

## **PRESS RELEASE**

October 15, 2018

### **Anti-Farmer–Anti-People Khattar Government Exposed!**

#### **Untimely rains, hailstorm & water logging has destroyed 25%-40% of Crops!!**

#### **We demand compensation of Rs.50,000 per acre for Sugarcane Crop and Rs.30,000 per acre for Cotton/Paddy Crops!!!**

Rampant bungling and malfeasance in procurement of Paddy and Bajra crops have broken the back of Haryana's farmers. The double whammy is that on one side, farmers are being deprived of even MSP and on the other side, untimely rains – hailstorm – water logging has destroyed 25% to 40% of crops.

Farmer is facing insurmountable misery and exploitation as an autocratic Khattar Government has become a mute spectator to the loot of farmer's hard work and livelihood. By not conducting a 'Special Girdawari' and by not paying a single penny of compensation, the anti-farmer face of Khattar Government has got unmasked.

#### **Insurmountable Destruction Caused to Farmer's Livelihood by Unprecedented Rains, Hailstorm and Water Logging**

The entire State, especially North & South Haryana, saw unprecedented rains between 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 causing irreparable loss to the Sugarcane, Paddy, Cotton and Bajra crops. Cotton farmer was expecting a yield of 50 Maunds (20 Quintals) on account of bumper crop but the rains dashed all expectations and the actual yield is coming out to be 20 Maunds (8 Quintals) approximately. Same calamity has befallen the Bajra crop, where it has been affected by the high moisture content on one and blackening of millet gram on the other hand. Paddy farmers have suffered even a worst fate. The entire basmati varieties of 1509 and 1121 paddy have completely fallen wiping out the earning and livelihood of paddy farmers.

Even today, thousands acres of crops in Dadri, Badhra, Mundhal, Jhajjar, Meham, Julana, Safidon, Jind, Kaithal etc., are under acute water logging but Khattar Government is in deep slumber. On the other side, extensive damage has been caused to Bajra and Cotton crops in Narnaul, Mahendergarh, Kanina, Bawal, Rewari, Haily Mandi, Farukhnagar etc. in Southern Haryana by untimely rains.

Heavy and unexpected hailstorm-rains-windstorm of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 has caused extensive damage to the rice and sugarcane crops in Ambala, Yamuna Nagar and Panchkula districts of North Haryana.

Despite all this, Khattar Government has neither ordered any 'Special Girdawari' nor has given compensation of even a single rupee. Even, no compensation has been demanded by Khattar Government from Government of India.

#### **Malfeasance & Bungling in Procurement of Paddy and Bajra Crops**

Minimum Support Price (MSP) of paddy is Rs.1770 per quintal, but in almost all grain markets, farmer is being duped and deceived because PR paddy is being sold at rates that are Rs.150 to Rs.200 per quintal below the MSP i.e. about Rs.1575-1625 per quintal. What is even more shocking is that official Form-J reflecting procurement by government is being shown at Rs.1770 per quintal. This bungling and fraud was brought to the notice of the senior government officers but no heed was paid. Question is – In whose pocket is this difference of Rs.150-200 per quintal going by looting the farmer?

The fraud in purchase of Bajra crop is even bigger. Minimum Support Price (MSP) of millet is Rs.1950 per quintal but more than 70% of farmers got only Rs.1300/1350 per quintal. This can be confirmed from the grain markets of Rewari/Bawal/Ateli/Kosli/Kanina/Farukhnagar/Narnaul/Mahendergarh. Reason is obvious. Khattar Government has made the registration of every farmer on e-portal compulsory. Most of the times, internet does not work and farmers have to wait for upto 3-4 days for simple registration on e-portal. On top of it, if Khasra and Khewat numbers do not correctly record the name of the farmer, the purchase of Bajra at MSP is denied. In addition, it is compulsory for a farmer to have a bank account and a mobile phone. In case, the mobile phone and bank account is in the name of a relative or a family member, purchase of Bajra at MSP is yet again denied. So much so that Khattar government has refused to procure more than 8 quintals of Bajra per acre. Whatever is grown by the farmer in addition thereto has to be sold in the open market and no MSP is assured. Question is – Who is responsible for the loss caused to farmer of Rs.650 per quintal on MSP?

**Unprecedented rise in the price of Fertilizers & Diesel has caused economic misery to the farmer – Will affect even the sowing of Wheat Crop.**

In May 2014, a 50 kg bag of DAP Fertiliser was priced at Rs.1075. In 53 months of BJP Government, price of this 50 kg DAP bag has gone upto Rs.1450. This is an increase of Rs.375 per bag of DAP. A 50 kg bag of Potash Fertilizer used to cost Rs.450 in May 2014, which has increased to Rs.969 as on date. Hence, in 53 months of BJP government, it has increased by Rs.505 per bag. In case of Urea, BJP proceeded to steal 5 kg of Fertiliser from every bag by reducing the size of the bag from the 50 kg to 45 kg without reducing the rates.

In case of diesel prices, farmer has suffered even more. In May 2014, diesel was sold at Rs.55.49 per litre, which has increased to Rs.74.03 per litre today. In 53 months of BJP Government, diesel prices have gone up by Rs.18.54 per litre. In Haryana, Khattar Government increased the VAT on diesel from 9.24% to 17%. What is shocking is that in the period between 2014-15 to 2017-18 and the 3rd Quarter of 2018-19, Khattar Government has collected Rs.27,985 crore by taxing on petrol/diesel through increased VAT.

**Our Five Questions:**

1. When will Khattar Government conduct a 'Special Girdawari' and grant compensation for the Sugarcane, Paddy, Cotton and Bajra crops?
2. Is Khattar Government not conducting a 'Special Girdwari' to benefit the private companies in the Fasal Beema Yojana??

3. Who is responsible for the loss caused by purchase of paddy at Rs.150 per quintal below the MSP? Will Khattar Government get an enquiry conducted to do justice to the farmers?
4. Who is responsible for the loss caused by purchase of Bajra at Rs.600-650 per quintal below the MSP? Will Khattar Government undertake to pay the full MSP to the farmers?
5. When will Khattar Government undertake measures to give relief to the farmers against the spiraling prices of Fertilizers and Diesel?

