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Supplement : Report of the Fifth Group of U.S. Farm Leaders on their visit to India

Farmers Want Remunerative and Incentive Prices

Seventeenth Meeting of All India Farmers' Council
(24th to 27th October, 1964)

After a lapse of six years, the holy city of Bhubaneswar—a city with hoary antiquities and natural beauty—played, for the second time in six years, the host to the 17th Meeting of All India Farmers' Council of Bharat Krishak Samaj from 24th to 27th October, 1964. The session took place in a big hall of the Utkal Krishi Mahavidyalaya. The main topics for discussion at the Council Meeting were (i) Fixation of remunerative and incentive prices for agricultural produce and (ii) State trading in foodgrains through the Foodgrains Trading Corporation proposed to be set up by Government.

The Meeting was attended by over 200 delegates from all over India, from Himachal to Kerala and Manipur to Saurashtra and Punjab. A large number of them as well as experts participated in the deliberations.

INAUGURAL SESSION

The Inaugural Session of the Meeting was held on 24th October with Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh in the Chair. Shri S. P. Mohanty, Minister for Agriculture and Education, Orissa State, inaugurated the Meeting.



Shri P.M. Pradhan, President Bharat Krishak Samaj (Utkal Branch) welcoming the delegates.

WELCOME ADDRESS

Shri Pabitra Mohan Pradhan, Chairman of the Reception Committee and President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj (Utkal Branch) welcoming the delegates, said that the Jagannath culture of Oriya was a symbol of national and emotional integration of the entire India. With all the industrial future, the State is purely an agricultural one. He was sure that the decisions taken at the Meeting would go a long way in protecting the rightful interests of the cultivators who have till now been multifariously exploited. He hoped that the Council's decisions will be a 'Magna Charta' to the cultivators.



Several Messages wishing the Council Meeting a success were received. Shri R. B. Deshpande, Secretary, B.K.S. read out only two of them for want of time. They are given below :

Shri Utsavabhai Parikh, Minister for Revenue, Agriculture and Forests, Gujarat State writes :

"I have received your letter of 12th October, 1964, regarding the Seventeenth Meeting of the All India Farmers Council. I regret, I shall not be able to attend the Council Meeting at Bhubaneswar. I wish the meeting all success."

Shri S. N. Mushran, Leader of the Indian Farm Leaders Delegation to the United States of America writes in his message :

"On behalf of the group of Farm Leaders of India, at present visiting the United States of America, I have the honour to send our heartiest greetings and good wishes to the farmers assembled at the occasion of the meeting of the Council of the Bharat Krishak Samaj at Bhubaneswar from 24th October to 27th October 1964. It is gratifying to note that the Farmers' Forum of India, as it is called in this country, has created a great impression for its services to the farmers. Having visited the farmers organizations of this country and having seen the working of these organizations, we are proud to say that the Bharat Krishak Samaj has been able to do very good work for the farmers of India, inspite of various difficulties, within the short period of less than ten years.

Farmers of India, and as that of the whole world have common problems which they have to face according to the circumstances of their countries. In this country they have solved their problems themselves through their own organizations which not only have great impact on the economic life of a farm society but has tried to mould the life of the society itself. We, therefore, feel that this is just the time when all farmers in India should unite themselves under the great farmers organization, the Bharat Krishak Samaj, presided by our great founder President Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh.

We wish the deliberations of the Council a great success".

Shri Moinul Haque Choudhury, Minister for Agriculture, Assam also sent a message.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj in his presidential address said :

I extend to you all, members of the Council, Delegates and guests a very hearty welcome to this the 17th Meeting of the Council of the Bharat Krishak Samaj. It was very kind of the office bearers and members of the Orissa Krishak Samaj to invite us to Bhubaneswar a second time. Except Delhi, Bhubaneswar is the only place where we have held more than one Council Meeting of the Bharat Krishak Samaj. From this very fact it is apparent how the farmers of Orissa welcome the organization and are prepared to work for it. Our members are delighted

to come here because they get an opportunity not only to see this attractive and developing State but to have the Darshan of Lord Jagannath. In fact most of the delegates who attended our Fair and Convention at Calcutta in 1961 did not return to their homes without visiting Jagannath Puri.

We remember with joy and gratitude our previous meeting here when we transacted very useful business. In the meantime of course, the Bharat Krishak Samaj has grown much bigger and more prosperous. I am happy to say how Orissa under the guidance of various important leaders of the farming community here are forging ahead in membership and activities. They have already made considerable progress on which I would like to congratulate them. I must also mention that the Govt. of Orissa also has always been kind to us and it is because of their whole-hearted support and cooperation both to the State Krishak Samaj as well as to the Bharat Krishak Samaj that we have come back here. I would, therefore, like to record mine and the Bharat Krishak Samaj's sense of gratitude to the Govt. of Orissa, to the office-bearers of the Orissa Krishak Samaj and to every one who has contributed to our being here once again and made such excellent arrangements for our stay. We are living in a fast changing world and I am sure therefore that this meeting of the Council here will mark another step forward so far as the progress of the organisation is concerned.

Although there are many things that farmers require and every day our troubles increase, I consider it some solace that the Govt. of India is realising better than ever the importance of farming and food production. Lip sympathy was always there but I think the present administration under our present Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri may be owing to stress of circumstances, is a little more serious than their predecessors. I am not paying this compliment with a desire to please the powers that be; I can give specific grounds on which my appreciation is based.

I was very happy that the present Minister of Food & Agriculture accepted fully my contention that the farmers cannot survive much less prosper unless they were given *remunerative prices*. In fact, I must thankfully acknowledge—he went a step further; he added the words "incentive prices" to the 'remunerative prices'. I hope this will come to mean that the price received by the farmers should not only be more than the cost of cultivation, but the balance of price left in his hands after meeting the cost of production would be so substantial as to encourage him not only to continue good farming practices but to improve upon them and be in a position to invest more and more. If the words meant anything this is the only meaning that the words should have and further than the use of the words, they must be translated into action.

I wholeheartedly welcome the message to the nation broadcast by the Prime Minister on the night of the 19th October, 1964. I particularly welcome his kind and repeated references to farmers. In fact,

Report of the Fifth Group of U.S. Farm Leaders on their Visit to India

(From January 11 to March 20, 1964)

Participants:

Dr. and Mrs. Karl D. Butler
309 North Triphammer Road
Ithaca, New York

Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Creal
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Mr. and Mrs. Asa H. Morgan
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Mr. and Mrs. Vernon E. Norris
Valencia, Pennsylvania

Mr. and Mrs. Sumner R. Palmer
Napoleon, Ohio

Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Vrba
De Kalb, Illinois

A nation comprising one-seventh of the world's population, inhabiting an area approximately two-fifths the size of the United States, is striving to maintain the essential freedoms inherent in a democratic form of Government, while engaged in a colossal struggle against poverty.

India, with an average annual per capita income in the vicinity of \$70.00, faces the urgent challenge of raising the living standards of her depressed masses steadily and soon if democracy is to survive.

As guests in India for nearly two months, sponsored by Farmers and World Affairs, Inc. in cooperation with Farmers' Forum of India, we had the opportunity to observe first hand what steps are being taken to alleviate the problem, the special difficulties involved therein, and to make some evaluation, based upon factual information and personal observation, of the progress to date, and of the plans for future development now underway.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Farmers and World Affairs for having been selected as members of the fifth group of American farmers to India. We feel that the farmers approach is a real "grass roots" method of promoting peace, good will and better understanding between nations, as well as a mutually educational experience, and one of practical value to farmers and farm leaders of participating countries. Ours was an unforgettable experience, highlighted by a diversity of people, places and things. The hospitality, of which we had heard so much, even exceeded our anticipations. The hardships, which we expected occasionally to endure, were non-existent. Our host families can never be adequately thanked for their kindness, and we shall always treasure the memories of our associations with these fine people we are proud to call friends.

To Farmers' Forum, "Bharat Krishak Samaj," we are indebted for a most pleasant, interesting, informative, comfortable and happy stay in India.

It would seem appropriate to comment upon the functions and benefits of this organization whose cooperation is essential to this exchange program.

The Farmers' Forum, a non-political, non-sectarian association of the farmers of India, was organized in 1955. It now has branches in all the States of India except the newly formed one of Nagaland. There are over 9,000 life members, 425 of which were added during the past years. In addition, a few commercial firms, cooperatives, etc. are associate members of the Forum.

The Forum, whose aim is to safeguard and promote the social, economic and cultural interest of rural people, has the advantage of direct contact with the government. At the annual convention of farmers, and at the two yearly council meetings, farmers have the opportunity to discuss their mutual problems with government experts. Through the Farmers' Forum, their recommendations and resolutions are relayed to the State or Central government.

Among its practical benefits to farmers, the Forum organizes exhibitions in the different States to demonstrate to them the best methods for stepping up agricultural production.

Similar meetings, conventions and exhibitions are also held at State, District and Block levels from time to time.

Various projects of special need and benefit to particular States are set up in response to local demand.

The Forum has been urging the Government to fix minimum economic prices for important agricultural commodities at least three or four years in advance.

It has helped to get certain facilities and concessions from the Railway authorities for the transport of agricultural goods and for travel of farmers to important meetings, fairs, etc. It has been helping farmers to get credit at reasonable rates, and is responsible for starting the Farmers' Cooperative Bank of India.

The Forum has been helping farmers to obtain seeds, fertilizers, chemicals, etc. at fair costs. It is helping to promote agricultural education by financing training schools for farmers' sons, also through correspondence courses.

The Forum is helping to set up Producers-Consumers Cooperatives.

An agricultural Year Book, 1964 was published through the efforts of Farmers' Forum for the first time in the history of Indian agriculture. The monthly magazine available to membership is now being published in four languages.

