

## From a Farmer's Standpoint

*An activity of "Farmers in India protest to save their livelihoods".*

Read the article, "Farmers in India protest to save their livelihoods" (page 9, *What's Up* February 2025). Now, imagine you are a young farmer observing the protests in India.

1. Write a short diary entry from the young farmer's standpoint. Express his/her hopes for the future.

Dear diary,

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2. The young farmer has a conversation with a childhood friend who is now a government officer. Can you tell who is saying what below? Cut out these speech bubbles. Glue them onto the correct columns on the next page.

If we regulate prices too much, it discourages private investors. We need a balance between protecting farmers and growing the economy.

Your protests are disrupting daily life and the economy. We can have dialogues, but not strikes and protests!

If we allow private companies to buy directly from farmers, competition will increase, and you will get better deals.

I have been farming for generations, but now, I can't even afford to send my children to school. What kind of future is that?

We understand your concerns, but we have to think about the entire country, not just one sector.

You said you will set a minimum price for our crops. We are waiting for that!

If private buyers control the market, they will dictate prices. We will have no bargaining power!

These reforms are meant to modernise agriculture and bring investment. In the long run, they will benefit everyone!

Farming is our livelihood! If this carries on, we will have no choice but to leave our farms and move to cities for work.

India is moving towards industrialisation and digital growth. Farming practices need to be modernised to stay relevant in the future.

We work so hard, yet barely earn enough to feed our families. How are we to survive?

Electricity bills are rising, but our earnings are not. How do you expect us to keep our farms running?

The government needs to protect us by setting a fair and guaranteed price for our crops. They can't let big companies make us sell at such low prices!

If we keep giving subsidies and support prices indefinitely, how will India compete in the global economy?



3. Respond to these two questions by sharing your thoughts with a classmate.

- Does this activity help you to understand both the farmer's and the government officer's standpoints? Elaborate.
- If you were an adult, would you be willing to pay higher prices for produce supplied by small farms? Why or why not?