

# KRISHAK SAMACHAR

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## 28th All India Farmers Council Meeting Secretary General's Report

(January 1973 to December 1974)

*Hon. Shri Mirdhaji, Mr. Chairman,  
Brother Farmers, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is a proud Privilege to hearily welcome all the Council Members at this Council Meeting at Athur held in the real rural setting for the first time. As you know the 15th National Convention and 27th National Council Meeting were held at New Delhi from 5th to 8th April, 1974. The present report covers the period from January 1974 to December, 1974.

### **Drought, Floods & Famine :**

During the period certain parts in the Country faced severe drought and famine especially in Gujarat, Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Tamilnadu. Some states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal faced natural misery of floods. Severe damage was caused to crops, cattle and people.

### **Memorandum on Agricultural Prices to Government :**

The Samaj at the National Level and State units at State Level submitted Memorandum for increasing agricultural prices to the Central and State Governments, seeking fair and remunerative prices for agricultural produce and establishment of parity between prices of agricultural products with that of agricultural inputs and consumer goods. The Samaj has also expressed farmers reactions against Sudden rise of prices of fertilizers, electricity and irrigation charges and the general rise of prices

of all the farm inputs, against enhanced agricultural taxes in Madhya Pradesh and other States, against monopoly purchase of cotton in Maharashtra state and consequent difficulties of farmers ; falling prices of cotton in Punjab. The Samaj has referred many local problems of farmers to appropriate Government Departments for redress.

### **Representation :**

The Samaj is in regular liason with the Ministry of Agriculture through their Directorate of Extension. The Samaj represented the realistic views of farmers while serving on various bodies and Committees of Agricultural Ministry, National Rodent Control Advisory Committee, National F.A.O. Liaison Committee, Governing Body of Peoples Action for Development, India, Public Institute of Cooperation and Training, Indian Standards Institute, Population Council of India, National Commission on Agriculture, International Dairy Congress, National Literacy Council, All India Panchayat Federation National Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives, National Cooperative Union of India, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Agricultural Universities and many national and state level Committees.

### **Regional Office of I.F.A.P.**

Bharat Krishak Samaj has been recognised to serve as the Regional Office of International Federation of Agricultural Producers. The Samaj keeps contacts

with the neighbouring countries South Asia. With the efforts of the Samaj during the last convention of I.F.A.P. New membership was granted to National Co-operative Union of India. The Samaj was asked to represent I.F.A.P. in the International Dairy Congress held at New Delhi which was the first of its kind held in developing countries giving careful consideration to the problems of developing Countries.

### **Family Planning and Agricultural Production Project**

The Samaj is trying to expend this programme in number of States for which we have approached I.L.O., and various National and International Organisations for help. In the meanwhile with the help of Farmers & World Affairs, we are continuing the previous project in three talukas of Jalgaon District. The initial survey of the project is ready and data has been tabulated which will soon be published.

### **International Farmers Exchange Programme :**

The Samaj is having a regular exchange programme with U.S.A. with the help of Farmers & World Affairs. Six Indian farm leaders visited U.S.A. and Eight American farmers visited India in 1974. Six American Farm Leaders are currently visiting India under the programme. We are trying to expand the programme to other Countries on the basis of mutual friendship and mutual benefits in better international understanding.

### **Bharat Krishak Samaj Committees**

The Samaj has constituted specific purpose Committees for Membership Enrolment, Publications and Krishak Samachar, Constitution matters and Policy and Programme Committees.

### **Bharat Krishak Samaj Membership :**

The Membership Enrolment Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri R. Srinivasan, Vice-Chairman of the

Samaj has solicited help from all our state units to fulfill minimum enrollment and accordingly getting some response. During the period report 244 Life Members and 108 Family Life Members were enrolled, Many states have enrolled large number of Ordinary members.

### **Bharat Krishak Samaj Meeting :**

15th National Convention and 27th Council meeting and National Seminar were held at New Delhi in April 1974. Most of the State units have organised their annual conventions, district meetings and local village meetings to discuss the local problems of farmers. Number of village units and District units of the Samaj are organised and becoming very active. There is a general awareness among farmers to organise themselves to solve their problems. Karnataka Krishak Samaj organised very big meeting of Raypat Sabha representatives followed by District and Local meetings of farmers. Local and District meetings were organised by Maharashtra Samaj around local problems.

A meeting was organised at New Delhi in front of Central Office which was presided over by Shri Jagjivan Ram, the Minister for Agriculture and President of the Samaj on 27.12.1974 on the occasion of 76th Birthday of our beloved Founder Late Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh. On this occasion tributes were paid to Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh and office building was named in his honour as "Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishak Bhawan". Similar meetings were organised in most of the states.

Many states have organised a series of Seminars and demonstration-cum-training of farmers on local problems and on the use of Organic manures and compost making and Gobar Gas Plants. Compost Demonstration Camps were organised with the help of Ministry of Agriculture and State Departments of Agriculture all over the country.

National Community Development Week was organised by most of State Samaj all over the country, The Samaj

honoured Krishi Pandits in 1974 and recently in the Central Office of the Samaj at New Delhi.

