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IT was my intention when I left India on the 12th of May for attending the 13th Conference of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers and the World Food Congress to try and continue these letters with information of use to the farmers which I may happen to gather from place to place. But whatever the general opinion about the people attending International Conferences, it is a fact that in all such conferences one has to work very hard and there is hardly any spare time to attend to other things including even writing to friends and people at home.

This has been my experience at all the previous conferences which I have attended and the same was repeated in the case of the I.F.A.P. Conference as well as the World Food Congress. There may be a few delegates who do not take the deliberations very seriously and are able to secure some leisure, but I have hardly ever acted in this manner and so neither during my stay in Ireland nor U.S.A. I had any time to contribute my monthly letter to the 'Krishak Samachar' last month (or last two months).

It is, however, gratifying that the 'Krishak Samachar' did keep our readers informed both about the more important happenings at the IFAP Conference as well as to some extent the World Food Congress. I am rather sorry that the latter has not figured more prominently in the Indian Press than it has actually done. This Congress was a very special and purposeful gathering, full of great interest and vital importance to India leading ultimately to large-scale co-operation and assistance to India. It is, therefore, regrettable that its importance has not been brought to bear on our people although it was attended at the inauguration by our own President Dr. Radhakrishnan who delivered one of his finest speeches. This impressed every one greatly.

As was pointed out by Dr. Toyanbee from a map published by the F.A.O., the hungry and mal-nourished live in their greatest numbers in the South East Asia. In this vast area India and Pakistan are the two most populous countries who have not only the question of partial hunger and mal-nutrition staring in their faces but where the immediate resources available, the present condition of people, the state of agriculture and the policies of Governments do not promise a complete conquest of the malady within a short period. The world population of hungry people is estimated at something like 50% of the whole. What I have said above is, therefore, very easy to understand when we know that India, Pakistan and China are included in this



calculation. But even as between the various world countries with limited quantities of food to feed the people living in those countries, there is a very big difference between hungry countries themselves which must be noted by everyone who cares to think about this problem. The main and staggering difference is that while a large number of African as well as South East Asian countries have hungry and mal-nourished people only because they have not been able to exploit their resources to the extent of producing all that they need to afford a nutritionally ideal diet, this is not true of others. Once their easily available lands in these countries are properly cultivated their comparatively smaller populations would not suffer from hunger or mal-nutrition. On the other hand, if we look at India and Pakistan, the picture is very much different because the available land for agriculture is limited and there are so many evils persisting that to make any spectacular and dynamic change is a very hard and at its best a time consuming task. There is limitless fragmentation of land. Fragmentation brings poverty in its wake, and with the peasantry in poor condition, the prospect of immediate and substantial increases in production is extremely difficult. There is a vicious circle which we have yet to effectively break. Thus it is apparent that in its ultimate analysis the greatest concern of the World Food Congress in its essence could not be any countries other than India and Pakistan, the situation in other countries being comparatively better and more promising.

I do not propose to go into the details in this letter as to what took place either at the I.F.A.P. or the W.F.C. I propose to do it later by stages quoting extracts from some of the very important speeches made at the Conference and the Congress as well as the final declaration and the most solemn resolution, which was passed by the 1,332 delegates all standing in the morning of the 18th June, 1963, under the Chairmanship of the Secretary for Agriculture of U.S.A. Mr. Freeman and Dr. B. R. Sen, the Director-General of F.A.O. The main of this Congress was to awaken "public conscience" to the urgency and gravity of the problem,

and I believe that the Congress has succeeded admirably in doing this as far as advanced countries are concerned. The tragic fact is that the advanced countries manifest far greater anxiety and concern already than those who are the sufferers. Possibly, this itself is a measure of their under-developed condition. It is a thousand pities that those countries for whom this great concern is felt appear themselves to be as yet not much concerned. If any one doubts the truth of this statement let him compare the work put in, funds collected and interest shown by the Freedom-From-Hunger Campaign Committees which have been at the instance of the F. A. O. constituted in most countries. This is the irony of the situation which pained me a lot.

After the conclusion of the Congress, I and Shri Deshpande visited East Germany for a period of a little over a week. The organization of the farmers called Farmers' Mutual Aid Association had extended this invitation to us through their First Secretary Mr. Sperling. They showed us their permanent exhibition at Leipzig, their cooperative farming societies, big research institutes, crops and cattle and the mechanization which they have introduced as well as the way in which the farmers live and carry on farming. This was a very valuable experience especially in the field of cooperative farming. There are many interesting facets in the economic development of East Germany which we believe are significant, noteworthy and instructive. In our efforts to increase and contribute to greater human happiness irrespective of the way or the method by which or the reasons because of which any particular group of people are seeking to do it. I do not consider it wise to refuse to observe and study any particular experiments in that direction. And from this point of view, I believe, we have a lot to know and learn from the facts of life in East Germany. It is well-known that the present East Germany has brought about a radical revolution in social system and political economy of their country. We may be fundamentally opposed to the tenets of communism or may be even in a mild form of socialism but this cannot mean that only for this

reason we refuse to look even at what concretely exists. It is after all a great human experiment and as such the thoughtful people should take note of what transpires even under those unusual conditions. This is all the more important because there is a large population in many countries who have gone through all these changes and therefore the need of such study is more than a mere academic interest. At least those who are capable of thinking of the humanity at large and human values everywhere cannot confine their observations and thinking only to their own fellowmen. It is proposed to give our readers a more detailed account of what we observed later on but the permanent exhibition in Leipzig is a great and very valuable achievement and countries like India ought to have something similar at least in one or two places in our vast country. That is the aim of the Bharat Krishak Samaj ever since we thought of holding even the first World Agriculture Fair. There are not many people outside ourselves who have as yet given much thought to the matter, but we have every hope that some day some more understanding and friendly people towards the farmers would come forward to enable the Bharat Krishak Samaj to fulfil its ambition in this field.

I am afraid I have already taken more than the space allotted to me and would, therefore, conclude this letter of mine here.

