Dear Prime Minister,

When the farmers of Punjab staged a demonstration in New Delhi on 7th April, 1972 it was a warning to the Government of India that it will not possible any longer to ignore the interest of the farmers.

A simple straightforward and most genuine demand of the farmers that the price of agriculture produce should be linked with the cost of production has not so far been entertained. On the other hand, efforts were made to benefit the middle man 'traders' and corrupt politicians by creating food zones and then lifting it when the grain was in the hands of big traders and black marketeers. The result was that grain was smuggled to deficit states with the blessing of senior officers and elected representatives. The consumer in Gujarat and Maharashtra had to pay ₹350 per quintal whereas the producer got only ₹81 per quintal. A net profit of ₹269 per quintal was pocketed by senior officers and elected representatives.
I want to request you to please read the writing on
the wall. The production is gone down during the last two
years. The policy-makers blame the rain God, the bureaucrats
refuse to believe that farmers' morale is down due to Khad.
Therefore, incapable of realising the hardship of the farmers,
depend mostly on misguided and theoretical calculations. In
the opinion of Dr. Norman Borlang, the Noble Laureate, and
many other experts the food situation will lead to global panic
and hence we should all be on guard.

First time in the history of the farmer has been
humiliated. He is to stand in serpentine queues for days
for 5 litres of diesel, sleep without shelter at Petrol points
where no feeding arrangements exist. All this he is doing
for uneconomical profession and to produce for the nation.

You are requested to intervene to ensure that the price
of wheat is fixed not less than Rs.135 per quintal and that
the farmers are provided all agricultural inputs including
diesel on as required prices. If this is not done, the
consequence will be disastrous. The Union will be compelled
to advise the farmers to go for cash crops and not sell the
wheat in the Market unless food zones are eliminated.

Yours faithfully,
President
Punjab Khetibari Zimindara Union
Punjab.

Copy to:
1. The President of India,
2. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh,
3. Ch. Devi Dayal,
4. S. Parkash Singh Badal,
5. Press
6. C.M. Chandigarh.