#### **W.A.F.M. Farmers Welfare Trust Society**

Shri Mushranji is the President of the Trust and Shri Jagdish Kodesia is the Hony. Secretary. The Trust gives scholarships for study to the sons and daughters of the farmers. Trust has published "Agricultural Credit in India—an Appraisal", which was released by the President Shri Fakhruddin All Ahmed in Rashtrapati Bhawan. Another publication "Wheat in India" was released by Babu Jagjivan Ramji.

#### **Farmers Education & Welfare Society :**

Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha is the President of the Society and Smt. Jaya Arunachalam is the Hony. Secretary. The Society is developing a farm at Mitron village near Delhi which will serve as demonstration and training for farmers. All round development of Mitron village is also taken up by the Society. The Society also organised Compost demonstration camps for farmers.

#### **Young Farmers Association of India**

Shri S.N. Bhargawa is the President and Shri Ravi Dutt is the Executive President of Y.F.A., India. Young Farmers Association is doing good work for farm youth in India. Y.F.A. has organised training camps for farmers and interstate exchange programme. Y.F.A. has exchange programme with Japan. They have organised seminars for farmers.

#### **Farmers Cooperative Bank of India Ltd.**

Shri S.M. Wahi is the President and Shri Jagdish Kodesia is the Hony. Secret-

ary of the Bank. The Bank has declared dividend during the year.

*Brief Reports of Activities of various State Krishak Samaj received from respective State Units are also presented.*

I must express grateful thanks to the Members of the Governing Body and the Standing Committee and the All India Farmers Council and to you all for your help, guidance and cooperation extended to me discharging my duties as the Secretary General of the Bharat Krishak Samaj. I also thank the State Krishak Samaj Secretaries for their kind cooperation extended to me from time to time discharging my duties. I am sure without the cooperation and guidance of all of you, it would not have been possible for me to discharge my duties more sincerely and efficiently. I hope to receive your sincere cooperation and guidance in the future also as in the past. I also wish to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to the members of the Central Office who have unhesitatingly worked so hard and always cooperated with me in discharging my duties eventhough we have only a limited staff. They always held the work of the Samaj as their upper most responsibility.

My report will be incomplete with mentioning and recording my highest regards and most sincere thanks to Shri M.S. Anvikar, the Chairman of the Samaj for his full confidence in me and the timely guidance and advise which has kept my spirit alive for carrying out my responsibility to the best of my ability. Last but not the least, I sincerely beg your pardon for any short commings in my efforts but I assure you that my heart and soul are committed to the causes of our farmers and farming.

**Dr. D.A. BHOLAY**  
**SECRETARY GENERAL**

# 28th All India Farmers Council-Deliberation of Meeting held in Tamilnadu

The 28th All India Farmers Council of Bharat Krishak Samaj was held at Athur (Chingelput) Tamilnadu from 28th February to 2nd March, 1975.

## Inauguration

The inauguration function of the 28th National Council meeting started with the hoisting of Bharat Krishak Samaj flag—Bharat Krishak Samaj Emblem on the green background Silk flag—by the Chairman of Bharat Krishak Samaj, Shri M.S. Anvikar. The girls from local Bhaktavatsalam High School sang a prayer Song.

## Welcome :

Shri R. Srinivasan, President of Tamilnadu Krishak Samaj in his Welcome Address thanked all members of the National Council, delegate and experts for having taken the troubles to attend the meeting at village Athur in Tamilnadu and expressed that this was the first meeting of the Council being held in a small village in the real rural setting very close on the farms with the farmers. He wanted the members to ask for any help that they needed which might not have been provided inspite of all the efforts to do so and also evaluate how far such meetings could be held in such rural setting in the village in future. Mr. Madhavan, the State Minister for Food was too eager to inaugurate the Council Meeting but last minute he was held up for important consultations in the State Assembly. He thanked Mr. Nathu Ram Mirdha, the Chairman of National Agriculture Commission who had readily consented to inaugurate the Council meeting. Mr. Mirdha who is basically a farmer, understands farming and the difficulties of the farmer and he is the one spokesman who fearlessly advocates the cause of the farmers, is the most appropriate person who inaugurates the 28th National Council and National seminar organised by Bharat Krishak Samaj to-day. Sri Srinivasan said, "I would like to assure Mr. Mirdha that we, farmers, will not lag behind but what we want is a

fair treatment and freedom to do our agriculture in our own way. We know much better the pangs of hunger and are equally alive to the needs of the poor people. If there was one single body that can grow all the food that is necessary for the whole country, it is this organisation of ours and that is why our State Agricultural Minister, Anbil Dharmalingam has stated in his message that it will be more economical to depend for productivity on organisation like this than upon other agencies. Now what we have got to do is to assure the Chairman of the Agricultural Commission that our organisation shall stand behind as one block to meet all the food requirements of the country and what we require from the Government is removal of all impediments. It is not a big thing for us to produce 100 or 120 million tons. After all what is imported from various foreign countries is only about 10 million tons—about one tenth of what we produce. You all know what we produce in an acre. The potentiality is there. Where we produce 10 bags we can easily produce 11 bags. Given certain enthusiasm and encouragement, we can even produce 15 bags. While the potentiality is so great, it is not difficult for us to cover this deficit of 10%. Only we, the farmers, live in uncertain world. We do not know what our future is going to be.

