

Wheat : It was, decided to request Government to import adequate number of combines to ensure timely harvesting of wheat in future.

Sugarcane : In order to save the sugarcane growers from loss and ensure the lifting of sugarcane by the sugar-mills at the rate of Rs. 13.50 per quintal, Government be requested to subsidize the price.

Power : It was revealed that about 83,000 farmers got demand notices for tubewell connections. Consequently, they paid securities to the Punjab State Electricity Board and purchased electric motors by raising loans from Cooperative Banks, etc. Connections have not been given to them. Government is requested to expedite tubewell connections and to reimburse the amount of interest on loans incurred from the banks and other institutions for the time for which the equipment has been lying idle without any fault of the farmer.

It was revealed that so far none of the victims of thresher accidents has been paid any compensation for his physical disabilities. It was decided to urge upon Government to expedite these disbursements.

The Forum recommends that Government should take steps for setting up more Fruit & Vegetables Preservation and Vegetables Units in the State for the purpose of export of the by-products to other countries. These items will earn a good amount of foreign exchange and increase employment potential.

The Forum strongly recommends that *atleast* 700 more combines should be imported before the next harvesting season. The Forum also recommends that in addition to Government Agencies, private organisations should also be permitted to import and own combines. This will add to efficiency for timely harvesting of crops.

Kisan Bhavan at Chandigarh

President was authorised to take up the matter with appropriate authorities for raising funds for this purpose. President was requested to take up the matter with appropriate authorities to get increase in financial assistance from Punjab Government and to obtain some financial assistance from the Punjab State Agricultural Marketing Board.

Diesel Shortage : It was felt that there was an acute shortage of diesel and the farmers had to fall in queue day and night for obtaining their requirements. The deplorable diesel situation is causing great resentment and inconvenience to the farmers. It was decided to apprise telegraphically and request for immediate steps to be taken to arrange adequate supplies of diesel, to: President, India, Prime Minister, India, Agriculture & Irrigation Minister, Govt. of India, Chief Minister, Punjab, Agr. Minister, Punjab.

Concerns of Barabanki Krishak Samaj

On 26th November, 78 a meeting of Barabanki Krishak Samaj was held which expressed concern on the following problems:—

1. Arrears of cane farmers are not being paid and prices are not being fixed at par with the input prices; that should be atleast Rs. 20/- per quintal. The arrears should be paid to cane farmers with interest immediately.
2. Concern was expressed on disappearing diesel from the market while 1978 Rabi operations were carried out. This artificial shortage exploited many farmers and hit them financially. The persons and dealers responsible for this shortage should be brought in the light and be punished.

Electricity employees are responsible for disrupted and insufficient supply of power which should be stopped & culprits be punished.