

Tenant farmers growing dissent over Rythu Bandhu Scheme

By PV Satyanarayana | THE HANS INDIA | May 25,2018



File photo of a farmer cultivating in Kothagudem district

Kothagudem: The State government's flagship 'Rythu Bandhu Scheme' (RBS) has made the farmers happy but the tenant farmers were angry as they were not included in the scheme. The scheme reportedly broken the otherwise warm relationship between farmers and tenant farmers.

The TRS government, under RBS, will provide Rs 4,000 per acre per season to every farmer, twice a year. While the farmers were heaping praises on the government that no government had provided input subsidy to them till date, the angry tenant farmers are questioning the government as to why they were not eligible for the scheme. They demanded to consider the tenant farmers first than the farmers before launching any scheme for the cultivators.

The tenant farmers also demanded the land owners to reduce land lease rate this year and clarified that they will not accept last year rates for the present season. Kharif season will start soon in June but the tenant farmers stated that they will start cultivation works until the land rates issue is decided.

Last year the lease rate per acre for normal lands in the district was from Rs 15,000 to Rs 18,000. For good fertile lands, the tenant farmers demand 10 bags of paddy per acre along with the lease amount. Red chilli farmers demand Rs 20,000 per acre.

There are 1.70 lakh farmers in the district and almost all the farmers took the RBS cheques. There are more than 80,000 tenant farmers in the district. After the implementation of the RBS, the tenant farmers demanded the land owners to reduce the lease rate to Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000 this year.

A tenant farmer K Krishnaiah appealed the land owners to lower the price since the government had sanctioned Rs 8,000 per acre for both Rabi and Kharif seasons and to give Rs 10,000 per acre this year. "It is we, the tenant farmers toil in the fields while the land owners didn't do any work and get Rs 8,000 per acre," he added.

The land owners and farmers of Sarvaram, Narsinga Sagar, Sujatha Nagar, Singabhupalem, Anjana Puram, Julupadu, Yellendu, Manuguru, Mulkalapally, Aswapuram and Bharadrachalam in the district are willing to give lease their lands with the reduced rates. But in other areas, no decision was taken yet.

Source: <http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/Khammam-Tab/2018-05-25/Tenant-farmers-growing-dissent-over-Rythu-Bandhu-Scheme/383929>