

7. No. 4

April, 1963

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# President's Letter No. 23

It is a long time since I stopped addressing you through my monthly letters. Actually this happened from the month of February, 1962. But I think it is desirable that I take this matter in hand again so that I convey to you all, the honourable members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, and other farmers interested in what I say, what I do, what I am thinking of and what is the general situation with respect to the Samaj, country's agriculture and the farmers. This is an opportune moment to take up the thread again since one whole year has passed since I had the good fortune of being released from the Ministry. Of course, this will not make any much difference to our basic policies but it would be a considerable advantage because I could now devote more time to the work of the organization and speak out my mind more freely than I could as a Minister. This is all to the good for me, for farmers and the Samaj along with its many fields of activities.

Firstly, I would like sincerely to apologize to you all for being forced to postpone the 9th Convention which was to be accompanied by an excellent seminar as well as an exhibition. I must thankfully mention that Shri S. K. Patil, the Minister of Food & Agriculture, had promised every support and cooperation. As you must have known, this was due to causes beyond our control. Under the present circumstances, when the farmers are contributing so generously to the National Defence Fund and helping the national effort in every way, it is not easy for them to spend for their journey to and fro Delhi. We tried our best to persuade the Railway Board and the Railway Ministry to be generous enough to oblige us by granting us Railway Concessions which we used to get on permanent basis, but it seems they could not see their way to grant it.

You must have also heard and read the observations by the Public Accounts Committee published so prominently in various papers about our dispute regarding payment of rent for the World Agriculture Fair. Simple farmer folks as you are, you must have felt much cencern. I am sorry that along with me you also must have been pained in the heart. But as every one of you knows, this is an old divergence of views between us and the Government. All sensible people should have really understood that there was nothing more in this than that the Government thought they were entitled to a certain rent while we respectfully differed from this demand and submitted that what they are demanding is wholly unreasonable.

But as is usual in India, people, and even papers, go more by baseless rumours and conjectures rather than solid unchallengeable facts. If they had cared for truth a little bit more they would have found no cause to



criticise and condemn me and the Samaj. But both the Samaj and I must learn to bear these unfounded condemnation and calumny bravely. I assure you that there is nothing in all this that we need worry about because we stand on the solid basis of reason and fairplay. I expect that the whole world will soon know the whole truth which is wholly on our side. So please do not worry about this in the least and any further.

The postponed Convention also. I am afraid, would not be possible to be held in a short time, firstly because of summer as the lack of railway concessions and it will then be followed by the rainy season. I hope, however, to be able to hold a meeting of the Council and the Governing Body some time in August or September at some suitable place. If the Government would be kind enough to grant us the concessions, we will lose no time in holding the Convention and the next year's National Agriculture Fair

I hope you have seen that the Bharat Krishak Samai has been prominently mentioned in the scheme of Village Volunteer Force. I hope every member of the Samaj and its sympathisers will take this opportunity to contribute to this constructive piece of work. I would also request you to make every effort to meet the Central Government teams which are to visit the State shortly so as to help them to understand the situation of the farmers correctly. Wherever they are. our members should represent their points of view to them in the shape of memoranda.

You might have already read

that the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation unanimously elected me again as its President in the first week of February, 1963. There is every possibility to enlarge the scope of the work of the Federation not only in export and import trade but also in inter-trade between various States on co-operative basis. The Federation has had to face many difficulties so far, but now it is receiving good support from the Central Government and so there are prospects of a bright future for the Federation and therefore the farmers and the country ahead of us

We have to Fight
to the
Last Ditch
for our Country,
Flag & Leader

We held the second meeting of the Board of Directors of the Farmers' Cooperative Bank of India at which H. H. Maharaja of Patiala. who is the President, presided over it and Dr. C. D. Deshmukh attended the meeting. We have decided to start some Savings Bank activities in a few places and we hope we would be able to enlarge the scope of this activity to other places within a few years. However hard put you might be, I would again appeal to you to purchase at least one share each of the Bank, which costs Rs. 100/- plus Rs. 20/- admission fee.