While giving extracts from other documents would have to wait the arrival of those documents from abroad, I give in this issue of the 'Krishak Samachar' the full text of the speech which the Prime Minister of Ireland, Mr. Sean F. Lemass, Taoiseach, delivered at the inauguration of the IFAP Conference. Incidentally, I might mention that in my latest interview with the Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru I placed the text of this speech before him and he was kind enough to go through the whole of it with great interest. I hope he will not mind my stating this fact in this way.

**P. S. DESHMUKH,**

President,

**Bharat Krishak Samaj.**

*Krishak Samachar*

# Agriculture at Cross-roads

*Speech by Mr. Sean F. Lamass, Taoiseach, at opening Plenary Session of 13th World Conference of International Federation of Agricultural Producers; International Hotel, Bray, Thursday, 16th May, 1963.*

ON behalf of the Irish Government and people I welcome the IFAP to Ireland. The prestige of your great organisation is high in this country, and your deliberations on matters bearing on agricultural policy have considerable influence with us. We are very gratified that this important Conference is being held here, and we wish it success in every sense.

The rapid development of IFAP since its initiation at the London Conference of 1946 indicates the vital need felt by agricultural producers in all countries for such an organisation, and the important part there is for it to play in the complex field of international agricultural policy. The leadership which the IFAP has provided has been a tremendous influence working for the benefit of farmers everywhere. What Government nowadays is allowed to seek solutions to its agricultural problems without being effectively acquainted with organised farming opinion? What international organisation can shape its policies without hearing and understanding the farmers' viewpoint from the farmers' international spokesmen? The exceptional standing which IFAP has achieved vis-a-vis national and international authorities is a tribute to the wisdom and responsibility with which it has contributed to the evolution of agricultural policy and to the alleviation of agriculture's manifold problems and difficulties.

The number, character and scope of these problems and difficulties are made readily apparent by a glance at your agenda, particularly the agenda for your Policy Committee, with which you will be dealing during the next fortnight. What can be done about the problem of farm income and its tendency to lag behind the incomes of other groups? How best can we tackle the immense task of improving farm structure

throughout the world? How can some order be introduced into the chaotic state of agricultural trade and, most important of all, how can we solve—and how quickly—the problem of vast surpluses of food existing side by side with hunger, want and malnutrition? Your organisation firmly believes that the determination of Governments will produce the action required to solve these problems, notwithstanding the many difficulties which stand in the way. The constructive approach which you are adopting to the very controversial issues involved and the persistence with which you are seeking to find the right answers are very impressive. They deserve success.

I will not delay you by speaking of the special agricultural problems which we have in Ireland, but I should like to say a brief word about how we view some of these international problems. As students of international agriculture many of you will be familiar with our general situation. Our country, as you know, is still heavily dependent on agriculture; despite our not-inconsiderable progress in recent years in developing manufacturing industry and other non-agricultural activities, we are still some distance away from a satisfactory balance in our economy. The dependence of our agriculture on export markets—few countries in the world export a higher proportion of their production than we do—the limitations of the home market, and the depression of world prices have meant that we have only been able to support agriculture at a relatively low price level. Our agriculture is therefore largely under-exploited—a position which contrasts strongly with most other European countries where agriculture is intensively worked.

It is against this background that Irish farmers, and Mr. Deasy and

his colleagues of the Irish delegation in particular, are likely to formulate their reactions to the important proposals coming before your Conference. Principles, such as the principle of reciprocity between agricultural and industrial trade based on comparative advantage, which were loudly acclaimed and, we thought, universally accepted after the war we—with despondency and with no little disillusionment—have seen in recent years to wilt and wither away. Such, indeed, may be the inevitable result of the intricacies of agricultural trade.

However, the situation now evolving excites its own questions in the minds of many who are acquainted with your ideas for bringing about a better organisation of agricultural markets. For Example, should we not guard against perpetuating a division of the markets which appears to reject the benefits to be reaped from the most economic utilisation of resources, human and material?

I hope I am not giving an impression that we in Ireland are opposed to the new thinking about reasonable access to markets and international commodity agreements or that we are presuming to have better ideas to suggest. In fact, the new approaches in many ways strike us as excellent. Greater management of supply and markets is in prospect; the theory that imported food should be paid for at prices that are remunerative and comparable to those paid to domestic producers seems to be gaining ground. In this matter Governments will have to strike a balance between various and sometimes conflicting considerations. I have no doubt that, in approaching the dangerous and unenviable task of striking this balance, Governments who take heed of the conclusions reached at your Conference will be able to find light and guidance.

All the signs and portents suggest that your meeting in Dublin will be a fateful one because agriculture now seems to be approaching a significant crossroads and what you do during this fortnight will be of crucial importance for the future of

*Continued on page 6*

# Second Indian Farm Leaders Group to U.S.A.—Report I

**T**HE second group of Indian Farm Leaders visited the U.S.A. in the summer of 1962 for a period of about 8 weeks under the Farm Leaders Exchange Programme sponsored jointly by the Bharat Krishak Samaj (Farmers' Forum, India) and Farmers & World Affairs Inc., (U.S.A.). Three groups of American farmers had earlier visited India under the same programme. The first Indian group visited the U.S.A. in 1961 summer.

The Farm Leaders Exchange Programme is an exchange programme between the Bharat Krishak Samaj, The National Farmers' Organization of India, and Farmers & World Affairs Inc., U.S.A., which is a non-official, non-political, non-profit making organization, in co-operation with the three general farm organizations of the U.S.A. viz. the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Farmers' Union and the National Grange and some farm cooperatives. The basic aim of the Exchange Programme is to build world peace through mutual understanding and cooperation. India is the first country with which Farmers and World Affairs are sponsoring the programme. Farmers and World Affairs intends to extend the programme to many other countries also: In pursuance of this objective they have worked out an Exchange Programme with Pakistan this year and hope to extend it to the United Arab Republic very soon.

