APPENDIX VII

PUNJAB KHETIBARI ZIMINDARA UNION
H.O.: Abdullapur Basti, Ludhiana-141003

MEMORANDUM

Memorandum submitted by Punjab Khetibari Zimindara Union to the Punjab and the Central Government through Chief Minister Punjab:

Dear Sir,

In the month of October, some Messy Ferguson tractors were sold to the farmers by M/S J.C. Engineers, Amritsar, dealers of the said tractors for Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts. During the initial running of these tractors, i.e., within two or three days of the purchase of these tractors, the oil pressure fell down to zero. When this complaint was brought to the notice of the above mentioned dealers, they offered to overhaul the defective tractors free of cost; but farmers did not agree to this offer; because tractors once overhauled are treated as old ones and their market resale value comes down. Instead farmers demanded new tractors in lieu of defective ones. This matter was brought to the notice of the district union of Gurdaspur district. Unable to find any solution to the problem, the districts union started sitting Dharna in front of the dealer's agency at Amritsar w.e.f. 24th October, 1977. TAFE, the manufacturing company rushed their engineer from Madras to Amritsar by air. The engineer checked the defective
tractors standing in the agency and admitted that there is some manufacturing defect in these tractors. Similarly, the Punjab Government also rushed their Joint Director Agriculture ( Implements) to check these tractors. The Joint Director who is an engineer also, checked these tractors and admitted before the farmers that the tractors have a manufacturing defect and there is no alternative but to change them with new ones. Even then the problem could not be solved.

So the matter was brought to the notice of the Punjab union. A meeting of the union executive for Punjab was called at Amritsar, on 18th of Nov. 1977 to discuss the problem. Before the start of the meeting the management of M/S J.C. Engineers, Amritsar told the executive committee of the union that the manufacturing company (TAFE) admits manufacturing defect in these tractors; but they don't agree to replace the tractors with new ones because if they change these defective tractors now, then they will have always to change such defective tractors in future. The dealers also told the executive of the union that when they requested the manufacturers to allow them (M/s J.C. Engineers, Amritsar) to change these tractors at their own cost; then the manufacturers refused such permission and threatened to cancel their dealership if they do so because according to them, it will affect their policy throughout India. It also came up in the union meeting that these tractors are a controlled commodity and their dealers book orders under bogus names and sell them...
in black market. Apart from this all the tractor dealers sell to the farmers, tractor implements and other accessories under compulsion. The prices of such implements and accessories are charged three or four times more than the same being sold in the open market. Similarly, farmers are looted by the tractor dealers in many ways.

After full discussion on the subject, the Punjab executive of the union decided to continue sitting Dharna by the union and decided to demand the following from the government through this memorandum that:

1. All the defective tractors having manufacturing defects must be replaced with new ones.

2. The C.B.I. should enquire into the bogus booking of tractors, by the tractor dealers to see them in black market. The sale records of last five years of the tractor dealers be checked for this purpose and the culprits be punished under the law. Because politicians, industrialists, traders and bureaucracy are co-sharers in these corrupt practices, so this scandle must be enquired into by the C.B.I. only.

3. The tractor dealers should be instructed to issue bills to the farmers with the details of price of each item or accessories or implements sold. They should also be instructed not to compel the farmers to buy any implement or accessories.
4. The different of amount looted by overcharging from the farmers be recovered from the dealers and refunded to the farmers.

5. The tractor dealers are expected to give four free services within six months of purchase of tractors on behalf of the manufacturers. But the dealer charge from the farmers under compulsion at the rate of ₹.100 for each service for 1 year's more services' after the expiry of six months. They charge it at the time of delivery of tractors while the farmers never avail of this facility. This loot should be stopped and the amount so looted should be refunded to the farmers.

6. A similar enquiry by the C.B.I. should be held in case of other tractors, such as International, Ford, Escorts, Swaraj and Zetor, etc. The amount looted in these cases should be refunded to the farmers and the culprits should be dealt with the law.

So, it is demanded that the government should immediately get the tractors of farmers having manufacturing defects replaced with new ones and declare an enquiry by the C.B.I. Otherwise the union will be compelled to take strict action and its sole responsibility will lie on the government.

Punjab Khetiwarí Zimindara Union
Head Office:
Basti Abdullspur, Ludhiana-3.