

ADDENDUM

TO

**THE LIST OF BUSINESS FOR THE SITTING OF THE
PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA TO BE HELD TODAY i.e.,
THE 11TH NOVEMBER, 2021 AT 11.00 A.M.**

1. The following shall be added after heading "**VI. MOTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (DISQUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS ON GROUND OF DEFECTION) RULES, 2020**" as **VI-A**:-

"VI-A. THE CHIEF MINISTER to lay on the Table a White Paper on Power Sector (Period: 2006-07 to 2020-21)"

2. Under the heading "**IX. OFFICIAL RESOLUTION**", the following shall be added as Sr. No. 1 and the existed resolution be read as at Sr. No. 2:-

" This 16th special session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha expresses its concern and dismay at the act of Union Government, which overriding its legislative competence, forayed into the States' domain and legislated on the subject of Agriculture which squarely falls in the State list (List II) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution and enacted the three laws: The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

The Punjab Vidhan Sabha condemns the high-handedness with which the Union Government promulgated the three farm related ordinances on June 5th 2020 without holding consultations either with the Stakes holders (whom these ordinances affect) or with the States (in whose jurisdiction the matter falls).

The Punjab Vidhan Sabha condemns in no uncertain terms the arrogance of the Union Government in bulldozing its way through the Parliament while enacting the three acts which replaced the contentious Ordinances, without considering the opposition's viewpoint which suggested that the bills be referred to select committee of Parliament.

This specially convened session of Punjab Vidhan Sabha notes with concern that at the time of the passage of the contentious bills in Rajya Sabha, the opposition's demand for division by count was not accepted.

The Punjab Vidhan Sabha deprecates and condemns the use of Entry 33 of the concurrent list by the Union Government for the enactment of the three contentious laws on agriculture and related matter. This house emphasizes yet again that Agriculture and any matter related to Agriculture including the marketing and storage of agricultural produce is a State subject. The entry 33 of the concurrent list relates to trade and commerce and agriculture is neither trade nor commerce. The farmer is neither a trader nor is he engaged in commercial activity. He is a simply a cultivator/grower/producer who brings his produce in APMC market for selling it, either at MSP or at a price dictated by trader.

The Punjab Vidhan Sabha deplores the act of the Union Government of misleading the parliament by wrongfully interpreting the term foodstuff in Entry 33 (b) of the concurrent list to be the same as agriculture stuff (agricultural produce) and therefore made a questionable yet dishonest attempt to achieve indirectly what it could not do directly.

The Punjab Vidhan Sabha reminds the Union Government that APMC Acts have constitutional validity and sanction. These are State laws enacted under the presumption that agriculture and agricultural marketing is a State subject. The regulated Mandis established under APMC Acts have a legal foundation, infrastructure and a well-defined mechanism of documenting each and every purchase done by a trader or a government procurement agency. On the other hand the unregulated markets are akin to spurious trade centers without any infrastructure, without any institutional support and without any accountability.

The Punjab Vidhan Sabha strongly deprecates and condemns the efforts of the Union Government aimed at systematic dismantling of farmer friendly regulated mandis (APMC Mandis) and replacing them with trader friendly unregulated mandis. The Punjab Vidhan Sabha feels concerned at the unfair concessions extended to the traders and corporations of allowing purchases from unregulated markets without paying market fee, rural development fee etc. and thus providing unfair advantage to unregulated markets vis-à-vis regulated mandis. This will eventually lead to shifting of trade from the APMC mandis to the private mandis apart from causing fiscal loss to the State Government and adversely affecting rural development.

This special session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha reminds the Union government that 86% of the farmers have meager land holdings who along with other rural work force like carpenter, weaver, mason and unskilled labourers form the backbone of rural economy. Union Government through these contentious laws is paving the way to dispossess them of their lands and avocations and place them at the mercy of corporate wolves. A bare reading of these laws suggests these to be heavily loaded in favour of corporations and detrimental to the interests of small and marginal farmers. The Punjab Vidhan Sabha cannot be a party to this design against the rural poor; rather it resolves to back the farmers and rural manpower to the hilt in their struggle for repeal of the three unconstitutional legislations.

This special session of Punjab Vidhan Sabha demands the enactment of a special legislation in the Parliament, which should safeguard the interests of marginal and small farmers with a view to save them from their imminent exploitation by the corporate sharks who during the harvesting season may procure the produce at a price lower than MSP, store it and then sell it to the consumers at higher prices. The suggested special legislation should provide a legal guaranty to farmers that their produce will be not be procured at a price less than MSP and that the procurement/ purchase of farm produce at a price below MSP will be a criminal offence. The Punjab Vidhan Sabha demands that the procurement at MSP should be mandatory for all crops and that MSP be calculated taking comprehensive costs into consideration.

In view of the aforesaid, this special session of Punjab Vidhan Sabha held on 11th day of November 2021, through a resolution moved by Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Punjab and adopted by the house, once again rejects the three contentious legislations which were enacted by the Union Government without any competence,

by unlawfully venturing into the domain of the States, by disregarding the fact that Agriculture is a State subject and by wrongfully interpreting Entry 33 of the list III and demands for their repeal.

This august house is also requested to pass a resolution to issue directions to the government of Punjab not to implement these three contentions Central Farm Legislations."

3. Under the heading "**X. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**", the following shall be added as Sr. No.1 and the existing Serial Nos. be renumbered as Sr. No. 2 onwards:-

"1. **The Punjab Renewable Energy Security, Reform, Termination and Re-Determination of Power Tariff Bill, 2021.**

A MINISTER to introduce the Punjab Renewable Energy Security, Reform, Termination and Re-Determination of Power Tariff Bill, 2021.

To move that the Punjab Renewable Energy Security, Reform, Termination and Re-Determination of Power Tariff Bill, 2021, be taken into consideration at once.

Also to move that the Bill be passed."

4. Under the heading "**X. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**", the following shall be added after Sr. No.9:-

"10. **The Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2021.**

A MINISTER to introduce the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

To move that the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2021, be taken into consideration at once.

Also to move that the Bill be passed.

11. **The Punjab Contract Farming (Repeal) Bill, 2021.**

A MINISTER to introduce the Punjab Contract Farming (Repeal) Bill, 2021.

To move that the Punjab Contract Farming (Repeal) Bill, 2021, be taken into consideration at once.

Also to move that the Bill be passed.

12. **The Punjab (Institutions and other Buildings) Tax (Repeal) Bill, 2021.**

A MINISTER to introduce the Punjab (Institutions and other Buildings) Tax (Repeal) Bill, 2021.

To move that the Punjab (Institutions and other Buildings) Tax (Repeal) Bill, 2021, be taken into consideration at once.

Also to move that the Bill be passed.

13. **The Punjab Protection and Regularisation of Contractual Employees Bill, 2021.**

A MINISTER to introduce the Punjab Protection and Regularisation of Contractual Employees Bill, 2021.

To move that the Punjab Protection and Regularisation of Contractual Employees Bill, 2021, be taken into consideration at once.

Also to move that the Bill be passed.

14. **The Punjab Fruit Nurseries (Amendment) Bill, 2021.**

A MINISTER to introduce the Punjab Fruit Nurseries (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

To move that the Punjab Fruit Nurseries (Amendment) Bill, 2021, be taken into consideration at once.

Also to move that the Bill be passed."

**CHANDIGARH:
THE 11TH NOVEMBER, 2021.**

**SURINDER PAL
SECRETARY.**

Rtu
**Under Secretary
Punjab Vidhan Sabha
Chandigarh**