

VOLUME 22 NO. 8 AUGUST 1977

KRISHAK SAMACHAR



Dr. Punjab Rao Deshmukh,
Founder

ANNUAL CONVENTION NUMBER

- ★ *Introducing* OUR NEW PRESIDENT SHRI S.S. BARNALA
- ★ *Special feature* FARM POLICY IMBALANCE—BHANU PRATAP SINGH



KRISHAK SAMACHAR

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF BHARAT KRISHAK SAMAJ

Vol. No. 22

AUGUST 1977

No. 8

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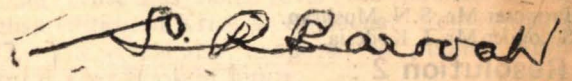
Solve Farmers Problems Urgently

The 17th Annual Convention of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and the 30th Council meeting was held at Hyderabad on the 25th and 26th June, 1977. It was attended by 1000 delegates from all the State Units and 1000 delegates from Andhra Pradesh. Shrimati Sharda Mukherjee inaugurated the Convention.

The Convention unanimously passed seven very important resolutions which are published on the next page. In the resolutions the farmers have asked the Government of India to declare AGRICULTURE AS AN INDUSTRY, requested for reduction of direct and indirect taxes on inputs, creation of farm lobbies in Parliament and State Legislatures, strengthening of the Bharat Krishak Samaj at all levels, more particularly at the district and block levels. All these require our immediate and urgent attention and action. We hope the authorities in the Government of India and State Government will take very prompt action and solve the problems. We also hope that executives and members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj will initiate immediate action to build up the organization at all levels.

Bharat Krishak Samaj which was established in 1954 has today over 15000 life members and over one million ordinary members spreading over all the states of the union. It can really voice the aspirations of the farmers, as such lobbies in parliament and state legislatures are a must to represent our views for increased agricultural production and betterment of farmers.

You will find a change in Krishak Samachar. This is being brought out under a new management— "FARMERS AND PUBLICATION TRUST". We want to serve the interest of the farmers and cooperate with the Central Government and State Governments in increasing agricultural production in the country. We hope the Government of India, State Governments, all agencies connected with agriculture and our farmer friends will assist us in this task.



Chief Editor

NEXT ISSUE

INTERVIEW WITH

**Shri S. S. BARNALA, Union Minister
for Agriculture**

Krishak Samachar

IS NOW PUBLISHED BY

**Farmers and Publication Trust
(New Management)**

FOR BHARAT KRISHAK SAMAJ

Resolutions passed in the Convention

At the 17th National Convention of Bharat Krishak Samaj held in Hyderabad on 25th and 26th inaugurated by Smt. Sharada Mukherjee, Governor of Andhra Pradesh and presided over by Shri J. Chokka Rao, Minister of Agriculture the following resolutions were passed.

Resolution 1 :

While congratulating the Central Government for giving priority to agriculture, and hoping that they will follow it with concrete examples, resolved that in view of the fact that agriculture contributes 50% of Gross National Product and 80% of Indian population depend on it, agriculture should be declared by the Government of India as the basic industry and give all facilities for its growth and development in the country as given to the other industries. Agriculture should be given top most priority in the fifth five year plan and also in the subsequent five year plans.

Further we congratulate the Central Government for returning the wheat loan taken from U.S.S.R. in form of wheat and not in cash. This shows that the Government of India has faith in us and we can definitely see that we produce more and not even a grain is imported from outside for our domestic use. This requires complete overhaul of our agricultural policy and incentives to the farmers.

On the recommendation of our 14th Convention the then Prime Minister constituted a High Power Ministerial Committee but unfortunately this Committee never functioned. We request the Government of India to revive this Committee and make it an effective one and assist the farmers in increasing agricultural production.

Proposer Mr. S.N. Mushran.
Seconder Mr. J. Kodesia.

Resolution 2 :

Resolved that the inputs required by the farmer for increased agricultural production such as irrigation, electricity, fertilizers pesticides, credit, seed, machinery, diesel etc., should be made available to the farmers at their doors and at a reasonable price. In order to do this top priority should be given for minor and medium irrigation, reduction of taxes in all inputs and streamlining etc., credits giving procedure. Indirect taxes on commodities which are vital for the farmers should also be reduced considerably. The Industries also should be requested to reduce their prices. Further resolved that the working of the State Electricity Boards be critically reviewed in the content of their over-heads. We find also that the functioning of the Boards are not satisfactory and are hampering the growth of agricultural production and are anti-farmers. Further resolved that the rate of interests for agricultural credits should be as low as possible and under any

circumstance not more than 9 per cent. Further resolved that the tractors supplied under the World Bank Loan should be given at the landed cost.

Proposer Mr. M. Narayan Reddy, M.L.A., of A.P.
Seconder Mr. H.G. Patil, Maharashtra.

Resolution 3 :

Resolved that a strong Lobby of the farmers through the Bharat Krishak Samaj should be organised in Parliament and State Assemblies. The farmers' Lobby will be fed continuously with information by the Central and the Central and State Bharat Krishak Samaj Secretariat, regarding various matters to be taken up in Parliament and State Legislatures.

Proposer Dr. S.R. Barooah.

Seconder Mr. N.S. Shunmuga Sundaram of Tamil Nadu.

Resolution 4 :

Resolved that in view of the farming community facing severe handicaps especially during natural calamities like drought, cyclones, floods, failure of electricity, pest infection, the official organisation of Central and State Governments should immediately come to the aid of the farming community and share the responsibility in alleviating their sufferings.

Further resolved that much delayed crop insurance programme for certain named disasters like flood, hail storm etc., should be introduced at the earliest. The cattle insurance should be made more popular and stepped up.

Proposed Mr. Jaya Arunachalam.

Seconder Mr. V.V. Patil.

Resolution 5 :

Resolved that a panel from Bharat Krishak Samaj be formed for the effective implementation and follow up on the resolutions passed in the Conventions of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, since such resolutions are the outcome of practical suggestions of farmers. Bharat Krishak Samaj at all levels be strengthened so that they can look after the interests of the farmers.

Proposer Mr. K.C. Pant of Madhya Pradesh.

Seconder Mr. Bhagwat Chowdhary of Maharashtra.

Resolution 6 :

Resolved that the land reforms enacted by the Central and the State governments should be reviewed and re-examined in view of the fact that they have created obstacles in increasing agricultural production and disincentives to the farmers.

Proposer Mr. Risal Singh of Haryana.

Seconder Mr. A.T. Bhattacharya of West Bengal.

Resolution 7 :

Resolved that the Agricultural Universities be requested to give preference in the admission of sons and daughters of farmers who will give an undertaking that they will go back to the land.

Proposer Mr. Vidhya Stokes, H.P.

Seconder Mrs. Daya Chowdhary.

Trustees of the Farmers and Publication Trust with Mr. Barnala



(Left to right Shri S. N. Mushran, Chairman of the trust, Shri S.M. Wahi, Chairman, Farmers Coop. Bank, Shri S. S. Barnala, Union Agriculture Minister, Shri R. N. Mirdha, Dy. Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. S. R. Barooah, Chief Editor, Krishak Samachar, Shri Jagdish Kodesia, Secretary W. A. F. Memorial Farmers Trust.

Farmers and Publication Trust has been constituted by the well wishers of the Farmers and Bharat Krishak Samaj with the following objectives.

- i) To start, to take up, to carry on and continue publications connected with farmers and farming.
- ii) To establish, maintain, run and develop institutions of learning for the benefit of farmers.
- iii) To institute and award scholarships to Indian farmers for study, research in India and abroad.
- iv) To arrange exchange of farmers between friendly countries for economic betterment of farmers and understanding.
- v) To do all such acts in addition to and in furtherance of the above purposes and in advancement of any other charitable object of general utility to the farmers and their calling.

The Trust has taken over the publication of English edition of Krishak Samachar from August 1977. The Trust also proposed to publish Agricultural Year Book in future.

The following are the Trustees of the Farmers' and Publication Trust.

1. Shri S. N. Mushran, Ex-Finance Minister, Madhya Pradesh and Chairman, Farmers' and Publication Trust. (2) Shri S. M. Wahi, Chairman, Farmers' Cooperative Bank of India Ltd., (3) Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, M. P., Dy. Chairman, Rajya Sabha. (4) Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh, M. P. (5) Shri R. Srinivasan, Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj. (6) Dr. A. S. Cheema, Vice-Chancellor, Punjab Agriculture University. (7) Shri Jagdish Kodesia, Chairman, Delhi Krishak Samaj. (8) Shri M. S. Anvikar ex-chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj. (9) Shri V.V. Patil, Ex-President Maharashtra State Krishak Samaj. (10) Kumari Rita Wahi, Coordinator, Farmers' Exchange Programme. (11) Dr. S. R. Barooah, Managing Trustee and Secretary and Chief Editor of Krishak Samachar (English).

