

KRISHAK SAMACHAR

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No. 4

Punjab Minister Becomes Udyan Pandit

New Delhi : Mr. Jagjivan Ram gave away prizes to award-winners of the all-India Crop, Udyan Pandit and milk yield competitions.

Mr. Chandrakant Shankar Nakate of Sarwade village, in Maharashtra, and Mr. Rameshram Mishra of Hanota Patkui village in MP won the "Krishi Pandit" certificates and cash award of Rs. 3,000 each for paddy and wheat cultivation for 1974-75. Mr. Nakate cropped 14,991 kg of paddy in one hectare and Mr. Mishra 13,748 kg. of wheat. The other award winners For Paddy : Second —Mr. D.R. Prafulla Chandra of Hoshalli village, in Karnataka (14,222 kg), Rs. 1,200 and merit certificate. Mr. Kiritkumar Rajivbhai Pahal of Dabhan village, in Gujarat (9,516) Kg. Rs. 800 and merit certificate.

The Udyan Pandit awards for 1973-74 and 1974-75 for outstanding fruit growers were awarded to Mr. Bal Ram Jakhar, Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power of Punjab, for sweet oranges and Mr. Madan Lal Taparia of Rajasthan and Mrs. S.P. Soma Raju of Andhra for grapes.

EDITORIAL

B.K.S. Resolves to Implement 20-Point Programme

The 16th National Convention of Bharat Krishak Samaj held at Ludhiana whole heartedly welcomed the 20-Point Economic Programme of the Prime Minister and resolved to support the same for effective implementation. The Samaj further recommended the active involvement of the representatives of the Samaj at the National, State, District and Local level committees for the implementation of this programme.

The Convention resolved that each of the member of the Samaj would directly participate by taking up the following programmes in their areas : (i) Enroll small farmers, marginal farmers, landless labourers and village artisans as members of the local cooperative society and ensure that they are extended the required facilities and services ; (ii) Ensure providing housesites to the homeless people in the rural area ; (iii) Enroll the farm labour as members of the Samaj ; (iv) Ensure the availability of text books and stationery at reasonable prices to the students in rural areas ; (v) Ensure fair distribution of surplus land among legitimate landless farm labour ; (vi) Ensure timely availability of improved seeds, fertilizers, credit facilities, insecticides etc to farmers and extend all available improved technological knowledge for increasing agricultural production and making the nation self-sufficient in food grains ; (vii) Help the needy and poor farmers in carrying out their agricultural operations by shring available facilities ; and (viii) Encourage the farmers to construct gobar gas plants wherever it is possible.

Besides, the National Convention also recommended providing vocational training facilities for rural youth for their gainful employment, include representatives of farmers in agricultural Prices Commission, reduction of taxes and duties of tractors and agricultural implements, considerable reduction in fertiliser prices, remunerative and incentive prices for agricultural products, introduce insurance for agricultural labours, and early implementation of the recommendations of National Convention on agriculture.

—Dr. D.A. Bholay

16th National Convention, 29th All India Farmers Council, National Seminar of Bharat Krishak Samaj

(2nd to 4th April, 1976)

Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana—Punjab

Inaugural Session

The 16th National Convention, 29th All India Farmers Council and National Seminar on "Prime Ministers 20-Point Economic Programme and the Role of Bharat Krishak Samaj" were inaugurated by Shri Giani Zail Singh, Chief Minister of Punjab on 3rd April, 1976, the 'National Farmers Day'.