World Agriculture Fair Memorial Shivaji College is now in its second year with 380 students, 78 out of whom are girls. It is situated in a small village, some 15 miles from Delhi. The residents of village Mitraon, which is about 5 miles further away, have given us a permanent lease of 150 acres of land where we wish to start our Agricultural Farm which would later serve as a College Farm when we fulfil our ambition to start an All India Agriculture College here.

Next month I propose to attend the International Federation of Agricultural Producers' Conference in Ireland and then to go to Washington to attend the World Food Congress to which Dr. B. R. Sen, Director General of F.A.O., has invited me as a representative of the I.F.A.P.

When one looks at everything and studies the position of farmers in various fields including politics, national economy and other welfare programme, one has to come to the sad conclusion that he has yet to come into his own and make his mark as the most vital and important aspect in the interest of the country. Most of the things appear adverse to his interests and, therefore, we have to gird up our loins to strengthen the organization because that is the only and solitary way the farmers can advance in any field. The immediate and minimum programme is to push on the work of enrolment of more members and then hold at least two meetings of the members in each district every vear.

# Punjabrao S. Deshmukh

# Clarification in a Nutshell

Replying to the remarks made by Shri Malhotra, M.P. in the course of his speech on the Demands for grants for the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj, made a statement on the floor of the House on April 9, which was not published by any newspaper in India. We give below the statement for information of the members of the Samaj.

On a point of personal explanation necessitated by the remarks made by Shri Malhotra in the course of his speech on the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Food & Agriculture, I wish to say the following:

The first point he made was: "The Government should see that organisations like the Bharat Krishak Samaj which had been the recipient of Government assistance worked properly." I would like to tell him and the House that although it is true that the Samai received some financial assistance from the year 1954-55, no such assistance was either applied for or given to the Samaj after the year 1959-60. So long as financial assistance was being given to the Samaj, it had to submit audited accounts as well as to inform the Government of their activities. Every year's grant had to be approved and sanctioned afresh and, therefore, it is apparent that no grant would have been continued if the work of the Samaj was unsatisfactory in any way. There were also certain conditions attached to the grant and the Samaj had to fulfil them. It is the normal procedure of Govern-ment in all such cases that they scrutinize both accounts and the activities minutely, This was duly done till the year 1959-60. Thereafter, the question could not arise since the Samaj was not receiving any financial assistance Government. May I also submit that even more than satisfying the Government that the Samaj is working properly, the Samaj, like any other non-official organisation seeking to stand on its own legs, has continuously to discharge the responsibility of satisfying at least the

thousands of members who have joined the Samaj by paying various subscriptions.

I submit that even this remark of Shri Malhotra flowed from the impression that had been made on his mind by the observations of the Public Accounts Committe in their VIIIth Report, In fact, Shri Malhotra next referred to "Certain allegations of financial irregularities agaist that organisation (namely, the Bharat Krishak Samai) in connection with the World Agriculture Fair." Then he stated that "the House would like to know the real position in the matter." I believe, Sir, in this personal explanation of mine, I am entitled to clarify the doubts in the mind of Shri Malhotra and the effect it must have naturally produced on your mind as well asthe minds of other members of the House, if not many people outside.

Even so, Sir, I have decided not to say anything here about the Public Accounts Committee report, because I welcome my friend Shri Tyagi's suggestion that I should first place what I have to say before the P.A.C. If Shri Tyagiji as Chairman of the P.A.C. would permit me, I would like, however, to mention a few things which are absolute facts but which were not correctly stated before the P.A.C. by any one. I would like to mention for the information of the House

that I was not called or consulted by the Committee so far and this is the reason why these errors of facts have remained un-corrected. I will state them with utmost brevity:

- (1) Farmers' Forum, India or the Bharat Krishak Samaj was registered on the 7th February, 1955;
- (2) the Samaj never occupied any space whatever in the Krishi Bhavan at any time either free of rent or on payment of rent;
- (3) the date of payment of Rs. 3.29 lakhs by the Samaj by way of rent is 23-2-1961 and not March 1962;
- (4) the amount due to the Samaj comes to Rs. 7.58 lakhs and not Rs. 4 lakhs as mentioned in the report;
- (5) the Samaj has made payment according to Fundamental Rule 45-A which was the basis of what was charged to the Printers' Association of Delhi for their exhibition in 1957;
- (6) we had agreed to pay on the same basis as was charged to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industries. But according to this, wa need not have paid anything because the Federation did not pay anything for the existing structures or even ground rent for the developed area of 44.5 acres;
- (7) while the Samaj received a grant of Rs. 2 lakhs only, the Federation for an Indus-

trial Exhibition got a subsidy of over ten lakhs:

- (8) the Government's demand is very unreasonable because while they did not charge anything for the existing structures to the Federation and while they charged only One anna per sq. ft. per month for covered area and Rs. 550/- per acre per month for open space to the Printers' Association, they are wanting us to pay Rs. 9/- per sq. ft. and Rs. 4,840/- per acre respectively:
- (9) the Samaj has not dissipated any funds in its hand out of the surplus from the Fair and there should, therefore, be no fear in any one's mind that the Samaj would not be able to pay what can be legitimately and lawfully found due from the Samaj;
- (10) the Samaj had given this solemn assurance to the Prime Minister as early as 13-9-61. I would like to reiterate the same here;
- (11) due note should also be taken of the numerous benefits the country has reaped as a result of this unique and grand Fair. I submit, in all humility, that it has contributed to the enhancement of the prestige of the country and gave to the Government at least half a crore of rupees worth of pavilions, pedigree animals, etc., free of any cost whatever.

Research News

# Erosion Problem Solved

An American team of scientists has discovered an important new approach to the soil erosion problem. The research points to the virtual elimination of erosion in the production of row crops such as corn. In this study, herbicides were used to kill existing vegetation, thereby doing away with the need for ploughing. Corn on untilled soil grew faster and yielded more fodder than on tilled soil. The results are so promising that the study will be extended to other crops.

### Urea for Wheat

Experiments have been done, at the seed Multiplication Farm, Fulia. W. Bengal, to find out the comparative effects of fertilization of wheat with urea and ammonium sulphate. The soil was sandy loam. Variety used was NP 798. It was observed that when 20, 40, and 60 pounds of nitrogen were given in the form of urea, the increase in yield was, 4.8, 6.6 and 9.0 maunds per acre respectively. The corresponding figures of increase in yield, when nitrogen was given in the from of ammonium sulphate, were, 2.20, 1.0 and 2.60 maunds per acre. Urea gave more profit at the above rates on application. Besides, it dissolves well in water, and helped to make the soil more alkaline, making the nitrification rapid. Wheat therefore responds better to urea than to ammonium sulphate.

### Solar Energy To Extract Moisture From Soil

A Japanese scientist has developed a device which uses solar energy to extract moisture from soil. It has been tested in desert soils and found to work successfully. The device consists of a wood-frame with a glass lid set on an incline in sandy soil. As the moisture is drawn in to the air by the solar heat passing through the glass, it collects on the underside of the glass lid from which it drops into a receiving vessel. Such distilled water can be ob-

tained at night after sundown also, since the ground retains daylight warmth from the sun.

# Three-Layer Ploughing For Saline Soil

Russian engineers have developed a new type of plough that tills the land in three layers. This plough has very successfully, been used in the saline areas of U.S.S.R.

The top ploughshare of the new plough tills the upper arable layer of the soil. The middle ploughshare ploughs up the second salinated layer. And the lower ploughshare raises the bottom carbonate layer containing the curative mixture gypsum and mixes it with the soil of itself, in the form of tiny crystals in the third layer, and is not to be added from outside. The calc um contained in gypsum reacts chemically with the salt and the salination is reduced.