Seventeenth National Convention of Bharat Krishak Samaj

30th All India Farmers Council meeting
at Hyderabad held on 25th & 26th June, 1977

[By Our Reporter]

THE 17th National Convention of Bharat Krishak Samaj and 30th All India Farmers Council Meeting was held at Sarojini Devi Hall, Hyderabad on the 25th and 26th of June 1977. The Convention was attended by 2000 delegates and observers from all over the country. The Andhra Pradesh Krishak Samaj was the host and did an excellent work in arranging for a Hall for the Convention, accommodation for delegates and their boarding. They have done it in a very short notice under the leadership of Shri Prabhakar Reddy, Chairman, Andhra Pradesh Krishak Samaj and Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Convention.

Welcome Address :

Shri Prabhakar Reddy, Chairman, Andhra Pradesh Krishak Samaj welcoming the distinguished guests and delegates emphasised the need of strengthening the Bharat Krishak Samaj in all the States of the Indian Union and more particularly the Andhra Pradesh Krishak Samaj so that they can fight for the cause of the farmers. He suggested that the Governments both at the Centre and in the States should take positive steps to see that the farmers get better remunerative prices of their produce and also supply of fertilizer at a lower cost.

Address by Chairman :

The Chairman of the Bharat Krishak Samaj in his address said that the cost of fertilizer and other inputs had increased by 300% during the last four years whereas the price of agriculture produce has not increased at all. He assured the Government of India that if the farmers are given all the facilities, encouragement and inputs at a lower price, the farmers will be able to produce enough agriculture produce which will not only suffice the domestic requirement but will also be able to export.

Address by Mr. P. Thimma Reddy :

Mr P. Thimma Reddy, former Minister for Agriculture while addressing the Convention blamed the 'so called' experts in the administration for all

the present ills in agricultural sector. He said that India could produce Cotton and Sugar not only to meet the needs of the country, but also to export to other countries. But unfortunately we were importing cotton. Similarly we were not in a position to export sugar.

Referring to the legislation liquidating the rural indebtedness, he said that this should apply not only to the individuals but also to Government and institutional loans. He also urged the need to set up a Commission to go into the functioning of various corporations all over the country and suggest remedial measures. He said that the State Electricity Board was paying Rs. 35 crores per annum on the surplus employees whose services were not required and the Board in turn was levying penalty on the customers by raising the power tariff to the maximum extent he said.

Inaugural Address

'Powerful farm lobby vital' says Governor of Andhra Pradesh. Smt. Sharda Mukherjee, inaugurating the 17th National Convention of the Bharat Krishak Samaj called on the farmers who constitute three-fourth of our population to be united and form a powerful pressure group so that the Government at the Centre and at States could bestow more attention to their problems.

She said that though a majority of the representatives in the State legislatures and the Parliament came from the farming community it was unfortunate the farmers had no lobby unlike industrialists and labour force. If the farmers were united, their voice could be heard in Delhi and they could be able to influence the planners.

The Governor said that there was greater need for more number of farmers' forums not only to discuss about the problems of the farmers but also to have a greater awareness about the modern techniques of farming. Stating that Punjab were in the forefront in the sphere of food production because of the higher percentage of the irrigation potential achieved there, she said Andhra Pradesh

too has greater irrigation potential and it could also export foodgrains.

She said that farming was an important sector in our economy and the farmers should play a prominent role in increasing the food production. The land has become a non-negotiable instrument now with the land losing the credit value. She stressed the need to bring such legislation which would not deprive the farmers of his sentimental attachment to the land. She also called on the farmers to keep the farming out of politics.

Address by the President

Mr. J. Chokka Rao, Minister for Agriculture of Andhra Pradesh presided over the Convention. He said that without the industrialisation the pace of advancement in all fields including rural development and agriculture was bound to be very slow. If farming has to develop fast in our country, the industrial base should be developed enough, so that the requirements of the farmers like pumpsets, tractors, ploughs, chemicals and fertilisers would be freely available. With each plan the total wealth of the nation had risen, yet, the poverty and unemployment had also increased both in volume and in proportion. This required the need to develop new plan perspectives, promote social justice and create more employment potential in the nation, he said.

The Minister stressed the need for people's involvement at the village level in the developmental programmes in a big way was absolutely necessary. In this regard all potential parties irrespective of their ideological differences should take due initiative and develop proper perspective to give shape to the new policy. He suggested that both the Centre and the States should come together and formulate a more effective policy to supply the inputs required to the farmer and relate them to the price of the produce.

Dr. D.A. Bholay, Secretary-General of Bharat Krishak Samaj earlier read out the messages received from the Acting President of India, Prime Minister of India, Union Cabinet Ministers, Governors of States, Chief Ministers of States, Agriculture Ministers of States and the Vice-Chancellors of Agriculture Universities.

Vote of Thanks :

Vote of thanks was given by Smt. Y. Savitri Devi M.L.C., Vice-Chairman, Reception Committee of the Convention. She thanked the Governor, Smt. Sharda Mukherjee, Mr. J. Chokka Rao, Agriculture Minister and other distinguished guests and delegates for participation in the Convention.

Concluding Function :

Addressing the Concluding Session of the Convention on 26th June 1977, Shri N. Chikkegowda, Minister for Agriculture, Government of Karnataka, said that self-reliance is almost an emotional matter for us in every sphere of our national activity. Agriculture is the biggest sector and it is therefore of paramount importance to work for and achieve self reliance. He mentioned that in Karnataka we have successfully tried a new approach to a rapid transfer of technology. It is called the "Block Demonstration". It envisages adoption of efficient farming practices by all farmers in contiguous areas of over 30 to 50 acres through intensive and concentrated extension efforts. Such demonstrations are conducted all over the State in large numbers and it was possible to achieve an average increase of 30 to 40% more yield compared to the bench mark yields. Such an approach would go a long way not only in achieving a rapid increase in agricultural production but do so by an efficient and economic use of the inputs. This can inculcate a spirit of self reliance.

A wider adoption of modern production technology in agriculture can ensure an accelerated and stable growth in agricultural production. This can not only meet the food needs of a growing population but also provide the basic raw materials to a variety of agro-based industries which all go to build up the national economy. Hence, adoption of modern technology on wider areas is a most important strategy.

We have to evolve a strategy for the conservation of all the organic wastes which at the moment are still not being fully used. This can contribute to greater self reliance.

Modern techniques and development programmes are also becoming more and more capital intensive. Therefore huge sums of money are required for production inputs. This money should be made available to millions of farmers, as our farmers are generally poor. Therefore proper arrangements are necessary to supply the required credit to the farming community well in time without any redtapism. A great deal of work has already been done in this regard but still many edges both in the administrative sphere and in the farming community are required to be smoothened for more effective methods and operation. Here the farmers organisations, cooperatives may play a great role.

During the two day Convention of Bharat Krishak Samaj, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh, M.P., General Secretary, Parliamentary Party, Janata Party & President, Indian Federation of Farmers Shri Balram Jakhar, M.L.A., President, Punjab Krishak Samaj, Shri S.M. Wahi, Chairman, Farmers Co-operative Bank of India, Dr. Rao, Vice Chancellor, Andhra Pradesh Agriculture University and Smt. Wahabuddin Ahmed, General Secretary, Bhartiya

Secretary General Dr. Bholay of B.K.S. Reports

I am glad to inform you that after a lapse of few years the life membership enrolment has exceeded 1000 members quota (actually enrolled 1088-Life Members and 182-Family Life Members). This is a very encouraging sign and the credit largely goes to Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. I would like to mention particularly the very good work done by Shri Mohan Lal Verma, the President of Uttar Pradesh Krishak Samaj, who in a few days of intensive campaigning enrolled more than 182-life members; also Mr. Mangat Singh Khanuja of Madhya Pradesh enrolled more than 225-Life members in Khargone District of Madhya Pradesh; Mr. Balram Jaxhar since taking up the Presidency of Punjab Krishak Samaj has also been active in the matter of enrolment of members and during the year under review he has enrolled 124-life members in Punjab. We have fixed for the current year also a minimum quota of 1000 members and I hope the tempo of the above three states will be emulated by the other states and make it possible to fulfill the quota for the coming year.

