Twitter Thread by Vandana ■■



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@1967Vandana



A farmer from Abohar - Fazilka region of Punjab has the following to say..
I have been actively farming for 2 decades now & I have witnessed many things happening at the APMC's..I have seen classification of C grade grain miraculously change into B grade..
Similarly I have also

witnessed the weigh bridge weigh in the empty truck at 39 tons and the full truck at 55 tons and later found that the unloaded truck weighed 43 tons at another weigh bridge.
There are over 30,000 registered arthiyas in Punjab.
These 30,000 employ another 3,00,000 sub agents or

sidekicks or people who wouldn't have made it into doing anything anyplace were it not for the patronage network of these 30,000. There are only 1500 farming villages in Punjab.
So 3,30,000 divided by1500 is about 220 people on average per village doing the work of middlemen.

Why is this the case? It's a long story and high time people are made aware.
We had a food shortage & a hand to mouth existence until the 1970's.
Norman Borlaugh pioneered a variety of wheat which gave 10 X the yield but needed 3X the fertiliser.

The Punjab was chosen as the battleground against hunger. Enterprising Sikh farmers worked hard to create what we know as the Green Revolution.
Since there were huge shortages, laws were made which didn't allow for stockholding or selling at farm gates.

Then came the Essential Commodities Act/
APMC Act (farmers were compelled to sell only at APMC's to licensed traders - remember license permit quota Raj)
As an assurance to the farmer for his hard work, Minimum Support Price(MSP) was guaranteed..

No matter what the quantum the sarkar would pick it up & provide farmers with a minimum amount as compensation per quintal or ton as the case maybe..
Getting money out of the sarkari treasury was a laborious process. Thus was born the breed of middle men who walked the corridors

of power & worked with corrupt sarkari babus! Not forgetting political patronage! Thus networks flourished..
220:1 is the ratio of middlemen to a single village in Punjab today..
This business got integrated backwards &
corruption was professionalized..

For instance there are families who own very large tracts of land (100 acre plus holding)..
The thekedar comes & takes the theka of growing on the land. For those unfamiliar with the word, Theka is also referred to as contract. I know there are grumblings about corporates

contracting with farmers directly now. I also know why. You should too.
Anyway to cut a long story short plenty of farmers do not receive their due at the end of each cropping season..
What is grown?
What grade or quality?
For how much is it sold?

For how much is it sold?
Would it have fetched a similar price in the open market?
Where is it sold?
How is it sold?
Who's the end beneficiary?
Does anybody consume it or does it go waste?
Was there a better way to do what's being done?

Does anyone care to think on the above questions?
As long as 1receives his cheque why should he care?
The Jamkhedkar committee reports that over 40%of the grain acquired under MSP by FCI is either unfit for consumption or is simply wasted.1out of every 2 kgs acquired is wasted..

Years of corruption have today given birth to this..
MSP has ensured that there is no necessity to seek a profitable enterprise..
It has also given birth to the patronage networks which survive off the sarkari treasury and refuse to breakaway..

It has given rise to a political class which thrives & survives on corruption n dishonesty
There was no sunset clause on this. Nobody foresaw a time of surplus production on food grains..
Result is other states like Haryana, UP, Bihar, Rajasthan & MP all produce surplus of grain

They also have their own MSP mechanisms which have proliferated & created similar political patronage networks..
Since more is acquired at Mandis in Punjab, grain from UP/Bihar also find their way into the mandi system of Punjab..
The trucks being under weight and over paid for &

the grades changing are common malpractices. One can go for a few days to the mandi & figure out how to make a killing by doing this..
Soon enough, you will also be one of those "know it all" in the mandi. After all information is power
All this is paid for by you dear tax payer

The annual bill for this is approximately 8 lakh crores.
Why don’t the farmers grow something else?
Something more profitable?
The truth is if I am being paid for doing 'NOTHING', why bother with competing!
What is the incentive to compete?

I would rather go and picket the roads leading into Delhi to ensure that the existing system isn’t threatened..
QUITE A RACKET!!!!!!!!
WHAT A SHAME!!
#ModiHaiToMumkinHai
#ModiWithFarmers
#BharatBandhNahiHoga

Long thread my friends..
Tagging
@mayfair1958
@shivaniojha
@rohit121171
@aparnasridhar7
@chittukuruvi4
@JumbuTweeple
@SriRamya21
@Maha_periyava_
@ind_vignesh