

Dated: 28th May, 2018

To

His Excellency

The President of India

Rashtrapati Bhawan

New Delhi

**All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) demands that a SPECIAL SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENT be convened immediately to resolve the agrarian crisis of the country - There is an increase in suicides by the farmers and the next generation is not interested in farming as it is a losing proposition.**

His Excellency,

Your Excellency is well aware that the country is going through severe agrarian crisis. The farmers cannot even recover their input costs and their debt is increasing with every passing crop. When the farmers agitate for their rights, they are silenced with bullets. What makes the situation extremely grave is that on one hand over 3.5 lac farmers have been compelled to commit suicides in the past about 15 years and on the other hand in the past 4 years of the present regime the suicide rate has increased by over 50% more than the previous years. The next generation is not interested in farming as it has become a losing proposition.

Your Excellency, ever since Independence of the country, every farming organization has tried its level best to improve the plight of farmers of its region, but, all of them have been unsuccessful in getting remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. The organizations were browbeaten by those in power or were silenced by bullets. A glaring case of suppression is Mandsaur, a District of Madhya Pradesh where 6 farmers (including 17 year old Abhisekh Patidar) who were agitating for their demands were shot dead, admittedly by the police, on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2017. Yet, neither has action been taken to mitigate the hardships of the farmers nor has any action been taken against the officers who killed the farmers. It was the Mandsaur incident which brought the farming organizations from across the country together who formed the largest ever platform under the banner of All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC).

As of date, 193 farming organizations have joined the AIKSCC to find ways and means to mitigate the hardships being faced by the farmers. After going through the length and breadth of the country, having covered over 10,000 km and having addressed and interacted in over 500 meetings, AIKSCC has narrowed down to two main demands to address the immediate crisis. Freedom From Debt and Guaranteed Remunerative Minimum Support Prices.

Your Excellency would agree that these two demands are closely connected - if the issue of remunerative prices alone is tackled without providing relief from indebtedness, the increased returns will only go to pay back increasing loans. On the other hand, if only loan waivers are provided without addressing the issue of remunerative prices, farmers will again be pushed back into the debt trap. Therefore, AIKSCC seeks the fulfillment of both demands at the same time. AIKSCC seeks to secure these two as legal rights for all farmers, through the enactment of two Central legislations.

The initial drafts of these Bills were tabled in the November 2017 Kisan Mukti Sansad at Parliament Street in New Delhi that was attended by lacs of farmers from each and every State of the country. Thereafter AIKSCC organized widespread and detailed consultations at the State and District levels in all parts of the country and held more than 200 such consultations between December 2017 and mid-March 2018. The valuable and rich feedback from the grassroots (farmers, intellectuals, lawyers) was incorporated in the final versions of the Bills.

Your Excellency, it is pertinent to mention that these Bills have been created for the very first time by farmers' movements of the country after elaborate consultations. We believe that this is a crucial moment in the history of India, with farmers' issues taking a centre-stage in our public debates which has been long overdue.

Your Excellency, on behalf of the farmers of the country, AIKSCC sent the Bills to the political parties of the country. AIKSCC held a Round Table on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at the Constitution Club, New Delhi wherein senior leaders of 21 parties came and not only supported the Bills but also signed the resolution that these Bills be taken up in both the Houses on priority basis immediately. Copy of the Resolution dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 is annexed herewith for your kind reference.

Your Excellency, the two Bills were further examined by the said 21 parties on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2018, who, went through the Bills clause by clause and after making the necessary changes, in the first week of May, 2018 **the 2 Bills were submitted as private member Bills by Shri Raju Shetti in the Lok Sabha and Shri KK Ragesh in the Rajya Sabha**. Copies of the Two Bills are annexed collectively herewith for your kind perusal.

Your Excellency, these Bills may have been submitted as private member Bills but they have the mandate of all the farmers of the entire country and should be treated as **THE FARMERS' BILLS**. The mandate comes from the fact that on 10<sup>th</sup> of May, 2018 under the aegis of AIKSCC, two representations have been sent from Districts across the country, one addressed to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the other to the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, requesting them to treat the private member Bills as the their Bills and the same be taken up immediately and passed to save lives of farmers. The representations signed by thousands of farmers from the District have been sent through the respective District Magistrates.

Your Excellency, on the occasion of Maharashtra Day. i.e 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018, under the aegis of Swabhimani Sehtkari Sangathan, a resolution has been passed by thousands of Gram Sabhas of Maharashtra with a request to Your Excellency to call for a Special Session of Parliament to resolve the agrarian crisis.

Your Excellency, we are an agrarian society but unfortunately the farmers are dying and the next generation is not interested in continuing with farming as agriculture is a losing proposition.

We, the Working Group of the AIKSCC, being responsible farmers' leaders of the country having the assured support for the Bills by the 21 parties in the Parliament and now seek Your Excellency's kind intervention to save the farmers by resolving the grave agrarian crisis by for convening a SPECIAL SESSION of the Parliament to save the farmers.

Your Excellency, our demand on behalf of the farmers of the country is justified and there is a precedence to back it. While we are seeking a special session in the light of suicide by 3.5 lac farmers in the country, there is a precedent when the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee convened a special session of the Parliament in December, 2003 to discuss the sugarcane crisis in the country in the light of the death of 3 sugarcane farmers of Manderva in Basti District of UP who had died on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2003.

Your Excellency, a Special Session is the only way out to discuss the agrarian crisis in the present scenario when even the No Confidence Motion is not allowed to be taken up due to disorder in the house. While the country can have a midnight special session for GST, don't the farmers of the country who have been sacrificing their lives to ensure food security of the country, deserve this Special Session to save their lives?

Thanking you for giving us a hearing and also in anticipation of calling a Special Session.

With Kind regards,

VM Singh  
Convenor  
98115-80131

&  
All Working Group Members of AIKSCC

Sl	Name	Organization	Signature
1	Akhil Gogoi	Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS)	

2	Dr. Ashish Mittal	All India Kisan Mazdoor Sabha (AIKMS)	
3	Atul Kumar Anjan	All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS)	
4	Avik Saha	Jai Kisan Andolan (JKA)	
5	Dr. Darshan Pal	Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) (Dakunda)	
6	Hannan Mollah	All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS)	
7	Kavitha Kuruganti	Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture	
8	Kiran Vissa	Rythu Swarajya Vedika (RSV)	
9	K. Chandrasekhar	Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha	
10	Medha Patkar	National Alliance for Peoples' Movements	
11	P. Ayyakkanu	National South India River Interlinking Agriculturalists Association	
12	Prtibha Shinde	Lok Sangharsh Morcha (LSM)	
13	Raja Ram Singh	All India Kisan Manasabha (AIKM)	
14	Raju Shetti, MP(LS)	Swabhimani Shekari Sangathana (SSS)	
15	Rampal Jat	Kisan Mahapanchayat	
16	Satyawan	All India Kisan Khet Mazdoor Sangathan (AIKKMS)	
17	Dr. Sunilam	Kisan Sangharsh Samiti	

18	VM Singh	Rashtriya Kisan Mazdoor Sangathan (RKMS)	
19	Yogendra Yadav	Swaraj Abhiyan	
20.	Tejinder Virk	Terrai Kisan Sangathan	
21.	Rishipal Ambavata	Bhartiya Kisan Union (A)	

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