

KRISHAK SAMACHAR

Vol. 1

APRIL—MAY 1957

Nos. 1 & 2

INAUGURATION OF THE COMMODITY COMMITTEES OF THE FORUM

Shri A. P. Jain, Food and Agriculture Minister of the Government of India, inaugurated the Commodity Committees of the Farmers' Forum, India on March 20, 1957 at Talkatora Gardens in New Delhi, on the occasion of the Third National Convention of Farmers.

Welcoming Shri A. P. Jain, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Agriculture and President of the Farmers' Forum, India said that even at the very first meeting which was held in Srinagar, a proposal was accepted that the organisation should frame certain panels on various subjects,

He said that it was decided that these committees should be started as a part of the Farmers' Forum. He pointed out that the name 'Commodity Committees' may have to be changed to 'Crop Committees', in view of the fact that the Government's committees were also known as Commodity Committees. Thus, if they adopted the same name there was apt to be some confusion which they would like to avoid.

Dr. Deshmukh explained that eleven crop committees had been formed for eleven commodities which are as follows :

1. Sugarcane.
2. Cotton.
3. Jute and other Fibres.
4. Tobacco.
5. Coconut and Plantation Crops.
6. Cereals and Pulses.
7. Oilseeds.
8. Fruits and Vegetables.
9. Cooperation and Marketing.
10. Milk and Dairying.
11. Animal Husbandry.

The twelfth committee would be dealing with plant protection measures.

He said that, it was their aim that there should be closest possible co-ordination between the Committees of the Farmers' Forum and the Government's Commodity Committees.

He said that each one of the crops, which it had been proposed to deal with, had its special problems. Every crop had certain problems and requirements which were common, such as good and improved seed, manure and fertilisers, irrigation and proper direction from the experts. But apart from these common features applicable to every crop, there were also a number of special problems which



Shri A. P. Jain inaugurating the Commodity Committees of the Forum

the growers of particular crops alone had to face. Every crop, for instance, had its own pests and diseases. Every crop had its own difficulties and problems of marketing. Every crop was dealt with differently from another by Government so far as import, export, and price policies were concerned. It was, therefore necessary that these, separate but important issues be considered crop-wise. And for a vast country like India it may be necessary, at a later stage, even to divide these Crop Committees region wise.

He said that the Committees would also help carry to the maximum possible number of growers the message and knowledge of the various campaigns for better production of these commodities initiated and launched by the Government through its Commodity Committees, Publicity Organisations, the National Extension Blocks etc.

Inaugurating the Commodity Committees of the Forum Shri A. P. Jain urged the farming community of the country to come forward and play their vital role for the successful implementation of the Second Five Year Plan, through increased agricultural production. Unless the agriculturists took a lead, the success of the Second Plan, which had just completed its first year would be handicapped.

Shri Jain said that the responsibilities of the farmers had grown much and an important place had been given to agriculture in the Second Plan. Until the farmers did not realize their responsibility agricultural production could not increase. It was the duty of every farmer to realize that in the advancement of the country lay his prosperity.

Referring to the Commodity Committees of the Farmers' Forum, India, he said, that Commodity Committees of the Government would work in close co-operation, with those set up by the Forum.

AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL INDUSTRIES EXHIBITION

The Farmers' Forum, India had organised an Agricultural and Rural Industries Exhibition alongwith the Third National Convention of Farmers in the Talkatora Gardens at New Delhi. The Exhibition was held from March 20 to 25 and was visited by farmers, agricultural experts and local people who were

interested in the advancement of Indian Agriculture and Rural Industries.

The following institutions, State Governments and Agricultural firms participated in the Exhibition.

Indian Central Jute Committee; Indian Central Coconut Committee; Indian Central Arecanut Committee; Indian Central Oilseeds Committee; Indian Central Lac Research Institute, State Departments of Agriculture of Andhra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh; Technical Co-operation Mission of U. S. A.; Directorate of Advertisement and Visual Publicity of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; Indian Council of Agricultural Research; Indian Agricultural Research Institute; Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izzatnagar; Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore.

The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board had also put up a stall in the Exhibition. The dealers in Agricultural goods and appliances were Messrs Pestonjee P. Pocha & Sons of Poona, United Provinces Commercial Corporation, Good Earth Company, Escorts (Agents) Limited, Raghunath Bros., Dass Motors Limited, Voltas Limited, Ghaziabad Engineering Company and Goldstein Engineering Company.

The Hamdard Dawakhana (Trust) Delhi, Associated Cement Company and Moti Mahal Restaurant also participated in the exhibition.

FARMERS AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

Nearly 2,000 farmers went to the Rashtrapati Bhavan on March 22, 1957 to an *at home* given by the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

Addressing the farmers Dr. Rajendra Prasad said that his message to them was to step up agricultural production. He asked them to take that message to their villages. The President said that he was always happy to see farmers, who had the unique honour of serving the country. He said that India lived in villages and although stress was given to industrial development, agriculture was still the most important factor in the national economy. He assured the farmers that the Government would give full cooperation in providing them good seed, technical "know-how", adequate water supply and other amenities to help them in their task.

