

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-498**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/02/2021

**CONSULTATION ON FARM LAWS**

498. Shri K.C. Venugopal:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has put in place the pre-legislative Consultation Policy (PLCP) before introducing and passing the three farm laws;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government had put the draft of these legislations in the public domain during the process of their formulation and before finalization;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether Government has made any discussions with the stakeholders or State Governments during the process of the formulation and before finalization of these laws; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (g): Government had promulgated “The Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020”, “The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020”, and “The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020” on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 by following the due procedure. Draft of the Ordinances had been circulated to various Ministries/ Departments, NITI Aayog etc., for their comments. State Governments were also consulted through Video Conferencing (VC) on 21st May, 2020, which was attended by the officials of States/ UTs, to obtain feedback on new legal framework facilitating barrier free inter-State and intra-State trade in agriculture produce to provide choice to farmers.

During COVID-19 lockdown due to disruption of markets and supply chains, there was utmost need to allow free direct marketing outside the mandis to facilitate the farmers in selling their produce near to farm gate at remunerative prices. As COVID-19 situation may have a prolonged effect globally on demand side, hence the urgency for promulgation of an Ordinances, to

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provide a new facilitative framework to promote barrier free inter-state and intra-state trade to increase market accessibility for farmers to enhance their income.

In view of COVID-19 situation, Government had also proactively undertaken many webinars interactions with farmers and other stakeholders on new Farm laws during the period from 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 to 17<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2020.

Based on the suggestions/feedback received from stakeholders, viz., Farmer Union etc., the definition of “farmer” [Para 2(b) of The Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 and Para 2(e) in case of The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020] have been amended. Due procedure had been followed while formulating the Ordinances/ Bills.

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