Shri Balram Jakhar, the Convenor of the National Convention and Capt. Rattan Singh, Local Convenor introduced and welcomed the delegates and chief guest Shri R. Srinivasan, Chairman of the Samaj, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, Union Minister for Supply and Rehabilitation, Shri Giani Zail Singh, Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Ajit Prasad Jain—Ex-Union Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Kewal Krishen, Speaker of Punjab Vidhan Sabha, Master Gurubanta Singh, Agricultural Minister of Punjab, Dr. Randhawa, Vice-Chancellor of Punjab Agricultural University, Shri Nathu Ram Mirdha—Chairman of National Agriculture Commission and hundreds of delegates and Scientists from all over the country were present. Shri Balramji highlighted the welfare programs for the farmers initiated by Shri Giani Zail Singh in Punjab, the extremely useful work done by the Punjab Agricultural University under the able leadership of Dr. Randhawa, the keen interest in farmers problems taken by Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha and the stupendous work done by National Agriculture Commission under the enlightend leadership of Shri Nathu Ram Mirdha and various activities undertaken by the Bharat Krishak Samaj for the implementation of 20-Point Economic Programme and other activities in the interest of farming community in the country. He appealed the Chief Minister and other leaders to help the farmers in getting remunerative prices for their agricultural produce.

Capt. Rattan Singh welcomed the delegates from various states. To the remarks of the chairman of the Samaj and some delegates regarding the excellent arrangements of this Convention that Punjab has been able to re-constitute and bring back the glory of Bharat Krishak Samaj which was during the times of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, Capt. Rattan Singh humbly said that the entire credit goes to our Chief Minister, Giani Zail Singh's leadership and instructions to present the right picture of this prosperous state and see that all delegates from other states go with full satisfaction and carry the pleasant memories of this Convention. He said Shri Giani Zail Singh is the true Champion of the farmers. He also appreciated the excellent cooperation and help of the Punjab Agricultural University especially Dr. Randhawa for making this Convention a success.

Dr. D.A. Bholay, Secretary General of Bharat Krishak Samaj read out the messages received for the success of the National Convention from the President, the Vice-President, Union Ministers, Governors, Chief Ministers, Agriculture Ministers and Vice-Chancellors of Agricultural Universities in the Country. The messages were very much encouraging for which the Samaj is grateful. Dr. Bholay presented the report of the Samaj for the period January 1975 to February 1976. The report covered the national situation of agriculture, the representations to the Government, the representation of the Samaj in various institutions and bodies, the farmers exchange programme and farmers training camps and compost demonstrations with the help of Government of India, Farmers exchange programme with other Countries, Family Planning and Agricultural Production Project, the programme of implementation of 20-Point Economic Programme, Observance of Community Development

week, National Farmers Day, Dr. Panjab-
rao Deshmukh's Birthday, Villagers Day
etc., other activities of the Samaj, the
working of sister institutions and brief
reports of working of various State
Krishak Samaj units.

Chief Minister Giani Zail Singh released the National Convention Souvenir published by Punjab Krishak Samaj on the occasion which was presented by Capt Rattan Singh, Shri Jagdish Kodesia presented the W.A.F.M. Trust publications to the Chief Minister.

Dr. Randhawa delivered the key address of the National Seminar. Dr. Randhawa traced the history of settlement and rehabilitation of farmers in Punjab immediately after partition in 1947. The tubewells were just introduced then and now because of sheer hard work and sacrifice by the farmers over the period Punjab is able to produce so much in agriculture and allied fields. About 40% of the present irrigation under tube-wells, mechanization in agriculture has been faster. The scheme of consolidation of holdings gave a viable holding to the farmer which was largely responsible for agricultural development. The monumental work of I.C.A.R. and the introduction of Agricultural Universities has rapidly improved the agricultural technology. Introduction of improved Seeds of high yielding varieties was another step towards the Green Revolution in the Country. The modern agriculture is much different from the old time agriculture. New technology is higher yield oriented with heavy investments with the increased prices of inputs and comparatively static agricultural prices, the farmers are not able to make any profits. Farmers need to keep records and there should be remunerative prices for agricultural produce. Net work of rural roads and spread of rural electricity are equally important along with regulated agricultural marketing. Agriculture is the basic industry. The development of agriculture is essential for the overall development and prosperity in the country.

Shri R. Srinivasan, Chairman of Bharat Krishak Samaj, pleaded for making available valuable modern agricultural

implements and inputs to the farmers at the reasonable rates. He said the farmers could produce even 200 million tons of food grains provided they were given inputs and implements at reasonable rates. He also called for proper storage of grains by Government agencies. The states should ensure the farmers that they would be provided irrigation facilities and electricity at reasonable rates. Mr. Srinivasan requested Giani Zail Singh, as a leader of the farming community to inaugurate the Convention.

