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Patkar raps govt for ryots' suicide

LOKMAT NEWS SERVICE

Nagpur, Oct. 28: Narmada Bachao Andolan leader, Ms Medha Patkar, while coming down heavily on 'rulers' of the day in their alleged inefficiency in handling the issue of farmer's suicide in Vidarbha, said the matter will now be taken up at the national convention on Social Security for Unorganised Workers, to be held in New Delhi, on November 14 and 15.

Ms Patkar, who was in the city to attend the valedictory function of the same con-

vention, was talking to reporters, on Saturday.

Expressing her comment over the Prime Minister's package announced for farmers in Vidarbha region, Mr Patkar said, 'waiver of interests' is not a solution to the problems of debt-ridden farmers. She said that, the method of prescribing cost of factory and farm products, which is not similar at present, should be the same. Unless and until reforms in this direction are made, the problems of farmers will continue, said Ms Patkar.

The NBA leader also criti-



Medha Patkar

cised the insensitivity of politicians and government as far as the issues and problems of the poor people are

concerned. Ms Patkar said, the builder lobby in the state and elsewhere is making every bit to grab land of poor people right under the nose of the government.

The government officers, on the other, are making poor people homeless under the encroachment drive to facilitate the land for builders. If the officers are so serious to remove encroachment, they should first remove shopping malls and star hotels - many of which have being build in an illegal manner, pointed Ms Patkar.