The Programme helps to give farmers an opportunity to learn each others way of life by living it. It helps rural people to understand the problems and aspirations of the people in other parts of the world. To the farmers it helps to provide an opportunity to study the farming methods, farming problems and how they are solved, aspirations of farmers, extension methods, credit facilities, farm organisations, cooperatives, etc. in U.S.A. and in other participating countries and to help build friendship and mutual under-

standing between the farmers of the different countries.

## Building up Friendship

Throughout their stay in the U.S.A. the Indian group looked for improved farm techniques adaptable to the small farms of India and tried to discover ways in which farm organizations and Governmental and other agencies in our country could help our farmers to produce more food and fibre and raise their standard of living. The group participated in rural family and community life and helped their hosts to understand better India through talks to farm and community groups, appearances on radio and television, news paper interviews, etc. They helped to strengthen the friendship and understanding between farmers of the United States and India. This building up of mutual friendship and un-

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## Save to Invest in Freedom & Prosperity

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derstanding at the grass roots of both countries is a much needed supplement to all other programmes in order to help rural people to understand the problems and way of thinking of the people in other parts of the world. People have misconceptions about different countries and in today's shrinking world it is essential that we understand each other correctly.

The members of the group were :

1. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, M.P., President, Farmers' Forum, India, Leader.
2. Smt. Vimlabai Deshmukh (Bharatiya Grameen Mahilla Sangh)

3. Shri B. P. Wahi (U.P)
4. Shri Laxmi Narain Hazra (W.B.)
5. Shri G. Subramaniam (Kerala)
6. Shri Altaf Hussain (U.P.)
7. Shri Lajpatrai H. Varma (Maharashtra)
8. Shri Ajit Singh Chaudhary (Punjab)
9. Shri P. Hanumantha Rao (Andhra)
10. Smt. Satyawati Chowdhry (Delhi)
11. Shri R. V. Robinson, Assistant Secretary, Farmers' Forum, India.

Shri B. P. Wahi had to return from Kansas (Missouri), half way through the tour, due to reasons of health. The 12th participant Shri Vikhe Patil could not join the group owing to late issue of passport.

Dr. Deshmukh, who was leader of the group, and Mrs. Deshmukh had arrived in Washington on June 2, after a tour of West Germany where they had gone earlier as guests of the West German Government. The rest of the group was also to arrive in Washington on June 1 to join Dr. & Mrs. Deshmukh there. However, due to difficulties in obtaining passports, the group could not leave New Delhi on May 31 as scheduled. Seven members of the group left on June 9, 1962, and two others a few days later.

From June 9 to 14, the group was in Washington for Orientation.

## The National Grange Headquarters

Here the group visited the Headquarters of the National Grange which is the oldest of the three general farm organizations in the United States. The Grange is the only American farm organization having its own building and its Headquar-

ters in the Nation's Capital. The funds for the building were raised by Grange State Organizations. It is a beautiful multi-storied building of which any organization should be proud of. The Grange which came into being in December 1867 functions as what they call "A rural family fraternity." It is a non-sectarian, non-political organization. It aims at a better way of life for rural people in all aspects of their lives. The Grange is active in forty of the fifty States of the Union. It has a membership of 7,50,000. At local community level activities are mainly of a recreational, social and cultural type. At the County level problems of a wider interest such as taxation, education, etc. are tackled. At the National level activities are mainly legislative, lobbying, administration, etc. For young people there is a juvenile Grange that serves those under 14 years of age. Incidentally, the name "Grange" is derived from the old "Manor System" of farming in England. One interesting feature is that upto the "Pomona" or County level all individual members are entitled to attend meetings and to vote. No delegates are elected. From the County to the State and State to the National level, however, elected delegates only are entitled to attend meetings.

Membership dues are set by local or subordinate Granges and vary from \$ 2 to \$ 5. The Grange follows more or less a "middle of the road" policy as compared with the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Farmers' Union.

The Federation stands for the conservative policy of the absolute minimum of Governmental interference, involvement and influence. It is for example opposed to any price support policy, etc.

The National Farmers' Union, on the other hand, is not so vehemently opposed to Governmental interference (legislative support), involvement and influence.

#### The U.S.D.A.

At the United States Department of Agriculture the group was given a warm welcome. There were many talks on the "Growth of the

Nation", a pictorial story of the 'Growth of Rural America', etc. They were all aimed to give the delegates a general idea, a broad outline, of a various facets of American life in general and American rural life and agriculture in particular.

The U.S.D.A. functions through about sixteen Departments such as Forestry, Soil Conservation, Credit, Home Administration, Rural Electrification, Cooperatives and Federal Land Banks, etc.

Some interesting features of credit facilities and cooperative activity of the U. S. D. A. are given below:

There is a group of Governmental agencies concerned with the supply of credit to farmers. There is, for instance, the Rural Electrification Agency to help farmers' cooperatives to get credit for providing electric power in farm homes and also to help provide telephones.

Then there is the Farmers' Home Administration which is a "direct credit agency" administering government funds, appropriated by Congress, directly to farmers—farmers who are in "tenancy position". It helps these "tenancy position" farmers to purchase land and also other things which may be ne-

cessary to enable them to carry out their farming activities, including construction of the complete home. It also provides technical personnel at the local level, to help and guide these farmers to make the best of these loans. This credit reaches that sector of the community where needs cannot be satisfied by rural or commercial banks. There are "high risk" people who may not be able to pay back easily. The rate of interest charged on these loans is generally half of the rate of interest charged by commercial banks. It may be interesting to note here that there are 18% tenants and about 82% owners among farmers in the U.S.A.

The Farmers' Home Administration also helps other farmers of low income. It is estimated that of the 3,700,000 farmers in the U.S.A. at least 36% are such as are not making a good living and have an income of less than \$ 2000. The average farmer makes about \$ 7,000 to \$ 10,000. Besides giving loans directly from Government sources, i.e. money appropriated by Congress, the FHA has another system. They borrow money from bankers of individuals, say at 4½%, and loan it to farmers at 5%.