The rural people of India, farmers in particular, have become conscious of the fact that the Forum is their own organization and is deeply interested in their welfare.

In every area of India covered in our travels, we were met and welcomed by members of the Farmers' Forum. Some had travelled several hundred miles to greet us and assist with the program, all of which spoke highly for their dedication to and regard for their organization.

The Program showed the result of much advance preparation and close collaboration between the central and subordinate branches of the Forum.

Perhaps the greatest contribution of the Farmers' Forum to us, was its provision of a guide advisor and companion in the person of Mrs. Usha Deshpande, wife of the National Secretary, who volunteered her services for the period of our stay in India.

With serenity, patience and an unfailing sense of humor, she guarded our health and welfare, and kept us on schedule.

As well as an excellent coverage of Indian agriculture, Farmers' Forum included in our itinerary numerous other points of interest. In brief, our travels took us: First to Meerut to see a large sugar cane mill and one of the finest sugar refineries making cube sugar and Durala candy, and a village visit.

On to Rudrapur, where we visited a new agricultural University, modeled after our own Land-Grant Colleges—a cooperative egg marketing plant—lived with host families, and saw some progressive methods used on newly reclaimed land (14 years).

To Madras where the local farmers forum showed us their offices—materials made available to farmers—growing of rice from seeding to harvest, tractor plants, cocoa-nut groves. Received by Government of Madras.

In Coimbatore, along with host families, we saw the betel nut groves, cocoanut plantations, government spice, tropical and sub-tropical plant and fruit farms, a visit to Ooty, and again meetings with farmer members of the surrounding area, a visit to a cotton mill and an endowed school.

Then to Bangalore, to a Horticulture Society's annual Flower show—meeting with Chief Minister, visit to Farmers' Forum Office, meeting with Block Development Officers — village visits, a visit to a silk mill, where cocoons were being unwound, and raw silk made from waste products. Some of the group visited Mysore and coffee plantations.

In Bombay, we were entertained by the Governor, Madame Pandit. It was a pleasure to confer with the press, visit historical areas and the museum.

Officers of the Farmers' Forum again acting as our hosts took us to a very productive cooperative farm, the large Aarey Milk Colony and the Kanheri Caves.

Arriving in Indore, we were met by the hosts, taken to a dinner provided for us by the Cooperative Bank. Gifts were presented.

We visited five villages and saw their handicrafts, were given tea, and were entertained by the villagers. A girls higher secondary school put on a program for us.

We were able to have question and answer periods with the members of the block development staff and cultivators. We were presented turbans, Indian Women's dress and some Indian art in form of paintings.

Proceeding to Bhopal we visited a Government Fish Farm (nursery and experiment station), a very good Government poultry farm and were received by the Chief Minister. On this part of the trip we participated in a Farmers' Field Day on a Government Farm. We visited Sanchi, also a Buddhist Monastery.

Returning to New Delhi by pullman, we then went by air to Calcutta. We were impressed with the Industrial Fair, the large, large city--its problems, the successful private Commercial fish farm. This farm is using retaining tanks for irrigation of crops. A boat ride on the Ganges-Hooghely River was an enjoyable interlude.

At Bhubaneswar, as guests of the State Government, we stayed in the State Guest House. We visited the birthplace of the Freedom Movement, an outdoor school; went to Puri, delighted in the Bay of Bengal, experienced the awesomeness of Konark, saw the good results of the researchers at the Rice Institute, the city of Cuttack, and the Gop Block Office. The officials of the State Government treated us to a lovely dinner party.

On the last journey into the Punjab, we visited the beautiful planned city Chandigarh and stayed in host homes. The progressive farmers here showed us fine potato fields, good crops of wheat, co-operative potato storage houses, a Sikh National College the Sikh Temple, a teacher training school, the Bhakra Nangal Project, the fertilizer plant, as well as many poultry farms. We saw along the highway a sign indicating a Ford Package program.

As a special treat we were taken to Benares and to Agra where we saw as a fitting climax to our visit to India, that gem of architectural magnificence, the celebrated Taj Mahal.

India's dual problem, underproduction and overpopulation, is universally known. Of great concern is the so-called population explosion.

Although the birth rate has not increased, the country, with a population of some 450 million, records an annual increase of nearly 10 million. Better nutrition, sanitation and disease control have increased life expectancy within the last ten years, from 35 to 47 years. Agricultural production cannot keep pace with the increasing numbers of people to be fed, with the result that the per capita supply of food is decreasing despite the fact that production remains close to the high productive year of 1961.

Population control is imperative. The campaign for family planning in India is going forward. Theoretically, it seems to be successful, in that 75% of the people contacted favor the plan. In actual practice, the program is effective mainly in urban areas whereas in the rural areas, where approximately 80% of the population is concentrated, little result is evident.

The village people, bound by tradition and held back by lack of education, are reluctant to accept the idea of family limitation. They see social security in large families, and sons are still considered essential to the economy and social structure of the joint family system.

Presently the program of family planning is carried out on a strictly personal and voluntary basis. Since family planning in India does not run counter to the moral code or religious beliefs, and further is sponsored by the government, it would seem that the intensive educational program which the government has sponsored will produce results. This is carried on by extension officers in the villages through visual aids and other teaching methods. Many posters are seen everywhere carrying such messages as "Small family," "Happy family" "Family planning is family welfare" and "Family planning helps the nation."

It is expected with the concentrated approach under way the program will become effective within the next decade.

Indian agriculture, in terms of yield per acre or per animal, is one of the world's least productive. Only through proper management and conservation of soil and water resources can the country's really great agricultural potential be realized.

Experts with whom we have talked have stated that drainage is the number one problem facing agriculture in the country. The first requirement is for surface drainage, supplemented by sub-surface drainage in areas where needed. Although shortage of moisture in India is a serious problem, more damage is said to be done by an excess of water.

In the Punjab particularly, excess water has created a serious problem. During the past year much land has become non productive due to waterlogging. Excessive seasonal rainfall over the past seven or eight years, coupled with the factor of long periods

of canal irrigation, have raised the water table in this region, with the result that yearly thousands of areas of land become saline.

Steps have been initiated by the Indian government to correct this problem. However, drainage projects are very expensive; not only must new drains be constructed, but old drains must be dug out and connected them. Several years are required in some cases to reclaim saline soil.

We heard of no specific reclamation projects in India supplemented by foreign aid. However, U.S.A.I.D. is providing a high level team of three technicians, for a period of 90 to 190 days working at the policy level, on water sheds, irrigation and drainage.

These uncertain conditions relative to deficiency and excess moisture limit production. The incentives to introduce other good farming practices are not great when the yield cannot be depended upon because of these factors.

For the following highlights concerning irrigation in India, we are indebted to U.S.A.I.D. in New Delhi:

There are three sources of water for agricultural purposes in India, aside from the heavy monsoon precipitation. These sources are:

1. Major irrigation works, built by Government, with water deliveries by canal systems under government control.
2. Tube wells, mostly excavated with public funds and operated with pumps under public control. (Some tubewells are privately owned and operated.)
3. Open wells privately owned and excavated by land owners, with water delivery by Persian Wheels using animal power.

The Third Plan Mid-term appraisal estimates that 11.1 million acres out of the Third Plan target of 16.3 million acres will be developed. It seems likely that no new projects will be introduced, but rather that emphasis will be placed on completion of work in progress.

A switch from major to minor irrigation development is contemplated under the Fourth Plan. Minor irrigation includes surface wells, tube wells, small stream impoundments, and rain water tanks and ponds. This form of irrigation has a potential of some 75 million acres in India, 30 millions from surface water development and 45 million acres from ground water development. About 38 million acres had been developed under minor schemes by the end of the Second Plan; revised Third Plan estimates will bring the total to about 45 million acres, to which some 10 million acres will be added in the

Fourth Plan. There is apparently a remaining potential for minor irrigation of about 20 million acres from underdeveloped surface and ground water resources.

The Indian practice is to spread a little water infrequently over a large area. Canal water is dribbled out in amounts entirely inadequate to promote maximum plant growth. In addition, this arrangement causes the accumulation of kankar (hardpan) deposits near the soil surface, as well as gradual salinization of the irrigated area. No provision is made in determining canal capacity which would permit soil development practices such as flushing to remove salt accumulations near the root zone.

Another aspect of the Indian system is lack of any provision for a farm delivery system. No help is provided to develop farm ditches and drains and no suggestions are made about land levelling. What happens, therefore, is that water suddenly pours out of the canal outlet in an uncontrolled gush and it is up to the farmer to lead it to his fields as best he can with crude tools and back-breaking labour. The net effect is that farmers do not use canal water as a primary, but rather as a supplementary supply. They tend to concentrate more valuable crops in the periphery of an open well using a Persian wheel and under their control, and to use the canal water for marginal crops beyond this periphery.

To a considerable degree the unsatisfactory canal irrigation experience has been repeated in the tube well program.

Tube wells have not sold themselves particularly well to cultivators. They have borne the brunt of incomplete planning and delays in providing pumps, power distribution systems and land preparation. Operations are interrupted by power failure, low voltages which cause motors to burn up, sand pumping and consequent erosion of pump parts, slow repair services, etc., all causing water failures and resultant crop damage. Almost all community developed tube wells are poorly maintained, improperly operated and typically out of service at critical times.

One of the major reasons for low agricultural productivity in India is, of course, low fertility of the soil. One simple solution would appear at first sight to be to utilize the dung from India's thousands of animals on the soil, 40-60% of which is being burned for fuel.

However, this is not workable in practice. Wood is scarce in India, the costs of kerosene and coal are prohibitive for general use, and at this point, there is no substitute fuel which can be used by the masses of people who live at a subsistence level.

