reserve Bank in this behalf:

(2) Save as otherwise provided in this Act,—

(i) no person shall be entitled to demand payment towards surrender of shares issued to him by a co-operative bank; and

(ii) a co-operative bank shall not withdraw or reduce its share capital, except to the extent and subject to such conditions as the Reserve Bank may specify in this behalf.";

(H) clauses (l), (n) and (p) shall be omitted;

(I) in clause (q), sub-clauses (ii) and (iv) shall be omitted;

(J) clauses (r), (ria) and (sa) shall be omitted;

(K) in clause (t), sub-clause (i) shall be omitted;
(L) clauses (u), (v), (x), (y), (z) and (za) shall be omitted;

(M) in clause (zaa),—

(a) in section 36AAA as so inserted,—

(i) for the words “multi-State co-operative bank”, wherever they occur, the words “co-operative bank” shall be substituted;

(ii) in sub-section (1), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

“Provided that in the case of a co-operative bank registered with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies of a State, the Reserve Bank shall issue such order in consultation with the concerned State Government seeking its comments, if any, within such period as the Reserve Bank may specify.”;

(iii) after sub-section (9), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(10) The provisions of section 36ACA shall not apply to a co-operative bank.”;

(b) section 36AAB as so inserted shall be omitted;

(N) for clause (zb), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(zb) Part IIC shall be omitted;”;

(O) in clause (zc), sub-clause (i) shall be omitted;

(P) clauses (zd) and (zf) shall be omitted;

(Q) for clause (zg), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(zg) in section 49B, references to “Central Government” shall be construed as references to “Central Registrar” or “Registrar of Co-operative Societies”, as the case may be, under the law under which a co-operative bank is registered;’;
(R) clause (zh) shall be omitted;

(S) for clause (zj), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

‘(zj) after section 53, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“53A. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provisions of this Act, the Reserve Bank may, from time to time, on being satisfied that it is necessary so to do, declare, by notification in the Official Gazette, that the provisions of item (iii) of clause (b) of sub-section (1) and sub-section (2), of section 10, clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 10A, sub-section (1A) of section 10B and clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 35B of this Act shall not apply to a co-operative bank or class of co-operative banks, either generally or for such period as may be specified therein, subject to such conditions, limitations or restrictions as it may think fit to impose.”,’.

RAM NATH KOVIND,
President.

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