(Contd. from page 7)

Grameen Mahila Sangh addressed the delegates. They all urged to strengthen the farmers organisation so that they can play an effective role in representing the problems of the farmers to the Govts. They also appealed to the farmers to make an all out effort to increase agriculture production by adopting the latest technology.

Over and above these distinguished guests, a large number of members of Bharat Krishak Samaj participated in the deliberations, and particularly when the resolutions were moved for adoption. All the Resolutions were passed by the Convention unanimously.

Valedictory Address :

Shri Lakshmanayya, Minister for Panchayat, Government of Andhra Pradesh in his valedictory address stressed the need of strengthening the Panchayats at all level. He also urged the farmers to do the utmost in increasing agricultural production. He assured all help of the Andhra Pradesh Government in helping the farmers.

Shri Venkata Rao, Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Krishak Samaj offering a vote of thanks in the concluding Session thanked all for their participation.

by Dr. S.R. Barooah

It is a matter of regret that the country suffered natural calamities like floods, hail-storm and drought. Immediately after our Convention at Ludhiana, extensive damage was done to the Standing Wheat crops in that area by hail-storm. However, it is a matter of some consolation to know that the Chief Minister Shri Zail Singh goes upto the spot and gave some relief to the farmers in the form of cash grant by way of compensation. I hope this noble example setup by one of the progressive states in the country will be followed by other state Chiefs in times when calamities affect the farmers and farming activities of their area.

The Samaj at the Central Level and State level represented the farmers problems for their redress to proper authorities. The Samaj has been consistently asking for increased Agricultural prices for their agricultural products at the same time appealing to reduce the high prices of various agricultural inputs.

Delhi

Farmers Cooperative Bank Ltd.

Dividend

"The Board of Director of the Farmers' Co-operative Bank of India Ltd., New Delhi decided to declare a dividend of 8% for the year ending 30th June 1977 payable to all the members in the books of the Bank on 30th June 1977, subject to confirmation by the General Body of the Bank."

Resolutions passed by the 16th National Convention and 29th All India Farmers Council meeting were duly forwarded to the concerned departments. We will be reaching 25th year in 1980. Before that it has been planned to publish Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Memorial Volume with "Who is Who Directory" of life members of Bharat Krishak Samaj. The Standing Committee and Governing Body in their joint meeting at Ludhiana took a decision regarding the collection of life membership share namely ;

"After considerable discussion, it was resolved that out the one hundred rupees of life membership subscription receivable for members enrolled after 31st March, 1976, the following proportion of share will be adopted :—

- a. 50% be retained at the Centre out of which one half of the amount will be invested in fix deposit in the Centre.
- b. 25% would go directly to the State.
- c. 25% to the respective district units through the State Branch provided that each district unit entitled to receive this amount shall have atleast 100 members on role and enroll during the year beginning from 1st April, 1976 atleast 25 members for the year."

I am happy to say that for life members enrolled during the current year, the above resolution has been scrupulously adored to and all state and district shares have been given accordingly. A sum of Rs. 25,000/- has been kept in special reserve in Fix Deposit representing 25% of the life membership.

Young Farm Leaders Training programme was organised by the Directorate of Extension, Government of India at our request to train the selected leaders of the Samaj at Extension Training Institute, at Anand this year similarly to the Training given at Nilokheri last year. Many States have organised

a Seminars and Demonstration-cum-Training camps for farmers on local problems and the use of organic manures and Gobar Gas plants with the help of the Department of Agriculture (Fertilizer), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. 40-Farmers Demonstration-cum-Training camps on the use of organic manures and compost making were organised in Durg District by Madhya Pradesh Krishak Samaj. Interstate Farmers Exchange Programme within the country was organised by number of state Samaj. National Community Development Week was observed and various programme were organised by most of our State Samaj all over the country with the help of Agricultural Departments. 79th Birthday of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, founder president of Bharat Krishak Samaj was celebrated at Delhi and also all over the country by the Samaj. Number of farmers and members of the Samaj attended the Annual Krishi Mela organised by Indian Agricultural Research Institute and various Agricultural Universities.

It is heartening to note that the Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishak Bhavan in various states have been completed especially in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamilnadu and other States are progressing in this project.

B.K.S. State Units Report

Activities in the STATES

Madhya Pradesh

487 new life members were enrolled during the year and Dhar district unit has taken a good start by enrolling 126 new life members. Now Dhar stands second after Khargone unit which is doing commendable work in giving new dimensions to our organisation. The work in Durg, Datia, Bhind and Bhopal is quite satisfactory. Sagar, Shajapur, Shivpuri and Narsinghpur district units are also showing some progress.

Government of India allotted 40 camps to impart training in Organic Manure to our Durg unit. These camps provided on opportunity to the workers of Samaj to acquaint themselves with the severe problems of farmers of remote villages. The series of camps was inaugurated by Shri K.C. Pant on 15.10.76 at Mahmara village. Shri Shantilal Shah, a very energetic and constructive social worker presided.

The state Krishak Samaj is proud of making a headway towards execution of long cherished desire

of construction of Dr. Panjab Rao Deshmukh Kisan Bhawan in Bhopal. On 4th September 1976, the then Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri S.C. Shukla laid the Foundation Stone of the Bhawan in presence of a large number of farmers, life members and the elite. German Counsellor Mr. Bernard Sido, Shri S.M. Wahi, Shri Tembhere were among the distinguished guests. The samaj started construction of work of Krishak Bhawan and the ground floor is near completion. We have decided to complete this project by the end of 1978 with an estimated cost of Rs. 8 lakhs. Facility of stay for the farmers, an auditorium along with office premises, a library and exhibition hall are some special features of Kisan Bhawan. The state Government's donation of Rs. 1 Lakh was declared by Shri Shukla at the Foundation ceremony.

Tamil Nadu

The first meeting of the reconstituted Executive Committee was held on 20.4.76 under the Presidency of Shri M. Bhaktavatsalam. Some of the important subjects discussed were the following.

(a) Unremunerative price of Paddy when compared to the very high cost of production due to prohibitive costs of inputs like fertilisers, pesticides, etc. and the need for payment of bonus for the samba season.

(b) To request the Government to insist on payment of additional security deposit only from defaulter farmers in paying electricity charges and formation of District Advisory Committees for suggesting ways and means for streamlining the working of the electricity department in the interest of farmers.

The subjects of discussion among other things included setting up of the Farmers' Guest House in Madras city, conversion of modern rice mills into Co-operative processing Societies of Farmers like Co-operative Sugar Mills and establishment of a branch of the State Forum in Pondicherry. The matters were taken up with the concerned authorities.

Two other meetings were also held during the year on 26.8.76 and 17.1.77 respectively. During the meetings many important subjects affecting the farmers were discussed, resolutions adopted and authorities moved for redressal a few of which are mentioned hereunder.

(a) Fixing up of remunerative price for sugarcane and not to prohibit diversion of sugarcane for Jaggery production factory areas and prompt payment to growers by the factories for the cane supplied. On our representation to the Government of India, the State Governments were requested to ensure payment of cane prices within the stipulated time of 14 days and in case of default to provide for payment of interest besides launching prosecutions against defaulters.

(b) Inadequate supply of water in the Cauvery Delta for irrigating paddy crop raised in lakhs of acres which was only due to poor storage position in the Mettur Dam. This situation arose due to non-release of the stipulated quantity of water from the Krishnaraja Sagar as per the 1924 agreement between the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The Government of India and the State Government of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka were addressed for solving the problem of sharing the Cauvery waters once for all by all parties concerned.

(c) Payment of remunerative price for paddy by meeting the expenditure on transport at various stages, storage and administrative charges by Government as service to its people and a part or whole of such expenditure given to the farmers. At

present the price paid to the farmers is very unremunerative when compared to high cost of production due to the hike in the cost of pesticides, fertilizers and labour charges. The Government was requested to consider the above suggestion.

(d) Representation of the Farmers' Forum, in Agricultural Advisory Boards etc. On our representation, the President of Farmers' Forum was nominated as a member in the State Council for Tree Planting.

(e) Purchase of building for establishment of Kisan Bhawan in Madras city.

(f) Other subjects discussed requests to State Government for taking steps to remove unauthorised cultivation in tank beds and desilting and reclamation of tanks for increasing efficiency of irrigation, reduction of electricity tariff to the old rate of 11 paise per unit and also to cancel the additional surcharge which have since been consider favourably to some extent by the Government.

