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PRESS STATEMENT

AIIEA EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH THE FARMERS' AGITATION

The All India Insurance Employees' Association condemns the brutal manner in which the Central Government and the Haryana Government are trying to suppress the struggle of the farmers who are the backbone of Indian economy.

All the major Associations of the Farmers in this country decided to organize a "Delhi Chalo" program on 26-27 November in protest against the three Farm Bills passed in the last session of Parliament without any discussion. The Haryana Government used tear gas shells, water cannons and other violent methods to prevent the farmers from Punjab and Haryana to reach Delhi. But these violent acts of the State could not succeed in stopping the march of farmers to Delhi. Tens of thousands of farmers now are on the borders of Delhi demanding repeal of the Farm Acts. They have also been demanding reconsideration of the Electricity (Amendment) Act.

Ever since the government decided to bring legislations to reform agriculture, first through Ordinances and then through Bills, there have been agitations across the country by the farmers associations. The farmers hold firm opinion that the Farm Acts are not in their interests and will place them at the mercy of the corporate sector. But the Central Government ignored the apprehensions and fears of the farmers and moved ahead to bring these anti-farmer legislations. The government appears to be in no mood to listen forcing the farmers to take up the path of agitation. The present agitation of the Farmers is to force the government to repeal Farm Acts and to make the Minimum Support Price as recommended by Swaminathan Commission, a legally enforceable right.

The All India Insurance Employees' Association expresses deep solidarity with the ongoing agitation of the farmers. The AIIEA demands the government to engage the farmers in a dialogue and concede their just demands. The government should take measures to make the Minimum Support Price a legal right. The AIIEA warns against any attempt to brutally suppress this peaceful agitation which would be counter-productive and harm the national interests including the food security.

SHREEKANT MISHRA

GENERAL SECRETARY