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Karnataka legislative assembly, research and reference branch

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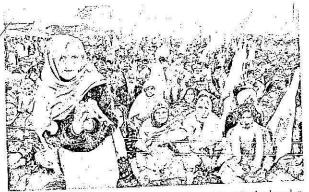
SC move a moral victory: farmer unions

'Setting up new panel will not resolve concerns

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ NEW DELHI

Farmer leaders welcomed the Supreme Court's observations on Wednesday as a "moral victory", but said that setting up a new committee as proposed by the top court would not resolve their concerns. They also sent an official rejection of the Centre's proposals to amend the three farm Acts, vowing to continue their agitation until the laws are repealed.

"The Supreme Court advice to the government is a moral victory for farmers," said a statement from the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, one of the protesting farmer groups. "Committee forma-



Standing firm: Farmers and their families at the Singhu border on Wednesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

tion will be fruitful only after the laws are withdrawn and the representatives of all national and regional farmers' organisations are represented in a decisive manner and should therefore be done only after repeal of the Acts," it said. Several farm leaders refused to comment until they had seen a copy of the SC proposal, but others seemed to reject the proposal. In private, they expressed fear that the petition in the court had been stage-managed by the government to end the protests.

"The SC can and must decide on the constitutionality of the three farm Acts. But it is not for the judiciary to decide on the feasibility and desirability of these laws.

'Centre's failure stands exposed'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal leader Daljit Singh Cheema alleged that the Centre was depending on "motivated pleas in the Supreme Court to forcibly remove the congregation of peaceful farmers". This highlighted the failure of the NDA government, he said.

That's between the farmers and their elected leaders. SC-monitored negotiation would be a wrong path," Swaraj India president Yogendra Yadav said in a tweet.

"Setting up a new committee by the court is not a solution," said Abhimanyu Kohar, spokesperson for the Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh, adding that a committee of

farm unions have been engaging in several rounds of talks with the government.

Earlier in the morning, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha officially rejected the Centre's written proposal for amendments.

"We want the government to stop maligning the movement and stop parallel negotiations with other farmer organisations," said the email.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, addressing a farmers' gathering organised by the BJP in Gwalior, said the farmers of Punjab were being misled, and confusion was being created among them. "However, millions of farmers are supporting the agrarian reforms. Farmers are eager to use these laws, so the Congress and some other Opposition parties are creating a deadlock," he stated.