



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

19th February 2021

Jew Confrontation,

RE: INDIAN FARMING REFORMS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of farming reforms in India; your comments upon which I have read with interest.

I understand that the Indian Government has recently passed a series of Bills which introduce reforms to farming in India. While this is of course an internal matter for the Indian Government, I appreciate the concerns you have about the impact these reforms will have, particularly on the livelihoods of farmers in India, and I shall ensure that Ministers are aware of them.

I know that the Government is conscious of concerns in India, and from communities in the UK, about the agricultural reforms and I am encouraged that the Foreign Secretary, the Rt. Hon Dominic Raab MP, discussed protests on this issue with his counterpart, Minister of Exterior Affairs, Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, during his visit to India in December.

I am told that the UK supports marginalised farmers through technical assistance programmes which strengthen the quality and productivity of local natural resource infrastructure, and by building state and local government capabilities to deliver improved social protection.

I appreciate your particular concerns about what you consider to be shortfalls of the Infrastructure Technical Co-operation Facility (ITCF) and I will gladly relay this to Ministers at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), and likewise on the issue of UK pesticide exports to India.

I also appreciate your strength of feeling about the abolition of the Minimum Support Price in particular, and the consequences this will have on those in the largely agricultural state of Punjab. I shall raise this point on your behalf too.

Importantly, the UK believes that the right to peaceful protest is a fundamental freedom that should be guaranteed in democratic societies. Democratic governments also have the power to enforce law and order if a protest crosses the line into illegality. I know that Ministers continue to urge restraint and proportionality in any response to peaceful protest, encourage all sides to respect the rule of law and basic freedoms, and refrain from violence. I will therefore ensure that they are aware of the concerns you have about the situation in India.



Ultimately, it is because of the UK's close relationship with the Government of India that difficult issues can be discussed, and concerns raised, where they exist. Going forward, like you, I will be following developments closely.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,
Tom*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**