### Better Germination Of Sugarcane

While a delay of one or two days in planting of harvester scedeane in water reduces its germination, soaking the stale seed-cane gives a better germination than even the fresh one.

The research was conducted at the Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow, that stale seed can give the best results when soaked from 2-4 hours.

### Gram As Cure For Heart Cases

Studies carried out at S.N. Medical College, Agra, have shown that gram can be used effectively in curing heart patients. It has shown cholesterol reducing property in experiments on rats. American and Japanese workers who visited these laboratories recently were impressed by the results. These observations are now being repeated in laboratory experiments on animals and if confirmed would be utilized for experiments on human volunteers.

### Vibrating-Type Plough

A new vibrating blade type plough has been developed in United States. It will improve the soil tilth and also require less power than the mould board plough. The up and down vibrations of this device loosen the soil and produce a better seed bed and also eliminate such field operations as discing and harrowing.

The blade lifts the soil as it moves through the soil. The blade is covered with Teflon which prevents sticking of the soil. The width of such a plough can be much bigger than that of a mould board plough.

## Japonica Rice Hybrids

Recent experiments at the Agriculture College, Coimbatore (Madras), have proved that the *Japonica* X *Indica* rice hybrids not only yield high but also respond profitably to heavy doses of fertilizers.

Three promising hybrids (30,879; 30,859; 30,787) obtained from the crosses between *Indica* type, G.E.B. 24 and the *Japonica* types were tested and their response to different doses of fertilizers were studied. Ammonium sulphate was applied to supply 0 to 120 pounds of nitrogen over the usual doses of green leaf manure and 30 pounds of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> per acre.

All the hybrids responded highly to the heavy doses of fertilizers, 30, 879 showing the highest yield of 50,000 pounds per acre. It responded to every successive dose of manures even at as high a leval as 120 pounds of grain per pound of nitrogen (a profit of Rs. 446.2 per acre).

Farmers are advised to apply heavy doses of fertilizers to get high profit from their *Japonica* X *Indica* hybrid rice.

### Inter-Cropping in Tobacco

An extra profit of Rs.113 to 400 per hectare (2.471 acres) can be had by growing in inter-crop in your tabacco field. You can grow garlic, onion or coriander; all these will get you the extra profit.

Experiments conducted by the Hookah and Chewing Tabacco Research Station, Pusa (Bihar), in various places, show that there is no ill effect on the tabacco if shallow rooted inter-crop is grown. Garlic, onion and coriander were tried as intercrop.

The over-all profits obtained from one hectare were Rs.400 from onion-tabacco mixture, Rs.147 from coriander-tabacco mixture and Rs.113 from garlic-tabacco mixture.

Wherever garlic was grown the tabacco produced better cured leaf than in others.

# Irrigating Coconut in

Want of sufficient moisture in summer adversely affects coconut palms. Therefore, it is necessary that coconut gardens be irrigated in summer.

In places like West Cost where summer is severe, big losses are incurred by shedding of buttons and immature nuts, breaking of petioles, and dropping and yellowing of leaves. Summer irrigation not only stop this kind of loss but also increase the production of about 20 nuts per tree. This is what the experiments conducted at the Agricultural Research Station, Nileshwar III, show.

The yield of palms, which showed absolutely no response to many cultural operations and fertilization treatment, jumped up from 5 nuts to 30 nuts per tree within a period of

## Foreign News

## Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Conference

The next Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Conference will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, from February 17 to March 2, 1964. The invitation to hold this Conference in their country was extended by the Leader of the Delegation of the Government of Malaya, during the Second Afro-Asian Conference on Rural Reconstruction held in Cairo during March 1962.

It is expected that delegations representing Governments of about 30 nations will participate in the Conference.

three years when they were irrigated in summer.

In sandy soil areas along the sea coast, sea water can be used for irrigating the palms. However, this has a bad effect on palms in heavy soils. Depending upon the circumstances, bed irrigation or basin irrigation may be adopted. Irrigation twice a week in sandy or loamy soils and once a week or ten days for retentive soils is considered sufficient.

