

**Need to ensure enhanced compensation for acquisition of land of farmers in Punjab by National Highways Authority of India- Laid**

**DR. AMAR SINGH (FATEHGARH SAHIB):** We have recently been witness to scenes of confrontation between farmers and Government of Punjab regarding the possession of land acquired for NHAI projects. While one appreciates the need for projects of national importance, the plight of individual losing his sole source of income must be kept in mind. The resistance is in part because we are taking something of great value and under compensating the affected farmer. We have seen in Punjab in the last few years that land prices especially for prime agricultural land continue to be among the highest in the country. However, as land acquisition happens in accordance with the Collector rates which are typically lower than market rates. This results in lower price for acquired land than had the individual sold the land in private transaction. At the same time there is major issue of land records with lands being still in name of a common elder family member but possession and income being taken by separated family members. Since farmers give up their sole income generating asset in national interest, I request compensation awarded must be kept 4-5 times of the prevailing market rates to ensure they get what's rightfully due for giving fertile land.