There is not only a scarcity of commercial fertilizer, but that which is available is too costly to be used on farms where there is little margin for an

investment which might not pay off in the event of adverse climatic conditions.

Each of India's five year plans has had for its goal the increase of fertilizer factories. The Third Plan has its goal set at the production of 1,000,000 tons of nitrogen, but perhaps not more than 600,000 tons will be produced, we were told. With between 350 and 360 million acres of land under cultivation there is approximately 2 pounds of nitrogen per acre available.

We visited the Nangal fertilizer factory near the Bhakra Dam where initial production of calcium ammonium nitrate started in February, 1961. The full capacity of this factory will be an output of 1,200 tons of fertilizer per day, when sufficient electric current is available. Presently the daily production is 500 tons.

The United States is financing the entire cost of one of India's largest fertilizer factories which is being constructed at Trombay. The United States is also financing through its aid program the import of large quantities of fertilizers into India. U. S. A. I. D. is also participating in a nation-wide demonstration program to bring home to farmers the advantages of using fertilizers.

Some very interesting ideas are being used in certain farming areas. For example, near Puri we saw rice being grown in the water reservoir. As water was used and land emerged that could be prepared, plots of land were planted in paddy (rice). By June, the entire area will be planted before the reservoir starts to refill. Suitable varieties are planted to grow up through the deeper water and rowboats will be used to harvest rice in as much as six feet of water, and at one rice experiment station, we heard of rice that could be grown and harvested under such a program even if the water level rose to 10 or 11 feet by harvest time.

Unfortunately several rice growers we talked to at later dates were not aware that this practice could be followed. There is a very great need for better communication between the experts in various fields of agriculture and the cultivators whose living depends upon their crop yield. Demonstration Plots, field days, radio programs and visual aids are all being used to good advantage and could be utilized to a greater extent. The greatest need is for many more people to hear about the success of new methods, for many new methods must be used in the future to feed the extra millions of people.

We noticed a very high degree of interest in poultry farming throughout India.

Techniques employed on the farms which we visited showed many positive features. Among these were the construction of houses to keep hens cool, and to keep sparrows out of the houses, perches located properly, and adequate feeding.

Some improved management practices which might be initiated are: A systematic-culling program, worm treatments, care of baby chicks in regard to protection against the cold, and the use of sand litter to keep houses cool. Livability would be increased if birds of one age could be grown together and remain apart from other birds for the duration of their laying period. Water should be clean, fresh and always available. Information concerning vaccines could be more widely disseminated.

Over the past five years, poultry production has doubled. The present production totals 3,000 lakhs of eggs per year which affords to 50% of the population, 15 eggs per capita per year. The target is one egg per capita per day for 50% of the population.

To stimulate and encourage poultry production, the Indian Government has inaugurated a teaching program on Government farms, is offering loans and grants or subsidies to poultry farmers. Research on poultry is being carried on at various agricultural institutions.

The greatest concentration of poultry production is in the State of Kerala. In that State, there is a surplus of poultry products. Eggs are shipped from Kerala to Delhi and to Calcutta, but because of lack of methods of preservation and proper storage, much waste is incurred through spoilage.

A plan is presently under way for the Indian Government to send a group of men representing the different fields of poultry production to the United States for approximately six months to study storage and preservation, hatching, marketing and breeding.

In every village which we visited where there was opportunity for discussion, one of the subjects which the Indian farmers expressed the most interest in was that of cooperatives. They were keenly interested in the way our U.S. cooperatives were set up and operated. The small farmers, who could be expected to derive the most benefit from cooperatives, were the most interested in the cooperative idea.

In general, in India a farmer who is eligible for use of credit (10 acres or more of land) must depend upon loans, as most farming is done on a subsistence level with no margin of savings. Cooperatives in India are lending 300 crores of rupees per year and 10 to 12% of the farmers are making use of it. Borrowing is roughly at the rate of \$ 20.00 per acre. Investment must be increased to raise productivity.

As they are operated, cooperatives appear to be monopolies. The competition of private business, a factor which has made our U. S. cooperatives successful, could perhaps be utilized here at some future time. However, cooperatives are presently serving a useful purpose and in a developing country, it would appear, the government must take the initiative in their organization.

At the present time, every one of India's over a half million villages is included in a block development plan.

In our visits to various areas of India we could see concrete examples of the benefits of the program. For example, free primary schools, social welfare services including health education, family planning, teaching of crafts, dispensaries, cooperatives for seed distribution and use of machinery are in evidence in most villages.

In some villages, streets have been paved and electricity for lights has been installed. Some of these villages have a radio which brings them in closer touch with the outside world.

Success of community development depends upon the cooperation of the people, their acceptance of new ideas, and the extent to which they themselves can contribute to the planning. It has served the purpose of awakening in the people the knowledge that they are free and as such somewhat the determiners of their own destinies. It has increased confidence in their capacity to do what they want to do.

It would appear that the program has done a great deal to improve the status of village women. Whereas formerly they kept strictly in the background, they are now meeting people, voicing their opinions, and accepting some of the ideas which raise the general standards of living for their families. The system of community development, for which the Ford Foundation is responsible, is effective because its leaders are from the Indian people, and new ideas are introduced and standards of living improved without upsetting the traditional pattern of village life.

The Community Development plan started in 1952 and in twelve years has given stability and continuity to the village pattern. In the Block Development Plan the extension officers have a counterpart in each village including the panchayat which comprises the officers of the village elected by their constituents in a democratic election. The villages in their administration become little republics—responsible to themselves for leadership and good government. The strength of India lies in her villages as they form a strong chain of command in self-government. Officials are respected and honoured and in each village we observed a good working relationship among the people and their leaders.

In our travels we were glad to see in areas, the trend toward better health conditions and the use of clinics. We saw a number of new hospitals and clinics being built, most of them in connection with medical colleges. We saw in some areas the results of good training of their nurses. In one area in particular there was a small hospital in a village which had in it a very good doctor's and nurses' office and a drug room. This particular one took care of the needs of sixteen villages and the nurse and doctor traveled out from the center. The objective, we have

learned, is to have such a set-up with dispensary in each village. The drugs and instruments in these dispensaries are furnished by UNICEF and WHO.

One of the best things that has been done to promote a healthier India is the very excellent work in reducing the incidence of malaria. This was started by the Rockefeller Foundation using a DDT spray and applying it by plane and jeep over large areas, concurrently launching an educational campaign to eradicate the disease. The number of cases has been cut from 100,000,000 to less than 50,000 yearly and now the government of India is producing its own DDT and is keeping the work going. This is very important also in that it has put into production land which up to this time people could not live on.

Obviously good health practices are being put into effect, as longevity has been increased and the infant mortality rate has declined. Most commendable is the fact that no one is denied hospitalization because of inability to pay.

Much, however, remains to be done in the fields of sanitation, disease control and nutrition, and in relieving the shortage of doctors and nurses.

As of 1964, only 26% of India's people are literate.

Education has been given a broader scope in the third five-year plan. The primary school for every village has been realized, yet not all children in this 6 to 11 year age group are taking advantage of this free and compulsory education. Only 68% of them are in school. Occasionally a child prefers to work. Often the distance to the school is too great. The goal of a school within one mile walking distance for every child has not been achieved in some underdeveloped districts. The compulsory attendance law is not enforced when a legitimate reason for absence exists but when a child is absent wantonly for more than fifteen days the parents are fined. To encourage school attendance, the added incentives for the needy are free text books, toilet articles clothes, slates and with the help of CARE, milk is served.

Of the 40-odd million school population, 7 to 8 million are receiving milk or the midday meal of cereal and milk. In Madras special effort is made to supply this meal for all undernourished children.

Promotion of education for girls is still necessary. Separate schools for boys and girls are preferred after primary and up to college level.

The teacher shortage remains serious. Vigorous efforts are made to encourage girls to prepare for a teaching career and in the Punjab wives and daughters are given first right to teach in their own village. In this state, also, girls are entitled to free bus transportation when in college to encourage attendance and interest of more women in higher education.

It appears to us that excellent education is available in India for those who have the wherewithal to pay for it. It is our feeling that more emphasis should be placed upon elementary education for those in less fortunate circumstances. College attendance of more than a million men and women in India indicates the increasing interest in higher education.

The rate of college attendance is impressive and highly commendable. However, in the total educational picture, perhaps this represents a top-heavy stratification of educational effort.

The agricultural colleges which we visited, patterned after our own land grant colleges, appear to be doing an excellent job. If a considerable portion of their graduates could devote their talents to the actual pursuit of farming, or farm managerial practices, rather than seeking absorption into governmental positions, the agricultural economy of the country would be greatly benefited, we venture to suggest.

The practice of sending exchange students to the United States should be encouraged. The selection of these students should be based upon not only ability but upon assessment of what practical use is to be made of their education upon return to India.

One facet of the educational program in India which gives rise to some concern is the decreased importance of the teaching of the English language.

We saw, first hand, the difficulties presented by the existence of a multiplicity of languages in India. It was evident, as we traveled through the various regions of the country, that the adoption of Hindi, which has been promulgated by the Constitution, to become the official language, is met with resistance in the non-Hindi speaking areas; this notwithstanding the prevailing spirit of nationalism.

From our viewpoint, the English language, already quite universal throughout the country, will best serve the interests of intra-communication as well as communication on the international level.

There seems to be an awareness of the need for social welfare services, and increasing provision for meeting the need.

Village Level Workers and Gram Sevikas trained to work with rural people and to help them to raise their standards of living within the limits of their particular economic circumstances, are a great force for rural betterment in India.

Missions, and other philanthropies, both organized and individual, make notable contributions.

We had the opportunity to visit some training schools of the vocational type, particularly for women with limited academic education.