SEMINAR ON "ROLE OF FARMERS ORGANISATION IN AGRICULTURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA"

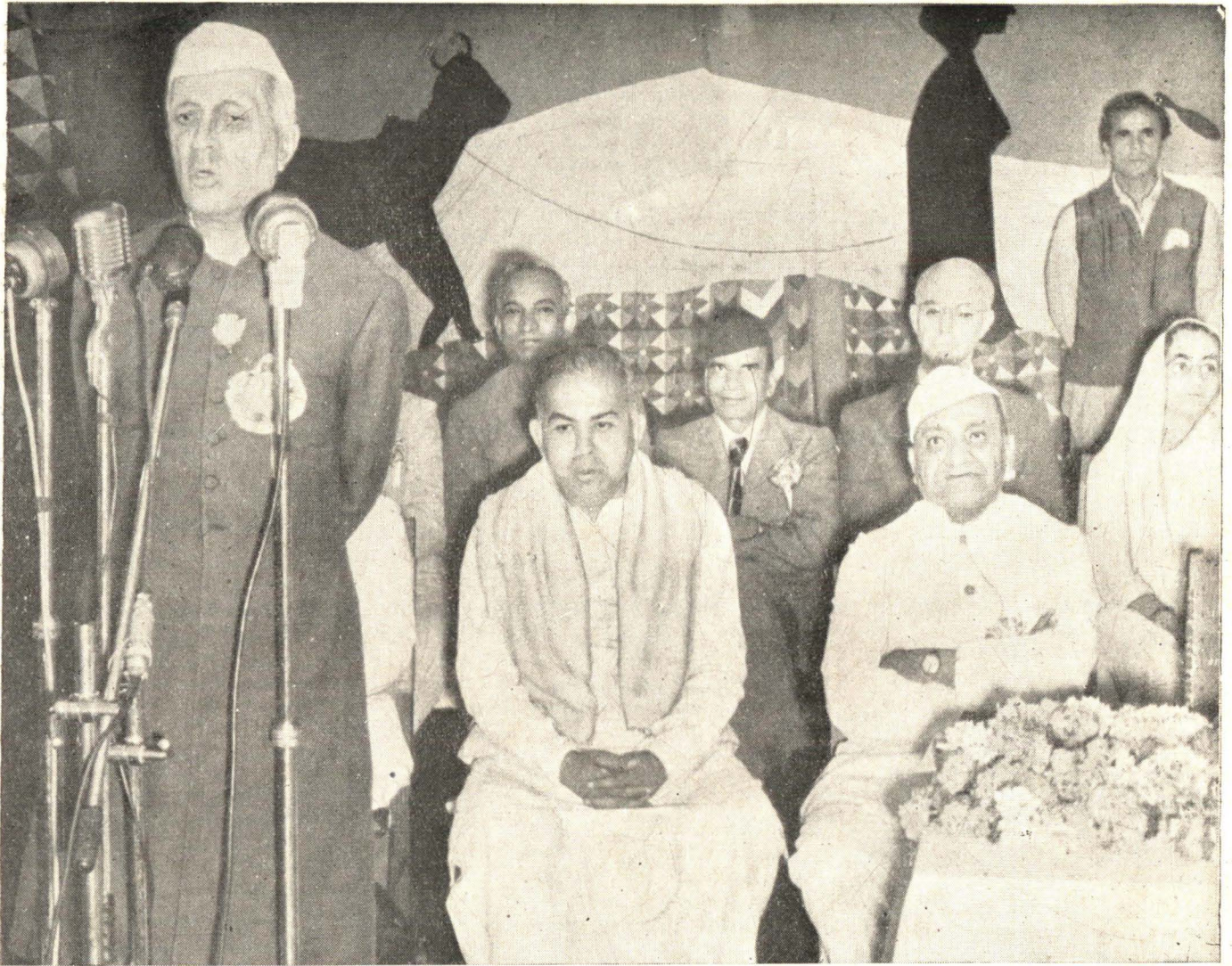
The Seminar on the "Role of Farmers Organisation and Community Development in India" was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru on March 22, 1957 in Talkatora Gardens, New Delhi.

Welcoming the Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh said that the subject of the Seminar had been selected deliberately so that it could be possible to obtain the views of not only of the more intelligent farmers but also of the highest experts in the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Community Development, but also of the Development Commissioners and Directors of Agriculture in the various States. He expressed the hope that the discussion in the Seminar shall be of a sufficiently high order, would throw sufficient light to mould the activities of the Farmers' Forum in a way which may be most conducive to the interest of the farmers and the advancement of agriculture in our country.

