

Socio Economic Ethos of Peasants In India

Kunal Mishra

ABSTRACT: Largely India is known as the land of villages and villages are the land of peasants where farmers constitute 70% of its population. Demographically India is constituted with four regions and in all regions farmers cultivate land and provide food to the nation. These farmers toil for the nation in the economic growth of the country and thereby there is the slogan 'Jai Kishan'. Farmers are the main source for providing raw materials to the modern industries and they work hard for producing agricultural product but seldom the peasants get enough profit for sustaining their families. During the Gupta Period the production of the agricultural products was high and the peasants had affordability. During the period of Akbar to Aurangzeb the economical condition of the peasants were not sound, even then, the peasants were to pay 60% of tax to the emperors. During the British Era there was development of technology and modern education spread in India but there was no agricultural development. There have been great famine in India since 1614 to 1965. The history has recorded that, "Men deserted their wives and children's, women sold themselves as slaves. Mothers sold their children. Children deserted by their parents. Some ate carrion flesh. Others cut off the corpses of men and drew out the entrails to fill their bellies". Such a situation has not been occurred in India now; even if there is famine in Maharashtra. These days all the news papers and other sources of media cover the plight of peasants every day. By now a large number of peasants have taken their death in their own hand. Although natural disaster is a part, socio economic factor for the death of the peasants is much more. Therefore there is the need for an academic study. The Article will cover the related issues and possible solutions through which the suicidal death of the peasants can be evaded.

KEYWORDS: Peasants, Poverty, Production, Yojana, Planning

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I. DIMENSIONS

From time immemorial agricultural sector has been constituted as the largest safety net in the Indian Economy. It has absorbed the largest workforce of India's economy in both farm and non farming occupations. Agriculture is the life line and the principal means of livelihood for one third population in India. Agriculture provides employability about 65% of the total work force. It has been the largest contributor to the income of the country. India got her independence in the year 1947 and the constitution of India came into force in 1955. The Constitution of India in its seventh schedule has enunciated about agriculture. The farmers who produce agricultural production are known as the tiller of the soil. A large part of productivity growth in Indian Economy relates to agriculture. There is a saying that "when history sleeps it sleeps in dreams, when it wakes up it appears in action". For about last 70 years we inculcate for economic development through agriculture planning after planning have been formulated but its implementations are not eye catching.

II. RETROSPECTION

There was a period when it was shortage of food in India. Due to famine 50 millions of people died in Odisha and Bihar. The gleam picture of the famine was in towns and villages. Food Grains were imported from different countries and ration shops established in India during sixties. Although there has been much improvement on food production even then the tiller of the soil find insecure in their socio economic life. The Times of India in a news item on 3rd May, 2017 has stated that, over 12,000 farmers suicides per year, which has been reported to the Supreme Court by the Centre. The table given below gives a clear picture about the suicidal death of farmers in India for various socio economic reasons especially to vigoor povertiness

Table No-1: YEAR WISE NUMBER OF SUICIDAL DEATH FROM 1995 TO 2016

Year	Number of Suicidal Death	Reasons
1995	10,720	Failure of Crops, Lack of satisfactory support price
1996	13,729	for crops, Not enough water for irrigating crops,
1997	13,622	Lack of immediate access to market for crops and
1998	16,015	storage facilities, Hard line loan recoveries
1999	16,082	attainment of the Banks, Selling of Land to pay
2000	16,603	back loan amount
2001	16,415	
2002	17,971	
2003	17,164	
2004	18,241	
2005	17,131	
2006	17,060	
2007	16,632	
2008	16,796	
2009	17,368	
2010	15,964	
2011	14,027	
2012	13,754	
2013	11,772	
2014	12,360	
2015	12,602	
2016	6,867	

Source: Odisha Reference Manual 2016

When there has been shortage of food the government is alert and in its five year plan (1961-66) it has given much emphasis for buffer food production in India and thereby there was Green Revolution in 1968. The causes of green revolution were:

- 1) High Yielding Varieties of Seeds
- 2) Intensive Agricultural District Programme
- 3) Supply of Chemical Fertilizers
- 4) Extension of Irrigation Area
- 5) Multiple Cropping Facilities
- 6) Availability of Modern Agricultural Machinery
- 7) Opening of Agro Service Centres
- 8) Creation of 17th Agro Industrial Corporations in different states to make cheap and good machinery available to the farmers
- 9) Credit Facilities through nationalised banks and cooperative banks
- 10) Research Centres carried out programme on improvement of agriculture
- 11) Universities were set up in Assam, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh
- 12) Agricultural Engineering Colleges were setup by various state governments
- 13) Scheme for Plant Protection was initiated
- 14) Unregulated Mandis became regulated and provide marketing facilities to the farmers
- 15) Government appointed agricultural costs and price commissions to protect the farmer in selling their products at a lower costs
- 16) Extensive Rural Electrification was carried out
- 17) Soil Testing Facilities Provided
- 18) Crop Insurance was initiated through General Insurance Corporations (GIC), Agricultural Insurance Company of India Ltd (AICIL)
- 19) Programme of Soil Conservation was launched

As an empirical study after the causes it is to know the effects of Green Revolution. Green Revolution in many ways has influenced the Indian Economy. It provided a base to prepare plan proposal for the five year plan of the government. Since 1968 onwards the productions of crop have been increased rapidly. It was happened because of the new agricultural policy of the government. In this policy government allocated capital for agricultural production and thereby farmers who were in possession of four or more hectares of land could benefit of the capitalistic farming. It affects the rural employment as because the farmers could use equipments for tilling their lands. No doubt the demand for labour became go down due to the increasing use of tractors and other machines but multiple cropping and use of fertilizers for farm labourers were in demand. The food production was more but it caused unemployment in the rural sector. Because of the improved condition of production there was the prosperity of farmers and it tends for many professional to carry the agricultural occupation. It influenced the luxuries and demand for quality groups in the society. The buffer food production, imports of food grains came down which promoted self reliance in India. The buffer production influenced the industries in India and there by large number of tractors, harvesters, threshers and other equipments were manufactured and fertiliser factories were established in Public Sector. Further it affected the rise of prices even then food production utilised as there was huge population. India is a country where 15.3% of national income was contributed by agriculture and 12.7% of the total exports were of agricultural products which helped in stimulating growth of industries. All those affects on consumers, trade and forth coming planning policies of the government.

III. EFFECTS OF GREEN REVOLUTION

India witnessed Green Revolution for the new agricultural policy of the government. Years after years Government of India in its Planning Forum has allocated funds for agricultural growth. The following table speaks about the allocation of funds for agricultural sector in different five years plan.

TABLE NO-2: ALLOCATION OF FUND DURING FIVE YEAR PLAN

Five Year Plan	Plan Period	Allocation of Fund (In Crores)	Percentage of Total Plan Outlay	Production (Lakh Tonnes)
1 st Plan	1951-56	290	15%	693
2 nd Plan	1956-61	549	12%	823
3 rd Plan	1961-66	1089	13%	728
4 th Plan	1969-74	2320	16%	1047
5 th Plan	1974-78	4865	12%	1320
6 th Plan	1980-85	6624	6%	1465
7 th Plan	1985-90	12792	6%	1760
8 th Plan	1992-97	23281	4.7%	1379
9 th Plan	1997-2002	42462	2.1%	2025.8

Source: Planning Commission Report: TENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN 2002-07

IV. ASSESSMENT

In the tenth plan period (2002-2007) there was a total outlay of Rs 58,933 crores spends for the development of Agriculture and other related activities. It was targeted for the agricultural growth to be enhanced up to 4% per annum. For the growth of agriculture the government took steps on the following:

1. Development of Irrigation through enlarging and maintaining canals, promoting minor irrigation projects by conserving rainwater.
2. Development of rural infrastructure like construction of village roads, availability of power, construction of warehouses for storing agricultural produce, etc.
3. More expenditure on availability of high yielding variety seeds, fertilizers.
4. Eliminating inter-state barriers for facilitating marketing of agricultural produce.
5. Promoting agro-based industries, agricultural exports and agro trading.
6. Utilisation of wasteland and underutilised land.
7. Consolidation of landholdings was taken on priority basis.
8. Promoting agricultural research and ensuring that benefits of agricultural research reach all the farmers so as to increase agricultural yield/productivity.

