

FARM LAWS AND ITS IMPACT ON FARMERS AND AGRICULTURE

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Abstract

Based on the outrage and the protests across the country we conducted a study on Farm laws and its impact on agriculture and farmers. The study was conducted on an online platform due to the ongoing pandemic. We asked the farmers about their opinion on the farm laws and also their families about their situation during the entire outrage and protests. Participants who gave their informed consent for participation answered the questions. Participants who actively participated and presented their opinion on the matter said that the entire situation could have been dealt in a better manner and that the GOI could have been more considerate of farmers and the bill could have been discussed properly before being passed in both the houses.

Keywords: Farm laws, Bill, Act, APMC mandi, MSP, Repealed.

INTRODUCTION

Last year, the central government passed three bills to replace the three ordinances that were enacted during the covid 19 lockdown. As per government These bills can take revolutionary changes to agrarian context and help double farmers income. And these bills are the farmers produce trade and commerce (promotion and facilitation) bill 2020, the farmers and (empowerment and protection) agreement of price assurance and farm services bill, 2020 and the essential commodities (amendment) bill, 2020. But going in much detail about these bills first look what farmers actually means? A farmer is someone who grows plants and raises animals for human use. Farmers are the backbone of any society. They are the ones who provide us all the food that we eat. They provide us food we are an important factor of any human beings to survive, to live lives. The entire population of the country depends upon farmers. The work of farmers is necessary for human survival. Either it is smallest or the largest country. Because of them only we are

able to live on the planet. Farming has been around for about 10,000 years. The first farmers began by taming animals and growing small crops. Over time, people learned what crops to plant and what animals to raise depending on their environment. Thus, farmers are the most and the only most important people in the world. Though farmers have so much importance still they do not have proper living. Indian farmer is a living idol of India, as they are the most hardworking farmers around the world & always busy, working hard for their crops, during day and night.

India is called the land of farmers, as most of the people of the country are directly and indirectly involved in agriculture sector. It would not be wrong to say that Indian farmers are backbone of the economy and the farmers are indeed the beloved children of mother land.

Farming is the process of growing a wide variety of crops; India has a diverse culture, with approximately 22 major languages and 720 homeland language spoken.

People from all the religious like Hindu, Christian, Islam and Sikh live in India & they are engaged in various occupations, but agriculture is the main occupation.

"Indian Farmer" has the ability to survive with the various seasons, climate change, soil conditions and often harsh destruction of wildfires, droughts and floods. Farmers were not taking agriculture on a serious note because they all were busy in protesting against the centre for the rolling back of the laws. 'Bharat band' announcements were striking and due to that more than 700 farmers lost their lives but at the end PM Modi Repealed the three laws after a year.

OBJECTIVES

1. To analyse and understand the effect of farm laws on the farmers.
2. To find out people's opinion of the law and their reaction when it was withdrawn.
3. To briefly understand the condition of farmers.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Swaminathan Report: National Commission on Farmers

The National Commission on Farmers, chaired by Prof. M. S. Swaminathan, submitted five reports through the period December 2004 - October 2006. Following from the first four, the final report focused on causes of farmer distresses and the rise in farmer suicides, and recommends addressing them through a holistic national policy for farmers. The findings and recommendations encompass issues of access to resources and social security entitlements. This summary is a quick reference point highlighting the key findings and policy recommendations under land reforms, irrigation, credit and insurance, food security, employment, productivity of agriculture and farmer competitiveness.

The NCF is mandated to make suggestions on issues such as:

- a medium-term strategy for food and nutrition security in the country in order to move towards the goal of universal food security over time;
- enhancing productivity, profitability, and sustainability of the major farming systems of the country;
- policy reforms to substantially increase flow of rural credit to all farmers;
- special programmes for dryland farming for farmers in the arid and semi-arid regions, as well as for farmers in hilly and coastal areas;
- enhancing the quality and cost competitiveness of farm commodities so as to make them globally competitive;
- protecting farmers from imports when international prices fall sharply;
- empowering elected local bodies to effectively conserve and improve the ecological foundations for sustainable agriculture;
- Kaur, P. Levels, (2011), Pattern and Distribution of Consumption Expenditure of Weaker Section – A Case study of Muksar District of Punjab State, the analysis of consumption expenditure of the weaker sections in Muksar, Punjab reveals that large share of total consumption expenditure by these categories is allocated to non-durables items followed by services, social religious ceremonies and durable commodities.

India is and has been an agrarian economy. After India acquired Independence in 1947, farmers used to promote their merchandise direct to the consumers. But because of prevailing device of Zamindars or cash creditors, farmers had been trapped in perpetual debt. Farmers want to shop for seeds, fertilizers and extraordinary topics required for developing a crop, for purchasing all these items you want cash so farmers took loans from Zamindars or cash creditors who used to price a completely excessive hobby charge at the vital

quantity. Farmers had been now not able to pay this shape of hefty quantity and in such instances to get their cash yet again cash creditors or the Zamindars used to shop for the complete produce of the farmers but, they paid very masses plenty much less quantity to farmers due to the reality farmers did no longer have the bargaining power. Now to yet again sow their fields farmers required cash so this cycle continued, and farmers had been continuously in debt.

