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SC moots panel for farmer-govt. talks

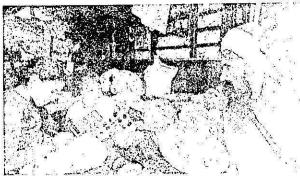
Bench observes that the current negotiations have broken no ground and are bound to fail

RRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

31-19 101-1.111 Talks between the Union government and farmer leaders on the three controversial agriculture laws had broken no ground and were bound to fail, the Supreme

Court said on Wednesday. A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India (CJJ) Sharad A. Bobde, proposed the setting up of a committee of farmer leaders from across the country, including the Bharativa Kisau Urtion (BKU) that has been at the lorefront of the protests, and government representatives to re-

solve the issue. "The committee can talk and resolve this issue. Secure



tanga legeous: A girl attending online classes at a makeshift living space at the Singhii border. *susiii кимак ускма

the names of some farmers' unions who want to join... It should include the BKU and other farmer leaders. They should be drawn from across the country. It affects all and this will soon become a na-> tional issue," the CII said.

The court has impleaded BKU (Rakesh Tikait), BKU-Sidhupur (Jagjeet S. Dallewal), BKU-Rajewal (Balbeer

Moral victory, say farmers

Farmer leaders welcomed the SC's observations as a "moral victory", but said that setting up a new panel as proposed by the top court would not resolve their concerns. They also sent an official rejection of the Centre's proposals. → PAGE 9

Singh Rajewal), BKU-Lakhowal (Harinder Singh Lakhowal), BKU-Dakaunda (Buta Singh Burigill), BKU-Doaba (Manjit Singh Rai) and Kul Hind Kisan Federation (Prem

Single Bhaugu). Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the farmers had turned their back on the government's elforts to talk.

"The government is ready and was ready. But they [farmers] say 'either you repeal or not repeal. They came to talks with placards saving 'yes or no'. Ministers tried to talk, but they turned their chairs and sat with their backs turned to the Ministers... It is my duty to tell this court some other interests have taken over... We want a positive, constructive talk on a clause-to-clause basis," he submitted.

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