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- ❖ **October Revolution Centenary**
- ❖ **The Czech Elections**
- ❖ **Demagogy of the Media**
- ❖ **Medical Tourism**
- ❖ **Service Sector**
- ❖ **Maldives & Climate Change**



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Third Concept aims at providing a platform where a meaningful exchange of ideas can take place among the people of the Third World. The attempt will be to communicate, debate and disseminate information, ideas and alternatives for the resolution of the common problems facing humankind. We welcome contributions from academics, journalists and even from those who may never have published anything before. The only requirement is a concern for and desire to understand and take the issue of our time. Contributions may be descriptive, analytical or theoretical. They may be in the form of original articles, reactions to previous contributions, or even a comment on a prevailing situation. All contributions, neatly typed in double space, may be addressed to:

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Designed by: Pt. Tejpal

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Deliberate Pretermitt

Despite agriculture being the major mainstay of Indian economy and the only means of livelihood of the major chunk of rural population, this sector is seemingly falling a prey to deliberate pretermitt on the part of the present dispensation at the helm. Farmers' suicides, their protests and their miserable plight throughout the country have failed to bear fruitful results. Constitution of high-powered committees and their recommendations from time to time to ameliorate the conditions of the farming community have also conked out in their efforts. In March 2015, the Ramesh Chand Committee in its report suggested a new formula to calculate the Minimum Support Price (MSP), which if implemented, could help the MSP to rise by over 50 per cent. The government was also called upon by the Committee to while calling upon the government to modify all instances where the MSP was found to be lower than the cost of production, the Committee also drew attention to the recommendations of the Swaminathan National Farmers Commission that had made analogous recommendation decades ago. No concrete action has thus far seemingly been taken on these recommendations and media reports indicate that farmers are often forced to sell their produce below the MSP across the country.

Undoubtedly, the ostentatious launch of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to provide crop insurance to 90 million agricultural households had raised high hopes for the farming community; nonetheless, media reports have made it discernible that only 20 per cent of the eligible farmers were covered and most farmers had no idea about the scheme. According to one opinion, a whopping amount of Rs. 13,240 crore of taxpayers' money found its way into the bank accounts of private insurance companies that more often than not refused to pay, making a variety of excuses. While addressing the plight of farmers by adhering to concrete pragmatic policy measures also entailing fiscal measures and incentives, they should be enabled to avail of latest farming tools and technology. The recommendations of the Task Force on Organic and Non-Chemical Farming, appointed by the Central government as well as the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Committee on Estimates headed by Murli Manohar Joshi on organic farming should be accorded priority in implementation.

Some experts have drawn attention towards unfair trade policies that have reportedly been detrimental to the interests of farmers. It has been opined that at times of high production, import policies have been tweaked to allow for cheap imports, decimating the farm economy. While drawing attention of the national government to the fact that at times when all over the world, governments subsidise and take care of their farmers, experts point out the Central Government should brook no delay in ameliorating the plight of the farmers and save them from being pushed to the wall. Politics should not be allowed to become a stumbling block in bringing farm community to the national mainstream of development, especially by preventing them from falling an easy prey to the tenterhooks of the multinational enterprises (MNEs), which often emphasize agriculture by small farmers is not viable. Viewed in a broad perspective, MNEs experience of taking over agriculture in Some African countries and resultant creation of mass poverty is an alarming lesson for India. Agriculture has to be saved from MNE take over.

Time has come to clean all the mess afflicting the agriculture sector. Adequate measures should be adhered to tone up the ailing health of agriculture sector and bring it back on the trajectory of growth. There is need to build resilience of the farming community to combat with vagaries of climate change and make it capable of adopting essentials of climate-smart agriculture. Agriculture is the greatest consumer of water and in view of the shrinking water resources and augmenting level of water pollution, wastewater needs to be recycled, especially for agriculture sector to ensure food security. Strong determination coupled with a sincere will-power is required at this juncture to solve the problems confronting the agriculture sector. Hurdles will come, but the bar of the determination should be high enough to deal with it. The government should walk the talk and refrain from making tall promises to hoodwink the farming community. Let the farmers be the harbinger of a strong and prosperous India.

— BK