

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-486
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/02/2021
REPEAL OF THREE FARM LAWS

486 Shri P. Wilson:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey on the death/ suicide of the farmers during the protest/agitation since the farm bills were passed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the discussion/meetings/consultations held between the Central Government and farmers during last four months, and the reasons for their failure;
- (d) whether Government has any plan to repeal the three farm laws as per the demands of the farmers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time likely to be taken to amend or repeal these farm laws?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): No, However, Government of India during discussion with farmers' unions appealed to them that children and elders especially women should be requested to go home in view of the cold and COVID situation.

(c) to (e) New Farm laws viz, "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, are intended to provide an ecosystem where the farmers can enjoy the freedom of choice relating to sale of farmers' produce which facilitates remunerative prices to farmers through competitive alternative channels for selling their produce. These farm Acts facilitate direct buying from farmers in trade area by traders, processors, exporters, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), agriculture co-operative Societies etc., so as to facilitate farmers with better price realization to enhance their income.

Contd...2/-

Farm laws will accelerate more investment in marketing and supply chain infrastructure including that in storage facilities near to farm gate creating more employment opportunities for rural youth. Farm laws provide additional marketing opportunities to farmers for selling their produce outside the APMC market yards such as at farm-gates, cold storages, warehouse, silos, etc. to help farmers get remunerative prices due to additional competition.

Farm Acts provides sufficient safeguard mechanism to protect the interest of farmers including that of small and marginal farmers. Simple, accessible, quick and cost effective dispute resolution mechanism is prescribed at local Sub-divisional level and deterring penal provisions have been provided against traders to prevent and curb any violation of the Act by them.

“The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020”, encourages investment in harvest and post-harvest agricultural infrastructure and would help in enhancing the income of the farmers.

Some of the farmers’ unions have been agitating against newly enacted Farm laws and the main demand of agitating farmers’ unions regarding the three farm laws, was for their repeal viz. “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” & “The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020”. During various rounds of negotiations, Government had been requesting the agitating farmers’ unions to discuss the Farm laws clause by clause in order to resolve their concerns on the clauses bothering them. Government had further explained during the meetings, the benefits including legal validity pertaining to recently enacted new Farm laws. However, farmers’ unions never agreed to discuss the farm laws excepting for demanding their repeal.

Government engaged itself actively and constantly with the agitating farmers’ unions and 11 rounds of negotiations were held between the Government and agitating farmers’ unions to resolve the issues. Details of the meetings are at **Annexure-I**.

Annexure-I

Sl.No	Rounds of negotiating talks with agitating farmer unions	Date of meeting
1	1 st Round	14.10.2020
2	2 nd Round	13.11.2020
3	3 rd Round	01.12.2020
4	4 th Round	03.12.2020
5	5 th Round	05.12.2020
6	6 th Round	30.12.2020
7	7 th Round	04.01.2021
8	8 th Round	08.01.2021
9	9 th Round	15.01.2021
10	10 th Round	20.01.2021
11	11 th Round	22.01.2021