The FHA was created as a result of the distressing days of the depres-

*The Group in the Conference room of the National Grange Headquarters Building in Washington*



sion of 1929 and was mainly a relief and rehabilitation agency. It is a Government agency, not in business for profit but to set up poor farmers on a sound footing and help to rehabilitate them.

Then there is the Farm Credit Administration which works through Banks for cooperatives, loaning credit directly to farm supply and manufacturing cooperatives. It also works through the "Production Credit Association". The "Federal Land Bank" deals in stocks and debentures as a negotiating institution to support the first two.

All these are "New Deal" agencies started, with Government funds, by ex-President F. D. Roosevelt. Today almost all ventures started by them are in private ownership. The Government has been repaid. *This is the general pattern of the techniques of credit facilities in the nation as a whole.*

It is significant to note that without the wide use of credit facilities such a tremendous increase in agriculture production in U.S.A. would not have been possible. There are about 10,000 Farmers' Service Cooperatives in the United States (including those for Rural Electrification Insurance, Irrigation, etc.). Two thirds of the power on farms comes from Rural Electrification Cooperatives.

These Cooperatives are guided and helped by the Government's Farmers' Cooperative Service which is a part of the United States Department of Agriculture for the last 50 years. Of course, the FCS has no control over the cooperatives and does not compel them to submit reports, etc. But, happily, 90-95 per cent of these cooperatives help by participating and cooperating with the FCS willingly. The FCS directs research work towards the real problems of cooperatives and how to solve them. They help cooperatives to be more "understanding democracies". They guide them in membership and other problems.

#### **Hundredth Anniversary of USDA**

1962 was the hundredth anniversary of the United States Depart-

ment of Agriculture. One hundred years ago—in 1862—President Abraham Lincoln had foresight to get the Land Grant College Act passed. This act set up the USDA. It set up in each State a State Agriculture University by giving huge gifts of Federal land to the State Agricultural Universities having facilities for agricultural education, research and extension. More will be said of the excellent Agricultural Extension Service of the USDA later. Only a few points may be mentioned here.

Usually, there are three professional extension workers in the County—*selected by the County people and approved by the State Office* i.e. the County Agent, the Home Economist (Women) and 4-H Club leader. They are paid 50-50 by the County and State and are technical and trained persons. They are trained to find out the local leaders and work through them.

The terms of contract are from year to year. The selection is made by the County Committee from four or five names sent by the State against a vacancy.

#### **Washington International Centre**

On the last day of their stay in Washington, at the beginning of the tour, the group visited the Washington International Centre. This is a private corporation housed in a beautiful and spacious building. It started twelve years ago in two small rooms. Later, the Ford Foundations gave a grant for purchase of land. The Centre has about 800 families on its list who extend invitations and hospitality to sponsored guests to whom they give assistance, guidance, orientation, etc.

The International Centre arranged two very interesting talks on "Land, People & Resources of the U.S." These talks gave our group an excellent opportunity for knowing about and for a frank discussion on many aspects of American people's relationships within the nation, such as Federal Government and Education, growth of Federal Power in general, over Industry and over Agriculture, Industrial Labour, Crop production control, Social security, Race relations, etc. Through the Centre arrangements had been made

to visit the Capital Building and brief visits to the Senate and Congress. The group met Senator John Sherman Cooper, a former U.S. Ambassador to India, in his office in the Senate Building. Senator Cooper is a great friend of India and was a fighter for aid to India with Senator Kennedy long before the latter became President of the U.S.A.

The Indian Ambassador in Washington, Shri B. K. Nehru, was host to the group for tea at the Indian Embassy on June 11, 1962.

On June 14, 1962, the group, after orientation, left on the second lap of their tour for Florida. From Orlando airfield the members went straight to their host families.

*(To be continued)*

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*Contd. from page 3*

your industry and of farmers everywhere. It will be a universal hope that your work will be beneficial and fruitful.

May I say again how glad we are to have you all with us. We should like it very much if all you will take time off from the Conference—as much as you can spare—to see something of Ireland and to make or renew acquaintances with the Irish people.

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**Defence is**

**Your Job**

**too.**

**Do it Well!**

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# Injustice to Cane-growers

The Muzaffarnagar District Krishak Samaj has appealed to the Government of India through its President for a drastic change in the sugarcane price policy.

The appeal says that the hopes and confidence created in the minds of the *kisans* all over the country by the Parliamentary speech of the Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, on March 21, were further strengthened by his comments in the A. I. C. C. meeting held at Delhi on April 7, 1963. But all the expectations and hopes are dashed to the ground because of the Government's policy.

The appeal further says,

"If the announcement of floor price of wheat at Rs. 14/- per maund was a severe shock to the *kisans*, the 6 n.P. per maund increase in cane price was like the very "bolt from the blue". This mockery of price incentive has, if anything, exposed the Government to the charge of paying only lip service to the cause of agriculture, agriculturists and agricultural economy. The two demands of the *kisans*, one about correct assessment of cost of production and the other about parity in prices of agricultural commodities and other consumer goods, are insistently, consistently and persistently ignored by the authorities that be.

"The District Krishak Samaj, Muzaffarnagar (U.P.), too had forwarded resolutions to this effect without any tangible result. The repercussions are self-evident. The producer, who did not get a remunerative price, could not invest more towards production or may be, in some cases, even diminished his cane acreage. The consumer is purchasing sugar at Rs. 2/- per kilogram in the black market. The Pradesh Govt. suffered a loss of over a crore of rupees in cane-cess and so did the Central Govt. in excise duty. The loss in foreign exchange earnings too is not so insignificant.

"The supreme irony is that last year's experience which ought to have been the guiding factor in determining future cane-price has been totally lost sight of. Khandsari is selling at Rs. 72/- per maund, jaggary powder at Rs. 38/- and Gur at Rs. 32/- per maund. The cane-cruiser owners are making forward offers of Rs. 2/- per maund for cane and are contracting registered agreements to this effect. Why will the cane-grower then supply his cane to the factory at such a low price. Last year's history is most likely to repeat itself with certain graver and more damaging modifications. With the present per maund cane-price of Rs. 1.50 n.P. cane supplies to factories will fall far short of requirements and sugar production will drop immeasurably low. The loss in cane-cess, excise duty and foreign exchange earnings will be all the greater whereas the consumers' lot is to be in no way better."

