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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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PM pitches for use of technology in farming

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be made “vibrant and dynamic”. Modi, whose government has been dubbed “anti-farmer” by the Congress, used the occasion to highlight his government’s commitment towards farmers.

“We will have to move forward accepting the fact that if our country has to progress, the villages of the country will have to progress. If villages have to progress, then agriculture will have to be developed by giving it a priority. This is directly related to the economy of India,” he said.

He stressed the need to create an atmosphere of competition in the field of farm production at the tehsil level. “Food productivity needs to be increased from current two tonnes per hectare to three

tonnes per hectare,” he said.

He also called for making “tehsil” the unit of agricultural planning and development. The TV channel could arrange competitions to judge the best farmer on the lines of song and dance programmes organised by entertainment channel, he added.

He credited the increase in grain production to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and his slogan “Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan”, while skipping any reference to Prime Ministers belonging to the Nehru-Gandhi family.

He also steered clear of making any mention of the contentious Land Acquisition Bill. Agriculture Minister Radhamohan Singh said the channel would help take new research technologies from “lab to the land”.