Stakeholder organizations like farmer institutions have protested the 3 new agricultural reform crook tips. These offer the masses-preferred reforms in case you need to assist farmers get a higher charge with the beneficial useful resource of using eliminating middlemen and enhancing advertising and advertising and marketing and marketing efficiencies (Aiyar, 2020). The protests are rooted in allegations that the brand-new crook tips will result in abolition of minimal assist prices (MSP) and procurement with the beneficial useful resource of using massive. The new crook tips lose the farmers to promote their produce everywhere in India.

Farmers constitute superfluous than half of India's workforce, but produce slightly a sixth of its GDP (Asia: The Economist, 2020). The tiny length of maximum farms stands out like a sore thumb. Some 86 percent of the landholdings are smaller than hectares. They are shrinking, too, since every successive generation receives to inherit a smaller parcel of farmland.

Ironically, farm inefficiency has its roots in a tangle of crook tips that have been designed to shield smallholders from formidable corporations, grasping middlemen, avaricious hoarders, and ruthless land speculators. In the Nineteen Fifties and 1960s, paternalistic governments, searching for to promote "meals security" and succour the poor, seeded a slew

of well-because of this tips that forbade long-time period contracts to deliver flora to companies, forced farmers to promote their produce mainly wholesale markets and decided minimal expenses for a set of staples. Instead of

defensive farmers those tips uncovered the farmers to extra present-day varieties of exploitation. Agricultural region employs a large chunk of India's population (Wion, 2020). But farmers worry that the modern law need to pave the manner for the withdrawal of the MSP regime through way of way of the authorities. The regime permits the authorities to shop for grain at assured expenses and if withdrawn, need to go away the farmers on the mercy of personal buyers. The authorities of India currently determine MSP for the subsequent 23 farm commodities:

1. Oilseeds such as soybean, sesamum, mustard, sesamum, sunflower, Niger seeds and safflower
2. 7 cereals-wheat, paddy, bajra, jowar, barley, ragi, maize 3. 5 pulses-arhar or tur, chana, moong, urad, masur
3. industrial flora-cotton, sugarcane, uncooked jute, copra.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

1. Primary Data- is collected in the form of questionnaire (google form) taking the responses of the people.
2. Secondary Source Data- that is collected from many websites, newspaper articles, google scholar and OTT platform.
3. Statistical method to represent include percentage, average (pie chart, graph table and diagram).

PROCEDURE

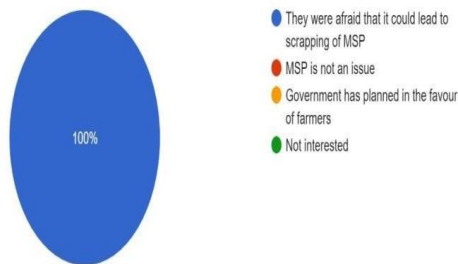
Before beginning the assessment, participants were informed of the study's aims and scope. They received an email with a link to the survey. Before beginning to fill out the questionnaire, the participants were given detailed instructions on the screen. They first answered basic demographic questions like their age, gender, and so on, before going on to whether they had any idea about the Farm Laws and its ongoing protest. They were then

asked about their opinion on the farm laws and if they had anyone affected by it in their family. To maintain confidentiality, they were asked to answer each question honestly.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Why are farmers upset with the Farm Bills?

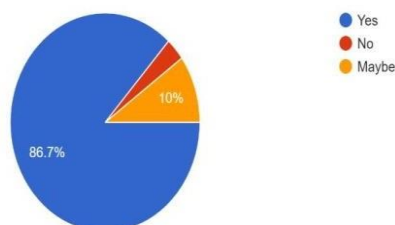
30 responses



This pie chart fully show that the farmers are afraid of MSP (Minimum Support Price) that it could lead to scrapping as no backup by the parliament act and never be enforce legally across the country which also no grantee are verified by the government.

2. Do you know about the Three farm laws passed by Centre?

30 responses



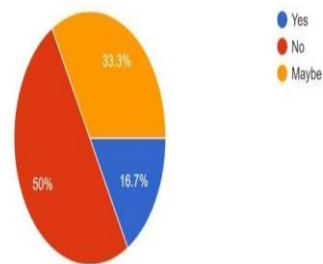
Here, 86.7% know about the three-farm laws that has passed by the Centre that is

1. Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020
2. Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020
3. Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020

10% doesn't know about it and 4.3% are confused about the laws.

