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2020 INDIAN AGRICULTURE ACTS (FARM LAWS 2020)

ABSTRACT- *The Topic basically wants to highlight the problems that are being faced by the farmers of the Northern Indian States of Haryana, Punjab, and Jammu Kashmir etc. about the recent farm laws that have been made by the current NDA Government. There are several rumors or the misconceptions regarding recent laws that have been made yet not implemented in Republic of India. Several Rounds of Talks have happened between the Government and the Farm Union Leaders yet it didn't bear any positive results which could have helped in the settlement of the two parties. Opposition parties are vocal regarding the current laws which have been made but the Government is trying its best to defend itself against the critics. This article will act as a source of understanding about the farm laws to readers and hence develop their own thoughts and ideas regarding the laws.*

KEYWORDS- [Farm Laws, History of Farm Laws, Criticism of Farm Laws, Stats and Conclusion Related to Farm Laws]

INTRODUCTION- The Indian Agriculture Acts or the Farm Bills 2020 which has become one of the most controversial yet debatable topic of the country and nowadays most of the headlines of the news, magazines, articles, newspapers, journals have their first page printed in their headlines with bold letters- **“THE CONTROVERSIAL FARM BILLS OF INDIA”** has embarked spark of excitement and confusion in the minds of the common citizens and ignited curiosity and aroused the feeling of uneasiness in the minds of the youths of the country related to the topic of Farm Bills have created thousands of questions all around the country. **According to Section 18 which regurgitates the in good faith argument. Section 19 states:**

" No Civil Court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceedings in respect of any dispute which a Sub-Divisional Authority or the Appellate Authority is empowered by or under this Act to decide and no injunction shall be granted by any court or other

authority in respect of any action taken or to be taken in pursuance of any power conferred by or under this Act or any rules made there under." Article 32 of the Constitution guarantees right to Constitutional Remedies We are seeing thousands of farmers around the borders of Delhi who are waiting for the justice for the injustice made to them by the Central Government according to their viewpoints. The transportation system of Delhi especially the border areas have been mostly affected, the local mandis such as Azadpur, Okhla, Keshopur etc have been badly hit resulting in the high prices of onions, tomatoes, potatoes, leafy vegetables etc. In Northern Indian states of Haryana and Punjab, the protestors are much more prevalent than any other part of India. In Punjab and Haryana, many farm unions are agitated with the Central Government's addressable towards their issues and agricultural injustice made to them and according to them they had no other option but to take extreme steps hence resulting in the disruption in the livelihoods of the common citizens and resulting in erupt violence and widespread protests all around Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, West Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan etc. and many farmers from the farm unions from these big North Indian States are gathering in thousands and participating in large numbers so that their grievances are heard properly and solved as quickly as possible by the concerned authorities. There are several allegations related to this topic- lands of the farmers will be taken by the big firms, the goods will now be sold at the rate lower than the MSP, farmers income will be affected so on and so forth. We will be studying more in this article.

FARM LAWS HISTORY AND PRESENT SCENARIO- We first need to understand the history of the Farm Laws so that we can connect it with the present scenario and so that we can understand the Current Farm Laws in depth and make proper assumptions out of it. In 1966- 67, the first MSP was set for wheat at Rs 54 per quintal and hiked over the next two years to Rs 70 and Rs 72 per quintal respectively. The second institution was the Food Corporation of India (FCI) which was tasked with procuring grains from farmers in the APMC Mandis for the ¹

Government of India. Then afterwards, Swaminathan Commission was made related to the agriculture, many amendments were made for the beneficiaries etc. The National Commission on Farmers is an Indian Commission constituted on 18 November 2004 under the Chairmanship of Professor M.S. Swaminathan to address the nationwide calamity of **Farmers Suicide in India** The Terms of References reflected the priorities listed in the Common Minimum Program me. The NCF submitted four reports in December 2004, August 2005, December 2005 and April

¹"Quixplained: What are the 3 farm laws, and why are farmers protesting?" *The Indian Express* 17 October 2020 Retrieved 27 November 2020

"The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020" PRS India 14 September 2020 Retrieved 27 November 2020

"Parliament passes The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill 2020, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020" *pib.gov.in* Retrieved 21 December 2020