He said that India still imported certain amount of foodgrains from foreign countries. This was not very encouraging and the farmers of India who have been entrusted with the important responsibility of feeding the nation have to pause for a while and think how they can help in increasing the targets of agricultural production.

Inaugurating the Seminar Prime Minister Shri Nehru extended his hearty greetings for the New Year which according to the new calendar began on Friday. He said many people perhaps did not know that it was a very auspicious day. In India there are different calendars in different parts of the land. He said, "You all know that we want to develop and strengthen our unity. We should strive as far as possible to bring uniformity in our methods of work".

Expressing his extreme dissatisfaction with the food production target set for the Second Plan period, Shri Nehru said it was much too modest, and it should have been still higher. He ridiculed the idea of depending merely on financial allocation for the execution of plans and to achieve targets and said "By blood and sweat we shall achieve them".



Shri Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurating the Seminar on the "Role of Farmers' Organization in Agricultural and Community Development in India"

Like a weighing scale, Shri Nehru said, the progress in industrial and agricultural sectors had to be balanced for the achievement of an integrated economy. Without industry the country would remain backward, but the primary need was in the agricultural field. Industry alone could not deliver the goods, Shri Nehru added.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for taking to co-operative methods in agriculture and said progress can only be made through real co-operatives in every branch of agriculture. He said that the role of Community Projects and other development blocks was to inculcate a sense of responsibility, initiative and drive among the village community. Already 2,20,000 villages embracing a population of about 13 crores were benefiting from them.

THIRD MEETING OF THE ALL INDIA FARMERS' COUNCIL

The All India Farmers' Council held its third meeting on March 24, 1957 in the Talkatora Gardens, New Delhi. 124 members of the Council and all delegates and visitor delegates to the National Convention of Farmers were present.

In a brief speech Dr. P. S. Deshmukh welcomed Shri V. T. Krishnamachari. He said that the first meeting of the Council was inaugurated by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. A Seminar was held in the second meeting which was attended by the Agricultural Ministers of the various States. The aim of the Council was to discuss the problems of cultivators and to find their solutions. The Forum wanted to establish such councils, in all the

States, to study the lesser important problems of their particular areas.

He said that if the farmers had to live and progress then they had to study their problems and find out their correct solutions.

Inaugurating the meeting of the Council Shri V. T. Krishnamachari, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission said that an increase of 40 per cent in food production was absolutely essential for the success of the Plan. If that was not achieved they would not be able to remedy the anomalous situation created by the fact that agriculture, from which 80 per cent of the population derived its income, contributed less than 50 per cent of the total national income. If the income from agriculture was to be increased, the per capita income of the farmer must increase. If they

implemented the Plan successfully, at least 80 per cent income would come from agriculture. The basic issue before the country was, therefore, the increase in agricultural production.

He said that the World Bank Mission which had toured the country recently, had said that with the resources available at present, it was possible to increase the food production at least three times.

The All India Farmers' Council passed seven resolutions. One of the resolutions says that the Governing Body of the Forum should make every effort to organise an International Agricultural Exhibition.

THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION OF FARMERS

The Third National Convention of Farmers was held on Sunday, March 24, 1957 in the gaily decorated main pandal of the Convention Camp, in the picturesque surroundings of the Talkatora Gardens, New Delhi. Attended by nearly 2,000 farmers, agricultural experts and others interested in agriculture and the farmer's advancement, it was inaugurated by Shri U. N. Dhebar, President of the Indian National Congress.

Welcoming Shri U. N. Dhebar, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Agriculture and the President of the Farmers' Forum, India said that the Third National Convention of Farmers was being held under the auspices of the Farmers' Forum, India. The first Convention of the Forum was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and the Second Convention was addressed by the President Dr. Rajendra Prasad. It was a matter of great pleasure that Shri U. N. Dhebar had come to inaugurate the Third Convention.

Giving a brief account of the Forum's aims and activities Dr. Deshmukh said that the Farmers' Forum was an organisation of farmers. Farmers' Forum had been established at State levels in all the States of the Union, although it had not reached the villages yet. In several States, District level Farmers' Forum had been established. State and District level Conventions and Seminars of Forum had been held in almost all the States and districts of India.

"The rural youths of the country also should be organised, so that the country and the farmers, both, could benefit. Having this in view the Young Farmers' Association, India

had been established. Similarly to organise the farm-woman, the Bhartiya Gramin Mahila Sangh had been organised, which was holding its Second Convention this time," he said.

Shri U. N. Dhebar, President of the Indian National Congress, inaugurating the Convention said that agriculture was the backbone of Indian Economy. For the last 150 years people had forgotten their responsibility towards the farmers. Their condition had progressively deteriorated although the economy of the country solely rested on them. Farming provided bread to nearly 60-70 per cent of the people. He said that the farmer was, today and would be tomorrow, the keystone of India's social system.

He said that today India's population was 30 crores and was increasing at a rate of 50 lakh per annum. Therefore it was necessary to increase the food production accordingly, that could only materialize when the farmers got the cooperation of the Government.

