Topic of the week for discussion: 22nd to 28th June 2017

Topic: Killed for demanding the promised

Killing, looting and destruction are the effects of a mere demand for profit. An effect, of the cause, which our Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated, and it was the promise to provide an additional 50% over the input cost. Farmers have also demanded for a loan waiver like other states of our country. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab have been given a loan waiver several times. The farmers are just asking the NDA government to stand by its lofty promises. The heinous disaster is the outcome of low Minimum Support Price (MSP) and government's indifference towards the farmers.

While campaigning for elections in 2014, the now **PM Narendra Modi** said, "If BJP government is elected to power, I assure you that we will device a procedure for deciding MSPs of agriculture commodities. We will take into consideration expenditure made by farmers for seeds, irrigation water, electricity, farm equipment, medicines, fertilizers and other input costs. Then over the input cost we will add 50 per cent profit of farmers. So, if Rs 100 is the input cost, MSP will be Rs 150." Mr. Modi had foreseen that these reforms will help to create unfavorable circumstances for the farmers to commit suicide. May be the PM was right about it as it resorted in **murdering** the farmers. The farmers chose dignity and rebellion over self-pity this time.

The irony, a dark one on that, is that **Abhishek Patidar** and **Chain Ram Patidar**, who were killed in an **open fire by the police**, weren't even protesting. They just wanted to watch the protest in action when they turned from witnesses to victims in no time. Abhishek wanted to be a **doctor** and Chain Ram an **Army man**. Who knows if they could achieve what they wanted but Chain Ram had **cleared all the exams** except the **eyesight test.** The moaning from the inside of the room of the 400 sq feet thatched house was loud and clear to everyone except the government. Chain Ram had just gotten married! He was **shot in the head** and dragged by the leg like an animal.

Maharashtra's government must be adroit in what it does as it was still able to convince the representative of the protest, Jayaji Suryawanshi of Puntabe, to call off the strike without consulting the rest of the farmers. The farmers could not be befooled as they were bent over to have their demands met. This rebellion and fervour of the farmers resorted in the helpless and hopeless **CRPF and police force** to **shoot six protestors**. **Shivaji Singh Chouhan** has finally valued the dead at **Rs. 1 crore** each as the initial bids of Rs. 5 lac and 10 lac didn't ring a bell. No, it wasn't "literally" an auction but **tur, urad and moong** are up for trade and would be purchased from farmers from June 10 to June 30. Twenty days of prosperity is worth all the hassle!

Home Minister Bhupendra Singh told NDTV that the police did not shoot at the crowd in the central city of **Mandsaur**, 325 km from the capital of **Bhopal**. He claimed it were "anti-social elements". But he was contradicted by a senior official, Ujjain and Division Commissioner OM Jha, who told the news agency IANS, "Around 2 pm, in order to control the agitated farmers, the police had to open fire in which two farmers died and several others were injured." At least **Mandsaur** is no more a nondescript thing. It is of no surprise that the government has suspended internet services in areas like **Indore**, Ujjain and **Dewas**, all in the **western part** of the state to camouflage the opprobrium.

Topic Introduction At a grass root level, the whole hiccup has stemmed from illiteracy, corruption and poor governance. The farmers are **not aware of their rights** and have negligible knowledge of the agricultural trade. The farmers in more advanced states like **Punjab and Haryana** are aware of the system and don't surrender to the tradesmen on anything lower than the **MSP**. The people of **Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh** lack the **confidence to question the system** and are not able to plan the recurring expenses as well. They also need to know **how to invest the money they borrow** and **not use** it up for their **personal needs** like a daughter's wedding or a son's education. **Corruption** is not something that we are estranged with. The crops in the **storage** are not managed well or sold out efficiently, leading to a deficit in the treasury. At times, the stock is officially **declared as destroyed while it is sold under the table**. Sometimes it is actually just wasted.

The government needs to come up with a **holistic and multi-pronged** approach to address the issue. Only a dynamic approach will be able to help the economic breakdown of the farmers. Putting the political **blame game to an end**, the **politicians** should act like **public workers** and have a sense of compassion and kindness. If they can't be anything but useless, at least they can pay heed to the farmers' pain and punish the murderers in uniform for the *cold blooded killing* and relieve the people of this heart rending curse of death.

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http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/prime-minister-narendra-modi-farmers-protest-madhya-pradesh-maharahstra/1/976002.html

http://www.firstpost.com/india/madhya-pradesh-protests-no-hope-on-a-bleak-horizon-for-families-of-youth-killed-in-police-firing-3540447.html

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/madhya-pradesh-farmers-protest/liveblog/59030061.cms

http://indianexpress.com/article/india/madhya-pradesh-farmers-protest-5-farmers-killed-in-police-firing-admits-home-minister-bhupendra-singh-rahul-gandhi-congress-bjp-4694234/