Inaugurating the National Convention, National Council and National Seminar, Chief Minister Giani Zail Singh suggested creation of a calamity fund by states to insure the farmers against natural calamities. Simplification of procedures of loan to farmers will go a long way in mitigating their difficulties. The Chief Minister felt there was need for dedicated farmer leaders at every district who could plead farmers case without any political reservations. He said that the prices of inputs should be brought down by at least 25 per cent. He also emphasised the need for exchange of farmers on an inter-state basis. He held that there should at least be one member on agricultural Prices Commission whose principle avocation had been agriculture for three generations.

Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha, Union Minister for Supplies and Rehabilitation in his address said that the membership of the Samaj had been open to farm labour. He maintained that the Samaj would work vigorously for safe-guarding the interests of the farming community. He lauded the role of Punjab and Punjab Agricultural University in increasing the agricultural production.

Open Session : During the open discussion of the National Seminar on 3rd afternoon and the morning of 4th, some experts presented the papers. Many delegates took very active interest in the discussions. The delegates unanimously voiced the need for bringing down the prices agricultural inputs and safeguarding the interests of farmers. They felt that there should be rationalization of the price structure of both the farmers' produce and consumer goods sold to them.

Need for unity of farmers was also stressed. Mr. Nathu Ram Mirdha, urged the State Governments to take punitive measures against land lords, money lenders and other "traditional exploiters" to loosen their hold in land, rural finance and trade. This could free bonded labour. He called for the enactment of legislation to ensure a need-based minimum income for all agricultural labourers.

Agricultural Exhibition : Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, Union Minister Supplies and Rehabilitation inaugurated the state level Agricultural Exhibition arranged on the occasion of the National Convention on 2nd April, 1976. To highlight the achievements of the State of Punjab for implementing 20 Point programme by various departments corporations and other institutions connected with the development of Punjab, a big exhibition arranged by the State Government at Punjab Agricultural University Campus, Departments of Agriculture, Soil Conservation, Forests, Health, Public Relations, Cooperation, Industries, State Corporations like dairy development, Agro-Industries, Markfed, Punjab Tractors participated. Private manufactures of farm implements, tractors, plant protection equipment, pesticides, fertilizers also exhibited their products. The Punjab Agricultural University arranged large number of stalls to high light the latest findings of their research. The exhibition was visited by thousands of farmers from all over India and large number of local farmers.

Question-Answer Session : Agricultural experts from the Punjab Agricultural University answered number of written questions on multiforms of agricultural problems presented by the farmer delegates at the National Convention on 3rd April from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The programme was very well organised by Dr. Raghubir Singh, Professor of Extension Education of P.A.U. The Session was very much appreciated by all the delegates and they expressed their gratefulness to the P.A.U. Experts.

Cultural Programme : Cultural programme was organised to depict the rich

culture of Punjab to the visiting farmers on 3rd April evening.

Visit to P.A.U. Fields & Demonstration Plots : All the delegates visited the P.A.U. fields and demonstration plots in 14 batches guided by P.A.U. Experts on the 4th April morning. The delegates collect fruitful memories of the technological advances made by P.A.U. for the benefit of farmers.

Concluding Session : The National Convention, National Council and National Seminar deliberations were concluded on 4th April in the afternoon. Some resolutions were presented and unanimously adopted by the National Convention which are separately published.

Shri Balram Jakhar, Convenor of the National Convention presented the gist of the deliberations and the resolutions passed during the Convention. Chief Minister Shri Giani Zail Singh introduced the Chief Guest Shri Dev Raj Urs, Chief Minister of Karnataka.

Chief Minister Shri Dev Raj Urs, in his valedictory address said that the only way to achieve optimum production in agriculture was that the Union Government should enact legislation for ending further fragmentation of land. He called for amendments in law of inheritance so as to avoid fragmentation of land. He was addressing the two-day concluding session of the 16th National Farmers Convention.