He appealed that the task of achieving increase in food production under the Second Five Year Plan should be treated on an emergency basis. Shri Dhebar described the farmers as the "front-line" in the fight for the success of the Plan and said administrators, public workers and the whole society should see to it that farmers get all assistance they needed and that no hurdles remained in their way. The farmer must be given every help to stand on his own legs and society should treat him with all respect and honour. For, if the farmer was weak the country would never gain strength.

He said that the recent general elections had shown that there was political equality in the country. Similarly, there should be social and economic equality. In a socialist State farmers and other workers should have a place of honour and equal status with others.

Farmers, he said, should take interest not only in production from their fields, but also in afforestation of hills, erosion of soil, flood control, animal husbandry and such other matters which vitally affected agriculture.

MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY

The eighth meeting of the Governing Body of the Forum was held on March 25, 1957 in Talkatora Gardens, New Delhi. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, President of the Forum, was in the Chair.

The meeting decided to establish a Marketing and a Commodity Division in the Central Office of the Farmers' Forum, India. The Governing Body set a target of 3,000 life members i. e., 10 per district and decided that it should be achieved within the duration of the current year. The meeting also considered and approved the resolutions recommended by the All India Farmers' Council and decided to implement them.

The Governing Body discussed about the holding of the All India Cattle Show, Poultry Show, Flower Show, Citrus show and Fruit Show alongwith the International Agricultural Exhibition. It was decided that the President may appoint a Committee to initiate this work.

FARMERS VISIT BHAKRA-NANGAL

Seven hundred farmer delegates representing a cross section of the agricultural community of the country who attended the Third Convention at New Delhi, went on a tour of Patiala and Bhakra-Nangal in a special train on March 25, 1957. This was the biggest single batch of persons ever to see the Bhakra Dam at one time.

At Patiala the farmers were entertained by the Maharaja of Patiala and visited the Bahadurgarh Farm, one of the largest and most well equipped farms in India.

The farmers also visited 78,000 acre Samara reclamation project.

FARMERS' DAY

Farmers' Day was celebrated on April 3, in village Ranbirpura in Patiala District of Panjab with great eclat. Shri Gurpartap Singh, Block Development Officer, Patiala, presided.

He explained at length about the Farmers' Forum programme and said that all farmers should take a pledge of producing maximum yield, only then the food problem of India can be solved.

Shri Jagjit Singh Mann in a brief speech exhorted farmers to become members of this non-political organisation and help in advancing the cause of Indian agriculture. He further said that this was the only organisation which could voice the grievances of farmers.

People, who attended the meeting in large numbers took a pledge to produce more by adopting new methods of cultivation and by the use of better seeds and manures.

Young Farmers

YOUNG FARMERS' TRAINING PROGRAMME

A training programme of the Young Farmers' Association, India, was inaugurated by Dr. J. C. Ghosh, member of Planning Commission on the occasion of the Third National Convention of Farmers.

Welcoming Dr. J. C. Ghosh, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh said that the role of youth in the development of the country could not be over emphasized. As vitamins were essential for the maintenance and health of the body so he considered the movement of Young Farmers necessary and important for the growth and development of the country. To develop the young farmer into a progressive farmer and a better citizen was one of the objects of the Association, he said.

He said that hitherto, somehow or the other, it had been their habit to wait for someone else to take the ini-