I am one in thinking that there is great future for the farmer inspite of the hardships and the difficulties he is undergoing now. Only if the lot of the farmers improves, can the country prosper, now and at any time later."

## Messages for National Council :

Messages received for the National Council were read out by Mr. C.K.N.S. Nagrajan, Chairman of Tamilnadu Krishak Samaj. Messages of good wishes and success of the National Council were received from Shri B.D. Jatti, Vice-President of India ; Shri Jagjivan Ram, Union Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation and President of Bharat Krishak Samaj ; Shri

Anna Saheb Shinde, Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Irrigation ; Mr. C. Subramaniam, Union Finance Minister; Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, Union Minister of Defence Production ; Mr. Jagannath Pahadia, Union Deputy Minister for Communications ; Shri K.K. Shah, Governor of Tamilnadu ; Governor of Maharashtra ; Shri Mohan Lal Sukhadia, Governor of Karnataka, ; Shri Krishan Chand, Lt. Governor of Delhi ; Mr. M. Channa Reddy, Governor of U.P. ; Shri L.K. Jha, Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Shri C. Achutha Menon, Chief Minister of Kerala ; Shri D. Devaraj Urs, Chief Minister of Karnataka ; Shri J. Vengala Rao, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh ; Shri Hardev Joshi, Chief Minister of Rajasthan ; Shri Radha Raman, Chief Executive Councillor of Delhi ; Dr. M.S. Randhawa, Vice-Chancellor of Punjab Agricultural University ; Minister of Agriculture & Cooperation of Orissa ; Shri Shiv Charan Mathur, Minister of Food & Agriculture of Rajasthan ; Mr. Gurbanta Singh, Minister of Agriculture & Forest of Punjab ; Shri N. Chikkegowda, Minister for Agriculture of Karnataka ; Mr. Abdus Sattar, Minister for Agriculture of West Bengal, Shri Kishan Lal Shukla, Minister for Agriculture of M.P., Mr. A.P. Dharmalingam, Minister for Revenue of Tamilnadu and many other eminent scientists.

#### **Secretary General's Report :**

Dr. D.A. Bholay, Secretary General of Bharat Krishak Samaj presented the report of activities of the Samaj and State units before the National Council. The report appears separately in this issue.

#### **Presidential Address :**

Shri M.S. Anvikar, presided over the National Council meeting. Mr. Anvikar welcomed the members of the Council and delegates and experts for having attended the Council Meeting in such a small village in Tamilnadu which itself is the proof of your devotion to the cause of farmers through Bharat Krishak Samaj. I am sure you will agree with me in congratulating and thanking Mr. Srinivasan for all these arrangements for the Council Meeting in this small village. On your behalf, I would like to assure Mr. Srinivasan that we are all very much satisfied and comfort-

able with all these excellent arrangements made here. Everybody know BKS, its problems. I would like to throw some light from my point of view. I think BKS itself indicates that is body of the farmers. Let me tell you frankly this is an organisation which is not political but a voluntary farmers organisation devoted for constructive work. Some people will be complaining that we do not get help from the Government and we do not get recognition from the government and how to run the office. That is the problem before them. Let me tell you frankly, Sir that this is an organisation of farmers. Like this, collect your farmer friends, tell them how to organise and how to build an organisation for themselves. I have seen the organisations of the government servants—grade II, grade III services. They contribute themselves every month Rs. 5 or so and they have amassed lot of money. When they have problems to solve, they unite ; the chairman of the organisation gives an order and the members carry them out, even paralyse the government. That we do not want to do but we do want to build up organisations for ourselves. The objective of this organisation is first to organise ourselves and to implement the schemes. We want organisation at all levels—at village level, state level and at central level. That is what we have been doing. Ultimately our object is to improve our condition of production that will improve the condition of our farmers, small or big, because we have to help each of them, not only the farmers but the farm labourers also. We have to organise ourselves in our own villages by contributing a small amount of capital instead of asking for funds from outside. Your first object is to increase production and thereby increase production in our country. I am sure Mr. Mirdhaji will enlighten us on the various problems that he has gone into. I request Mr. Mirdha to inaugurate the National Council and the National Seminar.

#### **Inaugural Address :**

Shri Nathu Ram Mirdha, the Chairman of National Agriculture Commission gave his inaugural address and declared open the 28th National Council meeting and the National Seminar Organised along

with the Council by Bharat Krishak Samaj. The inaugural address appears separately in this issue.

#### **Vote of Thanks :**

Mr. C.K.N.S. Nagarajan, Chairman of Tamilnadu Krishak Samaj proposed vote of thanks to the Chief Guest, Shri Nathu Ram Mirdha, Mr. Anvikar, delegates and others present on the occasion. The inaugural session came to a close after the National Anthem.

