NEW DELHI: UN on Thursday welcomed the Indian government’s food security ordinance, saying it showed that the issue of hunger was being taken "seriously".

"By legislating food security, the Indian government is making a commitment to the people. It is a sign that the issue is being taken seriously," UN special rapporteur on food Olivier De Schutter said at a press conference in New Delhi.

"What makes me hopeful is that we have willingness to make a firm commitment to the issue of hunger," he said.

Cautioning any country against weighing the costs of addressing hunger, the senior UN official said: "How about the costs of not helping the poor and not controlling hunger?"

The GDP growth of a country is estimated to be reduced by 4.5 per cent by not addressing hunger, he said.

Brushing aside political opposition, the government on Wednesday decided to issue an ordinance to give the nation’s two-thirds population the right to get 5kg of foodgrains every month at highly subsidized rates of Rs.1-3 per kg.

The food security programme when implemented will be the biggest in the world with the government spending estimated at Rs.125,000 crore annually on supply of about 62 million tonnes of rice, wheat and coarse cereals to 67 per cent of the population.

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UN welcomes food security ordinance - The Times of India

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Government should think why these people are poor and why they are going to bed empty stomach. A 2nd Grader will tell you that because they don't have a job. There are lots of jobs which can be created by Govt. Look at the roads, public areas they need lot of work which can be generated. Lot of poor people can earn a living if Govt decides to use these poor people to clean these roads and maintain sanitation in public areas. Also a lot of job can be generated in Garbage management. This will not only give jobs to the poor but will also make India a much better place, cleaner healthier. It's a Win-Win situation for all the citizen. In India we are no short of Human Resource. But NO, the government just wants to sell food for Vote. If the congress was really worried about poor people going hungry they should have listened to Supreme Court when they had suggested to distribute the grains which are rotting in the Govt. GoDowns to the poor but they didn't bother then. Now that 2014 is coming close by they have these sudden urge to support the poor by introducing such ordinances. Poor people will think if this govt goes then the food they are getting will also go, so they will mindlessly vote Congress.

The problem with recent times is they have altered the theory of natural selection in a very inappropriate way. This is happening in every aspect. A few questions: 1) When fiscal deficit runs high and there is no more money, where will the government do things that will be detrimental to security. What does government have but comply? 4) If government cannot distribute food and there is provision to put cash in accounts is it going to be Rs 3 for rice, 2 for wheat and something else - so the total bank deposit would be more like Rs 25 per person and the government expect them to buy the same for 47. Which vendor is ever going to sell that? By providing for the poor cheaply and raising food subsidy ultimately the burden is borne by middle class folks who need to send their kids to school, pay for their books, buy food for their children which will be inevitably be more costly, pay more for petrol, transportation, of course pay higher taxes including income tax, sales tax, etc, ultimately save less and have nothing for retirement all the while the so called poor enjoy your hard work, until of course you all join their ranks as the "neo poor"! That includes most on this forum and who are waxing eloquence of the food security bill. Do you all understand that you all will go from middle class to become poor? The rich don't care because they will making money from the "leak" and siphon funds for their next election. Maybe some of you don't get it, yeah look at Greece. Look at 1991 and multiply by ten or a hundred and that is what India will be five years or maybe 10 from now. All it needs is just a little war, a little famine and a little disaster to make this country die! Good luck. There are no free lunches.

OPPOSITION PARTIES SHOULD HELP IN PASSING FOOD SECURITY BILL AND TAKE CREDIT FOR THE SAME ALONG WITH THE CONGRESS: When the principal opposition party behaves irresponsibly and disrupt session after session of parliament and do not allow any business or discussion or bill to be passed the only route to help the poor suffers of this country is to have no influence. This should have been done...
DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS TO THE POOR, TO PREVENT THE EXPECTED LEAKAGES AND PILFERAGES, THROUGH THEIR INVESTIGATIONS AND EXPOSURES. THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN ADVANCE AND NOT A POST-MORTEM JOB AFTER THE LOOT.

Yup media will portray yet another 'big scam' what next?

Tamil poet Bharathiyar wrote years ago before we got our Independence, in one of his poems thus 'Thani oruvanakku unavu illayenil jagathinai azhithiduvom' (meaning we would destroy the world even if one individual lives without food). Valluvar wrote in one of his Thirukkurals, 'Irnadhum Yuir vazhhal vendi Paranthu keduka ulagu iyatrian', conveying more or less same meaning. T.S.G, Chennai 4th July

There is absolutely no necessity of a bill if providing food security is the goal. TN is providing 20 kgs absolutely free per card per month for all the BPL card holders. Apart from extra free rice, sarees and dhoties during major festivals. There are no cash BILLS or legislative BILLS!

this is a new strategy of govt. to ensure vote banks... if the govt. wants to reduce hunger in the country he must reduce inflation... this is only an idea to loot people...

