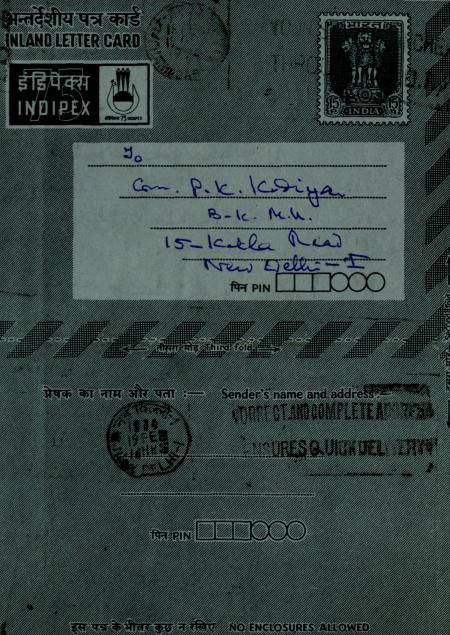
Gandhingger Ahmedeled rumbuligoo Dt 23/3/72 Dear Cm. Kodiyan, 23 March 1972 In the salier letterto you where I've mentioned the gainadhar men berships of Khat Magdoor Kuim, I have given 400 as the tique But Tere please. Conectit to 800 as The joint membership of Palitana Gariadhan. Jujicat total also will stand conected. accordigly 2 Subodhreatz N.B. 7m P.C. datar 22/3 wes seed today Thask In

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COJARATS KHEDUTS KHET MAZDOOR PROCHAD

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Date:7th June, 1974.

7 June 1974

Hon. Shri. K.K.Wishwanathan, Governor of Gujarat, Raj Bhavan, <u>Ahmedabad</u>.

Respected Sir,

On behalf of Gujarat Khedut Khet Mazdoor Parishad, Gujarat Kisan Sabha, Gujarat Khet Mazdoor Union, Gujarat Kisan Panchayat and Gujarat Chakar Sena - organisations working for the unity and strong organisation of small farmers, tenants and landless labourers of Gujarat, we submit the following demands for the consideration of the State Government.

1. At the outset, we want to impress upon the government that land reform laws alone will not bring the desired results unless a strict follow up is done and machinery for implementation of land reform acts is streamlined and made pro-poor.

Recently, Khedut Samaj - which is the organisation of Rich Farmers has started a campaign against the policies meant for the welfare of the poor in villages. They have challenged the land ceiling act in Gujarat High Court and brought the stay against it. As rich farmers could not successfully chalenged the amendment to the Tenancy Act, they, with the help of lower officials of both revenue and police departments have started eviction of tenants on a large scale. Even the law of paying three rupees as a minimum wage to landless has largely remained unimplemented because of the resistence offered by the rich farmers.

2. It is really strange that even the promise given by the then Revenue Minister on the floor of the house to constitute popular committees for the implementation of land reform laws has after remained unfulfilled even\_the assent given by the PRESIDENT to the ammended Land Ceiling Act.

3. Police, by and large, in the case of disputes either between tenants and landlords or landless and landlords acts promptly in favour of landlords. Injunctions from the Civil Courts, chapter cases and unwarranted arrests thus have become popular weapons in the hands of the landlords.

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Apart from the implementation of the land reform acts, even 4. the welfare measures like providing land for Housing is being obstructed. After this measure is announced, many of the village lands have been overnight earmarked for Garden, Dharmashala, High Schools etc. only with a purpose to deprive the poor of these lands. Village Panchayats and co-operative societies in the rural 5. areas by and large have become strong holds of vested interests. This accusation is not made in light vein. If the government will survey the credit granted to farmers it will find that a very small percentage has gone to the farmers owing less than five acres of land. This happens not only in credit but it is also the case with seed, fertiliser and other inputs. It is a well known fact that out of 25 lakh farmers in Gujarat, 19 lakhs own less than five acres of land. We all demand that State Govt. while framing policies of distribution of agricultural inputs should always give preference to these small farmers.

