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Q5(c)

Explain the dynamics of neo-farmers movement in contemporary India.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Social Movements in Modern India

Social Movements in Modern India: Peasants and farmers movements; Women's movement; Backward classes and Dalit movement; Environmental movements; Ethnicity and Identity movements.

Core demand of the question

- Explain the dynamics of neo-farmers movement in contemporary India
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Neo-farmers' movements fight prices, inputs, and debt after the Green Revolution.

They differ from colonial peasant satyagraha against planters.

Dominant-caste commercial farmers usually lead.

1991 and fiscal policy are the new antagonists.

Landless labour remains at the edge of the slogan.

Introduction

Neo-farmers' movements are post-Green-Revolution agitations of commercially oriented cultivators over prices, costs, and the state. Their dynamics differ from Champaran's anti-planter peasant fight. They are often richer-peasant unions that still speak as 'the kisan'.

Body

What is 'neo'

- **Not anti-colonial indigo. Input-output politics:** MSP, diesel, power, and debt.
- Leadership from dominant agrarian castes that Srinivas would recognise as locally powerful.
- **Methods:** roadblocks, rail roko, and city marches, plus media.

Dynamics

- Green Revolution created a class that sells grain and buys the market, then collides with liberalisation after 1991.
- A. R. Desai's rich peasant sits inside the slogan of all farmers, while labourers and tenants are quieter.
- Regional belts-Punjab, western UP, Maharashtra sugar, and similar-set the national noise.
- Swaminathan-type demands (cost-plus MSP, credit) become movement language.

Limits

- Caste and landless labour rarely lead.

- Urban consumers and fiscal politics constrain victories.

Flow diagram

Green Revolution commercial farm -> Neo-farmers movement
Price cost debt -> Neo-farmers movement
Dominant caste unions -> Neo-farmers movement
Labour tenants -> Margin of the frame

Conclusion

Neo-farmers' movements are the politics of commercial agriculture's squeeze. Dynamics are price, caste-leadership, and spectacular blockade. They are contemporary, not a repeat of Champaran, and they are incomplete as a movement of all rural poor.

Facts & figures

Green Revolution unions

Farm organisations in surplus belts that set the neo-farmer template.

MSP politics

Core demand that links movement to Swaminathan-type policy talk.

Champaran contrast

1917 was anti-planter compulsion; neo-movements bargain with a national market state.

Dominant caste

Local land and numbers that organise who can blockade a highway.

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