People actually are not realising what cost will it be on the economy. All the cost being reduced gor the poor will have to be paid by the tax bearers and there will be a heavy burden on them. It will cause feeling of inequality and will divide the country for the bad.,!!!!

Agree (1)  
Disagree (1)  
Recommend (1)  
Offensive

Government's business is to provide job. Not freebies! Where will they get money-obviously from those who work hard for a living-a worthless sham. This only encourages people to fight for becoming 'poor' and remain 'poor'. Great Job-this country will disappear faster than I thought!

Agree (0)  
Disagree (0)  
Recommend (0)  
Offensive

Condemn the UN, Mr. Rajnath---gem(India)

Agree (1)  
Disagree (3)  
Recommend (0)  
Offensive

IS UN PAYING THE BILL. THE FACT IS WE ARE PAYING VERY HIGH TAXES AND INCOME TAX FOR RE-ELECTION OF CONGRESS . WHY ?????CONGRESS BETTER GET MONEY FROM WORLD FORMS. WHOM SHOULD WE VOTE. IT IS FOR INDIANS TO MAKE A WISE DECISION . HOWEVER IT IS IMMORAL TO GO FOR FOOD SECURITY IN THIS MANNER . PLEASE ARRANGE FINANCES FIRST .

Agree (1)  
Disagree (0)  
Recommend (1)  
Offensive

These populist UPA programmes are turning this nation into the world's top beggar nation, creating a base of low income group people who are averse to work for livelihood, and it suits the UN fine. Its a turn India into a doormat with zero dignity. And the most unfortunate thing is that no political party would ever dare to close this programme again.

Agree (1)  
Disagree (1)  
Recommend (1)  
Offensive

IS THIS MAN A GENIUS? An economics professor at a local college made a statement that he had never failed a single student before. His next student failed.
and that no one would be poor and no one would be rich, a great equalizer. The professor then said, "OK, we will have an experiment in this class on Obama's plan". All grades will be averaged and everyone will receive the same grade so no one will fail and no one will receive an A... (substituting grades for dollars - something closer to home and more readily understood by all). After the first test, the grades were averaged and everyone got a B. The students who studied hard were upset and the students who studied little were happy. As the second test rolled around, the students who studied little had studied even less and the ones who studied hard decided they wanted a free ride too so they studied little. The second test average was a D! No one was happy. When the 3rd test rolled around, the average was an F. As the tests proceeded, the scores never increased as bickering, blame and name-calling all resulted in hard feelings and no one would study for the benefit of anyone else. To their great surprise, ALL FAILED and the professor told them that socialism would also ultimately fail because when the reward is great, the effort to succeed is great, but when government takes all the reward away, no one will try or want to succeed. These are possibly the 5 best sentences you'll ever read and all applicable to this experiment: 1. You cannot legislate the poor into prosperity by legislating the wealthy out of prosperity. 2. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. 3. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. 4. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it. 5. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half...
This is absolutely the best post. Thank you!

ritu (delhi) 14 hrs ago Silver: 659

This is only a political drama of congress. If there are three sessions of govt remains... than why they use the power of ordinance

theexec01 (location) 14 hrs ago Silver: 659

Is the UN going to fund the Food Security Bill? Is the UN going to ensure that the leakages will not be to the level of 40%?

Behind The Smile (india) 3 Followers 15 hrs ago Silver: 3555

70% of Indian population is in agriculture. India is a naturally food secure country. one step further i would say India is capable of feeding half the world population. taking away something, later giving back is not generosity.

dharm (new delhi) 15 hrs ago Platinum: 28.7K

"Cancer" is a common disease contracted by both rich and poor whereas "Hunger" is a disease which does not go nearer to rich people at all ; it attacks only the poor and have-nots with vengeance.

citizen (india) 85 Followers 15 hrs ago Platinum: 28.7K

it is nothing but mission 2014

sri (bangalore) 15 hrs ago Silver: 1728

BJP-Pass the bill in parliament but we will never allow the parliament to function
it will be the best way of irregularities of the govt. more scams will be there, still PDS, MID DAY MEALS ARE apparently successful. we are doubted but the govt is inclined to provide the food to the poor. our leaders, politicians, officers, contractors will be benefited by this program me. now wait and watch.

Whatever opposition tried to play politics with food bill did not succeed.

With the type of politicians we have today, food security will be only on paper. It has the potential of becoming huge scam.

Oh! my fellow Indians, why pour milk in the snake pit as a religious ritual ? Give that glass of milk to a boy who is hungry and look at his eyes while he drinks the same. You will find your God in him.

In this world, there is no disease worse than Hunger.
UN welcomes food security ordinance - The Times of India