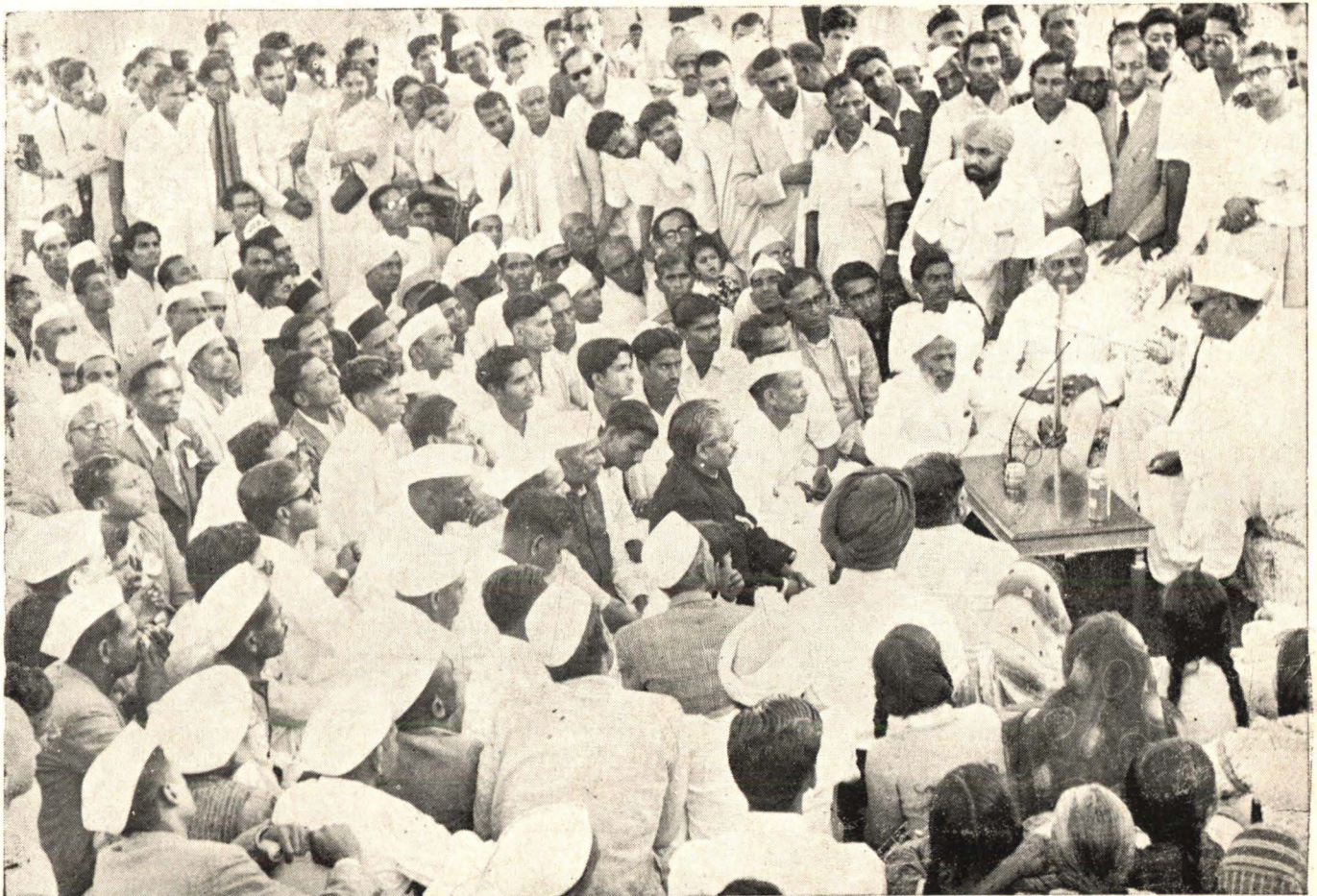
tiative in matters of development. The Association aimed to break that habit and to develop the quality of initiative and leadership among its members. The Association, for the last two years, had done considerable work and had stimulated country-wide interest and made the nation realise not only the importance of Youth Movement amongst the farmers but the contribution youth can make towards the development of the country. Clubs had been organised in the States of U. P., Mysore, Punjab, Bombay and Andhra. The States of Rajasthan, West Bengal and Delhi had formed Action Committees and soon the club work would be started.

He said that the farmers would over have to face certain problems which are similar in nature or baffling in their solution. To make the young members realise these problems and to develop in them the breath of vision, the Association takes part in the International Farm Youth Exchange Programme in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture. So far about

100 boys and 37 girls with rural background have gone abroad under the International Farm Youth Exchange Programme and these men and women have done good work on their return and shared their experience with others. The Young Farmers' Association itself is the result of their efforts.

Addressing the Young Farmers Dr. J. C. Ghosh said that a Welfare State in India could only be built on a sound village economy. That economy would not be stable if the young farmer did not develop the ability to shoulder the task of making the countryside prosperous. Government agencies could help, but no movement for better living would endure if it was not based primarily on self help.

Explaining the salient features of Extension he said that extension was the changing of attitudes and skills; helping people to help themselves; it taught people what to want as well as how to work out ways satisfying those wants and inspiring them to



Dr. Rajendra Prasad talking to Farmers at the Rashtrapati Bhavan at home

achieve the satisfaction of their desires. Extension was a two-way channel—it brought scientific information to the village people and it also took the problems of the village people to the scientific institutions for solution; it recognised that the Home was the basis for all improvement; extension used persuasion and not force in getting new ideas across and worked in harmony with the culture of the people.