The appeal suggests that, as recommended by the Govts. of U.P. and Bihar, a minimum price of cane at Re. 1.75 n.p. per maund be fixed without any inordinate delay and the same may be given widest publicity so that cane-growers may further refrain from entering into legal contracts with Khandsari manufacturers. This may undo the wrong to some extent and pave the industry from an unprecedented disaster and the nation from an appalling catastrophe.

## President and Secretary Return from G.D.R.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, President, and Shri R. B. Deshpande, Secretary, Bharat Krishak Samaj, returned to India on July 8, 1963, after their tour of G.D.R.

During their stay of about 8-10 days in G.D.R., they travelled by car over 3,300 kilometers. With their headquarters in Berlin, they visited Leipzig, Weimer, Rostock, Potsdam, Meissen, Dresden, etc.

The Bharat Krishak Samaj has learnt with great sorrow the sad news of the death of Shri R. G. Late of Yaval, District Jalgaon, last month. Shri Late was a progressive farmer and an active member of the All India Farmers' Council. The Samaj sympathises with the members of the family of the deceased in their bereavement.

At Leipzig-Markleeberg they saw the 11th Agricultural Exhibition. They were shown round by Dr. Baumgarten, the Director of the Exhibition, who by the way was in charge of the G.D.R. Pavillion at the World Agriculture Fair in New Delhi in 1959-60. The Exhibition covers an area of 140 hectares. It has numerous permanent pavillions. It represents a cross-section of the latest developments in agriculture, animal husbandry, cooperation, etc., in the G.D.R. It plays a very important role in disseminating information on the latest results of investigations in agriculture, animal husbandry, etc. The Exhibition ground is virtually a training centre for cooperative farmers, farm workers, agricultural machinery users, workers in the State farms, visitors from other countries, etc.

The President and the Secretary also visited a few cooperatives and saw excellent crops of cereals, legumes, oil seeds, sugar beet, potato, etc., and dairies, poultry farms and schools.

They also visited the Institutes of Plant Breeding at Bernburg and Gross Lusewitz and the Institute for Land Technique at Bornim (Potsdam).

The rapid developments in agriculture and animal husbandry in G.D.R. are mainly due to cooperative farming, mechanization, application of latest technique to agriculture and animal husbandry and above all to the rural people's enthusiasm and determination to improve their country's agricultural output at their own standard of living.

The programme was very well planned and efficiently executed by

the First Secretary, Mr. Sperling, and his colleagues of the Farmers' Mutual Aid Association, who were the host.

## Farm News

# Poor Progress in Agriculture

Wherever the President and the Secretary went, they received warm welcome and generous hospitality. They returned to India with lasting and very pleasant impressions of their stay in G.D.R. and with admiration for the people and Government of G.D.R. for achieving rapid progress in industry, agriculture, education, etc., in a relatively short time.

## Shram Dan at W.A.F. Memorial College

With picks and showels in hands, a group of Americans and teachers and students of the World Agricultural Fair Memorial Shivaji College at Matiala on Najafgarh Road, Delhi, started work on the construction of an open-air gymnasium on July 14.

The work project is undertaken under the auspices of the World University Service. The group members in a fortnight would level a 40 ft x 27 ft ground and raise a boundary wall around it.

Inaugurating the project, Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj and W.A.F. Memorial Shivaji College, commended the project and said that the spirit of voluntary labour had been a part and parcel of Indian life since long. Even today, when a farmer was disabled or was in distress, his fellow farmers would till the land and do harvesting for him in a spirit of brotherhood and selfless service, he observed.

Dr. Y. D. Ahuja, working Chairman of Delhi unit of WUS., said that the main aim of WUS was to knit university communities of different countries into an international fellowship rising above the barriers of race and nationality.

Most State Governments have not accepted the higher targets laid down last year by the National Development Council in respect of many schemes aimed at increasing agricultural production.

The reports the Central teams have prepared after discussions with the States on steps to boost food production reveal that the progress of dry farming, green manuring and minor irrigation has been insignificant.

Preparation of village agricultural production plans, provision of credit facilities and introduction of administrative changes have been very much delayed despite the emergency.

The reports indicate that the Third Plan target in respect of dry farming—a combination of agricultural practices aimed at increasing production in areas of low and uncertain rainfall—was raised last year from 22 to 50 million acres. So far, the States have accepted the figure of 26.5 million acres. Some have even reduced the original Plan target.

Andhra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have increased the targets, while Mysore, Punjab and Rajasthan have reduced them. In the case of Punjab, the Central teams had suggested a higher target of 1.25 million acres, but this figure has not been accepted by the State Government.

The teams have suggested a further upward revision of the State targets. They have stated that arrangements should be made for the supply of implements for purpose of demonstration and also distribution among farmers.

Special campaigns should be organized for large-scale production and utilization of organic matter, and dry farming techniques should be taken up as an essential follow-up in contour banded areas.

In regard to compost making and green manuring, the Central team

have not observed any significant improvement. The Planning Commission attaches great importance to green manuring in schemes of increasing food production in view of the inadequate supply of chemical fertilizer.

In fact, the Third Plan target of 150 million acres of rural compost has been reduced by the State Governments to 130 million acres and of green manuring from 41 million acres to 36 million acres.

The teams have suggested that in each village, according to the number of farming families and of cattle owned by them, specific compost production targets should be fixed. Targets should also be laid down for each area under paddy, sugarcane, potatoes and vegetables.

In double crop areas, where crops are to be raised by applying green manure, irrigation water at concessional rates should be supplied.

## Irrigation Potential

It has been estimated that by the end of 1962-63, nearly 3.7 million acres of irrigation potential, under major and medium heads alone, remained unutilized. The main reasons for that are: engineering difficulties and delays, inadequate preparation about introduction of new cropping patterns and agricultural practices, uncertain and untimely availability of water, increase in the water rates and unwillingness on the part of the cultivators to use water in years of good rainfall.