Citing examples of the U.K., Japan and America, he urged the Prime Minister to look into this problem and bring further suitable law.

He called for speedy land reforms and proper land distribution among tillers for achieving maximum production. He pinpointed that to stabilize their agriculture the first thing needed was to pay more attention towards irrigation.

He expressed satisfaction that the Planning Commission had taken serious note of this issue. He suggested that

(Contd. on page 9)

Resolutions adopted by the 16th National Convention

Resolution No. 1 : The 16th National Convention of the Bharat Krishik Samaj held at Ludhiana heartedly welcomes the 20-Point Economic Programme of the Prime Minister of India and resolves to support the same for effective implementation. The samaj further recommends the active involvement of the representatives of the Samaj at the National, State, Districts and Local level committees for the implementation of this programme.

The Convention resolves that each of the member of the Samaj would directly participate by taking up the following programmes in their area :

(1) Enroll small farmers, marginal farmers, landless labourers and village artisans as members of the local cooperative society and ensure that they are extended the required facilities and services; (2) Ensure providing house sites to the homeless people in the rural area; (3) Enroll the farm labour as the members of the Samaj (4) Ensure the availability of the text books and stationery and reasonable prices to the student in rural area; (5) Ensure fair distribution of surplus land among legitimate landless farm labour; (6) Ensure timely availability of improved seeds, fertilizers, credit facilities, insecticides etc. to farmers and extend all available improved technological knowledge for increasing agricultural production and making the nation self-sufficient in food grains; (7) Help the needy and poor farmers in carrying out their agricultural operations by sharing available facilities; (8) Encourage the farmers to construct gobar has plants wherever it is possible.

Resolution No. 2 : The 16th National Convention recommends that the new agro-based Industries and facilities for vocational training for Rural Youth should be created for their gainful employment in rural areas.

Resolution No. 3 : The 16th National Convention strongly recommends to the Government of India that the represen-

tatives of the farmers must be included in the Agricultural Prices Commission so that the interests of the farmers are safeguarded.

Resolution No. 4 : The National Convention recommends that a considerable reduction in the various taxes and excise duties etc. presently levie on tractors and agricultural machinery may be reduced considerably to bring it within the easy reach of the farmers. It is further recommended to encourage manufacture of small size tractors like Russian D.T. 14 at reasonable prices.

Resolution No. 5 : The 16th National Convention welcomes the Government of India's decision for reducing the fertilizers prices, however, it is recommended that further substantial reduction in fertilizer prices to the level of 1973-74 season be made to motivate the large majority of farmers to make maximum use of fertilizers for higher agricultural production.

Resolution No. 6 : The 16th National Convention recommends that the farmers must be given remunerative & insentive prices for a agricultural products. In the interest of stabilizing the agricultural prices it is recommended that the parity-approach should be adopted between the inputs prices and agriculture prices.

Resolution No. 7 : The Convention strongly recommends the introduction of Life Insurance for the agricultural labourers taking instead of cash premium, free labour for community works which will go a long way in ensuring the welfare and prosperity of the weakest section in the society today.

Resolution No. 8 : The 16th National Convention of Farmers very much appreciates the stupendous work done by the National Commission on Agriculture and whole-heartedly supports their final report, and urges the Government for its early implementation. The Samaj pledges its support and involvement in its implementation at all stages for the balanced growth of agriculture in the country.

B. K. S. SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

(January-1975 to February-1976)

By Dr. D. A. Bholay

Brother Farmers,

As you know the 28th National Council meeting was held at Athur (Chingleput) Tamilnadu from 28 February to 2nd March, 1975. The present report covers the period from January 1975 to February-1976.

During this period certain parts in the country faced natural misery of floods. The damage was substantial in Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan. Severe damage was caused to crops, cattle and people. An area of 3.8 million hectares in 15 States and a population of 23.6 million were affected by floods this year. The damage to crops is estimated at Rs. 149 crores.