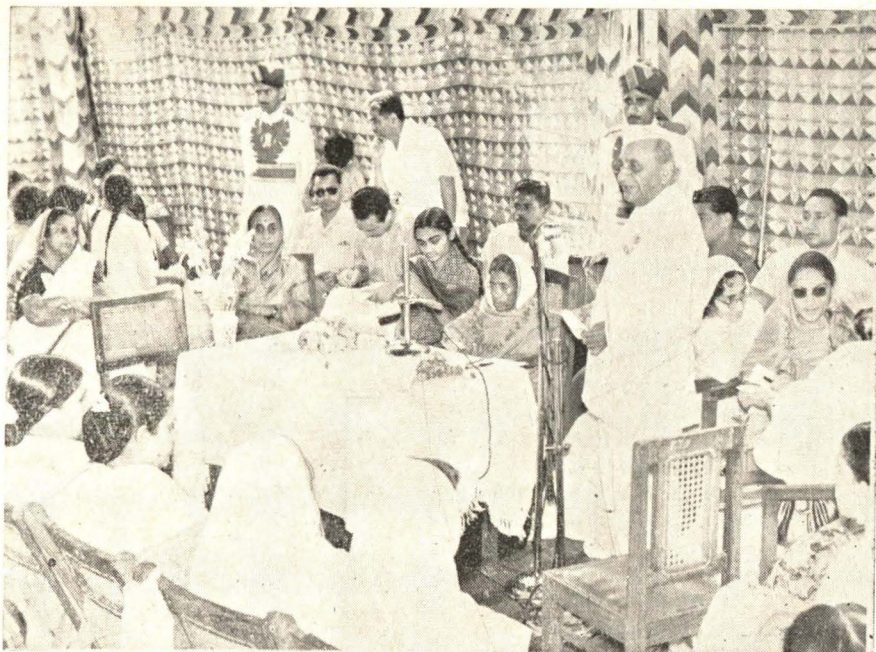
He said that while village level workers and other extension personnel were being trained in large numbers and allotted to the National Extension Service Blocks, it was not physically possible for them to contact directly all the farmers in the villages of India. That brought us to the great role which young farmers' organizations could and should play in progressing the execution of the national plans for rural development. They could work in close harmony and co-operation with the official elements both at the centre and in the States and help to build men and women, as effective and efficient producers throughout the country.

SECOND CONVENTION OF YOUNG FARMERS

The Second National Convention of Young Farmers was inaugurated by Shri S. K. Dey, Minister for Community Development on March 23, 1957 at Talkatora Gardens in New Delhi.

Welcoming Shri S. K. Dey, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Agriculture said that the Young Farmers' Association was established two years ago and was inaugurated by Yuvraj Karan Singh of Jammu & Kashmir. Several clubs of the young farmers had been formed. He said that these clubs could prove very useful in increasing the agricultural production of the country.

Addressing the Young Farmers Shri S. K. Dey said that in 1947 the country became independent and for some years no attention was paid to the villages by the Government. He said the villagers want to increase their output but they needed help in this respect. They had to be told that they had to grow more to earn more, which would help them to build a school, a hospital, in their village. They had not only to grow more food but had also to look after their cattle. The farmer needed water to irrigate his fields and some arrangement for the transport and carriage of the produce to the market. The villagers needed instructions for increasing



Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, addressing the Second Convention of the Gramin Mahila Sangh

Gramin Mahila

SECOND CONVENTION OF THE BHARATIYA GRAMIN MAHILA SANGH

The Second Convention of the Bharatiya Gramin Mahila Sangh was inaugurated by Shrimati Rajbanshi Devi on March 25, 1957 at the Talkatora Gardens in New Delhi. The Convention was attended by over 200 women farmers from all over the country.

Welcoming Shrimati Rajbanshi Devi, Maharani Mohinder Kaur of Patiala said that it was a matter of great pleasure that the Convention of the Bharatiya Gramin Mahila Sangh was being held along with the Convention of Farmers. Women from several parts of India had come to participate in the meeting. She said that the problems of village women were numerous and that endeavour had to be made to find some solution to raise the economic, social and cultural status of village women.

Inaugurating the Convention Shrimati Rajbanshi Devi said that

their production. For that, schools, libraries and the education of the villagers were essential.

Shri Dey said that the progress of India demanded that the progress of villages should be speeded up.

the condition of village women could not be improved merely by paid employees or paper resolutions.

Enumerating the problems before village women she placed priority on the problem of education. It was well known, she said, that women were generally less educated than men. Thus they groped more in darkness. She said that the foremost problem of village women was education. It was the ardent wish of the Sangh to inculcate great enthusiasm, among women, for learning. Only then a new life could be ushered into the countryside.

She considered it fortunate that the Village Women's Association had been affiliated to the Farmers' Forum. She hoped that work would proceed on the right lines.

Addressing the meeting Dr. P. S. Deshmukh said that it was a matter of great pleasure for him to have been able to convene the Second National Convention of Rural Women at the Third National Convention of the Farmers' Forum.

He said that a higher standard of life in a community implied practical applications of social and personal hygiene, better utilisation of the resources available in foods, housing and clothing, avoidance of waste, greater appreciation of beauty, cultural values, bringing up healthier children and cultivation of community consciousness. To achieve these,

certain changes in age-long habits were necessary. Untouchability of all kind had to be eradicated. Dignity of labour had to be realised and rules of scientific and healthy living adopted.

Dr. Deshmukh emphasised that the changes mentioned could not be effected unless women were educated and made part of the development programme. He said that any number of paid workers or voluntary workers from outside the community could not meet this great need. With this end in view, the Bharatiya Gramin Mahila Sangh, was formed in April, 1955, at the First Convention of the Farmers' Forum. He said that for the realisation of its objectives, it was necessary that the great work for the uplift of rural women be integrated with the organisation of the farmers, all over India, so that both could work complementary to each other in maximum cooperation.

