

To:  
Mr. Jairam Ramesh  
Rural Development Minister  
Krishi Bhawan  
New Delhi

March 2013

Dear Minister; Jairam Ramesh

I am writing to thank you and the Government of India for signing a truly historic agreement on Land Reforms with the Jan Satyagraha movement on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October in Agra.

The promises of this agreement are, as you have said yourself, a revolutionary document. Enshrining the families' right to homestead plots of land that will provide security to hundreds of millions of rural people is a truly noble and necessary endeavor. Whilst the right of rural landless families to agricultural land will transform millions of people's lives, they can use the MNREGA and other government programs for their development, and be in a position to feed themselves and live in dignity.

We understand that in the past few months, considerable progress has been made toward reaching the 10-point agreement. The task force under your leadership has been established, as promised, immediately following the end of Jansatyagraha.

The Cabinet approval of your proposal for higher funds for Indira Awaas Yojana is very encouraging. Furthermore, the drafting of an ambitious land reform legislation on the part of UPA to provide land to the rural poor, is a real fundamental step in the right direction.

Your positive response to Jansatyagraha, the democratic non-violent action for the basic human rights of the rural poor population, has shown that non-violence does succeed in mediating people's needs and that there is democratic space in India for this to happen.

I hope that the members of the Task Force of the GOI will be able to turn the 10-point agreement into action throughout the country and will not have it be delayed by unnecessary land conflicts.

With my best wishes in support of your great effort, yours sincerely