MEMORANDUM PRESENTED TO :

Smt. Indira Gandhi,
Prime Minister of India

by:-
Punjab Khetibari Zimindara Union deputation led by S. Partap Singh Kadian, President on ------- at New Delhi.

Madam,

We are a non-political organisation for Punjab farmers. Now you have been elected Prime Minister of India, so to solve the economic problems of farmers, we submit some suggestions and demands for your consideration as under:

1. It is our belief that the economic power has a strong control over political power in our country. This economic power is in the hands of a few capitalists who are running a parallel economy in the form of Black Money. These capitalists and big business houses offer all sorts of luxuries of life to the representatives of the people (MPs) lured by these luxuries of life our members of parliament become tools of these capitalists. Their hunger for money and luxuries goes on increasing. To receive huge sums these representatives of people completely ignore the poor masses. The main reason of this attraction of our MPs toward capitalists is that they are not well paid. So, we suggest that to keep
the political life of our MPs clean and free from corruption, they should be well paid. More facilities of constituency allowance etc. should be given to them. They should be provided with some staff to deal with their day-to-day correspondence and other works of the people. Their movements should be strictly watched. They should be checked from having links with capitalists.

2. Remunerative prices should be given to the farmers after taking into account their cost of production for their farm produce. Farmer is the biggest consumer of the country. He has to consume agricultural inputs, i.e. fertilizers, pesticides, diesel, agricultural machinery etc. apart from the other consumer goods. So, a parity of prices should be fixed among the prices of farm and industrial products, among the industrial produce such as cloth, sugar etc., and their raw material such as cotton and sugarcane. There should be a parity of prices of farm produce, industrial produce and other consumer goods of daily use.

(i) The prices of farm produce should be declared before sowing season. The prices of rabi crops for this year such as wheat, gram, etc. should be fixed soon.

(ii) Last year farmers were very badly hit by the low and negligible prices of potatoes. This year
also a very unremunerative price is being paid for the potatoes by the traders. Thus, farmers are again being looted now in the markets. To avoid this loot a profitable support price of potatoes should be fixed immediately and state trading of potatoes should be enforced to ensure them the minimum support price.

(iii) Every year an acute shortage of agricultural inputs especially diesel, fertilizers, etc. is created by the trading community in connivance with the bureaucracy. Farmers have to waste many mandays to get them. However, they are always available in the black market. So, it is demanded that the distribution system should be streamlined to ensure availability of these inputs to the farmers in time and according to their needs. Strict measures adopted by the Govt. in this regard shall be highly appreciated.

3. Due to wrong policies adopted by the government in the past, very unremunerative and low prices were paid to the farmers for their produce. Hence, the farmers came under debt of crores of rupees. So, it is strongly demanded that all loans due to the farmers should be written off. In future a simple loan policy should be framed after removing encumberances in the present system of advancing loans to the farmers. Rate of interest for the agricultural loans should be lowered.
4. Reservation in services should be made on rural and economic basis. The people living in rural areas are given far more lesser facilities in education as compared with the urbanites. There are public schools in urban areas. In Govt. schools in the cities more facilities of play-grounds, laboratories, libraries etc. are provided whereas in the villages there are either no laboratories, libraries and other facilities or are negligible. Social environment of village is also backward as compared with the cities. So, the students of rural areas can't compete with the urbanites. Therefore, it is demanded that to give justice to the rural people reservation in government and semi-government services should be made on the rural and economic basis according to their population.

5. Rural people are mostly illiterate. They are being harrassed in the income tax and wealth tax offices. So, it is demanded that they should be exempted from Estate duty, Betterment tax, Property tax and urban land ceiling act. Amendment should be made in the Hindu Code Bill by making the right to property of a daughter in her-in-laws property instead of her parental property.

6. After the purchase and sale of agricultural land by the farmers, they are harrassed by the income tax and wealth tax authorities for assessment. While agricultural income is free from income tax, so this unnecessary harrassment of farmers should be stopped forthwith.
Unnecessary interference of the authorities in such cases breeds corruption only. This step will be one towards removing corruption.

7. Same definition of family should be enforced in industry and trade as it is in the case of agriculture to remove discrimination. Husband, wife and two minor children are treated as one family for agriculture whereas this is not in the case of business, industry and services. It should be done immediately.

8. Sometimes farmers have to face natural calamities. They have to suffer a big loss due to them. It is demanded that such loss should be declared a national loss. To meet with this a fund should be created. Farmers should be paid cent-per-cent compensation for such losses.

9. Due to increase in population, there is no scope for absorbing more people in agriculture. So, it is demanded that small scale industries should be established in the rural areas. Big industries should be banned for producing such items which can be produced in these small scale industries.

10. Ceiling should be imposed on industry and trade also as in the case of agriculture.

11. To remove the economic imbalances among the people a ratio should be fixed among the pay and allowances of Government and semi-government servants. We suggest a ratio of 5:2 in this regard. Flooring should be
fixed in the agriculture also. It may be at least 10 acres to make an economic unit.

12. Import and Export policy in case of industry and agriculture should be the same. Benefits should be offered on the same lines to both the professions.

13. In Punjab - Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Ferozepur are border districts. All facilities already given in the 8 miles border area belt should be given to the whole area of the above districts.

Any steps taken in regard to the above demands should be intimated to the union.

Yours sincerely

Sd/-
Partap Singh Kadian
President

Copies of this memorandum are also presented/submitted to union cabinet ministers, opposition leaders and some members of the Parliament.