The Government prioritized for agricultural growth during the eleventh plan period 2007-2012 and there by a total plan outlay of Rs 1,36,381 crores was spend. It was aimed for the growth rate of agriculture to 4% per year and the intention was to improve the agricultural production to meet the demands of the rising population and increase the income of the farmer. For this the government took certain measures which are;

1. Special efforts were made to raise the growth rate of agriculture by 4 per cent per year.
2. Focus on agricultural research to raise agricultural productivity.
3. Development of better seeds, plant varieties, fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural equipments. Use of bio-fertilizer was promoted to enhance soil health.
4. Increase in irrigation facilities and efficient use of water resources. For this highest priority was given to complete more irrigation projects in the minimum possible time.
5. Enhanced facilities for agricultural credit and revival of cooperative credit.
6. Improvement in skill development in the farming community for adopting modern methods of agriculture.
7. Development of modern agricultural markets and more marketing support to farmers.
8. Completing unfinished agenda of land reforms.
9. Improving dry land farming practices.
10. Promoting agro based industries and agro exports
11. Utilization of waste and underutilized land.

The Twelfth Plan Period started from 2012 and during 2012-2017 the government made a plan outlay of Rs 3,63,273 crores spent for the development of the agriculture by achieving a growth rate of 4% per annum in order to develop agriculture. The objectives of this plan was to ;

1. Focus on agricultural research to raise agricultural production and productivity. Development of better seeds, plant varieties, fertilisers, pesticides and agricultural equipments.
2. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana will be promoted to achieve broad based, more inclusive second green revolution in the country.
3. Use of new technology and knowledge for boosting agriculture production.
4. Increase in irrigation facilities and efficient use of water resources.
5. Enhanced facilities for agricultural credit and revival of cooperative credit.
6. Strengthening Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure.
7. Improving dry land farming practices.
8. Promoting agro- based industries and agro-exports.
9. Utilisation of waste and under-utilised land.
10. Promoting agricultural mechanisation.

In implementing all, the government at large has succeeded to be self sufficient in food production. But there are certain areas where the food production became very low due to natural reasons and government disparities. Because of this in some part of the countries there has been acute poverty in India. As per the report of the Reserve Bank of India the people below poverty line is;