### **Election of chairman and Vice-chairman of Samaj**

*1st March, 1975.* The 28th All India Farmers Council met on 1st March, 1975 under the Presidentship of Mr. M.S. Anvikar for the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Bharat Krishak Samaj. The President of the National Council Meeting, Mr. M.S. Anvikar explained the election programme and said that B.K.S. being a non-political and non-sectarian voluntary body, it was very essential that there should be oneness of feeling. He said that B.K.S. in many States were functioning well and every member had the opportunity of becoming the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Bharat Krishak Samaj. He also felt that the Chairmanship should not be the monopoly of any one person, one group and region. Since the members of the BKS were working hand in hand as brothers, in the case of elections also he wanted unanimity and appealed to the delegates to be unanimous in their approval. He proposed the name of Mr. R. Srinivasan for the post of Chairman and the delegates from M.P., U.P., A.P., Orissa, Haryana, Karnataka and other states seconded the proposal instantly. Taking the concensus of the house, and since there were no other proposal, Mr. M.S. Anvikar declared that Mr. R. Srinivasan was elected Chairman of the All India Bharat Krishak Samaj for the next term of 3 years. He congratulated the Chairman-elect Mr. Srinivasan and assured him of his full and whole hearted co-operation. Delegates from various states congratulated Mr. Srinivasan and garlanded him.

Mr. M.S. Khanuja, a member from Madhya Pradesh suggested that since the

election of the President was gracefully conducted, the post of Vice-Chairman should also be filled in like manner and that the office of Vice-Chairman should be authorised to be nominated by Chairman, Mr. Srinivasan, The proposal was supported by Mr. V.V. Rao from Andhra Pradesh. Mr. M.S. Anvikar welcomed the proposal and after the concurrence of the members from other states present declared that Mr. R. Srinivasan is authorised by the 28th National Council to nominate four Vice-Chairmen of the Samaj.

#### **Resolution for Bank operation :**

The 28th All India Farmers Council at Athur passed the resolution for the operation of All running Bank Accounts of Bharat Krishak Samaj and National Agriculture Fair in the Farmers' Cooperative Bank of India Ltd., United Commercial Bank and State Bank of India authorising the newly elected Chairman Mr. R. Srinivasan to operate the respective Bank Accounts in place of Mr. M.S. Anvikar (Previous Chairman) with the joint signatures of the Secretary General Dr. D.A. Bholay.

Then the Chairman elect Mr. Srinivasan spoke. He thanked the members for the honour done to him and said that he was alive and conscious of the responsibilities attached to the office. "Every one of us has a duty to do for this Samaj and when a man is called upon to do the job of Chairman, it is bounden duty to obey that command and in that sense I am here your Chairman", he said.

The farmers have better and bright future and it is always our policy to wait and hope; we have been waiting all these years and tangible improvement in the schemes. He assured the members that he would strive to take the Organisation at least one step ahead during his tenure. "Although we are the Annadata our profession is the most misunderstood one and least respected by the politicians. How are we going to change the minds of the people? We are always mistaken as hoarders, plunderers and live upon the mercy of the country. How are we going to change this image?" he asked "You, the people of towns measure only by litres, but we the farmers measure by

Marakals and baskets. We have no small mind. Even if the job of feeding the entire country is left to us, through our organisation, we can supply you the food. The farmer is alive to his responsibility of feeding the poor people better than the government but what is preventing him is controls and other government interventions." He said that Indian was better fitted to produce more than most other countries and that India is endowed with excellent climate and soil and willing labour force. With these, we can produce more than our requirement and export our surplus but "we want respect, confidence in farmers". "We would like to start the FOUR FS campaign—FREEDOM FROM FOREIGN FOOD", he announced. He appealed to the Government not to confuse the issue of production with other political issues of satisfying one section or one group. "We assure you food at reasonable price, what else you want?" he asked. A nation without food cannot exist, and agriculture without respect cannot exist. So far as the public distribution system is concerned we are both producers as well as consumers. As a producer we part with our food grains at a very low price and as a consumer we pay higher price. We would like to work with the co-operation of the Government in their public distribution schemes and assure you of grains required for you, but our request is : let there be no barriers. You, who are talking of integration have split the country for food into various regions. The patriotic poet Bharathi said—if a single man goes without food, we will destroy the whole world. No one shall go without food. That is our spirit. The farmers are very quiet but if they rise they can paralyse everything. I am not suggesting that we should agitate for our rights. The farmer is subsidising the country rather than the country is subsidising the farmer.

He referred to the farmers' agitation over the rise in electricity rate in Tamil Nadu when thousands of farmers courted arrest. Though BKS does not believe in agitations, certain young and enthusiastic members participated in it. BKS wants to settle issues by negotiations. That is why we try to co-operate with the

Government. "As you want me to take this Chairmanship I am now here as your Chairman. You have every right to call me back if you so desire. But I assure you that I will do my best during my tenure and shall try to take the BKS at least by one further step.

Afterwards number of delegates from most of the state expressed their satisfaction and extended their support to the Chairman—elect Mr. Srinivasan.

## National Seminar

National Seminar on "The Role of Bharat Krishak Samaj in Helping Small Farmers and Landless Labour; Increasing Use of Local Manurial Resources and Economic Use of Fertilizers; and Meeting the Challenge of Self-Sufficiency in Food". was organised by Bharat Krishak Samaj alongwith the National Council at Athur on 1st and 2nd March, 1975. Following background papers were presented in the National Seminar besides timely participation by a number of delegates and experts during the seminar.