Dr. Deshmukh said that quality of homeliving depended upon the attitudes of the homemakers. For lasting results, it was the women of the home who had to be approached and convinced of the meaning of their activities. Home management consisted of two aspects; (1) The assessment of available resources and their development, and (2) Management of the resources in the most economical and functional way. In the rural areas where agriculture supplemented by small industries was the main source of income, the above aspects could be defined as farm management and home management. Farm management aimed at improving the farm to obtain maximum production from the land and the raw materials from it. Home management attempted at utilising to the best advantage their production and creating an atmosphere, congenial for the utmost enjoyment of the resources.

Various problems of village women were spotlighted by other speakers.

Shrimati Brij Lal said that plans for village development should get priority and should be made after a thorough study of the conditions of the villages.

Shrimati Sucheta Kriplani emphasized that reconstruction of the country demanded attention on the villages. She said that she was happy to see that the Gramin Mahila Sangh was trying to make the village woman an ideal farm woman.

Addressing the meeting Shrimati Vimiabai Deshmukh said that she was very happy to see the Gramin

Mahila Sangh established. She said that without the cooperation of the rural women the community development and other development plans of the Government could not be successful.

U.P. FARMERS' CONVENTION

The first Conference of Uttar Pradesh Krishak Samaj was inaugurated on April 19, 1957 by Dr. Sampurnanand, Chief Minister of the State in Kaiserbagh Baradari at Lucknow.

Welcoming the Chief Minister Shri Hukum Singh, Agriculture Minister and President of the U.P. Krishak Samaj said that the immediate need of the country was to increase agricultural produce. It did not bfit an agricultural country like ours to import wheat from foreign countries he said. He called upon farmers of the State to reform and modernise their profession by introducing scientific methods.

The Minister said that agricultural yield must be doubled to provide enough food for the people and this was not difficult of achievement in view of the fertility of the soil. He pointed out that it was the duty of the Krishak Samaj to educate farmers and find out a solution for the agrarian problems facing the State.

Inaugurating the Conference Dr. Sampurnanand, warned that if the State did not produce enough food-grains for export, there would be serious economic crisis. He said that it was not only necessary to be self-sufficient in food but it was also imperative that the State should be able to export enough foodgrains in order to pay for the raw materials needed for running heavy industries.

He said that matters pertaining to agriculture should be discussed in an atmosphere free from politics. Uttar Pradesh was to remain a predominantly agricultural State for a considerable time, despite all efforts to establish heavy industries here and if the State was to be saved from going bankrupt, all out efforts would have to be made to increase production. The country, he said, was passing through a revolution and politics had entered all walks of life, yet efforts should be made to keep it out of agriculture.

Dr. Sampurnanand said some people felt that co-operative farming would be beneficial to the people here, while there were others who felt that under the circumstances it might not be as useful as was thought and the question inevitably took a political colour. Similarly, consolidation of holdings also involved political discussions. Political parties took opposing atti-

tudes and, therefore, it was necessary that there was some organisation which took a view independent of political considerations. "You being an independent body can freely discuss and review them in an unbiased manner," he added.

The Chief Minister emphasized the need for utilising sandy tracts and rendering them cultivable, as had been done in U.S.A., according to reports published recently in the press. He wanted them to experiment on a small scale to grow crops fruits or vegetables, in barren land. He revealed that the experiments carried out by him were pre-eminently successful. The lettuce which weighed four ounces when grown in ordinary soil developed to 14 ounces when grown in sand. The Agricultural Department would carry out an experiment on a ten-acre plot of sandy land on the banks of the Ganga at Kanpur this year to find out if the cultivation in sand was economic, he said.

Shri Raghavendra Pratap Singh, Secretary of the State Forum, gave the history of the organisation and stressed the need of making arrangements for marketing agricultural produce. He added that an enlightened peasantry could increase production manifold.

Addressing the meeting Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh, organ's r of the Forum, said that the primary need was not increase in production but to market the produce. He said that 13.5 lakh acres of *bajnar* land had been broken by non-official agencies during the last five years as against 1.5 lakh acres done by the Government. This had been done at a cost of Rs. 50 crores on the part of enthusiastic young men who had taken to agriculture. They were faced with the problem of marketing their produce. He also stressed the importance of increasing milk, vegetable and fruit production.

FORUM GIVEN REPRESENTATION ON ICAR ADVISORY BOARD

Shri K. D. Sharma, Secretary, Farmers' Forum, India will represent the Forum on the Advisory Board of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for a period of three years.

Announcing this a Gazette Notification dated May 10, 1957 says: "Under Rule 41 (27) of the Rules of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Minister for Agriculture has been pleased to appoint Shri K.D. Sharma, Secretary, Farmers' Forum India, as a member of the Advisory Board of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for a period of three years with effect from the 30th April, 1957."