3. Do you agree that it was a legal way to consent the 'agriculture bill' by the President of India?

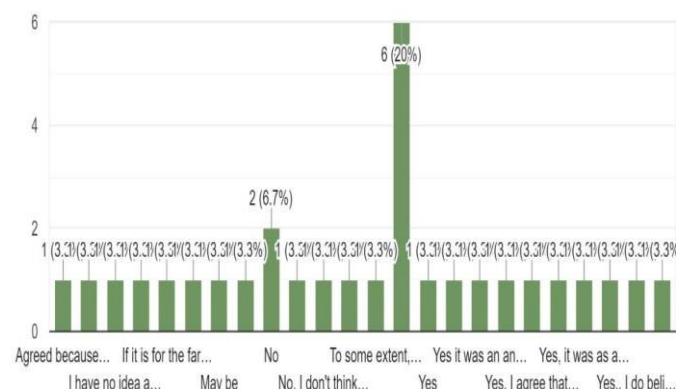
30 responses



50% says „NO“ to consent the bills by the President of India legally. 33.3% are in may be. 16.7% says „YES“ to it. According to democratic it's a legal way to consent but at present the President of India gives assent to the three bills.

4. Do you agree that It was an anti-farmer bill made by Govt of India? Give your feedback.

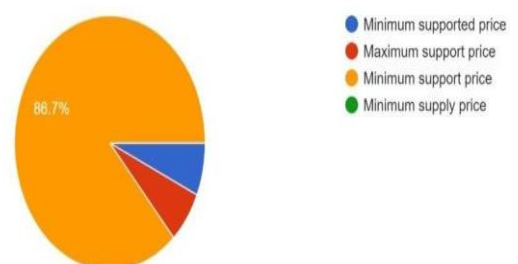
30 responses



This graph shows different responses of the respondents about the bill is anti to the farmers which is no specific answers to it but „Yes“ is the maximum level at the extent as compare to others feedbacks or responses that is 20%.

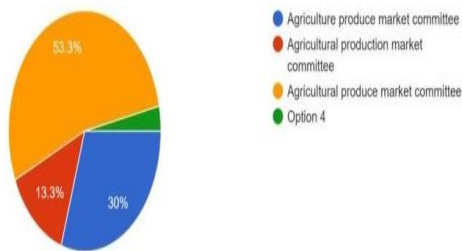
5. What's the full form of MSP?

30 responses



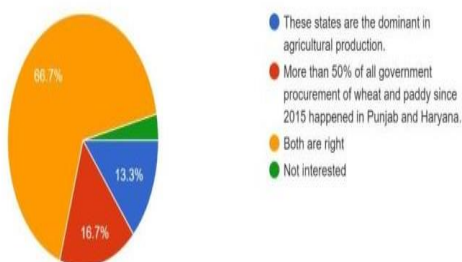
Here, we have asked about MSP what it exactly mean. 86.7% know about it out of 30 responses that Minimum Support Price which mean guarantee safety act market price for a particular crop given by the government of India to the farmers.

6. What's the full form of APMC ?
30 responses



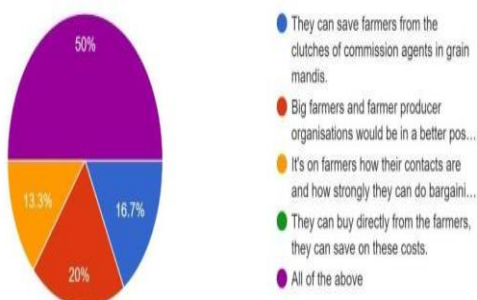
To check how people are aware of APMC- Agricultural Produce Market Committee created by the state government which is marketing board to regulate sell price of produce. 53% knows about out of 30 responses.

7. Why are protests vociferous only from states like Punjab and Haryana?
30 responses



Here, pie chart shows that 66.7% gave to „both are right“ were Punjab and Haryana has dominant agriculture production and more than 50% of all government procurement of wheat and paddy since 2015 in both the states.

8. How do these Bills help the farmer? Will they increase their income?
30 responses



This pie chart shows 50% respondents gave it to „all of the above“ all the point are mention above is the reasons mainly. 13.3% is in the buy directly from the farmers. 20% is in big farmers and farmer producer organisation would be in better position. 16.7% gave in save farmers from clutches.

CONCLUSION

After getting through all of the mention above farm bill was introduced in September 2020 to break the chain of market sell price and middle person or trader but alternatively it will impact more to farmers in terms of MSP as government can't give guarantee safety act or insurance in market price of particular crop. Some scholars say it towards the development and modernisation of the farmers and agricultural produce and its neo-classical economics. It helps farmers to becomes self-reliant rather than exploited by middlemen.

But farmers are still protesting as it will lead to scrapping of MSP. During the protest against the bill many lives has gone and violence has happened especially in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and UP.

After analysing all these things mentioned above, we conclude that the government need to see in many angles in terms of farmers, middlemen and markets before bringing the bill or law into act as India is an agrarian economy country since from the history.

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