

MEMORANDUM

SUBMITTED ON 20TH DECEMBER 2011 TO THE HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER DR MANMOHAN SINGH BY A JANATA DAL (SECULAR) DELEGATION LED BY PARTY PRESIDENT AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER SHRI H D DEVE GOWDA ON THE PLIGHT OF FARMERS

Respected Dr Manmohan Singhji,

As your good self is aware, farmers across the country are facing serious problems due to non availability of remunerative prices. As of 2010, the production cost of Paddy is Rs.1400-Rs.1500 per quintal in Karnataka. The prices fixed by CACP is only Rs.1110. Similarly, the production cost of sugarcane is Rs.2500 per metric ton but GOI price is Rs.1500. In view of the above, it has become absolutely impractical for farmers to continue cultivation and incur losses in the process.

The National Commission headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan had recommended in 2008 fixation of the Minimum Support Price in more realistic manner by adding 50% towards the take home income of the farmer. As per Swaminathan formula, the paddy price should be Rs2300 and Sugarcane prices should be Rs.3750.

In Karnataka, farmers cultivating paddy in 40 lakh acres have lost Rs.4,000 crores because they could not even realize the actual expenditure incurred by them. Their net loss was to the tune of Rs.10,000/- per acre of paddy.

The CACP price fixation system is not assessing actual expenditure incurred by the farmers while formulating the MSP. The CACP takes into consideration 12 issues that are anti farmers. They include trends in market prices, demand & Supply, effect on industrial cost structure, effect on cost of living, effect on general price level, effect on issues prices and its implication on subsidy, International price fixation and intercrop parity

The Department of Economic and Statistics (DES), GOI, is providing two sets of data, one for fixation of the MSP by the CACP and another for area production, and yield data used by GOI. The GOI uses the area production yield data by DES for official purpose of calculating GDP and other indicators of Planning Commission and also by FAO. The double standards adopted by GOI in adopting the statistical data are totally anti farmer.

The CACP is taking into account three years old input, cost and yields. It does not take into consideration constantly increasing prices of inputs such as fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, diesel and labour cost. The Government of India while fixing salaries for its employees takes into account cost of living index as a major criteria. It also allows the industry to fix own pricing. However, the farmers are not entitled for the price fixation, processing or exports.

In the past 3-4 years, farmers have produced huge quantities of rice, wheat, sugar, cotton and others produce but they are not getting profitable price. The Government godowns are full of rice and wheat but exports are not allowed. There are unreasonable restrictions on export of sugar and cotton.

In 2010, your Government appointed Bhupendra Singh Hooda Committee which made several outstanding recommendations but they are yet to be implemented.

The UPA Government has to seriously consider liberalizing agriculture sector from controls and restrictions. There is also need for allowing technologies specially mechanization to attract youth. Your good self has been encouraging private sector participation including FDI in Agriculture. It is necessary to appoint a regulatory committee while allowing FDI.

It is also submitted that the GOI may seriously consider providing one time support to the farmers by completing all the ongoing and pending irrigation projects. Assured irrigation will increase productivity and give food security.

The increasing disparities between the Urban, Rural and Organized sectors and unorganized sectors are also increasing in a disproportionate rate. The rural people feel let down and are migrating to urban areas.

It is requested that your good self may consider convening a special session of Parliament to discuss the manifold problems faced by farmers across the country, which are driving many of them to take the extreme step of taking their own life.

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The life of an Indian farmer is too precious to be allowed to end in suicide.

We hope and trust that your good self shall treat this as an SOS and do the needful, in the larger interests of the poor and downtrodden farmers of this country.

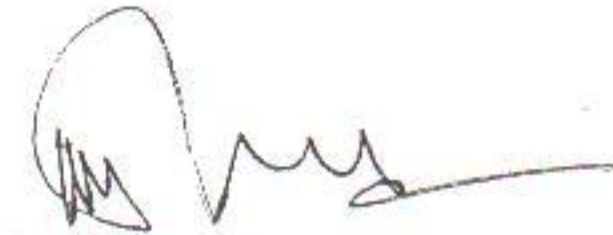
Yours Sincerely,


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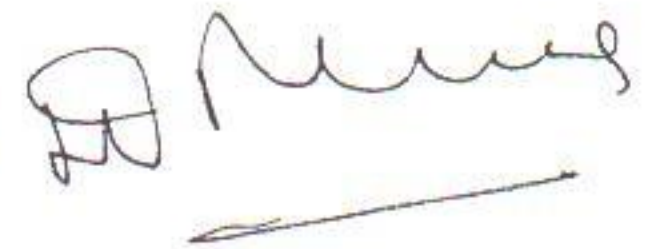
H D Deve Gowda, MP, Lok Sabha and National President, JD (S)

H D Kumaraswamy, MP & President, JD (S), Karnataka

N Cheluvayaswamy, MP, JD (S) 191



H D Revanna, MLA & Leader, JD (S) Legislature Party, Karnataka



Venkatarao Nadagouda, MLA



M. Srinivas, MLA