TABLE NO-3: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE

Year	State/ Union Territory	Rural			Urban			Combined	
		No. of Persons (Thousands)	% of Persons	Poverty Line (Rs)	No. of Persons (Thousands)	% of Persons	Poverty Line (Rs)	No. of Persons (Thousands)	% of Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2011	Andhra Pradesh	6,180	10.96	860.00	1698	5.81	1009.00	7878	9.20
(Base	Arunachal Pradesh	425	38.93	930.00	66	20.33	1060.00	491	34.67
don	Assam	9,206	33.89	828.00	921	20.49	1008.00	10127	31.98
MRP	Bihar	32,040	34.06	778.00	3775	31.23	923.00	35815	33.74
Cons	Chhattisgarh	8,890	44.61	738.00	1522	24.75	849.00	10411	39.93
umpt	Goa	37	6.81	1090.00	38	4.09	1134.00	75	5.09
ion)	Gujarat	7,535	21.54	932.00	2688	10.14	1152.00	10223	16.63
	Haryana	1,942	11.64	1015.00	941	10.28	1169.00	2883	11.16
	Himachal Pradesh	529	8.48	9313.00	30	4.33	1064.00	559	8.06
	Jammu & Kashmir	1,073	11.54	891.00	253	7.20	988.00	1327	10.35
	Jharkhand	10,409	40.84	748.00	2024	24.83	974.00	12433	36.96
	Karnataka	9,280	24.53	902.00	3696	15.25	1089.00	12976	20.91
	Kerala	1,548	9.14	1018.00	846	4.97	987.00	2395	7.05
	Madhya Pradesh	19,095	35.74	771.00	4310	21.00	897.00	23406	31.65
	Maharashtra	15,056	24.22	967.00	4736	9.12	1126.00	19792	17.35
	Manipur	745	38.80	1118.00	278	32.59	1170.00	1022	36.89
	Meghalaya	304	12.53	888.00	57	9.26	1154.00	361	11.87
	Mizoram	191	35.43	1066.00	37	6.36	1155.00	227	20.40
	Nagaland	276	19.93	1270.00	100	16.48	1302.00	376	18.88
	Odisha	12,614	35.69	695.00	1239	17.29	861.00	13853	32.59
	Punjab	1,335	7.66	1054.00	982	9.24	1155.00	2318	8.26
	Rajasthan	8,419	16.05	905.00	1873	10.69	1002.00	10292	14.71
	Sikkim	45	9.85	930.00	6	3.66	1226.00	51	8.19
	Tamil Nadu	5,923	15.83	880.00	2340	6.54	937.00	8263	11.28
	Tripura	449	16.53	798.00	75	7.42	920.00	524	14.05
	Uttar Pradesh	47,935	30.40	768.00	11884	26.06	941.00	59819	29.43
	Uttarakhand	825	11.62	880.00	335	10.48	1082.00	1160	11.26
	West Bengal	14,114	22.52	783.00	4383	14.66	981.00	18498	19.98
	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4	1.57	-	0	0.00	-	4	1.00
	Chandigarh	-	1.64	-	234	22.31	-	235	21.81
	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	115	62.59	-	28	15.38	-	143	39.31
	Daman and Diu	0	0.00	-	26	12.62	-	26	9.86
	Delhi	50	12.92	1145.00	1646	9.84	1134.00	1696	9.91
	Lakshwadeep	0	0.00	-	2	3.44	-	2	2.77
	Puducherry	69	17.06	1301.00	55	6.30	1309.00	124	9.69
	All India	216,658	25.70	816.00	53125	13.70	1000.00	269,783	21.92

Source: Handbook of Statistics on Indian Economy, Published by RBI on 16th September, 2015

The reasons behind poverty are numerous. From the reports and news headlines it has been estimated that the Crop Diversification Programme, Land Holding and Land Use Pattern, Failure of Crop Insurance Programme, Hard Liners of Financial Institutions, Natural Calamities, Rising of Landless Agricultural Labourers, Low Productive of Land, Migration of Large Rural Population to Urban Centres, Migration of people to other states for livelihood, Seasonal Farming, Absence of Consolidation Local Pani Panchayats, Drought, Inundation Of Water, Mortgaging of Standing Crops to the Landlords, Limited Credit Facilities of Banks, In Organised Credit System, High and Multiple Interest, Growth of Chit Fund, Inadequate Infrastructure like Soil Testing Laboratories, Storing, Transportation, Marketing, Dysfunctional of Agro Based Industries, Rampant corruption from Grass root level are the major cause of poverty. Besides all those factors, heavy pressure of population, Increase in prices, Less National Income, Slow Economic Growth, Under Employment, Backwardness in Agriculture, Capital Deficiency, Lack of able and efficient entrepreneurs, Non development of capital and producers goods, Outdated social institutions, Under utilisation of natural resources, Lack of energy,

Unequal Distribution of Income, Lack of Technical Education and Poor Work Culture are the hindrances in the alleviation of poverty in India.

MEASURES TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION OF FARMERS:

A number of following programmes have been launched by government to eradicate poverty in general. Those are like Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Sarpurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), National Food For Work Programme (NFWP), Establishment of Small and Cottage Industries, Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SSRY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Besides this there have been differential rate of interest scheme, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, Concessional Loan to start Cottage and Small Industries, Minimum Needs Programme, Twenty Point Programme, Annapurna Scheme, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, Atal Pension Yojana, National Family Benefit Scheme, Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY) Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Bharat Nirman, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana, Rajib Awas Yojana, National Food Security Act, Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme, Village Grain Banks Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Jan Surakshya Yojana, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Unorganised Workers Social Security Act. All these programmes sound much but practically there is lack of awareness among the people who live in villages. The benefits of all those programmes go to middle men as there is no special work force to look after it at ground level. There are certain reasons for which there is poverty of farmers in India. Practically a large number of areas are not covered with irrigation facilities. Most of the peasants work in the land for the landlords and major share of the production go to the landlord. It is difficult on the part of the poor farmer to manage the agricultural land properly. Most of the farmers live in villages and they are illiterate and therefore do not know the scientific method of agriculture. Another reason is to cultivate seasonal crop like Paddy, Grams and Wheat. There is lack of awareness to cultivate high yielding other products by dint of which three to six months the farmers engage themselves in the field and the rest period they depend upon other manual works or sit idle. Most of the people at rural areas have the love for staying in their villages and they do not want to go other places for work during these six months. So there is inadequate purchasing power to maintain their family for the whole year. The Government has launched employment programme through the above schemes at their door step. But the care takers of these programmes are mainly given to the Block and Gram Panchayats and they seldom carry out the programme. Even if in this 21st century there have been instances of death due to malnutrition and lack of availability of food at rural areas. The most of the share of launching the developmental economic programmes of the government either influence by the influential people with political patronage or with the having persons in the rural areas.

V. CASE STUDY

In a cover story of the Economic Times Magazine December, 24-30, 2017 Aman Sharma has written that One Madhusudhan Patida at Barkheda Panth village sold his last crops, urad (black gram) and soyabean, at below the minimum support price (MSP) and he ended with a loss. The year has been bad for the family- in June, Patidar lost his 19-year-old brother

Abhishek to a police bullet after farmers' protests broke out in Mandsaur. The agitation, which led to the death of six farmers, made Mandsaur the epicentre of the agrarian distress in the state. However, among the big states reporting a high number of farmer suicides, Madhya Pradesh is the only one which has said a complete no to a farm loan waiver. In the state

where the Bharatiya Janata Party's Shivraj Singh Chauhan has been at the helm for the last 12 years and will ace his big test in next year's assembly election, the trick lies in giving record interest-free loans to farmers and introducing a scheme that covers their losses if their crop ends up being procured for less than the MSP. (The Economic Times Magazine December, 24-30, 2017)

VI. CHALLENGES

The hardest hit among the villagers are the peasants. They have but a limited choice of the cultivation that are open to the villagers in general. Therefore when their agriculture slip away from their hands, they become like the beasts of burden. The villagers in general are not much better off today. Bit by bit they are being confined only to the hand to mouth business of scratching the earth. Few know today that agriculture in the small and irregular holdings of India is not a paying proposition. The peasants live a life less life. Their life is a process of slow starvation. They have been burdened with debts. The money lender lends or the financial institutions who lend money to the farmers demand money as soon as the harvest season is over. They are not able to listen anything and thereby out of the pressure the farmers sometimes go for the death. He can do know otherwise. He will loss all if he does not. This system of life lends baffles investigation. We say about mechanisation; mechanisation is good when the hands are too few for the work intended to be accomplished. It is an evil when there are more hands then required for the work. As in the case in India one cannot use a plough for digging a

few square yards of a plot of land. The problem is not how to find leisure for the teeming millions inhabiting in villages. The problem is how to utilize the peasant's idle hours, which are equal to the working days of six months in the year. People who are in high position of government also do not understand the plight of the farmers. When the farmers need a consolation, the caretaker humiliates in words.