The Samaj at the National level and State level and District level whole heartedly welcomed Prime Minister's 20-Point Economic programme and decided for a constructive supporting programme for the implementation throughout the country and communicated the resolution to the Prime Minister and Agricultural Minister. The Samaj welcomed greater attention of the Government to agricultural development and betterment of small and marginal farmers, landless labour and weaker sections of the society at the same time appealed the Government for adequate reduction in the prices of agricultural inputs so that the agricultural prices become remunerative to the farmers. The Samaj launched three pronged programme since July 1976 to produce more, stop wastage and adopt austerity in life in making the country self-sufficient in food production.

The resolutions of last National Council of the Samaj were presented to all Union Ministers, State Chief Ministers, Agricultural Minister, Reserve Bank, All National Banks, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Agricultural Universities, Directors of Agriculture, and development commissioners for necessary

action. These resolutions have been highly acclaimed and suitable actions are taken by various departments. These resolutions were also sent to all our State Secretaries of the Samaj for necessary action and they were requested to prepare suitable annual programme of activities of respective state samaj units.

The Samaj wrote to the Central and State Agricultural Minister's regarding the utilization of Wheat Bonus grants for the Construction of "Kisan Bhavan" in the State capitals for farmers.

The difficulties of the farmers because of falling agricultural prices and the non-payments of arrears especially for sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh and for cotton in Maharashtra and Punjab were presented for appropriate redress. The state and local units also referred number of local problems of the farmers redress.

The Samaj is in regular liaison with the Ministry of Agriculture through their Directorate of Extension. The Samaj represented the realistic views of farmers while serving on various bodies and committees of Agricultural Ministry, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, National F.A.O. Liaison Committee, Peoples Action for Development, India, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, Indian Standards Institution, National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India, Bharat Sevak Samaj, National and State level committees and seminars.

Bharat Krishak Samaj sent Five members delegation to attend the 21st Conference of International Federation of Agricultural Producers, at Washington under the Chairmanship of Shri Balram Jakhar, where they played a very prominent role of leadership of developing countries in the International gathering of farm leaders. The Samaj is the Regional Office of I.F.A.P. and is in touch with National Organizations of Ceylon,

Bangladesh and Nepal and other Countries in South East Asia.

The Samaj is trying to expand the unique Family Planning and Agricultural Production Project programme in number of States for which we have approached SIDA through I.L.O. through Government of India for a big project grant for Rs. 15 Lakhs. We hope it will be materialised very soon. With the Farmers and World Affairs Inc, we have just completed the two years Family Planning Project in Maharashtra. The project report is under preparation and will soon be published.

During the period under report 486-Life Members and 127-Family Life Members and One Institutional Life member were enrolled. Many States have enrolled number of Ordinary members. With this the present membership of the Samaj has been 14000 life members, 700 family life members, 5-Institutional members and Ten Lakhs ordinary members.

28th Meeting of the All India Farmers Council and the National Seminar on The Role of Bharat Krishak Samaj in Helping Small Farmers and Landless Labour; Increasing use of Local Manurial Resources and Economic use of fertilisers; and Meeting the Challenge of Self-Sufficiency in Food. "were held at Athur (Chingleput) Tamilnadu in March, 1975.

A meeting was organised at New Delhi, which presided over by Shri Jagjivan Ram, the Minister for Agriculture & Irrigation and President of the Samaj on 27th December, 1975 on the occasion of 77th Birthday of our beloved Founder late Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh in cooperation with Delhi Krishak Samaj, W.A.F.M. Farmers Welfare Trust Society, Farmers Education and Welfare Society, Farmers Cooperative Bank of India and Young Farmers Association, India. On this occasion tributes were paid to Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh and a mass contact campaign was launched by Delhi Krishak Samaj for the implementation of 20-Point Economic Programme. Similar meetings were organised in most of the States and Districts. Thousands of farmers pledged to support and actively

implement the 20-Point Economic Programme all over the country.