Another notable feature during the year was the sanction of a cash grant by the Government of Tamilnadu for establishing a Farmers' Home (Kisan Bhawan) in Madras city. A building situated in the heart of Madras City has been proposed to be purchased at a cost of Rs. 1.25 lakhs and on our representation the Government of Tamil Nadu was placed to sanction a cash grant of Rs. 50,000/- for this purpose. All formalities regarding the purchase of the building has been completed and the Kisan Bhawan is expected to establish soon. To manage the affairs of the Kisan Bhawan a Farmers' Welfare Trust has been formed with Shri M. Bhaktavatsalam as Chairman and Shri R. Srinivasan as Vice-Chairman and other trustees.

Maharashtra

Demonstrations of Jawar, Wheat and oil-seeds crops were taken at several places. Mainly the following functions were held on large scales :

(1) 17-10-76 : The function was celebrated at Mamurabad Agricultural Research Station, with the cooperation of the Agricultural University, Rahuri and Agricultural Department of Zilla Parishad.

The farmers from all over the district were invited. All the Experts on different crops were present. They were shown all the crops grown on the farm and by the methods of cultivation of different crops and the trial on different crops were explained. The difficulties of the farmers were also solved.

Thereafter seminar was held. The Experts had given useful information to the farmers and removed the doubts of the farmers.

This function was held at about 8 a.m. and continued upto 2 p.m.

A booklet on the different varieties of Jawar and oil seeds was published and distributed to farmers.

(2) 14-2-1977 : Demonstration and seminar was arranged at Agricultural Research Station at Niphad in Nasik District, with the cooperation of Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri. The Wheat Specialist explained the methods of cultivation of different varieties of wheat, fertilizers used etc.

On this occasion a booklet on wheat varieties was published and copies thereof were distributed to the farmers.

Karnataka

The study of the farmers' problems forms an essential part of the Samaj work. A sub-Committee was formed to take note of these problems and a Memorandum was submitted to the Chief Minister of Karnataka State. Phase Problems pertained to points like agricultural Income-tax, Sales tax on Agricultural inputs like seeds, artificial manures pesticides charges on electrical connection to irrigations pumps water rates and contribution etc. The members observed that drought conditions still prevailed in many parts of the state and farmers needed to be given extension of time to return loans taken by them. The Handbook and Diary is being published as an Annual feature for the last 9 years and 10,000 copies of the hand book cum Diary for 1977 was published. It has continued to be popular and useful as a reference on Agricultural, Horticultural and Animal Husbandry facts and information from allied institutions too.

Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh Krishak Samaj has been endeavouring towards the objectives of the Samaj. Like last year it has been doing good work and farmers and workers were getting enthusiast than ever before. There was little loss due to drought and heavy rains to farmers. Government has helped them to improve next crop. In various Janpads farmers organised seminars on local problems and their review was submitted to the Government. Many problems and their resolutions were accepted by the Government and were included in their next budget provisions. In all 22-seminars of this kind were organised.

Out of 36 district units of the state 13 units organised district level conventions. Farmers feel in these Conventions to be organised themselves and forward their grievances to Government through their Krishak Samaj units. Districts Hardoi,

Lucknow, Unnav, Etah, Farrukhabad Kanpur, Faizabad, Barabanki, Sultanpur, Nainital, Bareilly, Meerut and Muzaffarnagar organised Convention.

In September, 1976 at Varanasi a Convention of three zones was organised. 9 out of 15 districts participated in it. The former agriculture Minister Shri Jairam Verma addressed the Convention. Dr. D.A. Bholay Secretary General of Bharat Krishak Samaj inaugurated.

Uttar Pradesh State level Convention was organised at Lucknow in October, 1976. This was inaugurated by Dr. (Mrs.) Rajendra Kumari Vajpai, Local Self Minister and Shri Virendra Verma, Agriculture Minister presided over. In this 2-day Convention 327 delegates from 36 janpads participated. Local problems were discussed in this Convention. Many useful and important resolutions were passed. During this Convention executive members of the Uttar Pradesh Krishak Samaj were elected. Dr. D.A. Bholay was also present.

Like last year this year too Krishak Samaj organised Agriculture fairs in 1976-77 at Gonda, Faizabad and Varanasi.

The mouthpiece of Uttar Pradesh State Krishak Samaj 'Krishak Vani' is being published regularly. For paucity of funds its forms is of course small. Government is being tapped for financial assistance.

During 1976-77 small farmers Training Camps were organised at Lucknow, Hardoi, Nainital. As during last year this year too Samaj did not receive grant-in aid from Government. But departmental cooperation was very much there.

State Executive started membership enrolling campaign by fixing target for the membership. Lucknow stood first in all the zones in enrolling highest membership. In Janpads, Hardoi district stood first which enrolled more than 100 life members.

World Agriculture Fair Memorial Farmers Welfare Trust Society

The WAFM Farmers Welfare Trust Society has added two more Krishak Bhavans in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Tamilnadu. The proposal of creating such State Krishak Bhavans was put before the Trustees in the year 1972 and the States were requested to establish separate Trusts, which may coordinate with the WAFM Farmers Welfare Trust Society so that necessary assistance for financing is given.

In the last year the Trust also decided that besides loans already given Rs. 10,000/- be given to every State who comes with a model constitution of the Trust. Obviously the WAFM Farmers Welfare Trust Society would like that out of the Trustees of State Trusts, there should always be a trustee of the WAFM Farmers Welfare Trust Society in the State Unit for the purpose of co-ordination and planning for the welfare of the farmers and to uphold the great name of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, who had conceived the formation of WAFM Farmers Welfare Trust Society itself for this very purpose.

Farmers Cooperative Bank of India

Report on the Farmers Cooperative Bank of India for the year ending 30th June, 1976. Shri S.M. Wahi is the Chairman, Shri Jagdish Kodesia, Honorary Secretary and Shri S.K. Chhabra, Manager of the Bank during the period under report.

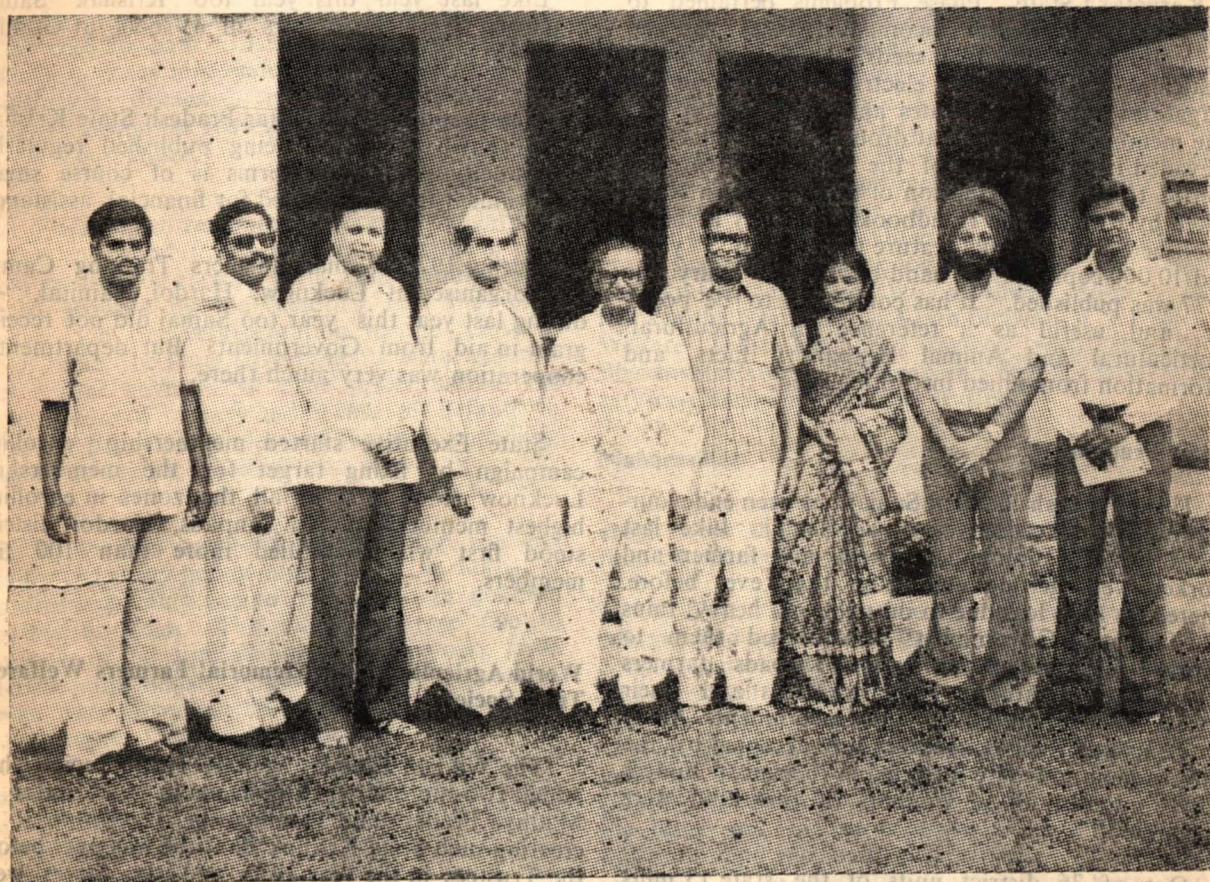
The Bank has raised the dividend from 5% to 8% this year and built up a reserve fund to the extent of 18% to their share money. Bank has advanced loan for construction of the Krishak Bhavan in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

The Bank is making all round study progress under the guidance of present Management.