To get the maximum benefits ou of irrigation, regular manuring of palms is also necessary.

### NOTICE

Life-members and Subscribers of the Krishak Samachar are requested that while informing any change in their addresses they should send the wrapper of the last issue received by them. Afro-Asian Roral Reconstruc-

from February 10, 1963, returned to Their tour was arranged under the Farm Leaders' Exchange Scheme sponsored by the Bharat Krishak Samai and Farmers and World Affairs, U.S.A.

The group spent more than six weeks in differents parts of the country mostly as guests of Indian farming families. Their itinerary had been fairly exhaustive. The states they had covered during their stay in India were Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Punjab.

On the conclusion of their tour Mr. William Tolleson, leader of the group, was very much impressed with the enthusiasm of the farmers to learn and practise improved methods of farming. The work done at the various experimental farms and the progress made in the industrial sphere in the country impressed them a good deal. The group was also happy to see a number of schools springing up in remote villages. The friendly and hospitable nature of Indians throughout their stay in India had left a lasting impression on the visiting farmers. The Farm Leaders unanimously expressed satisfaction at the planning and execution of the programme which enabled them to see a cross section of the vast country in a short time. They suggested

The group of ten farm leaders that the Exchange Programme should from U.S.A., who were in India continue as a two way programme and there should be more women in United States on April 2, 1963. the Indian group. The group also observed that they noticed a great

influence of the Bharat Krishak Samaj wherever they went.

The group, accompanied by Shri Deshpande, Secretary, Bharat Krishak Samai, and Mrs. Deshpande, met Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, on March 31, 1963, for about 30-40 minutes and gave him their impressions of their visit to

A fare-well dinner was arranged in their honour by Bharat Krishak Samaj at Hotel Ambassador on March 31.

# Nationwide Celebration of Farmers' Day

Delhi \_\_\_\_\_

The National Farmers' Day was celebrated on a grand scale by the Delhi Krishak Samaj at Krawalnagar, a village about 12 miles from Delhi, under the Chairmanship of Shri Gopinath Aman.

Large number of farmers from the surrounding area participated in the function.

In the evening the Mobile Publicity Unit of the Bharat Krishak Samaj screened a number of films on agriculture to an appreciative audience.

# Maharashtra

Presiding over the celebration of the National Farmers' Day, organized by the Jalgaon District Krishak Samaj, at Jalgaon, Shri Appasaheb Patil, M.P., President, Central Cooperative Bank, Jalgaon, emphatically stated that he believed that unless farmers strengthened their organisation, their economic problems cannot be solved. The efforts which the Bharat Krishak Samaj is making in this direction will strengthen the farmers' organization and can help to solve their economic problems.

In his inaugural speech, Shri Bapusaheb K.M. Patil, Vice-President, Jalgaon Distt. Council and

President, Distt. Agricultural Committee, said that even to this day there was no stability in the life of the farmers and not only that but his life was becoming worse and worse. It was, therefore, necessary on the occasion of the National Farmers' Day to consider ways and means of bettering the life of the farmer. He believed that agricultural production will improve only if

U. S. Farm Leaders and St. Deshpande with the



remunerative prices were guaranteed Farm News to the farmer.

On this occasion very interesting and instructive talks on various subjects pertaining to agriculture were given by Piof. Y. S. Mahajan of M. J. College, Shii K. N. Ambike, District Agriculture Officer, Shri A. D. Narkhede, Cotton Superintendent, Dr. Y. S. Kulkarni, Oil Seeds Specialist, Shri D. K. Dhekne, Regional Soil Conservation Officer, Shri M. V. Bhide, Agricultural Officer. Research Centre, Shri N. T. Saoii, Assistant Oil Seeds Development Officer and Shri L. R. Tambe of Vanaspati Manufacturers' Association.