Only in respect of Kakarpura, Gangapur and Tungabhadra mention has been made of lack of field channels. In the Hirakud project is felt the inadequacy of the departmental water courses, whose length is much less than what is required for irrigating the command areas.

In regard to minor irrigation, the target of 12.8 million acres was raised by 50 per cent last year. 1961-62 it was two million acres which indicates the

need for greater action. The teams have stated that while irrigation potential is being created under new minor works, a substantial loss of potential due to old works going out of order also takes place.

### Co-operative Credit

They have suggested the need for a master plan of minor irrigation for each State. Shortage of key materials like cement and steel are hampering the progress of minor irrigation works. The States must allocate larger quantities of these materials for agricultural purposes in future.

The Central teams have found serious gaps in the planning and implementation of village agricultural production plans. They have recommended that the plans should be prepared for each village by the Panchayat itself in collaboration with the village co-operative. The targets should be based on the maximum mobilization of local resources.

Co-operative credit should be linked to production requirements under the Plan. Estimates of production potential, expected to be created as a result of various programmes, should be prepared for the village as a whole. Definite tasks should be allotted to individual farmers or groups of farmers in terms of targets laid down in the village plan, and 'panchs', 'sahayaks' and others should be made responsible for them.

The teams have come to the conclusion that the village plan generally remains a paper exercise. It is either a list of requirements or compilation of what some cultivators have agreed to do on their own.

The need to streamline the supply arrangements for seeds, implements and pesticides, among other things, has also been stressed. The teams have observed that no arrangements exist for certifying the purity and quality of seeds. Block seed farms are not working satisfactorily due to lack of sufficient developed land, irrigation facilities, supervision and check on quality. This has resulted in deterioration in yields as well as in quality.

Improved implements have not been demonstrated extensively to prove their superiority over local implements. Iron and steel needed for their manufacture is not available in sufficient quantity, nor do repair and maintenance facilities exist. Even the extension staff is not fully trained in handling these implements. Medium-term credit is not available to farmers for purchasing them.

The Central teams are of the view that the revised target of Rs. 500 crores of short and medium-term loans at the end of the Third Plan might not be achieved with the present rate of progress. Considerable effort will be needed on the part of the co-operative credit structure to increase its share capital and deposits if the Third Plan target is to be achieved.

It is stated that because of the various schemes in operation for mopping up savings, the co-operatives are finding it difficult to harness the savings from rural areas.

### Mass Manufacture of Farm Equipment

Within three years Indian factories will turn out every year 10,000 large and 3,000 small tractors and a large number of Japanese-type power tillers.

This is part of a programme for the mass manufacture of agricultural equipment in the country which is being finalized by the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture. This, the Ministry hopes, will give agriculture a big push and transform the Indian countryside within the next 10 or 15 years.

At least 3,600 large tractors (12 to 45 h. p.) are to be manufactured in India this year. Efforts are also being made to speed up the manufacture of small tractors (under 10 h. p.) which has not been encouraging in the past.

Indigenous production of high horse power crawlers and power threshers is also being stepped up.

But what may eventually prove most useful to a large number of small and medium farms in the country is the Japanese power tiller

which the Ministry is reported to be "very keen" to manufacture in India. Since the tiller is likely to be more useful in the paddy-growing areas, Orissa and West Bengal have shown great interest in it. Recently, both States had discussions with some Japanese firms on the manufacture of power tillers.

### Cheap Japanese Tools

At the same time several cheap Japanese implements are being recommended for indigenous manufacture. During his recent visit to Japan, Mr. S. K. Patil, Union Minister for Food & Agriculture, evinced keen interest in the tools used by Japanese farmers.

The Japanese implements favoured for use in India are the hilly plough, the paddy weeder, the midget duster and the portable sprayer.

Efforts are also to be made to popularize some of the farm implements in use in the South for centuries but unknown to farmers in the North.

About 50 years ago, a British agriculture officer travelled about 14,000 miles in the country to survey indigenous farm implements and was surprised by the usefulness of some of them which have been in use in the South for over 15 centuries. Since then agricultural experts have been wondering why these cheap and useful devices did not find their way to the North.

The Ministry now feels that there is a "clear need" to introduce the implements—about 16 in all—in the States where they are not in use.

Indian agriculture engineers will be sent to foreign countries for training in the designing and production of better tools for the farmer.

### Deferred Price to Cane-growers

The Government of India have constituted an authority for fixing the additional or "deferred" price payable by the factories to sugarcane-growers for the cane supplied to them from 1958-59 to 1960-61. This step is designed to remove a long-

standing grievance of sugar-cane-growers.

The authority is composed of a Chief Cost Accounts Officer, a Director from the Sugar & Vanaspati Directorate and a nominee of the State Government in whose jurisdiction the sugar factory concerned is located.

The additional price payable for the years 1958-59 and 1959-60 is proposed to be determined in the first instance. Two inspecting teams are to leave soon for the States of Mysore and Andhra Pradesh. As more teams are assembled, work in other States will also be taken up. When these teams complete scrutiny of the accounts of the factories, the authority will visit the factories and make a final award, on the basis of which the factories would be required to make payments of the deferred price.

### Production of Improved Agricultural Implements

Problems connected with the manufacture and popularisation of improved agricultural implements were discussed at a two-day Conference beginning in New Delhi on July 15, 1963. The Conference was attended by farmers, manufacturers, agricultural engineers and farm experts and was inaugurated by Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture.

In the context of the need for a rapid increase in agricultural production, the question of standardising and popularising improved agricultural implements assumes added importance. Availability of the implements, their price and performance, maintenance and repair, convenience of handling, suitability to the different regions are among the many problems which the Conference had tackled.

#### UTTAR PRADESH

### Release Of Foodgrains

Over 11,900 tonnes of foodgrains were released from Government stocks to fair price shops in U. P. between April 1 and May 11 last. The releases included 3,803 tonnes of wheat and 8,106 tonnes of rice.

