

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
PAPER CLIPPINGS

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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Other state matter - Agriculture Bill

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 2/11/20

## Punjab formally rejects farm laws

Assembly passes three new Bills  
T.H. 2/11/20



**Taking a stand:** Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh speaking in the Assembly on Tuesday. ■PTI

VIKAS VASUDEVA  
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Punjab on Tuesday became the first State to formally reject the Centre's three recent agriculture sector laws, with its Assembly on Tuesday unanimously passing three Bills to negate the Union legislation.

The Assembly passed a resolution rejecting the Central legislation and the proposed Electricity Amendment Bill and demanding their immediate annulment. It also sought an ordinance to protect the minimum support price (MSP) regime and ensure the continuance of procurement by the Centre.

The three State Bills provide for imprisonment of not less than three years and fines for sale-purchase

of wheat or paddy under a farming agreement below the MSP, besides prevention of hoarding and black-marketing of agricultural produce, among other things.

### Penal clause

The provision of punishment for sale-purchase below the MSP has been incorporated in The Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services (Special Provisions and Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020.

The Bill mandates that no sale or purchase be done below the MSP and violation of the same shall invite imprisonment of three years, besides a fine.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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T.H. 2/11/20

It also seeks an amendment to Sections 1(2), Sections 19 and 20 of the Centre's Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020. It proposes to add new Sections - Sections 4, 6 to 11.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) (Special Provisions and Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020, seeks to amend Sections 1(2), 14 and 15 of the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 to ensure that sale or purchase of wheat or paddy in the State is not allowed below the MSP.

The Essential Commodities (Special Provisions and Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020, seeks to amend the Centre's "The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020" by amending Section 1(2) and Section 3(1A) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

A fourth Bill - The Code of Civil Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020 was also passed, which seeks to insert a provision for exemption of agriculture land not exceeding 2.5 acres from Section 60 of The

Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, which provides for attachment or decree of various properties - moveable and immoveable. Given the farmers' apprehensions about attachment-decree of their land as a consequence of enforcement of farming contracts or otherwise, the State government is seeking, through this Bill, to give full exemption to small farmers and others from attachment or decree of land up to 2.5 acres.

All MLAs unanimously voted in favour of the resolution and the Bills, except the two BJP members who were absent from the House during the second day of the special Assembly session. The resolution, which was passed, described the Centre's farm laws and the proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020 as "anti-farmers" and demanded that they be scrapped.

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh informed the House that he had sought time from the President to raise Punjab's concerns on the farm laws. Later, he, along with Congress, AAP and Shiromani Akali Dal MLAs met Governor V.P.S. Badnore and submitted the House resolution.