

INDIAN WORKERS' ASSOCIATION (G.B)

(HINDUSTANI MAZDOOR SABHA ESTD. 1938)

To urge All the City Councillors to pass resolution in the Leicester City Council against the three anti-peasant laws in India!

Dear Councillors,

Maybe you are aware of that Lakhs of peasants from all over India who have come to Delhi to demand the withdrawal of anti-peasant laws passed by the central government of India, are braving the bitter cold and sleeping rough without any proper facilities since 26th of November on Delhi borders. Men and women, elderly and the youth and even the children of the peasants have come hundreds of kilometres away from their homes.

Farmers who have not been able to reach Delhi have resorted to local farmer rallies/ For example in the south, Karnataka's farmers have held major rallies in Bengaluru and Belgavi. In Maharashtra, more than 15,000 farmers walked down the 7 km Kasara Ghat on the border between Nashik and Thane, then transferring to vehicles for a procession towards Mumbai.

In fact, this cause is now supported by trade unions across the globe including UK public as over 100 MP'S and Lords signed the cross-party letter to the prime minister, given our serious concerns for the peaceful India. Over more than 100,000 have signed the petition to urge the Indian Government to ensure safety of Protestors and press freedom. UK Parliament are considering this for debate.

The three laws passed by the state are openly anti-peasant and are in the service of the biggest of capitalist monopolies, both Indian and foreign. These laws will totally ruin the peasantry, who are already struggling to make both ends meet and many have committed suicides.

The withdrawal of minimum support price (MSP) for the agricultural produce will force the peasants to sell to the private corporates at very low prices, who will then store the produce for some time and then sell at exorbitant prices.

The contract farming would be the corporate contractor, who can always refuse to buy the produce if the market price is lower than contracted price. The peasants cannot afford to take the big contractors to court.

Abolishing or diluting the APMC's (agricultural produce market committees) will benefit the private buyers, who will not have to pay any taxes in their private markets.

The government is spreading lies that these laws will benefit the peasants and that they are being misled by the opposition parties. That is direct insult to their intelligence. It is a tantamount to saying that the peasants do not know what is good and what is bad for them. It is also trying to sow divisions amongst the peasant organisations by insisting on constituting a five-member committee to resolve the issues regarding these laws.

Refusal to withdraw these laws by the centre government shows that they are running the country in the interests of big capitalist. To bring about the change where the interest of wide population is looked after, this system must be replaced with rules of workers and peasant so that they are the decision makers.

Indian Workers Association (GB) fully supports the demands of the peasantry and condemns the central government of India for committing brutal repression on fighting peasants and demands the immediate withdrawal of anti-peasant laws.

Indian Workers Association (GB) requests you and all are your colleague councillors to act quickly to follow up from Leicester City Council to pass resolution to write to the Prime Minister of UK urging him to raise this concern on behalf of the UK Public to the Indian Government about the farmers bills and reconsider their approach. The Government of UK must make a public statement on the farmers protests and press freedom. The farmers in India should be supported to grow organically and their democratic right for peaceful protests should be upheld.

We hope to hear from you very soon.

Sital Singh Gill

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Sir Peter Soulsby

Citywide Labour City Mayor

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Councillor Ruma Ali

Councillor Hanif Aqbany

Councillor Deepak Bajaj

Councillor Dr Susan Barton

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Batool Councillor Lindsay Broadwell

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