1. Dr. S.M. Pandey, "Development of Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers" Shri Ram Centre for Industrial Relation and Human Resources, New Delhi.
2. Dr. S.K. Sharma, "Agricultural Extension During the Fifth Plan", Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.
3. Dr. S.S. Grewal, "Pressing Farm Problems", Department of Economics and Sociology, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.
4. Dr. G. Rangaswami, "Bacterial Fertilizers", Vice-Chancellor, Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.
5. "Optimising Argicultural Production under limited Availability of Fertilizers". Recommendations of FAI-FAO Seminar, New Delhi.
6. Mr. H.R. Srinivasan, "Gobar Gas Plants—Promises and Problems". Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Bombay.
7. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, "Problems in Increasing Food Production".

Director General Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

8. Dr. G.S. Kalkat, "Fifth Plan Food Production Strategy". Agricultural Commissioner, Union Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi.
9. Dr. M.V. Rao, "Stepping up Wheat Production", Coordinator, All India Wheat Improvement Project, New Delhi.
10. Dr. M.L. Dewan and J.H. Dongale, "Composing of Urban and Rural Wastes", Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Maharashtra.
11. Mr. Nathu Ram Mirdha, "Role of Bharat Krishak Samaj in Helping Small & Marginal Farmers and Landless Labourers". Chairman, National Commission on Agricultural New Delhi.
12. Dr. A. John Knight, "Helping the Small Farmers and landless Labourers through Extension Education Programme" Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.
13. Mr. Ashutosh Bhattacharya, "Role of Bharat Krishak in Meeting the Challenge of Self-sufficiency in Food". West Bengal Krishak Samaj, Calcutta.
14. Fertilizer Association of India, "Upgrading the Level of Farm Management—Key to Maximise Agricultural Production", New Delhi.
15. Dr. K.K. Krishnamoorthy, "Efficient Use of Fertilizers and Local Manures". Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

Next Mr. Ranveer Singh, Member of the National Agricultural Commission spoke. "Is there a need for an All India non-political Organisation other than BKS and if so, how to maintain it? Do you want it to be financed by the Government or should it be on voluntary basis?" he asked. He suggested Gram Krishak Samaj to deliberate on the various problems of particular area such as, rural planning, production, distribution, inputs etc. He said that the agricultural landless labourers were a social problem as they formed vital links between the farmers and farming.

He stressed the need for micro-minor irrigation schemes for speedier recovery from the present shortage of water input, and if necessary a separate agency should be set up to look after this especially to ensure proper supply of water to small and marginal farmers. "Is there indeed any need for some sort of Minimum Wages Act for the farm workers?", He asked. For industries, there are Minimum Wages Act, Workmen Compensation Act etc. and similarly should there be an Act for farmless labourers. He also wanted to know if the wages could be in kind or in cash or in both. Government of course has a big responsibility of looking after the welfare of the agricultural landless labourers, which forms 95% of the weaker section of the rural areas. Is there any need that we should have a radical legislation on all India basis regarding the organisation of these people, payment of wages to these people?

Mr. Balramji Jakhar, Minister for Irrigation and Power congratulated the organisers for convening the seminar in real rustic surroundings and said "Policies should be oriented from the village level", he said. "A Bureaucracy in agriculture is not good. I wish these IAS and other people should work in a farm for a month and understand the farmers' difficulties." The peasant in India is despondent, lacking in faith and purpose. They should be given proper place.

He referred to the clamour for remunerative price for commodities. "I am a farmer and I appreciate the farmer's point of view. But we must also approach the same from the point of view of the Government. Now there is a tendency that the price is going down. Whose prices have gone down? It is only farmer's. Consumers have not been benefited nor we as consumers benefited. There should be a balance, a logical balance and we should strive to impress upon the Government for this."

Mr. Thimma Reddy, former Minister of Government of Andhra Pradesh deplored the working of the Food Corporation of India. He said that the problem before the country is not land reform but land distribution.

### 1-3-75 Afternoon discussion

Mr John Knight, Mr Krishnamurthy, Mr R. Sankaran of Fertilizer Association of India presented their papers.

Participating in the discussions, Mr Rajadurai Michael explained the role of financial institutions in helping the agriculturists in improving the productivity. He said leadership in farm management is essential and the farmers should be trained. He suggested to BKS to open 20 kendras to impart farm management. Mr Appa Rao, a council Member from Visakh said the farmers should be provided with fertilizers by the Department. Mr Wadane from Orissa suggested the unreasonable ceiling fixed by the Orissa Government. He also said that Orissa was partially drought except the Hirakud region and wanted immediate irrigational facilities.

Mr Bhattacharya was of the opinion that the production did not step up as claimed by the Government and that the fertilizers would in the long run make soil unproductive and that ground water should not be exploited too much as it will result in shortage of water and disputed the claims made by the paper writers as to the efficacy of the fertilizers and the improved hybrid seeds.

Mr Botha, a member from Maharashtra suggested setting up of gober gas plant for supplying fertilizer. He wanted the Government to supply at concessional rate the requirements of the farmers. Mr. Dada Rao Phalke from Maharashtra wanted fair treatment to landless labourers.

### 2-3-1975 Morning open Session

Mr Sundar Singh from Haryana inaugurated morning session. A delegate from Maharashtra suggested power sprayers should be supplied to farmers at subsidised rate.