Farmers Education and Welfare Society

Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha is the President and Mrs. Jaya Arunachalam, is the Honorary Secretary of the Society. The Society has developed 50-Acres farm at Mitraon Village near Delhi which is covering as demonstration and training for farmers. All round development of Mitraon and adjoining is also taken by the Society. The Society also organised demonstration-cum-training camps for the use of organic manures of farmers. The Society is running a Nursery School in Mitraon Village.

Farmer Leader Exchange Programme with U.S.A. 1977



(Left to Right) Mr. Subbanna of Karnataka, Mr. Valayatham of Tamil Nadu, Mr. Suresh Agrawal of Maharashtra, Mr. S.M. Wahi, Coordinator of the Programme. Dr. D.A. Bholay, Secretary General B.K.S., Dr. S.R. Barooah, Chief Editor, Krishak Smachar, Miss Rita Wahi of Bihar, Shri Chhina of Punjab and Shri Kabra of Madhya Pradesh

Three on either sides have left for U.S.A. on 22nd August for four weeks study. They will stay with farm families in U.S.A.

Self Reliant Agricultural Development

—Dr. S.R. Barooah

TO review the state of our agricultural balance sheet, we are endowed with considerable ecological diversity, a large volume of tapped and untapped sources of water, abundant sunlight, a large animal and human populations. Our liabilities, apart from those caused by population growth and aberrant weather, mostly arise from an improper use and management of these resources. Attempts to promote synergy, which is the only mechanism which can lead to rapid progress from small resources, have been few and halting. Our urgent needs hence are first, to develop and introduce in each ecological area an agricultural production technology which will lead to increased productivity based predominantly on the use of renewable resources and on the wide husbanding of non-renewable resources. We will have to learn to produce more and more food from less and less land. Secondly, we need to develop and introduce educational tools which will help to impart the latest technical skills to illiterate peasantry and which will enable educated youth to become catalysts of rural change. Finally, we need to develop and spread management and organisational techniques which will help those living in absolute poverty to overcome their handicaps and obtain their share of the fruits of agricultural advance.

10. In order to achieve the goal of self reliant agricultural development in our country all of us will have to play our role and work with all earnestness. I would like to suggest briefly what each of us can do.

Government of India : The Central Government will have to take the following steps on a priority basis:

- (a) The price of all agricultural produce should be fixed in such a way so that it is remunerative to the farmer and they get an incentive to produce more.
- (b) Prices should be announced before the sowing season.
- (c) The Agricultural Prices Commission should have an agriculturist as one of the member to advise them properly.
- (d) The taxes on all inputs, such as fertilizers, pesticides, tractors, pumps, diesel, implements etc. should be reduced to the minimum if not abolished, so that the prices of

all inputs are reduced and farmers can use more for increased production.

- (e) Irrigation schemes and other schemes already taken up in the Fifth Five Year Plan should be implemented on a top priority basis and performance monitored.
- (f) Credit facilities should be made available to the farmers and other who are supplying the inputs to the farmers.

State Governments : The State Governments who are responsible for agricultural development in the States should take up the following steps on a priority basis:

- (a) The entire extension machinery of the State Government should be fully mobilised to impart the latest technology to the farmers and see that farmers follow the recommendations which will bring more production.
- (b) The inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, pesticides and credit should be made available at the door steps of the farmers through the network of the cooperation and private agencies.
- (c) The soil testing programme should be intensified so that farmers use fertilizers according to the need.
- (d) An intensive programme should be taken up for the use of organic manures to supplement the efforts of fertilizers.
- (e) An intensive campaign for prophylactic treatment of crops with pesticides should be undertaken to control all pests including weeds.
- (f) State-wise campaign should be undertaken to control rats and other endemic pests.
- (g) State Seed Corporation should be strengthened to produce more quality seeds for farmers. The private agencies in the States should also be encouraged to serve the farmer with good seeds.
- (h) Assist the Bharat Krishak Smaj and other farmer organisations to help the farmers of the State.

Agricultural Universities : The Agricultural Universities should take up the following steps :

- (a) Give more practical bias to the new agricultural graduates under training so that they can help the farmers in increasing production,
- (b) Farmers Training Camps should be organised in all the districts of the State with the help of the specialists.
- (c) The technology developed in the university should be made available to the farmers through the net work of their extension machinery.
- (d) Work out area development programme for each block in collaboration with the block agency and farmer organisations like Bharat Krishak Samaj.
- (e) Carry on research work which will help in increasing agricultural production. Take the help of the progressive farmer to find out the problems and their solution.

Input Industries : The input industries should do the following :

- (a) The price of inputs should be reduced as far as possible so that more farmers use them. This is in their own interest.
- (b) They should open retail outlets in such a way so that farmers get the inputs at their door.
- (c) Organise demonstration programme in every block and distribute their publicity material.
- (d) Farmers training should be organised to train them to use the inputs more judiciously.

Banks : The Banks should open as many branches as possible in rural areas to help the farmers and give them credit without much problem. Very often it takes long time and this should be avoided.

Mass Media : The A.I.R., T.V. and Press should help in disseminating the latest technology to the farmers. More time and space should be given by the mass media for the problems of the farmers as they contribute about 50% of the national wealth and over 70% depend on agriculture.

Farmers Organisations : The farmers organisations must play a very important role for self reliant

agricultural development. They should do the following :—

- (a) The Bharat Krishak Samaj should be further strengthened by enrolling more life members. It is now only 15,000. Some of the States more particularly in the Eastern sector is poorly represented. A vigorous drive should be taken to strengthen the State Organisations, enroll more members and organise district and block units of Bharat Krishak Samaj. There should be a time bound programme.
- (b) Every State unit should be encouraged to organise one seminar each year in collaboration with the State Government, agricultural university and input industry on certain topical subjects pertaining to that particular state. These should be organised between October and April each year. This will bring in close coordination between all the agencies and Bharat Krishak Samaj which is lacking now.
- (c) Every State unit should organise training of our members on the latest technology in collaboration with the State Departments, Agricultural University and Input Industries on a sustained basis every year so that farmers can increase their productivity.
- (d) The Bharat Krishak Samaj should disseminate the latest information to the members through Krishak Samachar. This should be reorganised, revamped and make it a self supporting journal. This is being done so that it can serve the members and ultimately all farmers. This organ will focus from time to time the views of the farmers to the government planners, policy makers and others. Every State unit should publish a local edition in local language.
- (e) The Bharat Krishak Samaj should see that both at national level and state level the problems of the farmers are brought to the notice of the government and solved expeditiously so that we become self reliant in agricultural development and increase our productivity.

- (f) 15,000 life members of the Bharak Krishak Samaj should be enrolled as non official extension agents and through these extend the latest technology to the farmers. The life members should be our permanent cadre of workers for Bharat Krishak Smaj. The Secretariat of Bharak Krishak Samaj

(Contd. on page 19)

Chief Ministers want to take Step to Curb Prices

The first Chief Minister's conference held on 30th July since the Janata Government assumed office at the Centre agreed on the necessity of taking urgent steps to check the rising trend of prices of essential commodities.

Most of the Chief Ministers laid emphasis on strengthening the public distribution system and taking action under the Essential Commodities Act to prevent hoarding, overpricing and other trade malpractices.

The tone of the conference was set by the Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, who in his speech laid emphasis on the total eradication of untouchability, tackling the problem of student and labour unrest, taking steps against hoarders and profiteers, and eliminating corruption.

Sugarcane Price

The third item on the agenda was sugarcane price fixation. The views expressed on this subject ranged from the suggestion by one Chief Minister to abolish all controls over sugarcane prices and the dual price system of sugar on the one hand to the replacement of the dual system by a total levy system. Several Chief Ministers from the sugarcane growing states expressed the anxiety for ensuring a fair price for growers.