### Supply Organisation to Increase Production

In order to achieve the target of agricultural production under the Third Five-Year Plan, a Supply Organisation has been established in the Agriculture Department of the State Government. The Organization will ensure timely supplies of fertilizers, improved seeds, agricultural implements, pesticides, plant protection equipment and other production requisites to cultivators in their villages.

To move supplies expeditiously to sale points, the Organisation will have sufficient number of trucks. It will also be able to mobilize other departmental vehicles whenever necessary.

Adequate provision of loan has also been made in the form of *taqavi* so as to meet credit requirements of 60 per cent of the farmers who are still out side the fold of co-operative societies. The granting of loans will be simplified, so that small farmers may also get upto Rs. 40 upon the recommendation of Lekhpals, Village-Level Workers and Village Pradhans.

### Provision For Taqavi Increased

The State Government have decided to increase the assistance given to cultivators as *taqavi* loans for obtaining fertilisers, pesticides, insecticides and plant protection apparatus.

As compared to Rs. 60 to 70 lakhs advanced as *taqavi* in the past years, the provision now made for the purpose amounts to Rs. 4 crores.

The rate of interest on the loans which will not be in cash but in kind, has, however, been increased from 5½% to 8½% and brought on parity with the rate of interest charged by the co-operative societies.

#### ORISSA

### Cultivation Of Niger Crop

The final forecast of Niger seeds in respect of Orissa for the year 1961-

62 puts the total area under cultivation at 14,900 acres as against 24,400 acres in the preceding year.

The total production of the crop has been estimated at 1,677 tons as against 2,451 tons in the preceding year.

The weather was favourable for the crop throughout the State except in the district of Sundergarh. The condition of the crop on the whole was reported to be fair.

#### MADHYA PRADESH

### Village-Level Workers' Orientation Course

"Our agriculture can better be improved and modernised through cooperative way as its approach is persuasive and response voluntary", said Shri Jagmohandas, Minister for Local Government and Cooperation, inaugurating the All India Village Level-Workers' Orientation Course in cooperative farming, recently at Obedullaganj, about 30 miles from Bhopal. It was through cooperative farming, he said, the rapid economic transformation of rural society could be brought about and agricultural production stepped up.

This 15-day Course is being organised under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation. The main purpose of the course is to acquaint the village-level workers with the policy and programme of cooperative farming and to equip them for organisation of cooperative farming societies and for providing guidance in their day-to-day working and management. This is the third orientation course of the type arranged by the Union Ministry. The first course was held at Nilokheri (Punjab) and the second was held last year at Dhulia (Maharashtra). About 70 village-level workers drawn from all over the country are participating in this Course. After completing their training, they will go to pilot projects to work as special agriculture extension officers.

Continued on page 11

# Rajasthan Project

THE Rajasthan desert which covers parts of four States is no doubt a tremendous challenge to planners and a great hurdle in India's effort to grow more food.

Inspired by the success of the experiment carried out at Abingdon, in Lybia and Tunisia, Esso-India felt that it could be tried in Rajasthan.

The Arid Zone Research Institute at Jodhpur was already engaged in the tremendous task of arresting the inroads of the desert. The Birla Education Trust, founded by the well-known industrial magnate and philanthropist, Mr. G.D. Birla, was also interested in the project. Esso got in touch with them and sought their co-operation in launching trials of the Esso methods.

The equipment for the project was fabricated locally under the supervision of Esso technicians.

## Chosen Sites

Two sites—one at Pilani and the other at Bikaner—were chosen for the experiment after an extensive survey.

Seedlings, mostly quick-growing and economically valuable varieties like eucalyptus and casuarina, were planted by local labour on these plots and stabilising oil was sprayed over the entire area. For comparative study, seedlings were also planted on unsprayed plots.

Both these sites are under constant observation, and according to latest reports the plants are doing well.

## Solving Fuel Problem

The planting of fuel trees alone will help farmers solve their fuel problem, and save valuable cowdung from being burnt away, and thus saving it for manuring the fields.

A ten-year old Casuarina grove on an acre of land, for example,

can yield 40 tons of fuel, enough for 50 families for a whole year. The fuel needs of an entire village of 100 families or 500 persons can be met by planting 20 acres under Casuarina at the rate of 2 acres per year.

There are many trees which are not as fast growing as Casuarina, Eucalyptus or *Acaci millisima*, but still yield large quantities of good fuel. Some of these which a farmer can raise easily in his fields or on bunds and borders or in groves are *babool*, *neem*, mesquite, *karanj*, *haldu*, *sissoo*, *jamun* and some casias.

The rainy season is the most suitable time for planting fuel trees. Seeds or seedlings of these trees are available to farmers from either the District Forest Officers or N.E.S. Blocks.

## Fertilizing Paddy

Split application of ammonium sulphate, half at puddling and the rest a month after transplanting, is found to give best yield in paddy.

This was proved in experiments conducted at the Rice Breeding Station, Gurdaspur, Punjab, on the variety *Jhona-349* to find out the correct time and method of applying nitrogen. In these experiments, ammonium sulphate at the rate of 200 pounds per acre was applied in different doses at different times.

The best yield was obtained when half the fertilizer was applied at the time of puddling and the other half a month after transplanting.

## Fruit Fly Attack on Snake Gourd

Recent researches show that by adopting a simple schedule of spray treatment, the damage of the fruit fly on the snake gourd can be controlled.

According to the trials conducted at the Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, the crop has to be sprayed four times at intervals of 10 days each, with Parathion 0.025 per cent or endrin 0.02 per cent, commencing from the time the plants start flowering and stopping sufficiently in advance of the bulk harvest.

Any fruits that have reached the stage of edible maturity should be picked up before taking up the spraying.

## Leaf Spot in Turmeric

The leaf spot disease in turmeric can be easily controlled by spraying Bordeaux mixture or 'Dithane'.

Experiments conducted in Madras State show that two sprayings with one per cent Bordeaux mixture are enough to control the disease. 'Dithane' was also found to be equally effective. 'Dithane' should be applied as spray by diluting one pound of the chemical in 60 gallons of water, which is enough for spraying an acre.

