APPENDIX XIV

Smt. Indira Gandhi,
Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.

Subject: Prices of Agricultural Produce.

Reference: (i) Shetkari Sanghatana letter and memorandum dated 16th November 1983.
(iii) Inter-state Co-ordination Committee letter dated 23rd February 1984.

Copies enclosed for ready reference.

Respected Prime Minister,

In response to a call given by the Bharti Kisan Union, Punjab, the farmers have abstained from bringing wheat to the markets for a period of seven days starting from the 1st May 1984.

In a massive demonstration of strength, organisation and discipline the farmers have indicated how strongly they feel on this question. It has also conclusively established the capability of the Bharti Kisan Union to effectively implement programme of this character.

Your office up to now has omitted even to acknowledge letters addressed to you on the subject. This callous non-response has forced the BKU to have recourse to agitation, noted and commanded by all for their peaceful and orderly character.
Even the magnificent gesture of withholding wheat for a period of one week does not appear, very regrettably, to have created any desire in the governmental circles to re-examine the question of agricultural prices and the structures and procedures for their determination.

With sincere regrets the BKU has decided to move ahead with its further programme. The Executive Committee of the BKU has given a call (copies of resolution enclosed) to the farmers to stop movement of wheat and to reduce from next year the sowing of wheat by 25% unless the government accepts the demands of the BKU and replaces the present Agricultural Prices Commission by a appropriately constituted Agricultural Costs Commission and grants price-index based an interim majorations of agricultural prices.

The government, the ruling party as also the other parties appear to view the new peasant movement with entirely unwarranted suspicion. The BKU is a strictly non-political organisation which agitates in a strictly peaceful and non-violent manner on behalf of the farmers. Indifference to its demands will tend only to reinforce the unfortunate impression that the government takes cognisance of politically motivated movements deploying violent means.

THE BKU is fully aware that the new phase of its agitation may have adverse consequences on the economy of the country as a whole, some of which may be even irreversible but
the BKU intends to carry it out and it has the demonstrated capability to carry it out as it is left with no alternative.

We hope that the government will re-examine the question and accept the demands of the BKU not later than the 10th June 1984.

Yours faithfully,

(BHUPINDER SINGH MANN)
President, Bharti Kisan Union, Punjab
President, Inter-state Co-ordination Committee of non-political farmers organisation.

Sd/- Sharad Joshi
Shetkari Sanghatna, Maharashtra.

Copies to:

2. Sh. B.D. Pande, Governor, Punjab, Chandigarh.
5. Members of inter-state co-ordination committee of Non-Political farmers organisations.
6. All State Units of the BKU.