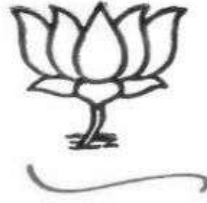


Jagat Prakash Nadda
National President



भारतीय जनता पार्टी
Bharatiya Janata Party

My Dear Capt. Amarinder Singh Ji,

I have come to know from the media that you have written some letter to me on 1st November, 2020, although till this moment I have not received any such letter from your side. It seems that you had prepared this letter only for the media, and not for actually sending it to me, which means that your purpose was only and only political and you have no concern in the solutions of the issues raised in this letter. However, still I am replying to this letter received by me through this media, so that your attempt to deliberately mislead the public is not allowed to succeed..

In this regard, I would like to submit that the Parliament of India enacted 3 Acts (*The Farmers' Produce and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; The Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance, and Farm Services Act, 2020; The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020*) after thorough discussion on the issue in both Houses of the Parliament, i.e. the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. In the debate, members of all the political parties, including the members of your party, i.e. the Indian National Congress, participated. You are well aware that even in the election manifesto of the Indian National Congress, you had mentioned about enacting such laws, in case you come to power. The Acts are in the best interest of farmers and intended to enhance their incomes by providing choice and options to farmers on where to sell. You are also aware that the Act did not abolish the APMC or indicated any intention to abolish MSP. The farmers of Punjab have always been a pride of the nation and it is for this reason that the Central Government accords the highest priority in matters of MSP procurement to that State. It was expected that after your own promise in the election manifesto and after such laws having been enacted by the Parliament and, that too, after detailed debate and detailed discussion, you and your party being

responsible citizens of India will abide by the law and will stand by the law as made by the Parliament of India.

Unfortunately, you and your party started opposing these Acts crossing all limits of decency and propriety. You and your party openly encouraged agitations against these Acts in the State of Punjab, participated in dharnas and rallies and openly issued very provocative statements encouraging agitations against these Acts. Your Government added fuel to the fire by openly declaring that you will not lodge any FIR against the agitators, even if they indulge in road dharnas, Railway Tracks blocking, etc. etc. Not only that, you went a step further by enacting State Laws against the Central Acts, which are pending consideration before the competent authority at the moment.

Capt. Amarinder Singh Ji, as the Chief Minister of the State, you would appreciate that no one can be allowed to block roads, railway tracks, etc. etc., in any agitation and if any agitation has to be carried out, it has to be at places other than the roads, railway tracks, railway stations, etc. etc. This has been reiterated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **2009 (5) SCC 212 Destruction of Public and Private Properties vs. State of Andhra Pradesh & Others**.

However, I am pained to say that you, your party and your Government in Punjab have shown little respect and regard for the directions of the Supreme Court and openly encouraged blockade of roads, railway tracks, railway stations, etc. etc. In spite of all the obstructions the Central Government gave the top most priority to procurement of paddy. The progress so far in Punjab confirms the honest intent of the Central Government to stand by the farmers of Punjab and to help them earn higher incomes.

In response to your letter dated 25 October, 2020 addressed to Sh. Piyush Goyal, the Railway Minister of the Government of India, Mr. Piyush Goyal wrote back on 26 October, 2020 pointing out the reasons as to why it is not possible to operate trains in the State of Punjab. He was kind enough to reiterate the intention of the Government of India to start running not only the goods but even the passenger trains also in the State of Punjab. Unfortunately, you and your Government did not take any steps to ensure the clearance of the railway tracks, to ensure the security and safety of the railway tracks as well as to ensure the

security and safety of the railway staff who will be operating the trains, which would have paved the way for running of trains in Punjab.

I share your concern about the situation in the State of Punjab, but in my view you are fully responsible for the unfortunate situation that has emerged in the State of Punjab. The Government of India is very keen to run trains in the State of Punjab, but unfortunately you are not performing the role that is expected of you and your Government in the State of Punjab.

Needless to say that the farmers of the entire country including Punjab have contributed a lot for the upliftment and over all development of the entire country. The BJP keeps the farmers in high esteem and is always committed to take all positive steps for their betterment. As a matter of fact, these 3 Acts have been enacted with a view to help the farmers, bring them out of the clutches of the middlemen and give them a wide range of the whole country, for selling their products anywhere in the country they may like.

You would be aware of the massive improvement in various agriculture parameters between 2013-14 and today. MSP has been increased in line with recommendations of Swaminathan Committee to ensure a return of at least 50 percent over cost of production. While the MSP of paddy and wheat have increased by 43% and 41% respectively and total value of procurement of paddy and wheat has increased by 138% and 122% respectively. Even in the current Kharif season, compared to last year, paddy procurement has increased by 30% in Punjab and 19% across India. All the above are proof of BJP's sincerity towards the farmers of Punjab.

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji has repeatedly said that MSP shall not be withdrawn and will continue to be there. His assurance has been repeated by me and by the Agriculture Minister of India also. However, for the obvious political reasons, you and your party are still making false statements that MSP has been withdrawn or will be withdrawn.

I would request you to kindly ask your party leaders not to issue statements, which are far far away from truth, which have the tendency of inciting and agitating the agitators and which are not in the interest of the entire country, including the State of Punjab.

I can assure you that the BJP is committed to the welfare of the farmers and is taking all steps which are in favour of the agriculturists, agriculture and the country.

Thanking You
&
With Regards,

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jagat Parkash Nadda', written over a horizontal line.

(Jagat Parkash Nadda)

Capt. Amarinder Singh
Hon'bel Chief Minister
State of Punjab
Chandigarh.