Many States have organised a series of Seminars and Demonstration-cum-training camps for farmers on local problems and on the use of organic manures and compost making and Gobar Gas Plants. 16-Compost Demonstration Training Camps are organised with the help of Ministry of Agriculture and State Departments of Agriculture all over the Country. Inter-state Farmers Exchange programme within the country was organised by the Samaj with the help of Directorate of Extension, Ministry of Agriculture.

National Community Development Week was observed and various programmes were organised by most of our State Samaj's all over the Country with the help of Agricultural departments. The Samaj honoured Krishi Pandits recently in the Central Office of the Samaj at New Delhi and it gives me immense pleasure to announce here that one of our most active member of the Samaj has been honoured a "Udyan Pandit" who is amongst us and is the convenor of this National Convention Mr. Balram Jakhar. We are all proud of him.

The Samaj has decided to publish "Who-is-Who" Directory of the members of the Samaj. So far 135 life members have sent their bio-data information for the Directory. Many States are publishing Farm Manual-cum-Annual Diary which is an educational activity and very much appreciated by the Farmers. Many States are also publishing monthly farm magazine.

Number of Farmers and members of the Samaj attended the annual Krishi Melas organised by India Agricultural Research Institute and various Agricultural Universities. About 25 members of the Samaj have recently attended the Farm leaders training course at the Nilokheri Extension Training Centre, organised by the Directorate of Extension on the request of the Samaj. The publication of Krishak Samacher has been handed over to the States on their

request-English Edition to Tamilnadu, Hindi-Edition to Madhya Pradesh and Marathi Edition to Maharashtra Samaj.

The Samaj has decided to farm the Sugarcane Commodity Council and Bananna Council for attending to their specific problems. Similar Commodity Councils are being considered for other major commodities. State Secretaries of the Samaj were requested to associate the State and District units with the whole village adoption programmes and Farmers Service Societies. Some State units are planning to set up production unit and Printing Press with the help of Central Social Welfare Board. Some State units are planning to establish Soil Testing Laboratories. Some States and District units have been actively engaged in extending farm services and input supplies to the farmers.

States Secretaries were sent note of the Bharat Krishak Samaj-Imperatives for Organizational Excellence" as a guide for long term planning of programmes and activities of the Samaj. It has been decided to celebrate Silver Jubile of the Samaj in the year 1980. It is proposed to bringout commoration volume on the life and work of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh as a Chairman of Farmers.

Many District units have been organised and become more active during the year. Maharashtra and Orissa Samaj have constructed Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishak Bhavan. Karnataka Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and Tamilnadu Samaj have planned to construct Krishak Bhavan. Khargone District Krishak Samaj also finalised plans for Krishak Bhavan.

A Brief Report of Activities of various State Krishak Samaj received from Respective State Units are given in the Cyclostyled report. Some reports are yet to be Received and hence could not be included.

I must express grateful thanks to the members of the Governing Body and the Standing Committee and the All India

Farmers Council and to you all for your help, guidance and cooperation extend to me in discharging my duties as the Secretary General of the B.K.S. I also thank the State Krishak Samaj Secretaries for their kind cooperation extended to me from time in discharging my duties. I am sure without the cooperation and guidance of all of you, it would not have been possible for me to discharge my duties so sincerely and efficiently. I hope to receive your sincere cooperation and guidance in the future also as in the past. I also wish to express my sincere gratitude and thank to the Members of the Central Office who have unhesitatingly worked so hard and always cooperated with me in discharging my duties eventhough we have only a very limited staff. The always held the work of the Samaj as their appear most responsibility.

My report will be incomplete without mentioning and recording my highest regards and most sincere thanks to Shri R. Shrinivasan, the Chairman of the Samaj for his full confidence in me and the timely guidance and advise which has kept my spirit alive for carrying out my responsibility to the best of my ability. Last but not the least, I sincerely beg your parden for any short commings in my efforts but I assure you that my heart and soul are committed to the cause of farmers, and furtherance of the Samaj.