On 30th January, 2018 a news item reflected in the Economic Times Page 3 with the caption "Death in Mantralaya Farmers Suicide may hit Maha Government". In addition it is imperative to quote the news item. "In 2013, a stray remark by the then Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Ajit Pawar, who, while responding to farmers' demand for water said: "If there is no water in the dam, should we go and urinate," had cost his government dearly. The comment gave the BJP a perfect stick to thrash the government with. On Sunday, the BJP government in Maharashtra faced its 'Ajit Pawar moment' when an 84-year old farmer Dharma Patil died due to bureaucratic negligence. Dharma Patil, a farmer from Dhule, had come to the Mantralaya (state secretariat) for a meeting with Energy Minister Chandrakant Bawankule. Patil was seeking to rectify a faulty compensation he received. He got just Rs 4 lakh for his 5 acres of land which was acquired for a thermal power plant in 2009. Patil's contention was that a neighboring farmer, with not even half the land that he had, got Rs 1.89 crore as compensation. However, Bawankule's office cancelled the meeting. A frustrated Dharma Patil, who had met several government officials before this, consumed poison in Mantralaya. He was admitted to the government-run JJ Hospital where he passed away on Sunday night. The incident led to a huge backlash against the BJP-led government and turned to be a huge public relations disaster as news of Patil's death spread. Patil belongs to the Maratha community. "This is worse than what Ajit Pawar said in 2013, because at least then he was joking. Here, a person has been killed because of the utter lack of empathy by the government and its bureaucracy. This is not a suicide, this is murder. This 84-year old man has been running from pillar to post but the state did not help him, which forced him to take his life," said Raju Shetti of the Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana (SSS), a former ally of the BJP government, which broke away from the government last year" Recently about twenty to thirty five thousand peasants went on in a morcha to gherao the Maharashtra and press for their demand on 12th March, 2018. They went for a 180km stretch from Nasik to Mumbai to show an impact of the protest. Throughout the march additional farmers joined in the morcha. As per the news capsule they were saying "We are not demanding anything wrong, why cannot farmers get a lone waiver, we are not looting banks and running away. What is wrong in demanding a minimum price for our crops. Earlier, when the farmers had demanded complete loan waiver, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, said was not possible to fulfil it as the state did not have funds. The Chief Minister had also said, "some people who can win local body polls are making such demand. It was taken as a reference to Ajit Pawar, the General Secretary of the Maharashtra Kishan Sabha, a farmers wing of the CPM that had demanded complete loan waiver. Officials in the State Government said a complete farm loan waiver would prove counter productive for the farmers". People have taken five to twenty lakhs loan. If we pay up that then the state will have no money for any irrigation projects like building dams, farm ponds or any other farmers scheme," said a State Government official. Another official said, "if tomorrow a hailstorm hits a region then we would not have money to even pay the farmer to buy seeds again for his fresh crop, forget giving him compensation". The State Government over the last two budgets has earmarked more than 35,000 crores for various farmers projects. On Sunday Irrigation Minister Girish Mahajan met the protestors and urged them to the Chief Minister to for a solution. Now, however, said protestors will surround Maharashtra Assembly building indefinitely till the government gives a written assurance that their demand would be fulfilled. Now question arises why such a morcha moved to gherao the Maharashtra Assembly. The reason was the 2015 drought affect. To it a news caption in the Times of India dated 4th April, 2017 reported by Bhavika Jain is given below:

"Even as the agriculture sector shows signs of recovery from the severe 2015 drought, the sugar industry is yet to get over it. The crushing season for 2016-17 has officially come to an end and it has recorded the lowest sugarcane crushing and production of sugar in the last 10 years. A total of 371.4 lakh metric tonnes of sugarcane was crushed in 147 mills across the state producing 417 lakh quintal of sugar. These figures are even lower than in 2008, when another severe drought had hit Maharashtra. Officials say the price of sugar is expected to rise owing to the shortfall in production. Maharashtra is one, of the largest producers of sugar in the country. "This has been an exceptionally difficult year with the losses mounting. This is bound to have a cascading effect next year," said a senior official from the State Sugar Mills Association. Sugar retail prices are hovering around Rs 38-40 as against the normal prices of Rs 32-34. The worse-hit at the moment are the sugarcane farmers, who have lost income to the tune of Rs 6,000 crore due to low production. The area under sugarcane cultivation shrank to 6.3 lakh hectares in 2015-16 due to the drought from 10.3 lakh hectares the year before. Thus the total sugarcane production in 2016 was 4.5 lakh metric tonnes against a total harvest of 7.3 lakh metric ton in 2015. The dip in sugarcane production is due to the drought in 2015. Sugarcane is an 18 month crop and the cane sown in 2015 was harvested in the end of 2016. With one tonne sugarcane said to be

fetching a minimum of Rs 2,000 for the farmers, even by conservatives they have made losses worth Rs 6,000 crore, say industry experts. They add that the total agriculture loss due to the severe drought in 2015 cannot be accounted for, but losses will continue to impact the farmers indirectly.

