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# Tomar appeals to farmers to give up 'stubborn' stand

Agriculture Minister calls for clause-by-clause discussion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the tenth round of talks scheduled on January 19, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Sunday appealed to the protesting farm leaders again to give up their "stubborn" stand on the new farm laws and come for a clause-by-clause discussion.

Speaking to the ANI news agency, Mr. Tomar said the government was willing to consider the objections of the farmer unions to the three laws and discuss them with all seriousness and an open mind, if they were willing to put forth any proposal other than the revocation of the laws. He added that the laws were for the entire country and "most of the farmers, intellectuals, agri-

Centre is willing to consider the objections if farmers put forth any proposal other than the revocation of the laws

NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR  
Union Agriculture Minister

culturists and scientists favoured them".

The Minister said the government had held nine rounds of talks and was willing to address the farmers' concerns on various issues, including *mandis*, registration of traders and registration of agreement for contract farming.

Condemning the Minister's statement, Bharatiya Kisan Union general secretary Yudhveer Singh said the

government had revealed its true intentions before the meeting and was not serious about considering the farmers' demands. He, however, added that the unions would attend the meeting. He said the farmers were determined to go ahead with the tractor parade, and the responsibility of any untoward incident if they were stopped lay with the administration.

Darshan Pal, president, Krantikari Kisan Union, Punjab, said the NIA was harassing those taking part in the agitation or supporting it. He said people running *langars* (community kitchens) or helping the families of those killed during the protests were not just being sent notices, but also being slapped with cases of sedition.