2006 respectively. The fifth and final report was submitted on 4 October 2006. The reports contain suggestions to achieve the goal of "faster and more inclusive growth" as envisaged in the Approach to 11th Five Year Plan and are collectively termed the M.S. Swaminathan report for farmers. There were many amendments which had been made to improve the conditions of the farmers as well to raise the incomes particularly the marginal farmers as well as the middle farmers during the tenure of UPA-1 and UPA-2 Government but all in vain. So basically, readers first need to understand the basic difference between a big farmer, a middle farmer and a marginal farmer. So, the history of farm laws goes like this-

India, the land of opportunities, the land of rich agricultural activities, the land which are full of hard-working and never to say die spirit farmers and finally the land where farmers borne out gold in real sense. The agriculture sector in India is quite active and contributes largely to the Indian Economy since Ancient Times (From the times of Nandas, Mauryas, Guptas, Delhi Sultanate, Mughals, British Times and now during the tenure of Various Governments in Modern India.) Agriculture plays a vital role in the Indian Economy. Over 70 per cent of the rural households depend on agriculture. Agriculture is an important sector of Indian Economy as it contributes about 17% to the total GDP and provides employment to over 60% of the population. During the reign of Indira Gandhi, in the 1960s-70s, Indian Agricultural Process and Manufacturing were in a very bad condition and thus the downfall of the GDP was very much evident at that time. Thus Indira Gandhi Government decided to take such measures so that the poor condition of the agricultural sector can be significantly improved and thus arose the greatest movement in the field of Indian Agriculture- The Green Revolution Movement which not only significantly improved the conditions of the farmers but also increased their earnings as well as the agricultural yields per hectare to a record high margins and thus many more such initiatives were taken to improve the conditions of the farmers. But as we all know every Pro has Cons as well. The drawbacks related to this movement were that the farmers of Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu became so rich that they started owning tractors, big cars, houses, started dreaming to go to foreign countries due to their high incomes etc because of High Yielding Variety of Seeds and as a result they started growing sunflower, paddy, wheat, flax seeds, mustard, bajra, jawar, corn etc. But it also created regional disparities as the farmers of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bengal, Eastern Uttar Pradesh became so poor that they either have to settle to work as the marginal farmers or the middle farmers because they didn't have enough money to buy either expensive High Yielding Variety of Seeds or expensive Agricultural Tools to improve their traditional methods of farming and hence they remained backward states in terms of GDP, Agriculture, Health Sector, Education Sector etc. The other problems which were related to these states were lack of food processing industries, factories, lack of cold storage centers, lack of food chain supplies etc because of which they remained backward, less progressing and the term "BIMARU" was an acronym used for these States. Thus, Green Revolution acted as both boon as well as

bane for the country. Other revolutions also took place in agricultural sector- White Revolution in Dairy Industry by Verghese Kurien, Blue Revolution in Marine Industry, Black Revolution in Petroleum Sector, and Pink Revolution in Poultry Industry (Egg, Chicken, Mutton, etc) Grey Revolution in Fertilizers Sector etc. These revolutions created history in the field of Agricultural Sector in India.

STATS RELATED TO AGRICULTURAL SECTOR- India is a country which produces large amount of wheat, rice, bajra, coffee, tea, spices, sugarcane, milk, egg, mustard, corn, peanuts, soybean, cotton, fishes, meat, apples, oranges, green leafy vegetables, mangoes, litchis, brinjals, ginger, garlic etc from the States of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Goa etc which largely contribute to the GDP of the country and also helps in the exportation of these items in Foreign Countries such as USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Great Britain, Argentina, China etc thus bringing lots of Forex and many other precious items in the country thus helping in the ²development of the country and thus helping in the progress and development of the country. India exported \$ 38 Billion worth of agricultural products in 2013, making it the seventh largest agricultural exporter worldwide and sixth largest net exporter. Most of its agriculture exports serve developing and least developed nations. Indian agricultural/horticultural and processed foods are exported to more than 120 countries, primarily to the Japan, South East Asia, SAARC Countries, The European Union and the United States. In 2016, agriculture and allied sectors like animal husbandry, forestry and fisheries accounted for 15.4% of the GDP with about 41.49% of the workforce in 2020. India ranks first in the world with highest net cropped area followed by US and China. The economic contribution of agriculture to India's GDP is steadily declining with the country's broad-based economic growth. Still, agriculture is demographically the broadest economic sector and plays a significant role in the overall socio-economic fabric of India. As of 2011, India had a large and diverse agricultural sector, accounting on average for about 16% of GDP and 10% of export earnings. India's arable land area of 159.7 million hectares