Mr Pareker said that the agricultural farmers are not 80% of the population but only 45 or 50% as the sons of the farmers do not carry on farming but find it easy and lucrative to go to other jobs. He said that Hybrid seeds are susceptible for diseases. Mr Siddeswar Sahay wanted the lands to be given to the marginal farmer and small farmer instead of landless labour. Just as there is a ceiling for upper holding he wanted a ceiling for holding

minimum land. Mr Rajaram suggested that the view of high cost of fertilizers, the same should be used judiciously. He said that 20% of fertilizers is consumed by weeds and therefore weed control is must.

Mr Prakash Vyas suggested small farmers' finance corporation to help the small and marginal farmers for their credit needs. Bacterial control of pesticide instead of insecticide which is harmful, should, be adopted, he said.

Mr Srinivasan suggested setting up of Employment Banks to provide works to the landless agricultural labourers when they are in need. He also suggested an insurance scheme to protect the the family of the agricultural labourers. Pellatisation of fertilizers would avoid waste in fertilizer he suggested. He placed the emphasis on self-reliance rather than on self-sufficiency.

Concluding the discussions, Mr Ranbeer Singh pointed out the Farmers Service Co-operative as proposed by the NAC would solve many of the complaints from farmers and if properly developed and organized, these societies would look after the entire requirement of farmers. Regarding marketing, he felt there is a shortage of proper storage facilities and credit available for small farmers.

The idea of giving the land to the people holding very small holding was appreciated as it would make a viable unit of production. He suggested 10/12 thousand people complex for the exchange of marketable surplus, exchange of ideas etc. He also suggested encouragement of locally made goods to provide incentive to the cottage workers.

Mr Nagaranjan moved the RESOLUTIONS and they were unanimously carried, which are given separately in this issue. Mr Mirdha while concluding suggested to the delegate from Orissa to have their problems clarified from him separately as the land ceiling laws differ from state though certain guidelines were prescribed by the National Agricultural Commission.

Mr. V. V. Patil Maharashtra proposed vote of thanks. Mr M S Anvikar thanked the Madras Council of BKS for the excellent arrangement and with the National anthem, the National seminar and National Council Meeting closed.

## Inaugural Address to National Council by Mr. Nathuram Mirdha, Chairman of the National Agricultural Commission

Mr. Mirdha inaugurated the 28th Council meeting and the seminar. In his inaugural address he said "I have really been honoured to do this job for my fellow brothers and farmers. The agricultural sector implies three important sectors of production, production from land and water, production through animals and through forest wealth. These three important sources of production involve rural people, who constitute 75% of the total population of the country. This percentage of population might vary from state to state. In some of the states the percentage of the farmers goes upto 90%, it goes to 95% in some of the areas in the Eastern India. This Commission's terms of reference include: assessing the total population by the end of this century. The present population is around 57 or 58 crores and every year the increase is by 1.5 crores. Whatever little surplus in the production of agricultural commodities we have which we do not want to consume ourselves because of the export to earn the valuable foreign exchange. We in this Commission are trying to find out what has been the mistake in our first planning and what have been the difficulties of the farmers and how to remedy them. There are good farmers with valuable knowledge at once they catch up the thing and once they take to produce more they are capable of producing better. As for productivity of agriculture and agricultural commodities, either through land, or through water, animal or forest, I think, our productivity is the lowest in the whole world. The potential and capacity to produce more is there but productivity is not there. When we talk of goods and commodities out of land, the first and very important input is irrigation. So far in our four five year plans, we have been able to irrigate only 20 to 23% of the land. This percentage sometimes looks very fallacious because areas like Punjab, parts of Haryana and some other areas in UP, they may have 40 to 50%. Punjab has 70 to 80% of land being irrigated.

With the total potential of water we are getting in our country, rainfall we are having after it flows into the rivers, the total available water to irrigate our land, after all these wastages, we will be able to irrigate 50% of the land if we take a serious programme of solving all the water disputes between the states and if we are capable of making maximum use of river waters and dig out the ground water, tubewells, then we will be able to solve our water problem. We have studied this problem. It will be a 50 years programme and in our country it cannot be less than that as we will have to invest huge amount. Therefore maximum capacity of irrigation in this country after 50 years will be about 52% of the total cultivated land under two-crop or three-crop system. I think this Organisation should take up a resolution seriously and put the matter before the Government. There will have to be a extensive survey to ascertain the potential ground water available in various states. The farmer is competing in deepening his well every year—we have to scientifically use water resources available underground and surface water. In my opinion, the rabi production is much better than previous years. Accordingly in our preliminary reports, we have so far assessed that wheat production, which was 26 Million tons in 71-72, is going to be 28 million tons. Then inputs are very important for any type of agriculture and the most important input is better type of seeds. Timely distribution of seeds at the lowest level in villages is one of the important factors. We did well three or four years ago in producing quality seeds but last two or three years have been very bad in production of good quality seeds. Development of good quality seeds at university level, at expert level and then collecting the seeds by farmers in time has to be taken care of.

Similarly there is fertilizer. Mr. Srinivasan pointed out that we were able to get fertilizer at a cost of Rs. 1500/- and how we are being charged Rs. 2000/- for a

ton. I can tell you more on this. As you know the basic input for fertilizer is naphtha. The price of crude oil has been rising. It was \$ 2 some months back and its price per drum now stands at \$ 17/18 per drum. We get imported crude at a price of \$ 11 per drum and this means five times increase in the cost of imported crude. We are producing 7.5 to 8 million tons of crude in our country. Meanwhile the demand for crude has also increased and the total consumption of crude today is around 20 million tons. We are producing 7/8 million tons and we are getting 12 million tons from outside countries and the cost is five times higher. But still the naphtha which we are producing out of the locally drawn out crude, we are selling to the fertilizer.

