

A few days back, the Kurukhetra Zila Krishi Evam Grameen Vikas Bank Samiti a wing of Haryana state co-operative agriculture and rural development Bank has published the photos of farmers in a vernacular daily in Haryana. The Govt officials claimed that these farmers are defaulters who failed to repay the loans and the banks have resorted to this move as part of their “name and shame” plan and to “create discipline among the loanees for better loan recovery”. The state co-op Agricultural and Rural Development Bank even asked other banks to refrain from lending money to the 21 defaulter farmers who owe the bank sums ranging in few lakhs of rupees.

Quite justifiably, this move has immensely pained, humiliated and angered the farmers in Haryana who are already in serious distress owing to huge losses due to successive crop failures.

Dharampal, a farmer whose photo was published in the news paper said : “It is out of compulsion that we have not paid the loan instalments and not because of choice.” “I had sown regular and the premium basmati variety of rice this season, but the prices have crashed so badly that I have not been able to even to recover even the cost of inputs. The govt should understand our pain and lend a helping hand so that we can live with dignity”. Kanwar Pal, another farmers said : Such acts are an insult to the entire farming community. “Out Plight is in front of everyone. The Govt should come forward and waive our loans”.

The farmer’s organisations in Haryana have come out sharply criticising the govt. They warned that such acts may push farmers to more suicides. “It is adding insult to injury. Farmers are reeling under debts because of govt’s policy failures. And now they are being humiliated publicly”.

The governments at the centre as well as states, irrespective of which party or coalition of parties is heading them, are allowing the imperialists and Indian corporate houses to rob our country’s natural and economic resources in thousand and one ways. Writing off thousands of crores of debts payable by the big business houses is one among them. The agriculture is opened for systematic and massive loot and control by the imperialists and Indian corporate houses. Dependent on uncertain rains, lack of irrigation facilities, battered by cyclones and floods, denied by economic support, minimum support price for the produce and rising costs of inputs and needs of life the agriculture is driven into worst type of crisis and ruination. The poor and landless poor-the main producers and other toiling poor associated with and dependent on land and agrarian economy are losing their rights over land, massively being displaced and deprived from lands, habitats and means of livelihood and starvations and suicide deaths are on the rise and are becoming a matter of daily life. In situation like this, the moves such as the one resorted to by the banks in Haryana would only trigger off strong reactions from the farmers. There is also a limit for the patience and stamina to endure sufferings among the people.

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