² Dikshit, Rajeev (30 November 2020) "Those who have duped farmers for decades now misleading them: PM Modi in Varanasi" *The Times of India* Retrieved 1 December 2020

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is the largest in the world. India is among the top three global of many crops, including wheat, rice, pulses, cottons, peanuts, fruits and vegetables. Worldwide, as of 2011, India has the largest herds of buffalo and cattle are the largest producer of milk and have one of the largest and fastest growing poultry industries.

Despite having such impressive growths and great statistics, Indian Agricultural Sector also has dark of it. During recent protests, the **ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF INDIA (ASSOCHAM)** has urged the government and farmer's organizations to resolve the impasses at the new farm laws. It has said that the economies of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir are bearing losses to the tune of Rs 3,500 crore every day. "The ongoing protests are dealing a big blow to the interconnected economies of the region, including Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh" it said. ASSOCHAM President Dr Niranjan Hiranandani said, "The size of the combined economies of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir are Rs 18 lakh crore. With the ongoing farmer's agitation and blockade of roads, toll plazas and railways, the economic activities have come to a halt. Industries such as textiles, auto components, bicycles, sports goods, which cater significantly to the export markets, would not be able to fulfill their orders, ahead of Christmas, harming our goodwill amongst the global buyers."

General Secretary Deepak Sood said that supply chain disruptions are also taking a toll in the retail prices of fruits and vegetables. Sood said that industries and farmers are paying a heavy price for the disruptions that have ironically come at a time when the economy started unlocking from COVID-19 impact. If all these facts are not enough then there are more sadistic facts related to Indian Agriculture. The farmers of Vidarbha have the highest cases of suicidal rates in India, followed by the farmers of Marathwada, Bundelkhand, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Regions near Gaya, Bhagalpur etc. These are basically not suicides, these are basically murders of the food providers of the country and when the Government tries to solve their interim problems, the protestors come in thousands and disrupt the Government Functionaries and hence most of the issues related to the farmers remained unresolved even for years.

FARM LAWS- The hype that has been created all over the country is whether justifiable or not is yet to be decided. The Supreme Court for now asked the Central Government not to execute these laws in the country, despite the Farm Laws now officially being the part of **Indian Gazette Bharat ka Rajpatra**). Harsimrat Kaur Badal, the leader of the SAD who was a Former Minister of Food Processing Industries officially resigned her post due to the issues related to the Farm Laws. Hanuman Beniwal, the leader of the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party officially announced that his party would now not be a member of NDA Alliance due to issues related to the farm laws. Thousands of farmers from All India Kisan Sabha from Nashik are approaching Delhi to join ongoing farmer's protests and to support the farmers who have come from Punjab, Haryana,

Rajasthan, Western Uttar Pradesh etc. who are fighting against the injustice made to them by the NDA Government. Most of them are alleging that these laws are non-beneficiary in nature and would only deprive them of their basic rights of the farming and hence are only beneficial for the big farmers and would result in the increase of their incomes who are already well off. According to them farmers will now have to make contract with these companies and hence their lands will now be confiscated. The Reliance Company has clearly said that it is utter nonsense and neither such contract nor the confiscation of lands of the farmers would be taken. The Contract Farming will only be done on the consent of the farmer. Further allegations that have been made by these farmers are now the Foreign Retailers will now have the access to exploit the farmers and will take their products at any favorable price, thus inflicting them financial losses and exploiting the according to their own benefits and interests. The farmers which are related in the Soybean, Tomato, Potato, Onion, Wheat, Paddy etc. fear that they will bear much more financial losses and their source of livelihoods will eventually be lost. Another problem that the farmers are agitating against is related to the arrests of their men in the case of subtle burning in ³the regions of Haryana, Punjab and Western Uttar Pradesh. Most of the State Governments of these states asked heavy sum of money as a punishment from them and also put them behind bars because of the burning of the subtle. This agitated the farmers and hence these farmers from various farm unions are participating in large numbers against the Current Act. Despite many round conference debates between the Central Government and various leaders of the Farmer's Union still didn't bear any positive outcomes and hence the final conclusion or the mediation between the two parties seems to be a failure. So, it resulted in the intervention of the Supreme Court in this matter, but the final conclusion is still not drawn. Though we should rather focus on the benefits of the New Agricultural Acts-