- 2 -

Hon. President of India by notification under Section 73 A of the land Revenue Code has prohibited sale and purchase of lands owned by Adiwasis. This notification is in vouge in certain areas of Gujarat. But even this is not implemented and lands of adivasis are illegally purchased and they are evicted from their lands. If adivasis fight against such injustice injunction from civil courts are brought. Is it not the duty of state machinery to strictly implement this notification ? Our estimate is that, if this is strictly implemented more than four acres of land will go to adiwasis and debt of Rs.88 lakhs will be abolished.

The State is committed to supply essential commodities throu h its public distribution system to the poor. This system can work only if there is sufficient procurement of foodgrains etc. Such procurement in our State is done through graded levy. Rich farmers on one hand demand higher price for procurement and other hand oppose levy. Gujarat had witnessed Satyagrah against levy. We all demand that there should be a permanent levy system. Even if

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necessary levy of foodgrains should be imposed on farmers growing cash crop i.e. on the total acreage.

In rural areas every village actually consist of two villages. Government in recent years has spent huge amounts on rural water supply schemes and on rural electrification but even after such facilities are availed; it is a common experience that Mohallas of Harijans, adiwasis or other backward classes are deprived of such facilities. This is nothing but depriving these people of their due share.

Keeping all the abovementioned points in view, we demand that a) Agricultural policy abd policy of distribution of agricultural inputs should be frame so as to mainly serve the interests of the poor farmers, tenants and landless labours.

b) Statutory popular committees with a majority of poor formers, enants and landless labour should be constituted at thluka and district level to look after the implementation of the Land Reform Acts. Revenue and Polise Officers should be asked to be pro-poor in all the disputes of the lands.

c) Persons having net annual income of more than Rs.6000/-from sources other than agriculture should not have any kind of rights on agricultural lands and such lands should be distributed to the landless. All thends belonging to absentee landlords; Maharajas and lands belonging to other but more than prescribed ceiling should also be distributed to the landless.

d) Present minimum wage. of Rs.3/- to agriculture labourers should be ised ti Rs.5/- in areas where agriculture labour is getting more the rate should be Rs.7 to 12. As the agricultural labour gets employment only for 180 to 200 days in a year, large scale rural works should be started for employment, If government is unable to provide employment, these families should be privided one kilo foodgrain per family per day free of charge.

e) It is a common experience that grazing lands, 'Kharaba' lands and other such follow lands are illegally cultivated by Sarpanchs and police Patels; and various reasons are advanced. When such lands are demanded by landless persons. It is demanded that 80% of grazing lands except in the villages where Gopalks maintain themselves on such lands should be distributed to the landless. All the other cultivable fallow lands - such as lands along roads as well as rail trucks; lands of irrigation tanks etc. should be granted to the landless. In the cases where such lands are granted at present on yearly lease to landless; they should be granted to them permapently. 4,....

- 3 -

f) Villages where water works and electricity exist, the same shoud be provided to backward areas of the village without any capital costs.

Strict implementation of 73 A of the Land Revenue Code prohibiting g) sale and purchase of lands belonging to Adiwasis in notified areas through special cells at Distric and Sachivalaya level. Rathwa kolis who are adwans should be given advantage of 73 A.

h) Foodgrains and other essential commodities such as coarse, cloth, edible oil etc. should be provided to the rural poor and a permenant levy system on rich farmers should be introduced to get the necessary stocks for distribution.

We hope that State Government will seriously consider the above demands and act prouptly so as to help and strengthen the poor farmers tenants and the landless and thus help building socialist society.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

> (SANAT MEHTA) Khet Panchayat

>(Subodh Mehta) President Khet Majdoor Union

State Sect -

Y->(Chandubhai Patel) President Gujarat Kisan Sabha (CPM)

Sar Vodayite (Harivallabhdas Parikh) President Gujarat Khedut Khet Majdoor Parisad.

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Khet Mag door mention ship \_\_\_\_ Gujut

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Behind the Patro / Pump -

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Behind Co-op. Bank

Pattharkuva Relief Road, Ahmedabad ( 380001 )

Phone : 25633

-Communist Party of India -Gvjarat State Council

Subodhtehtz

C.P.J.

Augt State Sect.

Ahmedahad, Dt. 12th June 74 12 June 1974