In his welcome speech, Shi V. V. Patil, Vice-President, Maharashtra Krishak Samaj, explained the aims and objects and activities of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, Shri B. C. Chaudhary, President, Jalgaon District Krishak Samaj, read out the message of Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj and Shri Y. S. Patil, Organizer, Jalgaon District Krishak Samaj, thanked the Officers of the Agriculture Department and other prominent persons of the District for their help and cooperation in celebrating the National Farmers' Day.

# Co-operative Trade Among Afro-Asian Countries

The Two-day Session of the Executive Committee of the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO) held at India International Centre, New Delhi, concluded on April 18, after taking important decisions regarding the future programme of the Organisation.

The Session was attended by representatives of eight countries-Ghana, Sudan, United Arab Republic, Japan, India, Lebanon, Libya and Malaya. Delegations of the Governments of the United Arab Republic and Malaya were headed by the respective Ministers of Agriculture of the two countries-H. E. Dr. M. N. Hashad and H. E. Enche Mohamed Khir Johari, the President and the Vice-President of the Organization.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister, in a message especially con-

The celebration came to a close after the lunch, given by the Jalgaon Krishak Samai to all the participants, and a musical programme in the afternoon.

# Puniab

National Farmers' Day was celebrated by the District Farmers' Forum, Patiala, on April 3, 1963, under the Chairmanship of Master Gurbanta Singh, Minister for Agriculture, Punjab. Dr. Cheema, Secretary, Punjab Krishak Samaj, and Shri Jagjit Singh Mann, Organiser, Bharat Krishak Samaj, read out the messages from Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, President Bharat Krishak Samaj, and other leaders. S. Basant Singh, Distt. Organiser, while addressing the gathering explained the aims and the achievements of Bharat Krishak Samaj. Shri Harchind Singh, M.L.A., and President of the District Samaj stressed the need to strengthen the movement.

Farmers from the villages around Patiala participated in the function in large numbers.

veved to the President of the AARRO on this occassion, said, "I send my good wishes to the meeting of the Executive of the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation. In all the countries of Asia and Africa, the question of rural reconstruction is of the highest importance. We want industrialization in our respective countries and a modernization of techniques. But development of Industry itself is based ultimately on the development of agriculture. Without a sound and productive agricultural base, industry will lag behind.

no confidence smooth A mit to we want

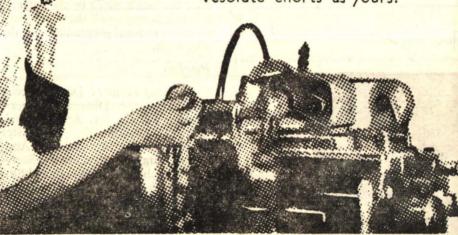
"I think therefore that the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization plays a very important role. It can help in many ways and specially in exchanging information in regard to rural reconstruction between the different countries associated with it."

A momentous decision taken by the Committee was to hold an Afro-Asian Meet on "Cooperative Trade in Agricultural Commodities". The members of the Committee were unanimously of the opinion that the formation of the European Common Market might tend to dislocate the exports of agricultural commodities from many countries of Africa and Asia, especially those situated on the Mediterranean Coast. Governments of member countries of the AARRO as well as important organizations like the ECAFE, ECA, GATT, IFAP and ICA should be invited to participate in this conference. The dates and the venue of the Meet will be finalised during the next conference in Kuala Lumpur.

It was also decided to establish an African Institute of Agricultural Cooperation, similar to the Asian Institute of Agricultural Cooperation which is being set up in Tokyo this year. This institute will be the most important centre of research on all aspects of the Cooperative Movement and will provide guidance to the Cooperative Organisations and GovernWhatever the job you do...

# YOUR JOB IS A JOB DONE FOR INDIA

You, your life, the work you do—all are a part of an India striving today for efficiency, for strength. There is no room for inefficiency and complacence. Whatever your job, let it be done efficiently so that hold-ups and wastage are minimised and obliterated. Victory is built of the sum total of millions of just such resolute efforts as yours.