. Farmers have got a new option in so far; they will have the freedom to sell their produce outside the APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) and there will be no tax on such trade which will give a higher price to the farmers

³ www.TimesofIndia.com

www.Scroll.in

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"India farmers brave tear gas as they protest against 'black laws' Al Jazeera Retrieved 27 November 2020

. Farmers can sell their produce within the State or anywhere else in the country and there will be no restriction on this type of trade. This will benefit the farmers that they will be able to sell their produce to the merchant wherever they get a higher price.

. There will be no need for any kind of license for traders to purchase agricultural produce of farmers in the trade area outside the APMC Mandi, but also those holding PAN Card or any other document notified by the Central Government can join this trade. This will facilitate trade in agricultural products and will benefit the farmers.

. In case of any dispute arising in such business, the matter will be settled within 30 Days by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate.

. There are also provisions of heavy penalty for violation of rules and regulations

With such great number of benefits and the laws which promise to increase the incomes of the farmers, why are these farmers still protesting on the roads of Delhi, Punjab, Western Uttar Pradesh is still a matter which confuses the masses and creates unrest among the people? The fool only would only do such protests as they are basically misinformed by the Opposition Parties that their livelihoods would be lost, their lands would be confiscated and other problematic stuffs. **Issues related to Current Farm Laws which has been recently made by current NDA Government are the loopholes of the Central Government and FCI related to these Farm Laws (according to the viewpoints of the farmers)- The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 lays down a new architecture for agribusiness and new ways of farming but according to farmers these new ways of farming would make them losing their traditional methods of farming and making them slaves under the hands of the Private Sector, Mandis operating under the APMC Mandis would be abolished, risk of fraud would be high due to entry of people without license or registration, in case of any dispute farmers interests would be duly ignored, and one of the biggest allegations related to this farm laws are they are made for the interests of big farmers instead of middle and marginal farmers.**

Other major issues and loopholes of these two authorities are- issues that have rooted in the minds of farmers of Punjab, Haryana, West Uttar Pradesh and other states are- laws regulating Indian Agricultural Produce being unfairly implemented, MSP being part of the law and hence their produce will now be sold at lower prices, farm bills being corporate-friendly and anti-farmer hence directly affecting their incomes, lack of statutory support in bills for the MSP, MSP weakening farmers instead of empowering them, State Government Driven Crop are more beneficial and hence farmers of these regions fear that this particular beneficiary would be snatched away, farmers being arrested for burning stubble and hence paying hefty fines to the concerned authorities and many other problems.

CONCLUSION- So the overall conclusion that can be drawn after all these discussions is that the misconceptions that have been spread all around the country is completely irrelevant and the misinformed farmer's protests in Delhi is just political agenda and nothing else. Further, the ⁴States of Punjab and Haryana contribute largely in food grain production in country and the misinformation regarding farmers will lose their lands in the hands of firms or their incomes will fall down due to MSP is just a hoax nothing else. So, it's a prime duty of the Central as well as the various State Governments is to make them fully understand about the laws and hence remove the state of confusion and fear from the minds of farmers and so that country can work smoothly without any hassle. Farmer's tractor show proved fatal for the country as one of the people removed the original Indian Tri Color Flag of the country and put his own flag instead, hence putting nation into shame. They also blocked the roads, created nuisance in the lives of the common citizens and more importantly are adamant not to change their mindsets towards the farm laws which are made for their own benefits, so that they can get the best amount for their sale in the market, so that they can have greater share of incomes and finally they can get all the benefits of the Government Oriented Law. Opposition Parties, people with negative thoughts would try to malign the image of the Government Act and hence would be busy trying saying that these laws are only for the benefits of the big corporate or big farmers but this is not the true fact. To know the true fact, one should visit the Official Gazette of India Site so that they can have crystal clear picture of law and hence would be able to know completely about the law.

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