Once again I sincerely request and hope to receive the same cooperation help and guidance from you all so that the samaj may march ahead with renewed strength and vigour of better service for the farming community in the country which is the foremost cause for which the Bharat Krishak Samaj is rightly committed.

Thankig you,

JAI HIND

JAI KISAN

Dr. D.A. Bholay
Secretary General, BKS

38 Cr. Loss to Punjab Farmers

Rabi crops worth Rs. 38 crores were destroyed in the hailstorm in Punjab, according to the Punjab Chief Minister, Mr. Zail Singh.

Appearing on TV Delhi Mr. Zail Singh said farmers in 785 villages of Punjab comprising an area of 137424 hectares were affected by the hail-storm. Last Saturday's hail-storm in Ludhiana district was the biggest setback to farmers,

Mr. Zail Singh said.

He said that Rs. 5 crores was needed to compensate the farmers, for this, he said, the State Government had approached the Centre for financial assistance. The State Government had sanctioned relief worth Rs. 32 lakhs to the affected people.

Mr. Zail Singh said the State Government was thinking to introduce measures including crop insurance to protect the farmers from natural calamities.

U.S.A. Farm Leaders Exchange Programme-1976

Applications are invited from Progressive Farmers who are Life Members of Bharat Krishak Samaj for participation in the 1976 Exchange Programme with U.S.A. The selected candidates will have to be in U.S.A. in the middle of August 1976. The delegation will consist of Six

Indian Farmers selected from all over India and they will tour the United States for about four weeks. Approximate expenses for each selected candidate will come to about Rs. 15,000/- which include return air fair, internal travel, exchange and hospitality etc. For application forms and further details, please contact your Local State Krisak Samaj office. Last date for receiving application is 30th May, 1976.

Resolutions Presented by West Bengal Delegates

(1) Considering the immense loss caused by the coal Mining Operations in Asansol area District Burdwan, West Bengal due to depression and erosion, the National Convention of farmers recommends to the Govt. of India to engage a high power commission to go into the problem of the farmers and recommend the suitable suggestion for irrigation and land reclamation.

Proposed by Sri Sudhir Mukherjee

Seconded by Sri Ram Hori Chatterjee

(2) Considering that Purulia District in West Bengal mainly inhabited by scheduled tribes are poor in health, wealth and education should continue to enjoy the benefits of the old Chhotanagpur tenancy act which is now being abolished by the Govt. of West Bengal.

Proposed by : S.K. Mukherjee

Seconded by : Sushil K. Banerjee.

(Contd. from page 4)

more money be provided for construction of dams and minor irrigation, installation and generation of tube wells to speedily generate more irrigation. Although India has created the necessary infrastructure by building dams for irrigation their potential had not been fully utilised.

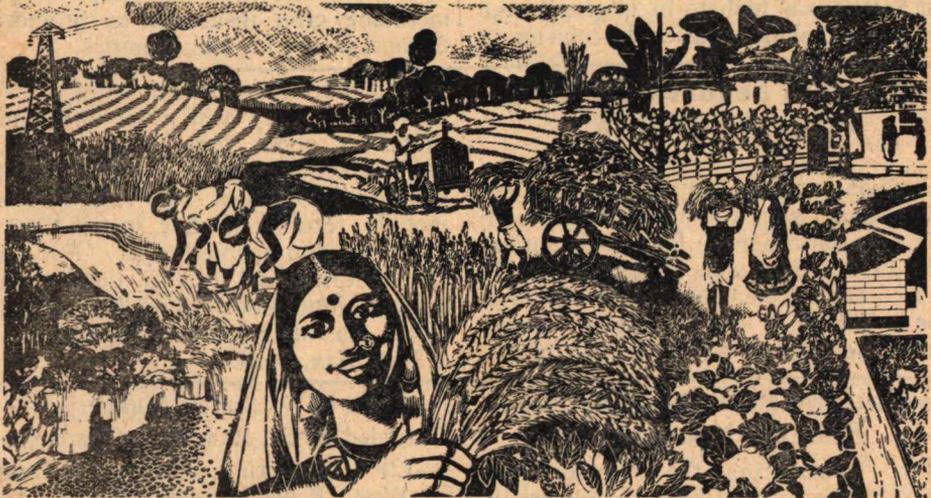
He was of the view that if law of inheritance was changed and distribution of land progenies was thus continued, it would also checkmate their population growth. We have yet to go a long way in achieving maximum agricultural production. Though the annual growth rate of production had been between three to five per cent, India's production depended most on the vagaries of weather.

