The following Ordinance promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 9th day of February, 2021 is hereby published for general information.

By order of the Governor,

ARAVINtha BABU P. K.,
Law Secretary.
ORDINANCE No. 9 OF 2021

THE KERALA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS’ (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2021

Promulgated by the Governor of Kerala in the Seventy-second Year of the Republic of India.

AN

ORDINANCE

further to amend the Kerala Agricultural Workers’ Act, 1974.

Preamble.—WHEREAS, the Kerala Agricultural Workers’ (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (7 of 2020) was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 16th day of January, 2020;

AND WHEREAS, a Bill to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature could not be introduced in, and passed by, the Legislative Assembly of the State of Kerala, during its session which commenced on the 29th day of January, 2020 and ended on the 12th day of February, 2020;

AND WHEREAS, in order to keep alive the provisions of the said Ordinance, the Kerala Agricultural Workers’ (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (10 of 2020) was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 17th day of February, 2020;

AND WHEREAS, a Bill to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature could not be introduced in, and passed by, the Legislative Assembly of the State of Kerala, during its session which commenced on the 2nd day of March, 2020 and ended on the 13th day of March, 2020;

AND WHEREAS, in order to keep alive the provisions of the said Ordinance, the Kerala Agricultural Workers’ (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (24 of 2020) was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 31st day of March, 2020;
AND WHEREAS, a Bill to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature could not be introduced in, and passed by, the Legislative Assembly of the State of Kerala, during its session which convened on the 24th day of August, 2020;

AND WHEREAS, in order to keep alive the provisions of the said Ordinance, the Kerala Agricultural Workers’ (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (62 of 2020) was promulgated by the Governor of Kerala on the 26th day of September, 2020;

AND WHEREAS, a Bill to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature could not be introduced in, and passed by, the Legislative Assembly of the State of Kerala, during its session which convened on 31st day of December, 2020 and during its session which commenced on the 8th day of January, 2021 and ended on the 22nd day of January, 2021;

AND WHEREAS, under sub-clause (a) of clause (2) of Article 213 of the Constitution of India the said Ordinance will cease to operate on the 11th day of February, 2021;

AND WHEREAS, difficulties will arise if the provisions of the said Ordinance are not kept alive;

AND WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly of the State of Kerala is not in session, and the Governor of Kerala 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 213 of the Constitution of India, the Governor of Kerala is pleased to promulgate the following Ordinance:—

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) This Ordinance may be called the Kerala Agricultural Workers’ (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 16th day of January, 2020.

2. Act 18 of 1974 to be temporarily amended.—During the period of operation of this Ordinance, the Kerala Agricultural Workers’ Act, 1974 (18 of 1974) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act) shall have effect subject to the amendments specified in section 3.

3. Amendment of section 9.—In section 9 of the principal Act,—
(1) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) Every land owner holding more than twenty Ares but less than forty Ares in extent of agricultural land shall pay contribution to the Fund at the rate of fifty paise per Are, per annum for the entire land held by him, and those holding more than forty Ares of agricultural land shall contribute one rupee per Are, per annum for the entire land held by him in such manner as may be prescribed.”;

(2) in sub-section (2), for the words “five rupees” the words “twenty rupees” shall be substituted;

(3) for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4) The Government shall contribute to the Fund every year, by way of grant, an amount equal to that of twenty five per cent of the contribution paid by the registered agricultural workers in every financial year, limited to a maximum of rupees five per capita.”.

4. Repeal and saving.—(1) The Kerala Agricultural Workers’ (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (62 of 2020) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or deemed to have been done or any action taken or deemed to have been taken under the principal Act as amended by the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the principal Act, as amended by this Ordinance.

ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN,
GOVERNOR.