

Dear Shri./Smt. XXX

Greetings! We write to you on behalf of all farmers - women and men; landowners, sharecroppers and landless cultivators; dairy farmers and forest gatherers. All of us use our labour to grow crops, collect forest produce, rear animals and poultry, and fish. We take the help of nature in multiplying itself and sustaining life on this planet. We work very hard. In the last ten years, we have raised the production of food one and half times, as you know.

Yet, we find it hard to sustain our own lives and feed our families. We are left at the mercy of market forces and the vagaries of nature. Even in a year when the nature is kind, we do not earn well. Everyone else seems to be doing well. Companies, businessmen, and salaried employees – everyone is earning better. But a farmers' family earns only Rs. 3,884 per month from agriculture and livestock. In most cases, this is far lower than the legally prescribed minimum wages for unskilled workers! A majority of us do not earn even this much, and their monthly expenditure is higher than the monthly income from all sources. Why do we, who actually produce and feed others, lose out continuously?

We realize that the cause of the plight of farmers is not just nature or the market. The political system that you represent is responsible for our situation. Governmental policies are driving the agrarian crisis and farmers' suicides, neglecting a sector that employs 54% of working people. Successive central and state governments have withdrawn or weakened their earlier (and often meager) support. Instead of helping us in this hour of need, we are still being made to subsidize the nation.

Repeated natural calamities over several years now without adequate insurance and disaster compensation, price shocks due to anti-farmer trade policies and agreements, the impact of demonetisation and outcome of decreased public investments on agriculture have left us in acute distress.

Hoping and waiting is no longer an option if we want to survive. For this reason, in late June 2017, in response to the spontaneous struggles of farmers in different states, we formed the **All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC)**. This pan-India alliance has more than 170 large and small farmers' organisations joining hands, to secure at least two demands that we are agreed on: freedom from debt, and full, remunerative prices for all our produce, as entitlements of all farmers.

Since July 2017 AIKSCC has carried out Kisan Mukti Yatras across the country, starting from Mandasaur in Madhya Pradesh, covering the states of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Haryana. These yatras have seen massive participation by farmers and their supporters.

Our demands are basic – if we have to survive, governments must secure for us minimum, stable and dignified income. We do not expect it overnight. But there are two things governments must do straight away to address the acute distress we face right now. One, every farmer must be guaranteed remunerative price for each crop. Two, all of us must be freed from all forms of debt. These are not two separate demands: freedom from debt is not possible without assured income, and remunerative prices will not help if we have accumulated debt. We, the

annadatas, wish to claim our due, we wish to start afresh on a clean slate. We wish to contribute to the making of future India.

On 20th of November 2017, a Kisan Mukti Sansad will be organized in Delhi, during which tens of thousands of farmers from across India, especially women farmers and others, will table a Bill around their two main immediate demands, discuss it and pass the same. Such a Bill will be shared with all parties and those who support the Bill of the Kisan Sansad shall be requested to send one representative to the Kisan Sansad on 21st November late afternoon.

We further urge you to request the Speaker to convene a 10-day Special Session of the Parliament to discuss the farm crisis and put into place concrete, permanent solutions.

We count on your urgent action to address the dire situation farmers of India are facing today.

Sincerely,

Farmers of constituency,

State: