

Webinar on New Farm Bills

On 2 October 2020 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti Department of Political Science organized a webinar on the New Farm Bills passed by the government. The Indian Parliament passed three agriculture acts—Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance, Farm Services Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020—during its monsoon session culminating on 23 September. Around 200 students and teachers participated in the discussion. Purpose of the discussion was to understand the key points of the three farm acts and the contention arising out of the acts. Dr Devender Sharma gave an insight about these Bills and the positions taken by the supporters and opponents on the Bills. After that students actively participated in the discussion. The key points of the bills under discussion were:

1. What will be the implications of these bills on Centre State relations?
2. Does provisions of contract farming facilitating entry of big private companies in agriculture?
3. What would be the impact of sale and purchase of farm products outside the premises of APMC Mandis?
4. To what extent providing rights of unlimited stocking of farm products will impact the manipulation of prices of farm products?
5. How these New Farm Bills will reform the agrarian economy of India?

Students actively put forth their views on these issues and it was very insightful and informative discussion on a very important issue.