



COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST)

21st Congress

Samar Mukherjee Nagar

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Resolution

On massive crop losses due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms

The 21st congress of the CPI(M) expresses serious concerns at the massive crop losses sustained by millions of peasants all over India due to the unseasonal rains and hailstorms during the last few weeks. According to official figures, over 106 lakh hectares of cultivable land has been seriously affected and the crop loss is worth thousands of crores of rupees.

Rabi crops like wheat, fruits and vegetables have been destroyed in at least fourteen states due to this natural calamity. Some of the major affected states include Jammu & Kashmir, Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Coming on top of drought in some of these states that has adversely affected the kharif crop, the destruction of the rabi crop due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms has broken the back of the peasantry and has driven innumerable peasants to suicide.

The response of the BJP-led Central Government and that of most state governments to this national tragedy has been condemnable to say the least. No immediate help to the peasantry in distress is forthcoming in the form of compensation. Hardly any succour can be expected from the notoriously inadequate crop insurance scheme either. Coming on top of the chronic agrarian crises which is a result of the neo-liberal policies pursued by the Congress and BJP-led Central Governments over the last two decades which has led to peasant suicides to the tune of over 3 lakhs during this period, this latest tragedy has brought the peasantry to the brink of an abyss. Many more suicides have been reported due to the current losses.

The 21st Congress of the CPI(M) demands that the Central Government immediately sanction and provide full compensation to all peasants in the country and agricultural workers and artisans who are affected by this calamity; compensation for loss of human lives and livelihood; compensation must be assessed on a scientific and democratic basis; radical expansion of the MGNREGA is essential. It also demands that the state governments redouble their efforts for providing relief to the affected people. The 21st Congress of the CPI(M) stands in solidarity with India's farmers and the demand for relief.