He highly praised Punjab farmers for adopting new agricultural technology and advised farmers of other states to emulate their example.

Shri Chikkegowda, Agriculture Minister of Karnataka announced and invited on behalf of Chief Minister Shri Dev Raj Urs to hold the next National Convention of Bharat Krishak Samaj at Bangalore far in Karnataka which was warmly accepted by the delegates and the Samaj.

Shri R. Srinivasan, Chairman of the Samaj in his address thanked Chief Minister Shri Giani Zail Singh and Chief Minister Shri Dev Raj Urs for their excellent guidance to the farmers and the Samaj and all other participants.

TRANSFORMING THE RURAL SCENE



Relief for the rural poor and indications of an upswing in the rural economy are the principal achievements of the decade.

- Bonded labour abolished.
 - Moratorium on Rural indebtedness.
 - Land for landless.
 - Increased credit facilities for farmers.
 - Better agricultural inputs.
- Bank credit for agricultural development rose to Rs. 7,850 million in 1974-75.
- 28,000 village societies and 1,530 marketing cooperatives distribute consumer articles through 46,000 fair price shops.
- 4.5 million house-sites allotted to the rural poor; housing schemes launched by several states.
- Small-scale industries provide employment to two hundred and seven thousand villagers—an increase of 326 per cent over the decade.
- The number of post offices in rural areas increases to 91,000.
- Village panchayats cover 406.8 million population.
- Electricity covers one hundred and seventy thousand villages—an increase of about 300 per cent over the decade.
- High yielding varieties of wheat and rice now being sown in 60 per cent and 25 per cent of land respectively.

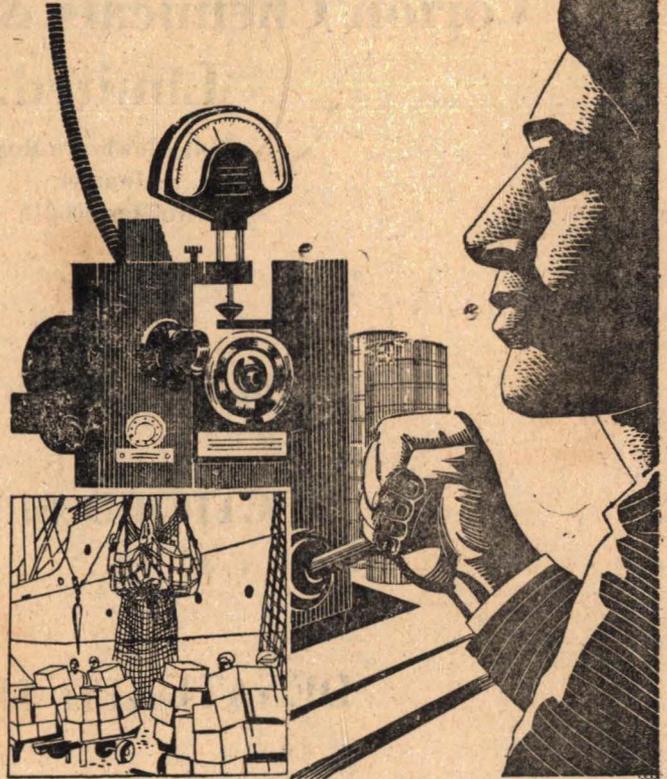
NATION ON THE MOVE

Rapid rise in exports

India's total exports have gone up to over Rs. 3,300 crores. Ten years ago, it was only Rs. 805 crores.

Quality control has helped to build a better image of Indian goods abroad.

Engineering goods earned Rs. 353 crores last year through exports—a new record.



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