Today, naphtha in the world market costs Rs. 1500/-. Because we are locally able to produce 7/8 million tons, our price of naphtha to the fertilizer factory has been only Rs. 450/-. Therefore local production cost of fertilizer is not even 1500, it is less than that. But at the same time we have to import large quantities of fertilizer. Last year it was 28 million tons and it is going to be 32 million tons. The total production last year was 10 million tons and 14/15 lakh tons of fertilizer were imported at a cost of Rs. 3500/- per ton.

To solve the problem of credit input to small and marginal farmers, we must have basic organisation at village level, at block level, at district level, at state level. Here the role of the voluntary organisations like our forum, which is only farmers organisation covering the county-wide farmers, somewhere it is strong and somewhere it is weak, is to be emphasised.

If we have got proper organisation at proper organisation at the village level and this is one of the recommendations of the commission, even supply of inputs to farmers could be ensured. This principle has been accepted by the Planning Commission, by the Government of India and the State Governments. But implementation cannot be done thoroughly by the Government agencies. Farmers voluntary organisations of the co-operative na-

ture will have to be there for implementation.

Then the village co-operatives. Somewhere it is functioning well and somewhere it is the monopoly of a few people. Sometimes they don't even get credit for their own members; some of the office bearers who get the credit from the banks don't distribute it but use it for their own gains and the cooperatives are not functioning properly in many of the villages. We in our National Commission suggested an organisation of Farmers Service Cooperative Society. It is here in Tamilnadu, Tudiyalur Cooperative Society, is working very well. They have got bulldozers, tractors, manufacture pesticides and render useful services to the farmers. Can we not organise such a cooperative society in each district, village, at least in selected blocks. All families have to be involved into the cooperative society. We have suggested farmers cooperative society and this is a service cooperative society consisting of members from each family, especially the marginal and small farmers. It will prepare the plan of production and try to know the total requirements of credit for a particular crop, long range programme for levelling and other things. We have recommended various types of subsidies, not to individual man but to the society as a whole, to the community as a whole. The Board of Directors of this will consist of small and marginal farmers, three or four Government officials.

If this programme is taken up on a very large scale by the members of the farmers forum, then the problem of input supply will not be a problem. In our report we have also envisaged marketing of the whole produce. There is a great responsibility for farmers' organisation in this country, for marketing the produce, for distribution of inputs, for education of the farmers in right direction and to make the farmers conscious of the situation, to train leadership among them.

Equally important are the development of animal husbandry, fishery and forestry. There is a great potential for fishery. We have also to think of cattle development—cross bred cows for milk, goats for meat and wool, poultry for

food. Our Fifth Plan is laying great emphasis, at the instance of the recommendations of the National Agricultural Commission, on agriculture and the total outlay envisaged is about 100 crores, about five times higher than the outlay provided in the previous plans.

There are so many types of land in our country. I think 72 million hectares is not producing anything. Can we not use these lands? If we want to make use of all these lands, we have to invest heavily. Preliminary investigations show that to make use of all these lands we require 30 thousand crores investment. What is happening, every year some part of the land is going waste due to soil erosion. We have also to maintain the ecological balance.

Then about the price to the farmers. Four years ago we have no guarantee of price but today at least this guarantee is given. For that we have now given some recommendation to the Government of India as to how this should be done. We

have clearly stated that the cost of production of the farmer will be the basis and some additional profit for agricultural operations to be added on. We are in a democratic country and we have some social obligations and we to feed all the people. We must build up buffer stock and the Agricultural Prices Commission fix a fair price to farmers.

When we talk of cost of production, whose cost of production? How to evolve the cost of production? What things are to be excluded from the cost of production? These are certain questions which the APC considered and I think it will give maximum satisfaction. I think the basic thing is, the farmers will have to organise better, work hard, at the village level and if you do proceed in these directions, we have got a far better prospects out of the agricultural sector. We hope to finish our report by next June and it will be historical document in the interest of the farmer and in the interest of the Nation."

#### FORM IV SEE RULE 8

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I, Dr. D.A. Bholay, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated 1st March, 1975.

Sd/—  
Dr. D.A. Bholay  
Signature of Publisher

# Resolutions passed by 28th All India Farmers Council

The 28th All India Farmers Council unanimously passed the following resolutions in its meeting held at Athur (Chingelput), Tamilnadu, on 2nd March, 1975 :—

## Prime Resolution

The 28th National Council places on record its deep sense of appreciation and debt of gratitude to the yeomen services rendered to the Bharat Krishak Samaj and the farming community by Shri M.S. Anvikar, the outgoing distinguished Chairman of the Samaj.

## Resolution :—1.

Bharat Krishak Samaj resolves to work in cooperation with Government, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and other agencies to promote and participate actively in adopting the whole village or Area development programmes based on sound principles of ecology and economics introducing new land and water use plans with suitable cropping patterns and agro-based industries but around the needs of the village community as a whole including small and marginal farmers and agricultural labour to ensure best water-shed management for maximum agricultural production.