An outstanding example of social service is the Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Trust, dedicated to the promotion of the welfare and education of women and children in rural areas. With training centers

in all the provinces, leaders have dedicated themselves to creating new outlooks amongst village people, leading to the elimination of poverty, ignorance, disease squalor and idleness.

In some instances, women of talent and education are donating of their time and effort in organizing and supporting welfare services. These volunteer workers, dedicated to the uplifting of their fellow beings, are presenting a challenge to other Indian women whose circumstances permit, to make a similar contribution.

Characteristic of the Indian people is their devotion to the memory of great leaders.

Mahatma Gandhi is enshrined in the hearts of the Indian people. He is not only considered the emancipator of modern day India, but his life of virtue and austerity has elevated him to sainthood in the minds of the masses. In every public building or office which we visited his picture was prominently displayed, along with that of the Prime Minister and that of the President of India. In numerous cities and towns which we passed through, our attention was directed to monuments dedicated to his memory. However, concerning the Gandhian theories of economics, i. e., self-sufficiency in the villages, small industry, handicrafts etc., there seem to be two divergent schools of thought. There are those who still feel that his way is best for the people of India, and that too much should not be done to disrupt the existing situation. This appears to be the attitude of the more orthodox Hindu population. In opposition there seems to be a developing feeling, particularly in the more progressive regions of the country, that the answer to the country's problems lies in expanding industry and in consolidating and mechanizing the land available for agricultural production.

This latter group, too, feel that Gandhi's techniques of non-violence and passive resistance are outmoded in the present day world. Even among those who do not hold with Gandhi's theories for India today, the consensus seems to be that his policies were suited to the period of India's struggle for independence.

Since independence, the Congress Party has been dominant. Several other political parties exist, but to date, none is of sufficient strength to be considered an opposition party of consequence.

The Republic of India is a secular State, with no religious discrimination. Basically Hindu, it is founded upon the Gandhian principles of non-violence.

In its foreign affairs, India subscribes to the policy of non-alignment, i. e. non-involvement with military alliances; and insists upon peaceful methods of settling international disputes. Despite these principles and policies, India has been embroiled intermittently since 1947 in religious controversy, amounting to civil war; and in recent years has been called upon to protect her borders from external aggression.

In regard to the border crisis in India, the "Emergency" is legally still in effect despite the Chinese "cease-fire," and at the present time, 10% of the national budget is allocated for defense. One year of military training is now compulsory for young men.

In certain areas of the country, particularly those closest to the scene of the invasion, signs, for example, "Quit tea" and "Quit tobacco" are prominent. Such slogans remind the people to deny themselves beyond the bare necessities in order to contribute to the defense effort.

Around the country, signs urging the purchase of government defense bonds were frequently seen.

A feeling of patriotism and nationalism was apparent in the villages. In addition to the National Anthem, school children sang songs concerning India's resistance to Chinese aggression.

Photography is restricted or forbidden in certain areas. No pictures may be taken from the air or at airports. Certain bridges cannot be photographed as well as other strategic installations or locations. Guards are on duty to enforce these regulations.

From informal and individual discussions with some of the Indian people, it appears that anger over the aggressive acts of China, a country which had long been considered a friend, plus dismay over their own country's unpreparedness and trustfulness, was the dominant emotion rather than fear. It is apparent that further aggression will not be tolerated, that the people will fight any aggression with a united front. The people feel that they have been betrayed and the feeling of vengeance is strong. They feel that their defence efforts at the time of invasion were commendable despite lack of preparation, and feel that they are capable of handling another such situation, should it occur.

There seems to have developed, however, an uneasy feeling over what is termed as "collaboration" between Pakistan and China. Obviously wounds over the partition have never fully healed. That mutual distrust exists between India and Pakistan is a well-known fact. Some Indians are of the opinion that the partition should never have been effected. Others are of the opinion that it occurred too suddenly for proper allocations, relocations, and transfer of property.

The Indians are beginning to realize that the Hindu tradition, with its emphasis upon non-violence and toleration, has not fostered an astute political policy. They are beginning to suspect that the partition of 1947 to which they acceded upon a religious basis, was the beginning upon the part of the Moslems, of a long term plan to assume rule of the entire country, and they see in Pakistan's friendship with China, a means to that end.

Over the whole of India there appears to be a definite defense consciousness, and an awakening to the realization that preparedness is the price of peace.

Throughout India there is a feeling of great friendliness toward, and respect for the United States. Help from the United States is appreciated and considered most necessary. However there seems to be strong sentiment against U. S. aid to Pakistan, and a failure upon the part of the Indians to reconcile our assistance to that country with our friendly relationship to their own.

Indian economy is a combination of enterprise in the public and the private sector. In general private enterprise in India is said to tend toward monopoly, exploiting the consumer, rather than resulting in healthy competition; therefore, it has not become an important factor in the country's economy. Foreign investment is not encouraged in India, because it is reminiscent of colonialism.

There is lack of capital to develop the country's resources, therefore foreign aid is crucial.

We saw many examples of the effective utilization of U.S. aid to India.

The work of the Ford Foundation during the last twelve years in India has been varied and detailed in scope. Sixty million dollars has been spent in a program of development over this period.

One recent phase of the work was the introduction of the Intensive Agricultural District Program popularly known as the "Package Program." Seven areas were carefully selected that have maximum irrigation facilities, minimum natural hazards, also essential elements such as full supplies, credit, etc., needed to increase agricultural production. Even so in these areas essential requirements like fertilizers, pesticides, etc. are still in limited quantities to the cultivators. Efforts are being made to avoid these handicaps in order to demonstrate to a farmer centered unit the ways and means of increasing food production. The results of this five-year program started in June 1960 are awaiting termination, but the progress and impact on the cultivators has been encouraging and even impressive.

The scope and benefit of U.S.A.I.D. in India is tremendous. Since its inception in 1951, its assistance in the form of shipments of wheat and cotton, money loans and technical assistance, has very materially aided the country's development.

Our visit to India left us with the feeling that India's problems, though monumental, are not insurmountable.

The country's potential is vast, both in natural resources and productive capacity. India also has a tremendous resource in her educated class of people.

Almost every progressive idea in farming as well as in other fields, is in use somewhere and to some extent in India.

The shackles of tradition are loosening. The wheels of progress, are in motion. Meanwhile, the eyes of the world are focused upon India, freedom's hope in Asia.

he has never forgotten to mention the farmers even in some of his previous pronouncements also. I therefore, believe that the farmers' cause will be safe in his hands. I am sure all of you will appreciate that we have all along given a very high place in our discussions to the price factor in our economy. I therefore, think that it was appropriate that we selected that as the main subject for consideration at this session. We have of course invite our members to propose any other subjects for consideration if they so desire. But giving importance to the question of prices is in consonance with that we have been doing in the past. While producing more and more crops is necessary, desirable and beneficial to the farmers as well as to the people and the country. The life of the farmers does not so much depend on the quantity of crop produced but on the price that it fetches. There is no country in the world where prices of agricultural crops are allowed to be determined merely by the purchases except India. It is however gratifying—thanks to the emphasis laid by the Bharat Krishak Samaj on the point—it is being realised to some extent that Indian agriculture cannot hope for real prosperity without a very clear definite and liberal price policy.

What I said with respect to the Govt. policies, however, does not mean that everything that the Govt. are doing or have decided to do is wholly acceptable to farmers. There are, in fact, quite a few differences of opinion but granted the desire to understand the farmers' view point and the will to implement what the farmers ask for, we could certainly look up to have a better deal and more production.

I am glad to inform you that the State of U.P. has now awakened itself to the need of the State farmers' organization and the Krishak Samaj established there is now active in many districts. The State Secretary, Shri Ramkisan has just sent me the resolutions passed by the U.P. Krishak Samaj. I would like the members of the Council to take them into consideration before we come to any conclusion in the matter of prices and take any decision accordingly. One of the resolutions passed by the U.P. Krishak Samaj has not liked the Government's desire to nationalize trade in foodgrains. I have been always of that opinion and have said so in Parliament more than once. I was however, prepared to modify my outlook to some extent provided the procurement was made through farmers' cooperatives alone. I would not like to dwell more on this matter because it is coming up for discussion at a later stage.

I was very glad to note that the Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri has expressed grave concern at the lack of proper drainage in Punjab and U.P. and emphasized the need of more minor irrigation, especially through tanks. I had been repeatedly stressing the need of proper drainage in northern India through lack of which hundreds of thousands of areas of best possible land of ours is going completely out of cultivation. Not only it does not produce any crops but not even grass is grown on it. This is the greatest neglect of the Mother Earth and

if She curses us by giving us less yields we should not be surprised. I am glad the Prime Minister is going to take up these matters seriously. In fact, the drainage problem is so urgent that it should have priority over many other schemes. A provision of not less than a few hundred crores of rupees should be immediately made and all the water that is spoiling the crops and the land should be drained and better utilized. The Government including the Planning Commission have been tinkering with this big problem and inflicting untold miseries on people who should have been at the top of prosperity, just because the governments failed to realize the importance of drainage. When I raised this subject during my time as a Minister I was told that it was the concern of some one else. The Prime Minister should, in my opinion, immediately constitute a small committee of the best World Experts and implement their proposals without any delay, giving them a complete blank cheque to implement their proposals. This would be the most sensible thing to do and I hope the Prime Minister will not hesitate to do it.

