

Solidarity Demonstration by AIBEA-DSBEF In support of agitating farmers at Tikri border in Delhi

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Ever since the launching of the agitation by the farmers against the farm laws enacted by the Central Government, we have been supporting their struggle and demands. We extended our support to their All India Bandh programme on 8th December, 2020 through Badge wearing, placards display, participation in demonstrations, twitter campaign, etc. We gave the call for Skip your Lunch programme on 24th December, 2020.

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Our unions and members in various States have also been participating in the local programmes at various places. Because the Farm Laws are retrograde and not in the interest of farmers, we fully support the demands of the farmers. We also published a booklet on the details of the issues involved and why farmers are agitation. Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 : This Act means to bypass the state-level APMC Acts and can hence be referred to as the APMC Bypass Act . This Act limits APMC's jurisdiction to the APMC market yard. Outside of the market yard, entities are free to transact in agricultural produce. Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 : This Act provides that the stocking limits are not prescribed except when prices go up 100%. Hence big businesses can pile up huge stocks without any restrictions and manipulate the market as well as the price. Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 : This Act enables contract farming to the detriment of marginal farmers and there is every danger that the corporates will grab the lands of the farmers. The fear and apprehensions of the farmers are very genuine. Cartelisation is possible. Hence it is the duty and responsibility of the Government to address their concerns. Unfortunately, the Government has taken an adamant attitude and hence the agitation by the farmers is continuing. Instead of finding ways and means to find solutions, the Government is applying pressure tactics, and coercive methods to divide and weaken their struggle. But farmers are determined to carry on their struggle. We have to salute them for their determination. Their struggle is an inspiration to all of us. In continuation of our support and to express our solidarity, under the banner of AIBEA and Delhi State Bank Employees Federation, a supportive demonstration was organized yesterday (7-2-2021) at Tikri borders in Delhi/ Haryana. The demonstration was led by Com J P Sharma, Vice President of AIBEA and General Secretary of Delhi State Bank Employees Federation. Various leaders and activists of our organisation participated in the programme. Com J P Sharma addressed the farmers and conveyed the support of AIBEA to their struggle. We urge upon the Government to take urgent measures to resolve their demands. If the Government continues to be hostile to their demands, and if the farmers' agitation is intensified further, AIBEA will decide further solidarity programmes.