DAIRY SCIENCE COLLEGE AT KARNAL

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE

The Sixth Conference of the Development Commissioners concluded on 30th April, 1957 after a four day meeting, at Mussoorie.

Inaugurating the Conference Shri V.T. Krishnamachari, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission gave constructive suggestions to the State Governments for increasing agricultural production. He said that for a social revolution it was necessary that every family should become a member of at least one co-operative organisation.

Addressing the Conference Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru emphasized the role of Co-operative farming in the advancement of Indian Agriculture. He said that India would lag behind if it did not adopt the new methods of agriculture through cooperative farming. He said that cooperative farming had an important role to play in the advancement of Indian Agriculture. Unless modern methods of Agriculture were adopted through cooperative farming, India could not make progress. Shri Nehru said that Cooperative farming was the backbone of the Community Development Programmes.

Shri S.K. Dey, Minister for Community Development also laid emphasis on the extension of the Co-operative movement. He said that the greatest hindrance to development programmes was lack of trained personnel. Opening of new agricultural colleges and increasing the number of students in the existing colleges can solve the problem to some extent.

The Conference approved many recommendations including an important one regarding the announcing of minimum prices of important crops well in time before the harvest.

A NEW VARIETY OF POTATO

A new variety of potato *Kanpur Satha* has been evolved by the Agricultural Department of Uttar Pradesh. The greatest quality of this variety is that it is disease-resisting and gives a large yield in a short period.

This variety has been evolved by the Economic Botanist Branch, Kanpur and its seed will be multiplied in the next Rabi Crop. It is expected that *Satha* will prove very beneficial to potato growers.

The Government of India have decided to establish a Dairy Science College at Karnal (Punjab) which will be attached to the Education Wing of the National Dairy Research Institute situated there. This College is being set up to meet the need for trained technical personnel in dairying, which will be required to man the large number of dairy development and milk supply schemes which are to be set up under the Second Five Year Plan.

The College will admit those students who have already passed the Intermediate (Science) examination or the First Year examination of the B.Sc. course after passing the Higher Secondary examination.

INCREASE IN COTTON ACREAGE

The All-India Third Estimate of Cotton for 1956-57 puts the current year's area and production at 18,084,000 acres and 4,084,000 bales (of 392 lbs. each of cotton lint). This shows an increase of 531,000 acres or three per cent in area and 702,000 bales or 20.8 per cent in production over last year.

World News

IFAP CONFERENCE IN U.S.A.

The International Federation of Agricultural Producers is holding its Tenth Anniversary Celebrations at the time of its 9th Ordinary General Meeting to be held from May 20 to 30, at the University of Purdue in the United States. This is the first time the IFAP is holding its conference in the U.S.A.

Shri K.D. Sharma, Secretary of the Farmers' Forum, India and other farm leaders of India who have gone to U.S.A., will be attending the IFAP Conference. This group of farm leaders had gone under a TCM programme to study cooperation and farm organization in U.S.A.

The IFAP is an international organization of national farmers and agricultural co-operative organizations of the world. The main functions of the IFAP are to develop understanding of world Agricultural problems and how they affect the agricultural primary producers of the world. IFAP is the voice of the farmer in international affairs. Encouragement of efficiency in production, processing and

marketing of agricultural commodities is another important aim of the IFAP.

The IFAP Conference will be attended by high officials of the United Nations, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and farm leaders of the various countries. Shri B. R. Sen, Director General of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations will attend the Conference.

The Tenth Anniversary Celebrations will have Shri John Andrew, President of the IFAP as the Chairman. The meeting will also be addressed by Shri B. R. Sen and various farm leaders.

FAO MEETING AT ROME

The seventh session of FAO Coordinating Committee would be held at Rome from May 6 to 17, 1957. Shri P.N. Thapar, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture will represent India in this meeting.

The Committee will discuss among other things, FAO's programme of work and budget for 1958-59, FAO documentation, organization and coordination of meetings, seminars and training centres.

GRAIN SCIENTISTS MEET

An international group of grain scientists have set up an organization to help standardize methods of analysis of the technological properties of grains, particularly wheat.

Representatives of 14 nations met in Vienna and established the "International Association of Cereal Chemists". The meeting attracted chemists, grain technologists and government representatives. They read papers on such topics as sampling, moisture, protein, baking quality, diastatic activity, and general quality characterization of wheat.

Dr. E. Maes of the Central Laboratory of the Ministry of Economic Affairs in Brussels (Belgium), was elected President of the new organization.

RADIO CONTROLLED TRACTOR

An Australian invented radio-controlled tractor has been successfully demonstrated for the first time in Sydney. Radio waves were transmitted to the tractor, making it stop, start, control speeds and direction, raise and lower attachments to the tractor and do everything that a driver could perform sitting on the machine.