I have been taking the liberty of getting my speeches in the Parliament bearing on agriculture printed in the issue of the 'Krishak Samachar'. That is not for any self-glorification but because I feel that the observation I make are pertinent and useful for agriculture in India. I am glad to say that a very large number of readers of the 'Krishak Samachar' has appreciated it. Of course it is not possible to put down and publish everything I do and say but the other day I could not help characterising the Central Govt's policy in respect of fertilizers and agricultural machinery as the "most disgraceful". Farmers have been shouting for fertilizers but they have all along been in short supply to the extent of over 50% atleast occasionally. In actual fact the supply is very inadequate for the needs of food and fibre in the country. The target to be reached in the 3rd Five-Year Plan was the production and consumption of a million tons of nitrogen. I do not think we will go up to even half. Government should also not forget that there is need of educating the farmers in the use of fertilizers and intensification of research at the same time. I feel wholly dissatisfied with the way we are moving in this matter. I have always complained that while the Govt. wastes crores and crores on avowedly foolish schemes they refuse to find even a few thousand rupees for the most beneficial ones. I am basing this accusation on concrete facts and not merely trying to criticise the Govt. policies without adequate reasons. I hope and pray that the improvement which we notice in the functioning of Mr. Subramaniam as Food & Agriculture Minister would be taken to its fullest possible length without delay. A few lakhs of rupees for the education of farmers, both young and old, would go a long way in helping greater production. But this should not be sought to be done purely through Govt. agencies. The Bharat Krishak Samaj, the Young Farmers Association and the Bharatiya Gramin Mahila Sangh can do the job at lesser cost and

better. I commend this suggestion of mine to the acceptance of the Ministry.

The second important thing which I have been repeatedly emphasising is more attention to providing better implements and machines to the farmers. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru often said that the farmers should be given new tools and implements. I regret to say that the situation has not improved in any way. There are some curious people in high places who dislike the very name of a tractor; there were some others who thought that with the imposition of ceiling there would be no use for tractors and machines. Such people deserve to be condemned because they actually come in the way of India going forward.

I hope the next couple of years will see that we manufacture in the country a substantial portion of the fertilizers and machinery we need. I may also point out that there is much scope for popularising the use of fertilizers. The Samaj had gone through a bad period of discouragement during the last two years; but with the coming in of Shri Subramaniam we are seeing new light and new hope on the horizon. I pray to God to make this light brighter and give us the good fortune of the fulfilment of our plans and desires.

Dr. Deshmukh then requested Shri Mohanty to inaugurate the Session.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Shri Mohanty in his inaugural address said that while the crucial role that agriculture plays in the economic development of the country had been recognised all along, the slow rate of economic growth in the past two years, had brought the urgency of increasing the agricultural production into much brighter focus. He felt sure that the deliberations of the Meeting would be mainly in respect of the problem concerning the retarded growth in agricultural production.

He pointed out that one could not but take his hat off to our Indian farmers for his missionary spirit, untiring zeal and selfless service. But in this age of science, and taking into account the food position of our country, our scientific talents should be devoted to work in the fields so that the latest available knowledge could be utilised for the benefit of our farmers.

With regard to research work, Shri Mohanty said that what had recently impressed him as a simple and yet potentially very effective discovery was the clonal propagation of rice. It needed adoption and experiment by farmers.

About cooperative organisation he said that it was expected to play a great role in assisting the farmer to obtain all the requirements for agricultural production. Even when it was found that cooperation had not been able to meet the credit requirements of the farmer adequately and in time, additional facilities of making fertilizers, pesticides and

seeds available on loans to farmers outside the co-operative sector were extended. The efforts would have to be intensified many times of the present size. We have got to produce more. We could not expect PL 480 aids for ever.

Shri Mohanty appreciated the idea of sending deputations of farmers of one country to visit the agricultural farms of other countries for exchanging idea and gaining first-hand knowledge of experience of the latest methods of cultivation, etc.

To the Council members and other delegates he emphatically said that their conference was of great national importance and hoped that very concrete results would emerge out of the deliberations for the benefit of the farmers. He further hoped that the deliberations of the Council would make it easier for all concerned to find ways and means for solving the agricultural problems.

DR. MAHATAB'S SPEECH

After the inaugural speech of Shri Mohanty, Dr. H. K. Mahatab, M.P. in his address said that mere platitudes and more analysis of the situation would not be enough in the present crisis. We have to leave our usual lethargic way and take some extra-ordinary measures to increase the agricultural production. He said that unless the agricultural production in the country increases, the Indian economy had no hope of going ahead. Agriculture was, he said, a pre-requisite for increasing the industrial production. He said that a notion was prevalent among the officials that the Indian Farmers were ignorant and are reluctant to adopt modern methods of production. He said that nothing was farther from truth. Indian farmers were not ignorant. He has an amount of common sense. He knows his interest and knows what is profitable and what is not profitable for him, but he does not know how to argue his case. He congratulated Dr. Deshmukh and the Farmers' Council for putting forward the views of the farmers of the country before the Government. He wanted that those views should be aggressively put forward by the farmers, otherwise those views were likely to be ignored.

He said that the Bharat Krishak Samaj should have an up-to-date Research and Reference Section which should put forward the views of the farmers in the country in a systematic and concerted manner. He said that while we often talked of the workers in the factories and in the fields we always forgot the latter. He said that whenever prices of agricultural commodities were fixed by the Government only the prices prevalent in the previous year were taken into account, which was an absolutely wrong basis of calculation. He said that there should be a proper and scientific method of calculating the cost of production of agriculture just as it was done in the case of other industries. He stressed the necessity for modernising agriculture. Agriculturists in Orissa were not getting even the cost of production of paddy. This was revealed as early as 1905. Unless the farmers were given incentive prices for their

production, they would shift to other cash crops as was happening in several other States. He said that he realised that certain groups and sections of people with fixed income and city dwellers would be affected by payment of remunerative prices to the farmers but he suggested that the Government should subsidise foodgrains for those sections and the money so spent should be debited to the account meant for helping agriculture.

He said that he realised that the middlemen were making disproportionate profits but that the administration as it was he was doubtful if Government could deliver the goods. Government must clean its administration, otherwise it will spell ruin for the country.

He said measures should be adopted to popularise the research findings of the Central Rice Research Institute and similar institutes.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

After Dr. Mahatab's speech, Shri R. B. Deshpande, Secretary, Bharat Krishak Samaj read out his following report for the period from March to October 15, 1964 :

The 16th All India Farmers' Council Meeting was held in New Delhi on March 19, 1964. It was inaugurated by Shri Ashok Mehta, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. In his inaugural address Shri Mehta said that he was happy that in the light of the day-to-day experiences and their aspirations, the farmers of India were trying under the banner of Bharat Krishak Samaj to articulate a socio-economic philosophy of their own. Agriculture being the core of India's difficulties, Shri Mehta assured the members of the Council that the Planning Commission would give fullest consideration to the suggestions put forward by the Council. He also expressed his happiness for associating himself with the gathering of the farmers, and said that he had no doubt that the Bharat Krishak Samaj would be able to play a great and growing part in deciding and spelling out the policies of economic development and social changes in the country.

The subject for discussion at the Council Meeting was "difficulties experienced by farmers in their efforts to increase agricultural production and the steps that might be taken to solve them". The topic was divided under eight subjects, under groups 'A' and 'B' and the following Sub-Committees were formed :

Group A

1. Fertilizers and Manures;
2. Improved Seeds ;
3. Plant Protection ;
4. Irrigation ;
5. Agricultural machinery and implements, spare parts, diesel oil, farm mechanisation and servicing.

Group B

1. Livestock, Food and Veterinary Aid ;
2. Credit, Marketing & Supplies ; and
3. Farmers Organisations and training of farmers, particularly, young farmers.

Amongst those who addressed the Council were :

Shri Shriman Narayan, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, Dr. H. K. Mahtab, Mr. Sperling (First Secretary, Farmers Mutual Aid Association) Mr. S. Skowdosky, (Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, German Democratic Republic), Dr. Ralph Cummings of the Rockefeller Foundation, Dr. C. Tyler Wood, Director, U.S.A.I.D., Mr. E. J. Mies (a Member of the American Farm Leaders' Group), Prof. J. C. Luthra, Dr. Shuman and Mr. Reinboth (Development Commissioner, Delhi).

2. National Convention of Farmers

The Ninth-Tenth combined National Convention of Farmers was held from March 18 to 22, 1964 and was inaugurated by Sardar Swaran Singh, the then Minister of Food & Agriculture. It was also addressed by Dr. Ram Subhag Singh and Mr. P. G. Karuthiraman, M.P.

A special feature of the 16th Council Meeting and the Ninth-Tenth National Convention of Farmers was the fine agricultural exhibition organised by the Samaj at the Talkatora Gardens, wherein as many as seven Ministries of the Government of India, four State Governments and more than 15 renowned business houses participated.

3. Obituary

During the period under review, the country had to face the most grievous and shocking tragedy in the sudden and untimely demise of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. He was a true friend of farmers. For the Bharat Krishak Samaj, which enjoyed his blessings since its inception, his death is an incalculable and irreparable loss. The Standing Committee of the Bharat Krishak Samaj at its meeting held on June 11, 1964, passed the following resolution :

"The Bharat Krishak Samaj and every one of its members are deeply grieved and highly distressed at the passing away of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, their great benefactor and one of the greatest and noblest national leaders that India has so far seen. He was the dearest friend that farmers had during all the years since the inception of the Samaj at his own hands on 3.4.1955. In fact the Bharat Krishak Samaj enjoyed his blessings and encouragement from the beginning. While it took time for other leaders to appreciate the need of a voluntary and independent of farmers' organisation, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's love and support for the Bharat Krishak Samaj was uniform, sincere and great. Of all leaders in India, he was the one person who realised the great importance of the World Agriculture Fair, because he could see with his own eyes the inspiration it gave to thousands and thousands of

farmers who saw the Agriculture Fair, and insisted on meeting him and with whom he indulged in free exchange of ideas. The President, Bharat Krishak Samaj, had very often to trouble him for granting interviews to a large number of farmers, both inside and outside the country, but he never refused this favour at any time. His fine personality and his affection for the farmers will ever remain fresh in their hearts and with his inspiring message always present before them, the farmers of India will ever strive to strengthen the Indian economy by working harder and harder. The whole farming community will miss him greatly but shall never forget him even for a moment.

