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₹8cr spent on ads for clarifying farm bill issues, govt tells RS

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New Delhi: Amid protests against farm laws, the Centre has spent nearly Rs 8 crore on advertisements and production of promotional films for clarifying on contentious issues on the legislations ever since these were enacted in September last year. The agriculture ministry on Friday also claimed to have consulted states before promulgation of ordinances and during the period also reached out to Indian diaspora with its "considered position and useful information on the farm laws" through diplomatic missions.

These efforts, however, did not cost anything as it was done as part of regular diplomatic works.

Agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar shared this information through his written answers to different Parliament questions on farm laws in Rajya Sabha.

Responding to a question on expenditure incurred on government's 'Myth-busting



Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar during the Budget Session of Parliament in Rajya Sabha, in New Delhi on Friday

on Farm Laws' publicity campaign, Tomar said the Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) of ministry of information and broadcasting had committed over Rs 7.25 crore for release of advertisement on issues related to farm laws' publicity campaign in the country between September 2020 and January 2021 on behalf of his ministry.

The money was spent on print advertisements through BOC in Hindi, English and regional language newspapers for "clarifications related to farm laws inclu-

ding on myth and realities etc. for creating awareness among the farmers and other stakeholders".

In addition, the agriculture ministry had incurred an amount of around Rs 68 lakh on production of three promotional and two educational films on farm laws for its wider publicity through electronic media, social media and webinars, among the farmers and other stakeholders. Besides, miscellaneous expenditure of over Rs 1.50 lakh was incurred on development of creatives for print advertisement.

HC notice to Haryana govt over Nodeep's 'harassment'

Chandigarh: Taking suo motu cognizance of the alleged custodial harassment of 23-year-old labour activist Nodeep Kaur by Haryana Police, the Punjab and Haryana high court on Friday issued notice to the Haryana government, seeking its reply on the issue by February 24.

Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi of the HC observed, "Complaints dated February 6 and February 8 have been received through e-mail regarding illegal confinement of Nodeep Kaur, a Dalit labour activist, by the Haryana Police, and, under the orders of Justice Jaswant Singh, (the e-mails) have been treated as criminal writ petition and ordered to be listed on judicial side." The registry of the HC has been directed to hand over a copy of the petition to the state government counsel. TNN