The Samaj also recognises that deliberate efforts are needed for the diversification of labour use and linking of farm and industries in a symbiotic manner using labour intensive technology to provide supporting and alternative occupations to the small farmers and farm labour.

Progressive efforts are needed by the Government and the Samaj in educating and equipping the farmers, farm youth and farm women with special attention to small farmers and dry farming areas to take the maximum advantage from the advanced agricultural technology.

Bharat Krishak Samaj further resolves to work with the Government and other

agencies to promote and participate actively in organising Farmers service Societies as recommended by National Agriculture Commission at Block levels in the country to provide comprehensive agricultural credit and other farm services to the small farmers and farm labour in the country.

## Resolution :—2.

Bharat Krishak Samaj resolves to support and work in cooperation with the Government and other agencies in making the country self-sufficient in food by maximising food production. Recognising the importance of irrigation in agricultural production, the Samaj appeals to the Government to allot major share of the budget for major and minor irrigation projects and power generation. Government and banking agencies should also consider financing small irrigation projects to exploit maximum rain water potential flowing through small rivers and streams for the integrated development of Command areas for increasing agricultural production in the Country.

Extensive research and development in the design and manufacture of small farm machinery implements to suit the requirements of small and marginal farmers, both power operated and bullock drawn should be intensified and such implements supplied to farmers at reasonable prices. Adequate efforts should be made to import spare parts and components for the existing farm machinery which is lying idle for want of such parts.

The agricultural policy should be farm-oriented and the results of research should be conveyed to the farmers fields. Agricultural documentaries should be prepared and shown to public along with other documentaries with all cinema shows.

Bharat Krishak Samaj urges the Government to recognise that the assurance of remunerative prices to the farmers is a necessary condition for encouraging

investment in agriculture and for adoption of modern technology without which agriculture can not develop. In the face of ever increasing prices of all the agricultural inputs amidst their shortages, the resultant increase in cost of production must be covered through comparatively adequate increase in the agricultural prices. The agricultural prices must be in alignment with the package of input prices. Surplus agricultural production after fulfilling the requirements of procurement, should be allowed to be sold in free market under the guarantee of minimum support prices to cover the cost of production leaving a reasonable margin of profit.

**Resolution :—3.**

Considering the high cost of chemical fertilizers and their acute shortage, the Government should take up massive campaigns to popularise compost and use of organic manures and green manuring to meet the nutrient requirements for a successful crop. Gobar gas plants should be increasingly installed. Balanced and economic use of major and minor plant nutrients should be intensively propagated by Agricultural departments and Agricultural Universities. Bacterial cultures should be propagated and made available to farmers. Effective steps should be taken to check adulteration of fertilizers. More soil testing laboratories should be provided preferably at Block levels to facilitate the farmers to know the fertility status of their soils for better planning of balanced use of nutrients for their crops. Bharat Krishak Samaj and the state units should concentrate their attention in these activities and associate with Government programmes.

**Resolution :—4.**

Bharat Krishak Samaj urges the Government to liberalise credit facilities

to farmers through nationalised banks and cooperatives at reasonable rate of interest on par with the rates charged for the small industries.

**Resolution :—5.**

The 28th National Council recommends to the Governing Body to direct the State units to suitably amend the names of their state and District Samaj units incorporating the name of "BHARAT KRISHAK SAMAJ" thus giving prominence to the Samaj in uniformity and to amend the Constitution of the Samaj if necessary.

**Resolution :—6.**

This council congratulates the Government of Tamilnadu for having promulgated a Guidance Gazett (Guidance No. 1 of 1975) to provide temporary relief to indebted agriculturists taking into consideration the extreme drought conditions and the rehabilitation of agriculturists.

The council also requests the Government to appoint a Tribunal for each District to assess the total indebtedness of every farmer and pass orders allowing debtors to repay the loan in 20 equal instalments with interest at 6 per cent per annum.

**Mr. Srinivasan—Chairman of Samaj**

The 28th All India Farmers Council of Bharat Krishak Samaj in their meeting held at Athur on 1st March, 1975, unanimously elected Mr. R. Srinivasan as the Chairman of Bharat Krishak Samaj for the next 3 years.

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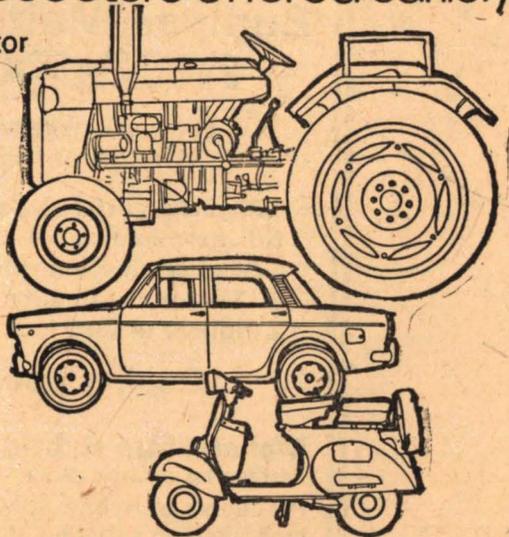
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