

The Conference passed a resolution suggesting Bharat Krishak Samaj to organise a separate national level Agricultural Prices Committee with farmers as members and present Farmers Price Policy before the Government for their consideration while deciding agricultural prices.

It was decided to organise Farmers Study Circles in all the districts in the State for studying farmers problems in organised and scientific manner. The Conference decided to organise Agricultural Exhibitions and Farmers and Farm Youth and Women's conferences at Divisional and District Levels and promote seminars, discussions, essay competitions, reward etc. in order to install required enthusiasm and guidance to farmers especially farm youth for agricultural development. It was decided to organise all the District units of Krishak Samaj and enroll atleast 25 life members and 1000 ordinary members in every district.

PAC Finds Fault with Sugar Levy

The Public Accounts Committee has revealed that the "sugar industry has, on all accounts enriched in it itself in an unlimited way by the scheme of levy and free sale sugar."

The 155th report on Sugar Rebate Scheme presented to the Lok Sabha on April 21 by the PAC Chairman, Mr. Jyotimoy Bosu, did not find any justification for a scheme which only meant "robbing the public funds to enrich the exploiters".

The Committee has not spared the Government either. "It is a sad commentary on the policies of the Government that a rebate scheme should have been devised to benefit so few at the cost of so many."

The report has brought out "the sad and possibly the corrupt state of affairs that exists in the sugar industry."

The rebate scheme "is manipulated in the interest of the few at the cost of so many, namely, the cane grower, the

workers, the consumer and finally the hardhit exchequer."

The Committee has urged the Government to do some "serious soul-searching in this regard and examine critically whether the rebate scheme has really contributed to maximising sugar production and whether the pampering of the sugar industry by such ill-conceived incentive schemes has been justified."

Food Losses in India

Birds, insects and moisture spoil enough grain in India each year to make up the entire World shortage, a U.N. Report says. Experts are working to plug this "grain drain" with cheap pest and moisture-proof bins to replace the traditional jute sacks or mud container used by farmers to store grain at home. "But for rodents, pests and poor storage, India would be a food surplus country today," says the report. It adds that up to 10 million tonnes of foodgrains are lost each year in India through faulty storage. This is nearly 10 per cent of last year's domestic crop and twice the amount of grain India imported in 1974. If saved, it "would have been more than enough to meet last year's world food deficit estimated at 7½ million tonnes," the report added.

According to the Pesticides Association of India (PAI), New Delhi, the country is loosing yearly about Rs. 5,000 crores of agricultural production including plantation crops due to the ravages of pests and diseases, inclusive of insects, plant diseases, weeds, rodents and storage pests. On an average about 18 percent of the production of crops is lost due to pest attack. According to the estimate the maximum loss is caused due to weeds (33 percent), followed by plant diseases (26 per cent) and insects (20 per cent), while the storage loss could be put at six to eight per cent. The rates are estimated to cause about six per cent loss to the standing crops.

Big wastage in Fruits and vegetable

About 25 per cent of the 20 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables produced