The leaf spot disease appears in the form of extensive spotting on the leaves. The affected leaves dry and die off. This badly affects the formation of turmeric and reduces the yield.

(Contd. from page 10)

## Fertilizer Campaign In M. P.

With a view to popularising the use of fertilizers among the cultivators a fertilizer campaign was launched in Gwalior district from June 24 to June 30. The week-long programme comprised of giving practical demonstrations in the use of fertilizers and acquainting the cultivators with the importance of fertilizers to the agricultural production.

A district-level-Committee headed by Collector was formed to conduct the campaign. Tahsil and sub-divisional Committees were also set up. It was decided to distribute fertilizers on *taqavi* through Central Cooperative Bank. Service societies also helped. The services of Gram Sevaks, Gram Panchayats, Patwaris, Dalpatis and Up-dalpatis were also utilised in the campaign.

Foreign News

# Oil-spraying to Make Deserts Bloom

Esso petroleum research scientists who have experimented with using oil to stabilize shifting sand in Britain and the deserts of Africa, South America, India and the United States report encouraging result for the technique at the Sixth World Petroleum Congress in Frankfurt, West Germany.

Much of the research was carried out at the Esso Research Laboratories at Abingdon, Berkshire. A dune made from sand brought from the Sahara was used in wind tunnel tests at the laboratory. After stabilizing the dune with petroleum oil, wind velocities higher than those reached in North Africa—where winds of 60 to 70 miles an hour have been recorded—did not cause the sand to drift. Both the quantity and characteristics at the oil used in spraying are based on measurements made in the Abingdon wind tunnel.

The technique, say Esso, has already been used successfully to protect seedlings of acacia and eucalyptus in Tripolitania. Dunes were sprayed with oil to prevent the movement of sand and conserve moisture for the growth of the trees. In a year the seedlings had grown six feet tall and become strong enough to break the force of the wind themselves.

As a result of this experiment, a contract for the stabilization of 50 hectares of dunes in Western Libya has been placed.

In Argentina, tests have been held in the provinces of La Pampa and Buenos Aires, and other tests have been carried out in South-West Texas in the United States.

Oil spraying has also facilitated the germination of grass in some locations, Esso research workers claim.

## Australian Rotarians' Gift To India

Three Rotary clubs have combined to send 130 ploughs for the use of Indian farmers.

The three clubs are in Toowoomba, Queensland.

They combined efforts in a project—"Hands Across the Sea"—to overhaul single-furrow ploughs which experts considered would be suitable for use in India.

The Rotarians began collecting the ploughs last November and have gathered them from many parts of Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

They have been adjusted to be suitable for work with bullocks or buffalo instead of horses.

Toowoomba South Rotary Club's International Service Director, Mr.

R. Marriott, said that the conversions had been made by two retired blacksmiths who worked with equipment given by Rotarians.

The ploughs were shipped last week to Bombay on the 'Streat Clarence' consigned to the Indian Farmers' Co-operative.

The Co-operative will distribute the ploughs under the supervision of Indian Rotary Clubs.

## Australian Milk Bar

A typical Australian milk bar will be sent to India from Sydney soon for use in Bombay.

It is the first of 29 milk bars being sent to India as part of Colombo Plan aid.

The milk bars will sell buffalo milk from two Bombay Milk Scheme farms.

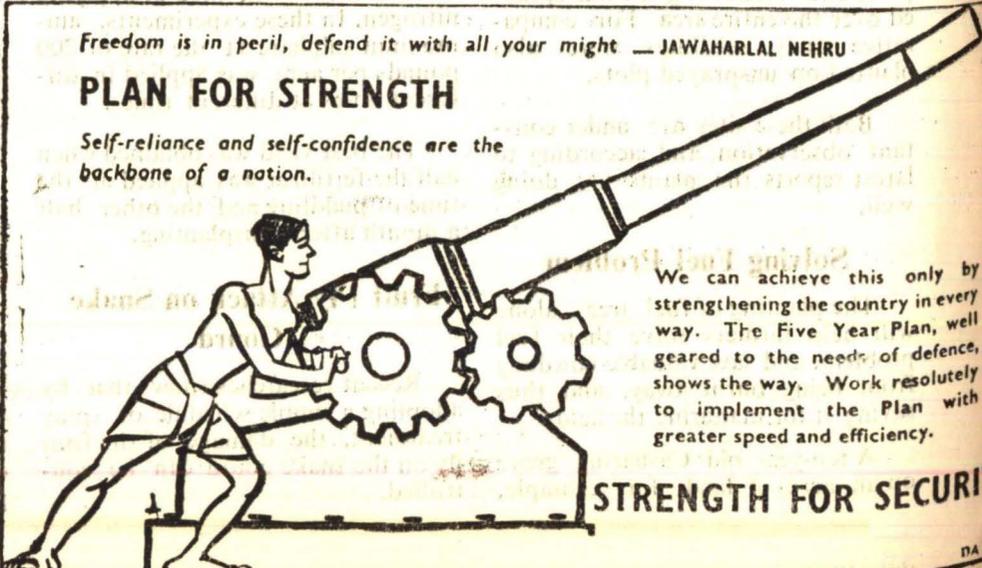
Mr. B. Goldstein, a member of J. Goldstein & Co., manufacturers of Australian milk bar equipment, said that each piece of equipment had a large emblem on it marked "A Gift from Australia".

"We are also sending 100 refrigerated storage tanks for milk," Mr. Goldstein said. "These will be put on street corners to allow people to buy fresh buffalo milk for upto 12 hours a day".

Freedom is in peril, defend it with all your might — JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

### PLAN FOR STRENGTH

Self-reliance and self-confidence are the backbone of a nation.



We can achieve this only by strengthening the country in every way. The Five Year Plan, well geared to the needs of defence, shows the way. Work resolutely to implement the Plan with greater speed and efficiency.

### STRENGTH FOR SECURITY