The farmers of India through the Bharat Krishak Samaj offer their heartiest tributes to the great builder of the Indian Nation and extend their heart-felt condolences to Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit and other members of his family. May God bestow peace on his soul and may what he has preached to the people be ever followed by them honestly, truthfully and devoutly."

4. New Food & Agriculture Minister

Shri C. Subramaniam who was previously the Minister of Steel & Heavy Industries took over the Food & Agriculture portfolio in July, 1964. The Bharat Krishak Samaj felicitated the Minister on his assumption of new portfolio through its Krishak Samachar of July issue, and also Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture on the assumption of his new office. We extend our fullest cooperation to them in the arduous task of increasing the agricultural production in the country.

Shri A. M. Thomas, a Vice-President of the Samaj, has taken over the portfolio of Defence Production. We wish him all success in his new assignment.

5. Floods

As you are aware, this year the floods in the country have caused untold misery and large-scale devastation. The Punjab, Delhi, North Bihar, Andhra and Orissa have been specially hit hard. Crops on vast areas have been totally destroyed resulting in colossal losses, and it is feared that in many parts of the country specially Punjab and Delhi, it will not be possible to grow the *rabi* crop even. Our President in his monthly letter published in the September issue of 'Krishak Samachar' expressed grief and sympathy for the farmers and other rural people for their sufferings. I myself also sent letters of sympathy to our farmer brethren in the flood affected areas. It is high time the Government took some permanent measures to mitigate, if not to eliminate this recurring devastation from year to year. Immediate and adequate steps must be taken to bring relief, financial or otherwise, to the victims of this natural calamity.

6. N.A.F. Progress

Preparations for the third National Agriculture

Fair to be held at Ahmedabad from January 14 to March 11, 1965 are progressing satisfactorily except that the participation of State Governments is not very encouraging. The Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Balwantray Mehta, addressing the First Local Advisory Committee meeting of the National Agriculture Fair held at Ahmedabad on 7.8.1964 assured the Fair authorities that the State Government would extend fullest possible cooperation to make the Fair a success. He also requested all the State Government Departments to cooperate fully with the Fair authorities so that the Fair in Ahmedabad would be a memorable one. I am happy to inform you that with the full cooperation of the State authorities, the pace of progress is quite satisfactory and, like the earlier National Agriculture Fairs, the third Agriculture Fair will prove equally useful and beneficial to the farmers not only of the Gujarat but also of the neighbouring States.

7. Life Members

Since the last Council meeting held at New Delhi in March 1964, the life membership of the Samaj has increased from 8627 from April 1964 to 8804.

8. Active Life Members

The response is good. So far 208 Life Members have enrolled themselves as Active Life Members.

9. Bharat Krishak Samaj Year-Book

The Bharat Krishak Samaj Year-Book—1964 was brought out on 2nd October (Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday). The publication was inaugurated at the hands of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. A copy of the Book was presented to him as his Birthday present by the President—2nd October being his birthday also. The President also personally presented a copy of the Year-Book to Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, President of India. The book has 760 pages as against 400 originally estimated. Accordingly, the price had to be raised from Rs. 12/- to Rs. 20/- in the case of non-members. However, it will be available to Life Members of the Samaj at a concessional rate of Rs. 15/-. The book contains valuable articles from renowned Indian and foreign experts on Agriculture and allied subjects, statistical data on agriculture, 'Who is Who' and other important information. Shri C. Subramaniam, Minister of Food and Agriculture, Government of India has written an illuminating foreword for the Year-Book. Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Government of India has sent a fine message. The Year-Book, which is profusely illustrated, will serve as a reference book for agriculturists, students of agriculture and agricultural scientists. The Bharat Krishak Samaj can take legitimate pride in its achievement in bringing out the Year-Book, the first of its kind in the country. The book is worth more than its weight in gold. Members of the Samaj will be justly proud to possess it and display it on their book shelves. We are taking steps to bring out the next issue, i.e., Bharat Krishak Samaj Year-Book—1965.

10. Farmers Exchange Programme

A. With U.S.A. :— Under the farm leaders exchange programme sponsored jointly by the Bharat Krishak Samaj and Farmers and World Affairs, U.S.A. nine members of the third group of Indian farm leaders, left for U.S.A. on 26.8.64, and one member, Shri S. N. Mushran, left on the 5th September 1964. The group is expected to leave U.S.A. on October 22, 1964. The names of the members of the group are :

1. Shri S. N. Mushran, Madhya Pradesh.
2. Shri. V. P. Amin, Gujarat.
3. Shri Balbir Singh Bedi, Punjab.
4. Smt. Balbir Singh Bedi, Punjab.
5. Smt. Shakuntala Pundarikaksh, Uttar Pradesh.
6. Shri M. R. Lakshminarayanan, Madras.
7. Shri D. R. Dhaveji, Andhra Pradesh.
8. Shri Mangat Singh Khanuja, Madhya Pradesh.
9. Shri B. S. Bhide, Mysore.
10. Shri U. R. Pawar, Maharashtra.

This year the Ministry of Food and Agriculture took nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ months to give permission to the group's visit to U.S.A., and before giving this sanction, the President had to see the former and present Minister of Food and Agriculture, and I too met Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, then Minister of Agriculture, thrice the Secretary, Joint Secretary and Deputy Secretaries and other officials of the Ministry, and at a later stage even Shri Subramaniam, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture. The Farmers and World Affairs, the host organization in U.S.A., had to change the schedule of arrival of our group in U.S.A. thrice (22nd May, 4th June, 10th July and 26th August). This greatly upset all the arrangements which they had made for the group's visit inconveniencing everyone connected with the programme. The Ministry had perhaps the idea of taking over this programme in their own hands. From the next year we may have to co-opt a representative of the Ministry on our Selection Committee, i.e. the Standing Committee of the Samaj.

B. With German Democratic Republic : At the invitation of Dr P. S. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj, a delegation from the GDR, consisting of Mr. G. Sperling, First Secretary, Peasants' Mutual Aid Association, Mr. Skowdosky, Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and Mr. Fischer attended the 9th and 10th joint National Convention of Farmers and addressed the Council. During their stay in Delhi they visited several places of agricultural importance and also met the then Union Minister of Food and Agriculture. The Delegation also visited Meerut at the invitation of Mrs. Pundarikaksh, a member of our Governing Body and Chandigarh where they met the then Chief Minister of Punjab.

In return the Farmers Mutual Aid Association, GDR, invited the Bharat Krishak Samaj to send a delegation of 8-10 members of the Samaj to GDR.

Accordingly the following persons on the recommendation of the State Krishak Samaj Secretaries visited GDR in July 1964 for a period of 8-10 days. The following formed the delegation :

1. Shri G. R. Varadarajan (Madras)
2. Shri N. Boriah (Madras)
3. Shri Palaniswamy (Madras)
4. Shri T. G. Sesha Iyer (Kerala)
5. Shri Harpal Singh Uppal (Punjab)
6. Shri Guru Prasad Bharthakur (Assam)
7. Shri B. M. Horakeri (Mysore)
8. Shri B. V. Balasubramaniam (Mysore)

During their stay in GDR the delegation visited the famous Agricultural Exhibition at Leipzig and several other places and studied the rapid progress made by the GDR in the field of agriculture and allied industries during the last 15 years.

11. B K S. Representatives Meet 'Jha Committee'

A delegation on behalf of Bharat Krishak Samaj met the 'Jha Committee' on 15th September, 1964 in connection with the determination of fair and economic prices for the producer and whole-saler, and retailers margin and consumer prices, in respect of the coming rice crop. The delegation apprised the Committee of the various difficulties and handicaps that the farmers had to encounter in increasing agricultural production and suggested ways and means of overcoming them. The delegation impressed upon the Committee the need to treat agriculture as a trade or business proposition, so that farmers may find it profitable to invest in agriculture to produce more. The delegation told the Committee that procurement prices fixed by the Government in previous years were too low and served as a deterrent to farmers from producing more and suggested fair prices for coarse and fine paddy that should be paid to the farmers, and also suggested the whole-salers and retailers margin. The delegation pointed out that the price to be fixed should not only be remunerative but it should be such as to induce the farmer to invest more and to make greater effort to produce more. The delegation also presented a memorandum to the 'Jha Committee' on fixation of paddy/rice prices.

The delegation, which was led by Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj, included Padmashri Bishan Mansingh (U. P.), Sardar Gurbux Singh, (Phagwara-Punjab), Member, All India Farmers Council, Capt. Charan Singh, Secretary, Rohtak Distt. Krishak Samaj, myself and Shri Om Prakash, Assistant Secretary.

12. World Agriculture Fair Memorial Farmers Welfare Trust Society

As you know, as per the resolution of the Governing Body of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, at its meeting held in Ahmedabad on Nov. 5, 1963 the Trust Society was formed and registered, under the

Societies Registration Act on December 16, 1963. The Society has announced a number of scholarships, fellowships, etc. for the pursuit of higher studies and research in Agriculture and allied subjects. We have received several applications and we are in the process of screening them. Preference will be given to the deserving sons and daughters of farmers and particularly those of Life Members of the Samaj. The Trust has purchased a building in Connaught Place at a cost of Rs. 9½ lakhs which yield monthly rent of Rs. 5,000/-. In a year or two it is expected that the amount of rent will go up at least by 50%.

13. Arbitrations

Proceedings are still in progress. They may take a few months more for decision.

14. BKS President on Co-operative Marketing

Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj, has been nominated as a Member of the Committee recently appointed by the Government of India to review the co-operative marketing in India.