The Chief Ministers felt that imports were only a temporary solution and emphasis should be put on increasing the production of oilseeds. One of the suggestions made was to announce attractive support prices well in time.

Some of the Chief Ministers underlined the need for removing restrictions on the inter-state movement of oilseeds and edible oils.

On pulses, the high prices were ascribed to a shortfall in production and the Chief Ministers believed this could be largely remedied by assuring economic returns to cultivators.

Policy on Exports

Emphasising the importance of rural development, Mr. Desai said that provision of roads, sanitation, safe drinking water and employment in rural areas was necessary to prevent mass exodus to the cities.

He called for decentralisation of administration at all levels and said that panchayats should be properly organised and given the necessary authority and resources. At the same time, they should be freed from political influence.

The Punjab Chief Minister, Mr. Prakash Singh Badal said that inflation could be checked only by increasing production of essential commodities. He stressed the need for providing cheap fertilisers, tractors and other agricultural inputs to farmers and for giving them remunerative prices for their produce.

Mr. Badal expressed concern that agricultural production had been stagnant in Punjab for the last five years. He referred to the 40 per cent powercut on industry and 75 per cent cut on agriculture and urged the immediate augmentation of power supply for the state.

The Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mr. Jyoti Basu, called for the formulation of concrete national policies to ameliorate the sufferings of the people. He found no utility of an "omnibus" discussion on the problems facing the people and said that individual issues should be thrashed out for action.

Mr. Basu said that people wanted results or at least to see that the government moved towards that end by implementing programmes so that the poorest among them were assured of a minimum supply of essential commodities at reasonable prices.

The Maharashtra Chief Minister, Mr. Vasantrao Patil, called for a further reduction in fertiliser prices to make agriculture production viable and remunerative.

If the agriculturist was not assured of a remunerative price, he said, production might go down which, in turn, would increase the prices.

He pleaded for the removal of all restrictions on the movement of rice and edible oil. If this was not possible he said, Maharashtra should be included in the southern rice zone.

Grain for Work

Mr. Devaraj Urs, Chief Minister of Karnataka, suggested a massive grain-for-work programme throughout the country to ensure adequate employment. The programme should not be confined to rural maintenance works but should be used to accelerate all rural development projects.

Mr. Urs urged the Centre to evolve a national policy on edible oils to accelerate the production of oilseeds, set up decentralised units for oil extraction and introduce an effective system of public distribution.

The Orissa Chief Minister, Mr. Nilamoni Routray asked the Centre to replace the dual pricing system of sugar by a uniform system to prevent malpractices.

He suggested the introduction of some form of state trading in edible oils since he thought the rise in their prices was the result of unilateral restrictions imposed on the movement by oilseed producing states.

The Kerala Chief Minister Mr. A.K. Antony, urged the setting up of a parallel system of whole-

sale and retail distribution of essential commodities in the public sector in every state to control and stabilise price levels in the country.

Mr. Antony said that multiplicity of procurement agencies in the public sector for any commodity should be avoided.

He suggested a review of the Essential Commodities Act to make it an effective instrument to control stocks and pricing and called for deterrent punishment to those who committed serious economic offences.

Some Suggestions from

South India Sugarcane Growers

During the 17th National Convention of Farmers held at Hyderabad by B.K.S., the South Indian Sugarcane Growers Association's chairman Shri M. Narayan Reddy, M.L.A. put the following suggestions to be put to the notice of the government in the interest of cane growers :

Cane Price. Rs. 150/-

In order to enable the canegrowers to bring more area under cane cultivation and also to maximise crop production, it is necessary that cane-growers must get remunerative price for the cane supplied by them :

The Convention, therefore, resolves as follows :

- i) To recommend to the Central Government to fix cane price at Rs. 150/- per ton (at 8.5% sugar recovery) as the statutory minimum price for 1977-78 ;
- ii) To request the Central Government to notify the cane-price well in advance of the planting season to avoid uncertainty in the matter;

Reduction of Duties and Taxes of Farm Machinery

The Convention, therefore, request the Central Government as well as State Government to take immediate and effective action for reducing the prices of Farm Machinery on the lines suggested below :

- i) Reduction of Excise Duty by 75% or Rs. 75/- per H.P. on Indigenous Tractors ;
- ii) Abolition of Excise Duty on Tractor Tyres and accessories ;

- iii) Abolition of Excise Duty on Electric Motors used as Prime Movers for pumpsets;

- iv) Abolition of Central Sales Tax on Tractors & Pumpsets.

Fertilizers and Pesticides Excise Duty Removal

The Convention noted with deep concern the continued high cost of inputs especially fertilizers, which are required for maximising crop production. In keeping with the present policy, of the Central Government, to revitalise the Farm Sector there is an urgent need for reducing the prices of fertilizers by taking effective and imaginative steps.

In view of the above the Convention resolves as follows :

- i) To request the Central Government to remove the following Levies :
 - a) Removal of 15% Excise Duty on the Ex-factory price of indigenous fertilizers ;
 - b) Removal of Pool Equalization charges on Urea and Amonia now levied on Manufacturers of Ureas and Amonia in the country ; and
 - c) To reduce the prices of Amonia and C.A.N. on the basis of reduction effected for Urea.
 - d) To implement forthwith the recommendations of Marathe Commission (B.I.C.P.) regarding reduction in prices of complex fertilizers ;

(Contd. on page 19)

Agriculture must be treated as Industry

—Meghawale agrees



Agriculture Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Yashwant Rao Meghawale and Shri Jung Bahadur Singh, Minister for Public Health visited the M.P. Krishak Bhawan. Photo shows the Ministers and the Secretary of M.P. Krishak Samaj.

I have asked the department to prepare a plan to make agriculture an industry within the available financial resources of the State. Then the farmers organisation representatives will be consulted to form the real farm policy' said Mr. Yashwant Rao Meghawale, Agriculture Minister of Madhya Pradesh in an interview with Mr. K.C. Pant, Secretary, M.P. state Krishak Samaj.

In converting the agriculture into an industry we have to prepare people psychologically, have to change the attitude of farmers too. This is to be done by a V.L.W. to high officers. This change will develop the sense of proud and dignity amongst the farmers. V.L.W. (gram sevak) will be main vehicle to conduct the new agricultural policy and programme. He should not be treated as only seed distributor. He should be given incentive and be understood as deeply rooted man in the farmers with direct & close contacts said Mr. Meghawale.

Rural economy can be developed with cottage industries and auxiliary occupations for farmers to end their poverty. In addition to agriculture fisheries, animal husbandry, dairying etc. can add to their income substantially. With the help of Gram Sevak a coordinated agency should work from block level to Directorate—Mr. Meghawale was of this view to function on these lines in the near future throughout the State.

He said that field should not be left without growing any crop. Soils complete potential should

be utilised. The technology of double cropping or intercropping can be had from the agricultural universities, working on the scientific & profitable research schemes. Regular growing of crops will certainly enrich the farmers financially.

He mentioned regarding Dr. Richharia's research on the fibre of linseed which could be used for textiles. Such crops have to be grown in the fields too so that raw materials for running the cottage industries could be supplied regularly. On the basis of research & experience the cropping pattern of every district of M.P. is to be changed.

He is interested in increasing the production of every crop in the state. He has directed that ten per cent cultivable land should be used for fruit crops. In every village fruits should reach and the nurseries be developed in every district as per climatic conditions of the particular area.

Recently he took over as agriculture minister and very soon he grasped all the minute problems of the state agriculture and started thinking and working on it. He criticized the Govt. tractors for lying idle because farmers has to pay more far than those of private ones. Such irregularities will be rectified soon.

Mandi's should be improved and provided with more facilities and the funds belongs to Mandi Samitis be used for farmers' welfare.

Before concluding the interview, Mr. Pant made a demand on behalf of Krishak Samaj that few seats in the agricultural universities be reserved for farmers sons and daughters. Mr. Meghawale said that he will not like to interfere in the working of universities, though in principle he agrees with his demand.

However, he said, that in recruiting the candidates in their own department he will prefer those farm graduates with two years practical working experience in the villages. He said that the degree of farm graduation should be awarded only after completing one-year practical internship in the fields and villages.

Interviewed by

K.C. Pant

Secretary, M.P. Krishak Samaj

Our Agricultural Strategy

Here I will like to express my views on budget, how budget is concerned with farmers. Janta Party has announced that it will lay emphasis on rural development and agricultural progress of the country which has met with lot of criticism too.

