Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021

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In news- Recently, the Parliament has passed the Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021.
About the bill-

- **The bill is aimed at repealing three farm laws, namely:**

1. **The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020** which is aimed at allowing trade in agricultural produce outside the existing APMC mandis.
2. **The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020**, which seeks to provide a framework for **contract farming**.
3. **The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020,** which is aimed at removing commodities such as cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potato from the list of essential commodities.

- **The six-page Bill contains only three sections:**

1. The first section defines the title of the Act — the Farm Laws Repeal Act, 2021.
2. The second section has provisions to repeal three farm laws.
3. The third section relates to omitting sub-section (1A) from section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

- **The government had inserted sub-section (1A) in the section 3 of the Essential Commodity Act, 1955** that empowers the government to control production, supply, distribution, etc., of essential commodities.
- **The sub-section (1A) provides a mechanism to regulate the supply of foodstuffs,** including cereals, pulses, potato, onions, edible oilseeds and oils under "extraordinary circumstances" which may include war,

famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity of grave nature.

- It also prescribes the price triggers for imposing stock limits.
- **Under the sub-section (1A), 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 if there is a hundred percent increase in the retail price of horticultural produce; or 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.