He has also been invited by the Planning Commission to discuss the Fourth Plan recommendations on Education.

15. Vice-President Nominated to Rajya Sabha

The Council Members perhaps already know that Maharani Mohinder Kaur of Patiala, a Vice-President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, has been nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the President of India. This is a unique honour not only to her but to our organisation as well. I take this opportunity of congratulating the Maharani Sahaba on this honour on behalf of you all.

16. National Farmers Day Celebrations

As usual, the National Farmers' Day was celebrated on 3rd April 64 in the different States. The President sent a message to all the BKS State organizations in the country. He addressed a meeting of farmers organised by the Jalgaon Krishak Samaj. Before his speech, the President was presented with the subscription of five life memberships of the Samaj and of 64 shares of the Farmers Co-operative Bank of India.

The Farmers Day celebrations were held in Bangalore on 9th April 1964.

In Kerala the Farmers Day was celebrated at Alleppey under the Chairmanship of the working President of the Kerala Krishak Samaj.

A meeting of local farmers was held on 3rd April, 1964 at the residence of Shri P. M. Pradhan, President, Utkal Krishak Samaj. Addressing the meeting Mr. Pradhan stressed the need to strengthen the State Krishak Samaj by enrolling as many members as possible.

The President's message was read out in all these meetings.

17. Activities of State Krishak Samajs

Third Convention of the Gaya District Krishak Samaj was held at Jahanabad on the 23rd May, 1964 and was inaugurated by Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, the then Union Minister of Agriculture. About 400 farmers and those interested in agriculture and State Government experts participated.

An exhibition of Agricultural machinery and plant protection equipment was also arranged with the help of the local Agricultural Department. I attended the Convention.

The 8th-9th Convention of Kerala State Farmers Forum was held on 18th April, 1964 at Kuttanad, Alleppey District. The Convention was inaugurated by Mr. A. M. Thomas, the then Deputy Union Minister of Food. The Convention passed a number of resolutions on Agriculture.

The 5th Convention of Utkal Krishak Samaj was held at Jeypore, District Koraput, from May 17 to 19, 1964 under the Chairmanship of Shri P. M. Pradhan, President Utkal Krishak Samaj. About 500 persons including officials and non-officials and farmers participated in the Convention. The Convention passed a number of resolutions on the problems facing the farmers of Orissa and how they may be solved.

The Ajmer District Krishak Samaj organised a Farmers Convention on 26th July 1964, which was inaugurated by Mr. Narayan Singh, Dy. Speaker, Rajasthan Assembly. Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha, Speaker, Rajasthan Assembly, addressing the Convention, expressed his appreciation of the work done by the Samaj in the field of agriculture.

A group of about 50 farmers headed by Shri Ram Swarup of Ajmer District Krishak Samaj visited Delhi. The group led by our President, called on the Prime Minister, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. The group also called on Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Minister for Information & Broadcasting.

The Mudhol Farmers Forum (Mysore State) provided technical guidance to such of those farmers who wanted to have their lands levelled. The Forum also organised soil testing and fertiliser programmes and arranged a number of meetings for this purpose. The Forum held a number of meetings to demonstrate plant protection scheme.

The Rohtak District Krishak Samaj at its meeting held on 22.8.1964 passed a number of resolutions regarding abolition of wheat zones, remission of land revenue in the flood affected areas, supply of cheap fertilizers, insecticides, etc. etc.

The Khargone District Krishak Samaj held a meeting on 27.7.1964 and passed a number of resolutions.

The President of the Balurghat District Krishak Samaj (W.B.), Shri J. Mazumdar, offered several useful suggestions to the Commissioner of Agriculture and Community Development, at the latter's visit on July 8, 1964 to Balurghat.

18. Mr. K. D. Sharma Resigns

Mr. K. D. Sharma has resigned his membership of the Governing Body and the Standing Committee of the Samaj due to heavy work in his present assignment as Secretary General, AARRO. I am sorry, he had to do so.

19. Shri R.V. Robinson Leaves Bharat Krishak Samaj

Shri R.V. Robinson, Asstt. Secretary of the Samaj resigned on 1st May, 1964 in order to join the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation. Shri Robinson joined the Samaj in September 1955 as Publicity Officer. He was subsequently appointed as Public Relations Officer and thereafter Assistant Secretary in which post he continued until he resigned.

As Shri Robinson had served the Samaj almost from its inception his resignation has been a great loss to it. Shri Robinson served the Samaj throughout conscientiously and efficiently.

The staff of the Central Office gave him a farewell party on April 30, 1964. Dr. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj also joined the party.

20. I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Secretaries and Organisers of the State branches, the members of the Governing Body and Standing Committee of the Samaj, members of the All India Farmers' Council and my colleagues and Staff of the Central Office of the Samaj for the help and cooperation they gave me ungrudgingly in the execution of my difficult duty as Secretary of the Samaj.

Shri Radhanath Rath's Speech

After the Secretary's Report. Shri Radhanath Rath, Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj, Utkal Branch

delivered his speech in which he said that we were meeting at a crucial period when there was a great discontent on account of food scarcity and abnormal rise in prices and when our country is in danger due to war preparations of a hostile neighbouring country. The subjects for discussion at the Council Meeting, he said, were very important and needed careful consideration.

With regard to food prices, he suggested that the State should undertake the obligation to prevent prices from falling below a rock-bottom minimum and the minimum should be determined well in advance of sowing operation and that in order to protect the interests of the consumers the State should aim at maintaining the wholesale prices below a pre-determined maximum, and that maximum price should be based on the minimum price. He complained that the discriminatory fixation of prices by the Government had caused the poor cultivators of Orissa very great loss. He emphasised the assurance of the security of tenure of the cultivator and demanded that the beneficial land reforms should be effected, and assured irrigation facilities provided.

While agreeing to the theory that price incentive was an important factor in encouraging production, he said that the other factors like economic holdings, land reforms, perennial irrigation etc. were equally or even more important.

After Shri Radhanath Rath, Sri Sen Gupta, Professor of Entomology gave a talk on pesticides.

The Session concluded with the playing of the National Anthem.

SECOND SESSION

Seminar on

- (1) Fixation of remunerative and incentive prices for agricultural produce, and
- (2) State trading in foodgrains through the Foodgrains Trading Corporation proposed to be set up by Government.

The Seminar commenced at 9-30 A.M. on October 25, 1964. More than 200 progressive farmers and experts participated in the Seminar. Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, President, B.K.S. was in the Chair. The Chief Guest of the Seminar was Dr. P.K. Parija, Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University.

Before the Seminar commenced, Dr. R. C. Das, Associate Professor of Horticulture, Orissa Agriculture College gave a talk on "Way to Increase the Fruit and Vegetable Production". After him Shri K. N. Mahapatra, Professor of Veterinary College,

read a paper on 'Animal Husbandry in India and its Impact on Agriculture'.

The Seminar proceedings were then taken in hand. The speaker was Sardar Gurbux Singh, Phagwara (Punjab) who said that those who had fixed the prices of foodgrains did not understand the problems of farmers. He said that farmers should be represented on the committee which fixes the prices of agricultural produce. He also severely criticized the zonal system which was greatly harming the interests of farmers. He said that the B.K.S. should take a delegation to the Prime Minister and the Food Minister to apprise them of the problems facing agriculturists. He said that he was sorry that the B.K.S. did not have any news-paper of its own and, therefore, the farmers' view-point was not pre-

sented to the public. He pressed for the publication of such a paper.

Shri Nanda, Vice-President, Utkal Krishak Samaj said that while the manufacturers of industrial goods dictated their prices, the farmers who constituted 75% of the total population had no voice in determining the agricultural prices. He said that the policy of appeasing the vociferous section of the population should be stopped. He pointed out that the prices fixed for paddy did not cover even the cost of production. He criticized the fixation of discriminatory prices to the detriment of Orissa farmers, even in areas adjacent to West Bengal and Andhra. He suggested that the Government should reconsider and revise the prices fixed for paddy in Orissa.

Then Shri Ganga Bhushan Panda, Sambalpur (Orissa) said that the Government view-point repre-

sented the urban population and clashed with that of the farmers. He said that the *kisan* wanted higher prices for the agricultural produce because the prices of goods needed for his profession and his personal use were rapidly going up. He asked the Government to check inflation and not to indulge in deficit budgets. He also said that there was gross inefficiency and irresponsibility in the Government offices. He said that there should be no whip for the party in power in Parliament so far as the question of farmers was discussed in the Parliament.

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

The concluding session of the Meeting was held on the same day at 2 : 30 P.M. with Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh in the Chair.

Dr. Sadasib Misra gave a talk on "Remunerative and Incentive Price for Agricultural Produce."

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were then discussed and adopted unanimously :

I

The All India Farmers Council expresses its gratitude to Shri C. Subramaniam, Union Minister for Food & Agriculture for kindly permitting the third group of Indian Farm Leaders to visit U.S.A. under the Farmers Exchange Programme, jointly sponsored by the Bharat Krishak Samaj and the Farmers and World Affairs, U.S.A. It was entirely due to his having taken personal interest in the matter and understanding the importance of such a programme at a non-governmental level to the farmers of India, that such a favourable decision was taken and the scheme was revived. The All India Farmers Council, while sincerely thanking Shri Subramaniam for the decision, earnestly hopes that he will approve continuation in future and will also give every encouragement and facility to intensify it.

In this connection, the Council also strongly recommends and requests the Government to allow and encourage such of those progressive farmers who wish to go abroad on their own initiative and expense to acquaint themselves with the modern methods of agriculture and its allied subjects there and to extend to them all necessary facilities and assistance.

Proposed by Capt. Charan Singh (Punjab)

Seconded by Shri Nepal Singh (U.P.)

