



Date : May 11, 2018

To

Smt. Nivedita Mehru,
Secretary, Government Secretariat,
Rajasthan State Human Right Commission
Jaipur, Rajasthan

Dear Madam,

Sub : FAIFA is against the Public Notice given by RSHRC

We the Federation of All India Farmer Associations (FAIFA), a non-profit organization represent the cause of millions of farmers and farm workers of commercial crops across the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Gujarat etc. FAIFA strives to project farmers' voice at regional, national and international levels and works towards ensuring sustenance of stable livelihood of farmers.

One of the important issues that FAIFA is representing currently, is the cause of millions of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco farmers and farm workers in India. FCV Tobacco (used in the manufacture of cigarettes) is a labour intensive crop which provides livelihood to millions of farmers, farm labour, retailers, workers etc., has been witnessing a continued onslaught in terms of punitive and sustained increase in taxation and impractical regulation over past few years now.

We wish to state that misinformation by some vested interests is causing confusion in policy makers. Instead of addressing immediate and urgent issues like Malnutrition, drinking water, climate change, farm crisis, etc., They are focusing on unwanted area of already highly regulated industry.

Personal habits on social in nature and these habits cannot be restricted by way legislation but the Government should take up awareness campaign to curtail excess use of tobacco. Find the other more hazardous to give priority on health -

- Obesity, which is much more dangerous than smoking is not being tackled.
- Liquor, which is much more dangerous to individual's health and also to their families is not being attacked on the other hand it is being encouraged selling of the arrack through State Government shops.
- Vehicular pollution, which is choking the busy areas of towns and cities are causing harm to the mankind more than smoking. No campaign is being carried out against these CO2 and other hazardous emission. (Carbon emission by the old vehicles can be curtailed by stopping the movement of old vehicles).
- Industrialization, increase in population resulting in production of large volumes of hazardous un-hygienic waste is not being managed properly thus resulting in spread of diseases – No action is being taken.
- Every year pesticide companies are selling Rs. 8,000 Crores worth of hazardous pesticides in our country. Coastal belt of Andhra Pradesh alone consumes Rs. 2500 Crores of pesticides. This accounts for 25% of countries consumption and Asia's biggest pesticide consuming region. This can be controlled by creating the awareness among the farmers.



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More interested in the well-being of Beedi rollers, Tendu leaf pluckers, farmers, farm & industrial workers, and retailers, who accounts more than 48 million people. When there is food for 48 million people, we can think of whether they live long or short. If they don't have work, they cannot eat their two square meals and ultimately mal-nutrition will result in immediate death. It is preferable to live with perceived danger of tobacco usage (lesser evil) than leading a life with malnutrition and dying fast on account of no jobs situation to 48 million population.

The argument in the Public Notice of Rajasthan Human Rights Commission is weak and not true. Millions of farmers, farm labour and ancillary industry is dependent on Tobacco crop. Without showing any alternative to all these stakeholders, we cannot even plan to further reduce the crop size. In the arid regions of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka only tobacco crop can survive. Without this crop either farmers have to migrate from rural areas to urban areas as construction workers. Only this crop is fetching some profits to the farmers. In light of higher livelihood dependency on this crop and Tobacco's role in the social and economic upliftment in the rural areas, FAIFA requests the Human Rights Commission to immediately withdraw the Public Notice.

We appeal once again that we are against the Public Notice and we are sure that you will appreciate our point of view.

Yours faithfully,

For Federation of All India Farmer Associations [FAIFA]

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