# WORK RESOLUTELY

For Greater Production, Stronger Defence

ments of the African countries on all matters concerning the promotion and working of cooperatives. In addition, it will provide all facilities for training to the cooperative personnel as well as officials of the Ministries or the Department of Cooperatives.

Among other decisions, the Committee recommended to the Conference to hold an Afro-Asian Congress on Community Development during 1965 to set up two Training Centres in Africa and Asia for farm leaders, who may be entrusted with the responsibility by the Governments of their respective countries to assist in establishing professional farm organizations.

### Tube Wells In U.P.

The Uttar Pradesh Government has planned to set up 800 new tube wells in the State. These wells are to be an average of 300 ft. deep and 350 acres with the help of a canal system. In all, these wells will make 450 sq. miles of the country into fruitful arable land.

# Why Mould Board Plough Is Not Popular In India

Following are some more points in addition to other commonly known points of argument against the use of Mould Board Plough in Indian farming:

1. The M. B. Plough can be used for ploughing only, while the Harrow Plough, commonly used by the Indian Farmer, can, in two different adjustments, do harrowing in addition to ploughing. Keeping in view the cost, the Indian Farmer prefers to invest less money to get both the operations of ploughing and harrowing done by a single machine than by two machines.

2. The Indian Farmer at many places has not been able to procure good M.B. plough at cheaper rate as compared to deshi plough.

3. Any defect in the M.B. plough as regards its material of construction, assembly and adjustment goes against its popularity as the ordinary farmer is not able to rectify the defect.

# Tractor Manufacture by Escorts

Messers Escorts have designed a tractor fitted with 30 H.P. aircooled Kirloskar Engine. This tractor is under severe tests, working with different implements. Escorts have entered into collaboration with Polish manufacturers of "URSUS" and the transmission parts will be imported from them. If the Government of India grants them manufacturing licence, Escorts will be the first to come out with complete Indian made tractor in the shortest possible time. More than 85% of the parts will be indigenous.

# FAO Produces Tractor Directory

The United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization has published its "Directory of Wheel and Crawler Tractors" in 3 languages—English, French and Spanish It was compiled by the Forestry and Forest Products Division of the FAO.

The publication presents (1) listings of world tractor manufactures and type of tractors made by each, and (2) specifications of each unit. There are 5 categories of wheel tractor and 4 of crawlers.

## Farmers' Seminar

A District Farmers' Seminar was organised by Jaipur District Krishak Samaj at Village Bassi on April 22. The Seminar was inaugurated by Shri Ramniwasji Mirdha, Speaker of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.

A Conference of the Farmers was held on April 23 which was addressed by Shri Khmbaram Arya, farm leader, Shri Mathura Das Mathur, Home Minister, Rajasthan, and Shri Nathuramji Mirdha, Agriculture Minister and President, Rajasthan Krishak Samaj. Thousands of farmers participated in the Seminar and the Conference.

# Shri Bhagwantrao Patil:

# An Appreciation

Shri Bhagwantrao Patil of Village Tondgaon, Taluk Achalpur, District Amravati, Maharashtra State, has published a book in Marathi on his experiences during his tour of U.S.A. from June 1, to August 27, 1961. Shri Patil was one of the 11 members of a group of Indian Farm Leaders who went to U.S.A. under the Farmers' Exchange Programme sponsored jointly by the Bharat Krishak Samaj and Farmers and World Affairs, Inc. U.S.A.

Shri Patil, despite his lack of adequate education and absolute ignorance of the English language was selected by the Standing Committee of the Bharat Krishak Samaj to go to U.S.A. under the Exchange Programme as he is a progressive, practical farmer and a self-made man who has helped considerably in building the Bharat Krishak Samaj, not only in his district but even outside it.

Shri Patil, during his tour of U.S.A., studied and observed with the zeal of a keen student all that this rare opportunity had to offer. The Marathi and Hindi speaking members of the group acted as interpreters for Shri Patil and with their help the latter wrote his daily diary in detail without fail.