I want to know that what 80% population of the country receives from this budget. Since 1950-51 we are trying to become self sufficient in food. Upto 1953 we imported 10.77 million grain. During the present last three year of dynamic social engineering from 1974 to 1976, we imported 18.8 million tonnes of foodgrain. This shows double quantity of 1953.

I am concerned with increase of food consumption during 26 years to per capita population. During 1961 to 1963 the food supply was 457.8 grams per person per day. But unfortunately during 1976 this quantity went down to 439.9 grams. The supply position of sugar, oil and pulses was worst.

The figures are as below :

	1970-71	1976
Vegetable Oil	4.5 kg.	4.3 kg.
Sugar	7.3 kg.	6.1 kg.
Cloth 1955-56	14.4 metre	12.6 metre

Pulses are the only source of protien to poors. Its consumption has gone down badly. In 1956-57 and 1961-62 it was 70 gram a day and now it is 43 gm. In terms of calories Indians receive the minimum. This is the result of four, consecutive plans. How our planners can justify this strategy.

The pace of progress since 1951 to 1961 was really fast at the rate of 2.6 per cent but after 1961 to 1977 during sixteen years this percentage went down to 1.9 per cent. The average production of rural people in 1950-51 was Rs. 197.80 paisa which gone down to Rs. 196.50 in 1976-77. In comparison to this the production or income of urban people was Rs. 399.40 in 1950-51 which rose to Rs. 821.90 paisa in 1976-77. This is really vast gap between the rural and urban population. This gap has widened from one to four times and the idea of dynamic human engineering is false.

We should not blame our climatic conditions, farmers skill and agricultural technology for yielding high level of production. Our land can produce annually 7 to 13 tonnes per hectare. We may take 10 tonnes per hectare on an average. This has been proved from the results of national demonstration programmes. Our farmer is very enthusiast in producing high yields but he had set back when low price of his produce is offered.



Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh, is M. Sc. from Lucknow University. He is keen on getting a fair deal for the agriculturists. He was elected as the President of Farmers' Federation of India in 1972. He is also the Convenor of the National Co-ordination Committee of Farm Organisations. He is the author of two books on practical farming, namely "KRISHI ME UNNATI" and "GAHAN KHETT" and edited a journal for the farmers namely "FARMER'S VOICE." He travelled abroad and is now Union State Agriculture & Irrigation Minister.

At present we have 17-18 m tonnes of buffer stock but half of it is imported. This shows that expectations which were gathered by the rural people from the government shattered down and the wheat price was raised to Rs. 5.00 per quintal and the prices of inputs could not be lowered down as promised. Then what is the fault of farmers. The prices of fertilizer and pesticides should be brought down immediately. If we withdraw the excise duty worth 115 crores from the fertilizer industry, the more consumption of fertilizer by the farmers will yield twice or thrice of production in terms of money.

In food distribution we are giving subsidy of Rs. 460 crores out of which 300 crores goes to imported grains. Finally it goes to foreign farmers but we are not ready to withdraw Rs. 115 crores from fertilizers in the interest of our farmers and the country.

Let us come to tractors. On 30-35 horse power tractors Rs. 17,000 is tax and duty only. When farmer obtain loan for tractors, he has to pay an interest of 12 to 13 per cent. He pays Rs. 2,000 interest on the amount of tax only. In our budget we propose to raise the amount of Rs. 109 crores on the expansion of steel plants and there is slump in steel consumption. This is really paradoxical situation and we have knowingly ignored farmers. In result the purchasing power of farmers is also declining. Then what is the use of producing more steel and fertilizer if the off take is very low.

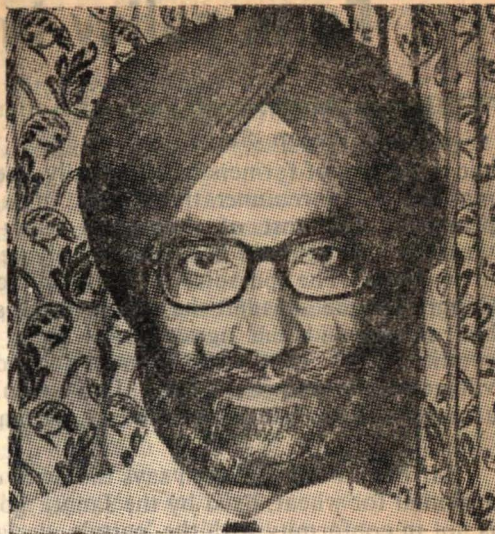
In terms of figures we can say that the plan outlay has increased from Rs. 2312 cores to Rs. 3024 crores and it is 31 per cent more but the whole strategy of agriculture is not perfect.

OUR NEW PRESIDENT

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA, born on 21st October, 1925 at Village Ateli Begpur, is a law graduate. When studying in B.A. at Lucknow Christian College he was arrested during student life in Quit India Movement in 1942.

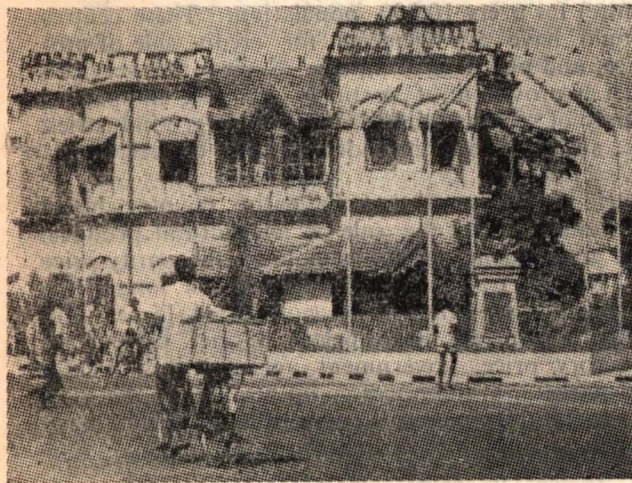
He practiced at Nabha State where he was appointed Public Prosecutor in 1950. He was first elected to Punjab Assembly in 1967, and joined the Akali Dal United Front Ministry as Education Minister from 1969 to June 1971. Again he was elected to Punjab Assembly in 1972, joined Punjab and Haryana High Court as practising Advocate alongwith the tiresome work of General Secretary, Shiromani Akali Dal. He suffered imprisonment for 13 months during Emergency.

He is a religious minded person, with simple manners and deeply rooted with the soil, has been supporting the down-trodden. Now Union Agriculture and Irrigation Minister in Morarji's cabinet and is the new President of Bharat Krishak Samaj in the series of Dr. Rajendra Pd., Babu Jagjivan Ram and Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.



S. S. Barnala

**Dr. Deshmukh Bhaktavatsalam
Krishak Bhawan**



Picture shows the newly purchased building of Tamil Nadu Krishak Samaj. This was with the efforts of Mr. R. Srinivasan President, B.K.S. recently bought for Rs. one lakh and fifty thousand to serve the office-cum-guest house for the Farmer's Forum, Tamilnadu. The management of the building will be run by Farmers Welfare Trust, Madras.

The above building at Madras has been named Dr. Punjab Rao S. Deshmukh Bhaktavatsalam Krishak Bhawan.

Self Reliant Agricultural Development

(Contd. from page 14)

should serve these life members on a regular basis with the latest information on agriculture, there is a must.

11. Our political freedom depends on rapid economic growth and this in turn depends on our performance in agriculture. The future of our agriculture in its turn depends on the success with which we can help the farmers both big and small to take such steps which can help to a great agriculture—a self reliant one.

(Sugarcane growers)

(Contd. from page 16)

- e) Abolition of 4% Central Sales Tax on inter-state Sale of Fertilizers ;
- ii) To request the State Governments—
 - a) To Abolish Sales Tax on Fertilizers as was done in Maharashtra and Goa; and
 - b) To subsidize the cost of Fertilizers for achieving larger production on farms.

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KRISHAK SAMACHAR

Farm policy imbalance to be corrected

THE new Minister of State for Agriculture, Mr Bhanu Pratap Singh, has said that the economic condition of farmers has gradually been worsening due to unremunerative prices of agricultural produce, high cost of inputs and heavy burden of taxation. Agriculture has continuously been starved of capital. The pursuit of faulty policies by the Congress regime has left the agricultural sector in a bad shape, and the agriculturists in a miserable condition. If the socio-economic conditions in villages do not improve, rural India would soon be a vast sea of ignorance and poverty, he maintains.

