



India-US Trade Deal: No Compromise on Agriculture or Dairy; Farmers' Interests Fully Protected: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Farmers' Interests Are Paramount; No Threat to Staple Grains, Millets, Fruits or Dairy: Shri Chouhan

Lower Tariffs to Boost Rice, Spice and Textile Exports; Cotton Farmers to Gain: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan

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Amid opposition allegations surrounding the India-US Trade Deal, Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, today firmly stated that the agreement fully safeguards India's agricultural interests, particularly those of the farm and dairy sectors. He underlined that under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the deal reflects a new benchmark of diplomacy, development and dignity, with the Prime Minister making it clear from the outset that farmers' interests are non-negotiable. Addressing the media in Delhi, Shri Chouhan reiterated that India's staple grains, fruits, major crops, millets and dairy products remain completely secure and face no threat whatsoever. He emphasized that the interests of small and large farmers alike have been fully protected, and that the agreement will create fresh opportunities rather than risks for Indian agriculture.

Clarification on Concerns Regarding Small Farmers and US Farm Products

Responding to the apprehension that over half of India's population depends on agriculture and that small farmers may be affected, the Minister assured that no sudden or disruptive entry of foreign products will take place in the Indian market. He stressed that no market segment has been opened in a manner that could harm Indian farmers, and all major crops, food grains, fruits and dairy products remain shielded. On the confusion triggered by a recent tweet from the US Treasury Secretary about increased access for American farm products, Shri Chouhan said that Commerce Minister Shri Piyush Goyal has already clarified the facts in Parliament. He reiterated that India has not opened its markets in any way that puts pressure on domestic farmers, and that the protections for key agricultural commodities remain intact.

Boost for Rice, Spices and Textile Exports

Highlighting the export potential unlocked by the agreement, Shri Chouhan noted that India already exports rice to many countries, including the United States, and recently recorded exports worth around ₹63,000 crore. He stated that reduced tariffs will directly benefit India's rice, spices and textile exports, and that growth in textile exports will help millions of cotton-growing farmers. The Minister affirmed that the deal is unequivocally in the interest of Indian farmers and opens up new export avenues, despite the misinformation being spread by the opposition.

When asked about the opposition's demand that the government explain the details of the trade deal in Parliament, the Minister reiterated that all details of the agreement would be shared in due course. He emphasized that the core principle remains clear and unchanged: the interests of Indian farmers are fully protected.

“Farmers Are Annadata: Serving Them Is Equivalent to Worship”

Shri Chouhan stressed the need for clear communication to prevent confusion or fear among farmers, given the enormous size of the agricultural sector. He reaffirmed: “Farmers are our Annadata, the providers of life. Their welfare is the nation's welfare, and their interests are absolutely secure.” In an emotional note, the Minister said that serving farmers is akin to worship, and that the Modi government will continue to stand firmly with farmers at every step.

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