Marking 30 Years of Transformative Journeys



National Alliance of People's Movements

National Office: A/29, Haji Habib Bldg., Naigaon Cross Road, Dadar (E), Mumbai – 400014 Social media: @napmindia | E-mail: napmindia@gmail.com | Web: www.napmindia.org

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To, Respected Siddharamaiah Sir, Honourable Chief Minister, Karnataka

Namaste,

I am again writing to you regarding another issue, on which the farmers, labourers, small scale traders are struggling in a non-violent manner to save their life and livelihood. As you already know that in the Devanahalli area, more than 6000 acres of land was acquired during the last few years, and those affected really faced hell and are still suffering to get themselves resettled and rehabilitated.

Sir, you also know that it was UPA government, during which the LARR Act, 2013 was passed and that gave a great relief to the project affected people since they were given space and participatory rights in the decision making process as Gram Sabha's/ Municipality/Municipal Corporation and yet in many of the states after 2013 different Acts/policies were passed using the right of the State, since land acquisition is in the concurrent list.

But Respected Siddaramaiah Sir, we don't expect the government under your leadership to really resort to some other state level Act like the Karnataka Industrial Board to bypass all these participatory and democratic process in decision making, we also expect that you would stand with the farmers, small traders and all those whose livelihood depends on the land which is proposed to be acquired for the industrial estate and when all of them are not even for seeking cash compensation, which mostly leads to misuse of cash or even corruption, they are for saving their only source of livelihood which they have been dependent on since generations.

Hence, we never expected that repressive measures will be taken up by the police administration under your leadership, we also expected that you would convince your cabinet ministers and take a decision to save this land for protecting food security. Respected sir, we still expect that your government would be prodialogue as UPA government always was and decision to repeal this proposed project would be taken up.

While we are not necessarily against industrialization per se, but the multiple crop prime agriculture land should not be the cost to be paid by the "Anna daata", the feeders, the farmers, who are not even getting their minimum support price, but still they are serving the citizenry of this country.

We would like industries to be as decentralised, giving priority to these small industries, cottage industries, village industries that would generate employment rather than the mega-industries. Also, the land to be used for non-agricultural purposes should be mostly the government land and waste land and not the prime agriculture land.

Hence, I really appeal to your conscience and cabinet ministers, including the industry minister Mr. M B Patil, to really take cognisance of the people's views and perspective of development and really repeal the proposed project and save their livelihood which is a part of Right to Life, under Article 21 of the constitution.

Thanking you and expecting a positive response through the dialogue that you are likely to be held with the representatives of the people in the region to be affected, land to be held on 4^{th} of July, which I will also like to attend, but not being possible, so this is a letter to request you from the bottom of my heart.

Thank you so much

Medha Patkar Social Activist