Mr Bhanu Pratap Singh says the price of Rs. 110 a quintal for wheat, fixed by the Janata government, is not in conformity with the party's declared policy of ensuring a just price to the farmer. The allocation of funds for the agricultural sector in the current year's budget, only about one per cent higher than last year's allocation, too, is inadequate to bring about the desired changes in the rural scene.

Mr Singh reveals that he has circulated among members of the Janata Party working committee a comprehensive note outlining a programme for rural development. Besides rationalisation of the price structure for inputs and agricultural produce and the marketing reforms, the note deals with revamping of the services sector, export of agricultural commodities, land revenue and other taxation, rural communication education and research in the fields of agriculture and agro-industry.

Mr Singh feels that recommendations of the Agricultural Price Commission often have no relation either to the cost of production or to the cost of those commodities which the farmers had to buy for their own consumption. The only way to do justice to farmers is to fix procurement prices based on the principle of parity not only between the price of agricultural inputs and produce but also between the prices of agricultural and non-agricultural commodities with reference to an agreed base year. The parity price of a commodity can be calculated by multiplying its base year average price by the index of all commodities and dividing the product by 100.

The increases in the procurement prices of agricultural products effected from time to time have been too meagre compared to the rise in input costs. The index (1970-71 base) of fertiliser prices stood at 178.6 in February last; that of insecticides at 232.7, electricity at 175.8, diesel oil at 213.9 and lubricating oil at 314.2. The index of procurement

prices of wheat and rice, on the other hand, rose only to 138.2 and 131.5 respectively.

Mr Singh refuted the criticism that agriculturists are not paying taxes on their supposedly large incomes. About 45 per cent of the national income generated by agriculture is shared by nearly 80 per cent of the population while the remaining 55 per cent is shared only by 20 per cent of the urbanites. Rural incomes, moreover, are much more evenly distributed than urban incomes. There is, therefore, hardly any hope for generation of more taxes. In any case, during the last four years direct taxes on land have gone up by nearly 80 per cent, from Rs. 806 crores in 1971-72 to Rs. 190 crores in 1975-76.

Vikas Kendra

The plan for rural development, circulated by Mr Singh for consideration of the Janata Party working committee, suggests establishment of one "krishi vikas kendra" (agricultural development centre) for every 10,000 population. These centres should have arrangements for credit, sale of produce, and purchase of inputs. Some other services, such as provision of pesticide spraying equipment, supply of raw material for the rural agro-industries, etc., should also be provided at these centres.

He has suggested that the entire country should form one zone for the sale of agricultural produce. The government should announce the parity price and the free trade should be allowed as long as the fluctuation in prices does not exceed 15 per cent. When the prices drop below 85 per cent of the statutory price, government agencies should enter the market. If the prices go up beyond 15 per cent of the statutory prices, the government should have a right to acquire the stocks from the traders.

The main advantages of this system, according to Mr Singh, would be: a) the farmers would be assured of a price which would not be more than 15 per cent below the statutory parity price; b) the consumer would be assured the supplies at prices not more than 15 per cent above the statutory level; and c) the trader would not be afraid of any interference by the government as long as the price fluctuation is only 15 per cent.

Mr Singh says that at least 33 per cent of the total public sector outlay should be earmarked for agricultural sector. About 0.5 per cent of the total cultivated area of the country should be reserved for captive cultivation of crops having export potential. A Farm Products Export Corporation should be

created to export agricultural produce. Steps should be taken to improve rural communication, sanitation and education facilities.

National Farmers' Organisations United

To champion the case of farmers and work for bringing about a unity or a possible merger of the different existing farm organisations have been made by Mr Bhanu Pratap Singh Union State Minister for Agriculture. Already, the Farmers' Federation of India, the Bhartiya Krishak Samaj and the Rastriya Kisan Sangathan have decided to work unitedly and had formed a national coordination committee of which he convener.

The other members of the committee include Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha, Mr Nathu Ram Mirdha and Mr D.D. Desai (MPs), Mr P. Thimma Reddy, Mr Shiv Raj Singh and Mr S.N. Mushram (former agriculture ministers of Andhra Pradesh, U.P. and Madhya Pradesh, respectively), and Mr S.B. Pandya, Mr N.K. Ganapiah, Mr C. Muthuswamy Gounder, Mr A.P. Rastogi, Mr D.A. Bholay, and Mr R. Srinivasan.

The first task of this committee will be to prepare an integrated scheme for rural development to be placed before the people and the government.

Farm growth behind target

The agricultural output in India grew at a compound rate of 1.95 per cent during the triennium 1962-65 to 1970-73 as against the Fourth Plan growth rate target of 4.7 per cent for farm products, according to a research study undertaken for the Planning Commission.

But the growth rate registered by foodgrains was higher at 2.74 per cent. Even so it fell short of the growth rate of 4 per cent and barely exceeded the growth rate of population at 2.24 per cent per annum.

Despite increase in domestic production, on an average 1.71 million tonnes of foodgrains had to be imported every year during 1970-73. Further the per capita daily availability of foodgrains marginally declined from 458.6 grams during 1962-65 to 450.6 grams during 1970-73 in spite of the fact that per capita income had registered an increase of point 98 per cent per annum during this period.

The study made for 282 district units reveals that are a under the 19 major crops increased during the period from 124 million hectares to 127 million hectares. Productivity increased at a much faster rate of 1.66 per cent, from Rs 853 a hectare to Rs 973 a hectare.

The total agricultural output is valued at Rs 1,236.25 crore during the seventies compared with a value of Rs 1,058.90 crore during the sixties.

Except for Orissa, Maharashtra and Andhra, agricultural output has registered an increase in every State. The major contribution to the increase

in output was made by UP, Punjab, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal where the value of output increased by Rs 445.5 crore, Rs 382.5 crore, Rs 181 crore, Rs 182.5 crore and Rs 159.5 crore respectively,

Cheaper nitrogen fixing

Indian Agricultural Research Institute has prepared several alternative formulations on fixing nitrogen in the soil from bacterial and biological sources.

Dr Jain said IARI scientists had made a rhizobial map of India based on a countrywide survey of rhizobial bacteria which fixed atmospheric nitrogen in association with the roots of pulse crops.

It had been demonstrated that the inclusion of a short duration pulse crop added considerable amount of the nitrogen to the soil for the succeeding crop. Thus if a short duration variety of fodder cowpea was introduced between the rabi and khariff cereal crops, as much as 30-35 kg of nitrogen became available to the succeeding crop.

The other legumes which had been found to add considerable amount of nitrogen to the soil were khesari dal, groundnut and grain cowpea.

An exciting development in this field was the report from Brazil that another bacterial species—*Spirillum lipoferum*—fixed atmospheric nitrogen in association with the maize plant and other grasses.

IARI scientists had isolated 15 Indian strains of *Spirillum* from roots of rice, maize and sorghum, which appeared to be efficient in nitrogen fixation

The next five years should see hectic research activity on *Spirillum*, which offered the possibility of becoming a bacterial fertiliser for some of the cereal crops, he said.

Another major approach had been the development of bio-fertilizer, in the form of algal cultures, which also fixed atmospheric nitrogen.

Blue-green algae had been found to be particularly promising for fixing atmospheric nitrogen in the case of rice crop.

Extensive field trials in Tamil Nadu and indicated that algal application could give the paddy grower benefit equivalent to that of applying 20-30 kg of nitrogen per hectare. (IARI has been supplying algal culture in 400-gramme packets costing Rs 3-4 each).

According to Dr. Jain, fertiliser use efficiency had also been achieved by using neem cake for coating urea, the most commonly used fertiliser in the country.

It had been recognised for a long time that part of the nitrogen applied to the rice fields was lost because of leaching and denitrification.

The neem cake inhabits the activity of denitrifying bacteria, and enables the better utilisation of the apply urea by the rice crop. It had been observed that with neem cake coated urea, 100 kg of nitrogen per hectare gave a yield of rice corresponding to a dose of 150 kg of nitrogen.

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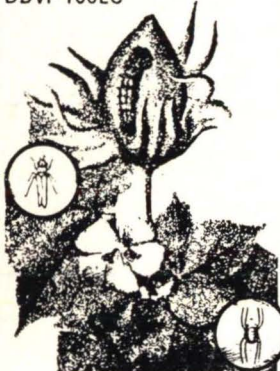
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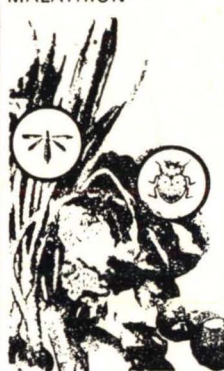
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