Shri Patil's book contains 12 chapters besides the preface by Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj, and the then Union Minister of Agriculture, and a message from Mr. Ray Newton, Executive Secretary of the Farmers

and World Affairs. The chapters deal with the preparations for the journey, a bird's eye-view of U.S.A., description of the cities visited, American farming, and farmers and their economic condition, daily diary etc,.

The book, besides making a very interesting reading for and any reader, is full of useful information to farmers and all those interested in farming, social workers and school students, who have to learn "Social Study" as a subject. The book is illustrated. It is published by Dnyandeep Prakashan, P.O. Shirasgaon Bund, Distt. Amravati. Its price is Rs. 2.00 per copy. It can be had from the publishers and also from the author.

The Standing Committee of the Bharat Krishak Samaj in appreciation of Shri Patil's successful efforts in compiling in a book form the valuable experiences and information he collected during his tour of U.S.A., passed the following resolution at its meeting held on 9.3.63:

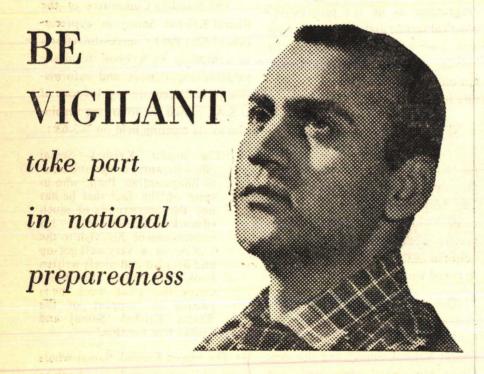
"The Bharat Krishak Samaj offers its warm congratulations to Bhagwantrao Patil, who in spite of the fact that he has not the opportunity of much education, for recording his impressions of his visit to the U.S.A. in a very well got-up and detailed and nicely written book. The Samaj also appreciates the great work he is putting in support of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and thanks him for this."

The Bharat Krishak Samaj whole heartedly recommends the book to all its members of the Samaj who know Marathi.

# Now is the time to re-affirm our resolve

To-day let us re-affirm our resolve to resist the aggressor.

Do not slacken vigilance and determination—for this is your war. Take action now. Volunteer to serve in the National Service Organisations. • Wage war on waste and cut all unnecessary expenditure • Food and clothing are valuable. Do not waste them • Time is precious too. Measure it not in terms of hours spent, but by what you accomplish • Shoulder your responsibilities. Act with discipline in all things, at all times.



# Increased Railway freight Detrimental to the Plaintain Industry

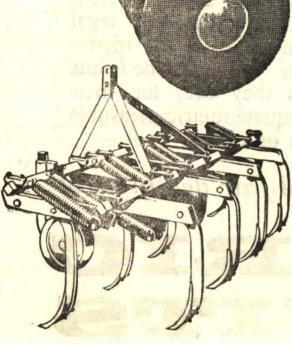
In a memorandum addressed to the Union Minister of Railways, the Fruit and Vegetable Merchants' Union (Regd.) Sabzi Mandi, Delhi has pointed out with facts and figures how the railway freight on plantains has risen since 1944 and rather sharply since 1st June 1949 inspite of Government reducing the freight from ½ parcel rate to ¼ parcel rate with effect from that date.

The memorandum therefore requests the Railway Minister to revert to the freight rates prevailing on 30th November, 1962. The memorandum also requests the Railway Minister that the proposal to levy 10% surcharge on freight may also not be given effect to in the interest of the plantain industry as both the high freight rate and the contemplated 10% surcharge are detrimental to the plantain industry in the country.

The President, Bharat Krishak Samai, strongly supporting the memorandum pointing out that both the high freight rates on plantains and the contemplated surcharge of 10% would be detrimental to the interests of the plantain industry in the country which has a great potential market. He has requested the Railway Minister to reconsider the matter sympathetically in the interests of the plantain industry and particularly in that of the plantain growers and grant the relief requested for in the memorandum.

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