

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1288
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12/02/2021

FARMERS' DEMAND TO REPEAL THE FARM LAWS

1288 Shri Abdul Wahab:

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

- (a) the demands put forth by farmer union leaders during their meeting with Government;
- (b) the response of Government to the demands put forth by Kisan union leaders;
- (c) the reasons for imposing the farm laws by Government in spite of opposition of farmers; and
- (d) the reasons for not repealing the three farm laws by Government as demanded by the farming community?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): The New Farm laws viz, “The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020” and “The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services 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 will 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 due to reduction in supply chain and marketing cost to enhance their income.

“The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020” is intended to promote competition and transparency in trade by way of facilitation of electronic trading system in trade area.

The Farming agreement i.e “The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020” will enable scaling of investment by industry for production and processing of high value agriculture produces and give fillip to exports. The framework will also mitigate the risks for the farmers, enhance their income and will put in place an effective and conducive policy regime for agreements.

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Farm laws will accelerate more investment in marketing and value addition infrastructure near to farm gate creating more employment opportunities for rural youth. Farm laws provide additional marketing opportunities outside the APMC market yards such as 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 Acts. The demands of agitating farmers’ unions regarding the three farm laws, were 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”.

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**.

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 the benefits offered by the above mentioned Acts and its legal validity during the meetings. However, farmers’ unions never agreed to discuss the farm laws except for the demand for their repeal.

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