Last year, a total of 178 sugar factories were operational; this year 31 didn't even start operations due to lack of raw material. And 120 of the 147 that were working shut in January. Most of the mills are situated in the sugarcane belt of western Maharashtra and Marathwada. The industry has accrued cumulative losses of Rs2,500 crore over the past few years and has asked the central government to restructure term loans worth Rs 6,500 crore for 10 years, including a moratorium of three years and seven years for repayment. In the following table the burden of sugarcane farmers can be well accessed in the context of above perspective

TABLE NO-4: YEAR WISE SUGAR PRODUCTION & CANE CRUSHED

	Cane Crushed (Lakh metric ton)	Sugar Production (Lakh quintal)	147 crushing factories operational in 2016-17 against 178 in 2015-16
2016-17	371.4	417	Sugarcane cultivation shrank to 6.3 lakh hectares in 2015-16 due to drought from 10.3 lakh hectares the year before
2015-16	742.9	841.5	
2014-15	930.4	1051.4	

Source: The Times of India dated 04th April, 2017, Pg.09

From the above table it is analysed that the sugarcane product from 2014 and 2015 has been continuously diminished as the production in 2014-15 was 1051.4 lakh quintal. In 2015-16 it became 841.5 and in the 2016-17 it became 417. The figure indicates that for different reasons the farmer did not toil his field. Such a situation was also found in Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh produce high yielding of sugarcane. But the situation was such that the sugar mills did not purchase the sugar cane and there was no facilities to store the production. As a result of which farmers were forced to burnt the sugarcanes. Even till today the farmers who had sold sugar cane to the sugarcane mills have not got their payment. Definitely such a situation and demand of the financial institutions threatening the farmers to auctioning the land by indulging goons create a havoc and there is turmoil in the social life of the peasants. It is one of the other cause for which the peasants are forced to take their life.

VII. CONCLUSION

We are making five year plan year after year for the economic development for the economies and agricultural development of the farmers. But we do not plan to create storage facilities in every Block or in every Panchayats. The result is that due to inadequacy of storage facilities the farmers are forced to keep their production outside which becomes a perishable commodity if there is rain. Such a situation arised in Chattisgarh. Chattisgarh is known as the bowel of rice. Due to in apathetic attitude of the government officials and scarcity of storage facilities the farmers have to store the paddy crops at the open sky and thereby million tonnes of paddy lost its quality for consumption. Therefore socio economic condition of the peasants is very alarming. Another cause of poverty of the poor farmer is non implementation of Crops Insurance properly. When the Bank sanctioned finance to a cultivator it deducts the insurance money from the loan amount. But when the crops failure, the Insurance Company does not pay the compensation which ought to pay the peasants. In certain spectacular cases the Insurance Company has paid hundred, two hundred rupees cheque to the insurer. It seems as a gimmick to the life of the peasants. While narrating all these how a peasant is socially humiliated can be best understood. If a person goes to a bank and observe the scene in the loan section, the voice of the

peasant is last heard and nobody talks with him in a dignified manner. The most colloquial language is “Tu” that means You. In our prevailing society generally people call a rickshaw wala with the above manner. So our mindset and attitude needs to be changed when we are talking with a farmer. This is the behavioural pattern of the government officials which need a change.

There are other socio-economic factors responsible for the poverty of farmers in India. Those are sale in villages, sale in market, sale in mandis, cooperative marketing and regulated market. So long there will be eliminating the middlemen, freedom from moneylenders, storage facility, bargaining capacity, regulated markets, adequate transport facilities, formulation of agricultural marketing societies and market intelligence are not promoted effectively the panic picture of the poor peasants cannot be changed. No doubt some measures have been taken by the government by creating warehouses, regulating the markets, commodity board, promotion of standardisation and grading of agricultural product etc. But these are not enough and therefore the government is to serious by establishing regulated markets, cooperative marketing societies, extension and construction of additional storage and ware housing facilities, expansion of market yards and other allied facilities, extending adequate amount of credit facilities, providing marketing information to the farmers, transportation facilities from villages to mandis, standardisation of the agricultural products and fixation of prices and also suitable agricultural price policy by creating an awareness programme among the cultivators.

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