II

It is acknowledged that poultry farming plays a notable part in the balanced growth of agriculture in the society. The Government has taken several

steps to develop it on scientific lines. However, of late, the price of poultry feed has gone up very high with the result that poultry farming has become a losing proposition. Because of this it is feared that not only will the progress of poultry farming be retarded, but the entire poultry farming will face extinction. The All India Farmers Council, therefore, urges upon the Government to take immediate and effective steps to bring down the price of poultry feed. It is also necessary that poultry feeds and the contents that go to make the poultry feed should be exempted from the levy of sales tax and other taxes.

Proposed by Shri Jagjit Singh (Punjab)

Seconded by Shri C. Patel

III

In any programme of increasing agricultural production in the country, the fixation of remunerative and incentive prices play a prominent role. The All India Farmers Council as early as 1956 impressed upon the Government the necessity for fixing up remunerative prices. It is a happy augury that the Government have at last realised its importance. However it is a matter of regret that the prices announced are neither remunerative nor incentive. In fact in many States they barely cover the cost of production. The Council urges upon the Government to reconsider, in consultation with the actual farmers, the prices already fixed, so as to make them really remunerative and incentive to the producers. Moreover, it is absolutely necessary that the Farmers Organisation, namely, the Bharat Krishak Samaj should get adequate representation on any Board or Commission that the Government might constitute for this purpose.

(Continued on next page)

Third National Agriculture Fair

in Ahmedabad

FULL PREPARATIONS ARE UNDER WAY

The preparations for the third National Agriculture Fair which will open at Ahmedabad on 14th January, 1965 and close on the 11th March, 1965 are in full swing. The Gujarat State Government have been giving full cooperation. Shri Utsavbhai Parikh, Minister of Agriculture has been taking personal interest in the preparations. The Cantonment Authorities, Ahmedabad are also fully cooperating. The Federal Republic of Germany is participating on a very large scale and is importing exhibits from Germany. Their experts are already in India and are working at the Fair site. Several Ministries of the Government of India and some State Governments are also partici-

pating. Gujarat State, which is the host State, is participating on a very grand scale. Most of the available space for Agricultural Machinery, Plant Food, Plant Protection etc. has already been booked. Similarly, all the shops in the Shopping Centre and Eating Corner have also been fully booked.

Taking into account the progress so far made, and the large number of requests for participating which are being received, this Fair promises to be a very great success and may attract a very large number of visitors especially those of the farming community from all parts of India.

WAFMFWTS

Awards Scholarships for 1964-65

The World Agriculture Fair Memorial Farmers Welfare Trust Society has been pleased to award scholarships for the year 1964-65 for the prosecution of study leading to Ph.D., M.Sc. & B.Sc. in Agriculture and allied subjects. In all 16 scholarships have been awarded, one for Ph.D., five for M.Sc., and 10 for B.Sc. to students studying in various universities.

The students have already been informed and three months scholarship is being paid to them immediately.

(Contd. from previous page)

This Council would like to invite particular attention of the Central Government to the fact that in the prices fixed for paddy by the Government in the States of Orissa and its bordering States of West Bengal and Andhra, the difference is too much while the cost of production is nearly the same. It is felt that the price margin be reduced, failing which farmers will suffer and smuggling will be encouraged.

Proposed by

Shri Ram Singh (Rajasthan)

Seconded by Shri Sukumaran (Kerala)

IV

It is a matter of general knowledge that traders and middlemen

make exorbitant profit and indulge in anti-social activities like the cornering of stocks and profiteering. In order to curb such antisocial activities, the Government has proposed to set up the Food-grains Trading Corporation. While the Council does not oppose the move in principle, it is not sure of its success. It is, however, suggested that for the effective and successful working of the Corporation, actual farmers should be associated with it to a very large extent. The Council feels that if this Corporation works as an apex co-operative institution, coordinating the activities of numerous farmer producers-cum-processors cooperatives, it could be of great benefit to the producers as well as to the consumers at large. Wherever such cooperatives do not exist,

the Corporation should take immediate measures to set them up.

Proposed by

Mrs. Jaya Arunachalam (Madras)

Seconded by Shri B. Choudhury (Maharashtra)

V

The Government is thinking of setting up rice mills in the public sector. The All India Farmers Council feels that instead of establishing such rice mills in the public sector, actual farmers should be encouraged to form cooperative rice mills and the Government should extend all possible help and assistance to such farmers cooperative rice mills.

Proposed by

Shri M. C. Bondriya (Madhya Pradesh)

Seconded by Shri D. Basu (Orissa)

After the adoption of the resolutions, the Chief Guest Dr. P. K. Parija, Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University delivered his speech.

In his concluding address, the President paid high tribute to the people, particularly the farmers of Orissa. He on behalf of the Bharat Krishak Samaj thanked the various departments of Orissa Government for their cooperation in making the session a great success. He complimented the Orissa State Krishak Samaj, particularly its President Shri Pabitra Mohan Pradhan for the excellent and elaborate arrangements made for the Meeting.

The session came to a close after singing of the National Anthem.

FIRST NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIP

The Ludhiana Campus of the Punjab Agricultural University will be the venue of the first National Ploughing Championship being sponsored by the Agricultural Machinery Association of India and Bharat Krishak Samaj from December 11 to 13. The purpose behind the organization of this championship is to make our farmers machine minded and bring home to them through practical demonstration, methods of maintaining their machinery in good condition for most efficient functioning. There will also be a competition for bullock drawn ploughs and implements.

Besides manufacturers importers and dealers of agricultural machinery and tractor-owning farmers, agricultural engineers from all States are also expected to participate in the championship.

An important feature of the championship will be a colourful procession of about 200 tractors with their owners which will pass through the main streets of the city before reaching the championship site.

Issued by—Agricultural Information Officer,
Punjab Agricultural University.

Muzaffarnagar District Krishak Samaj

In a meeting the District Krishak Samaj passed certain resolutions in which it says: The meeting exhorts the Kisans of Muzaffarnagar District to make a concerted effort to increase substantially the per acre yield of their farms.

To achieve this, the out-moded primitive farm implements should gradually be replaced by those of improved type and modern techniques should be employed in place of old and out-of-date methods of farming. Balanced fertilization is important for plants as balanced diet in human consumption. Analysis of the soil to assess its chemical need, is therefore, an integral part of improved farming. Increased use of fertilizer, however is meaningless unless the farmer uses improved seeds which can absorb higher dosages of chemical mixtures. The use of pesticides, must, go hand in hand with increased fertilization.

Proper rotation of crops based on scientific lines is another such step. Irrigation, its timings, depth, of water in inches for different crops on different occasions for soil of different kinds should be methodically arranged according to prescribed schedules.

It is all too obvious that the larger is the amount which a kisan invests in his farm the much more, in proportion is the income which he derives from it.

While reiterating its demand for reforms in the Panchayat Raj system the kisans of district Muzaffarnagar,

in general and its constituent units in particular should dissuade the illiterate and ignorant kisan from indulging in this social evil.

2. About the price of fertilizer the meeting of the DKS requests the Government of India to not only make fertilizer available in adequate quantity but also to make it available on a reasonably low price which should be at par with the purchasing capacity of the economically backward Indian kisan.

3. About U. P. anti-hoarding order the meeting is of the opinion that the order, apart from damaging kisan interests in many other ways, will tend to diminish foodgrain acreage and thus further aggravate the already complex food problem in the country.

The meeting records its emphatic protest against inclusion of kisans in the purview of the anti-hoarding order and also against the surprisingly low maximum quantity of foodgrains specified for them. This quantity, as is well known, is much higher in other States. The meeting requests the Government to either exclude the kisan altogether from the purview of this order or to raise the maximum quantity to a reasonable limit according to different peasant categories in the State.

Spare Parts available ex-stock for Ferguson, Fordson, Allis-Chalmers, Caterpillar, I.H.C., Oliver Celtrac, Zetor Russian Tractor, Eicher.

Special arrangements are made to manufacture spare parts for all makes and models of Tractors on basis of samples supplied by Farmers. We shall pay railage both ways on such samples. It is our aim to keep all Tractors in 100% working condition to solve problem of food shortage. Please enable us to do so by issue of samples. 2½% special commission will be given to farmers who are members of Agricultural Machinery Association of India, New Delhi.

ASSOCIATED EXPORT IMPORTS CORPORATION (1962)

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Eleventh National Convention of Farmers

&

Eighteenth Meeting of Farmers' Council

The Bharat Krishak Samaj has decided to hold the Eleventh National Convention of Farmers and the Eighteenth Meeting of All India Farmers' Council at Ahmedabad from 8th to 11th March, 1965.

At the concluding day of the Convention, prizes, certificates etc. for enrollment of life members of B.K.S. and other outstanding organisational work for the Samaj will be awarded.

* * * *

AWARDS FOR ENROLLMENT OF LIFE MEMBERS AND OUTSTANDING ORGANISATIONAL WORK FOR THE BKS

The Governing Body of Bharat Krishak Samaj at its meeting held on 24th October 1964, at Bhubaneswar decided to award the following prizes, certificates etc. for enrollment of life members of Bharat Krishak Samaj and other outstanding organisational work for the samaj :

1. (a) *Rolling Shield and Rs. 500/- cash* to the State Krishak Samaj for enrolling the highest number of life members.
- (b) *Silver Cup and Rs. 500/- Cash* to the State Krishak Samaj for enrolling the second highest number of life members.
- (c) *Cash award of Rs. 300/-* to the State Krishak Samaj for enrolling the third highest number of life members.
2. *Cash award of Rs. 500/-* to the district enrolling 50 and more life members.
3. *Gold Medal* to the individual enrolling 100 or more life members.
4. *Silver Medal* to the individual enrolling 50 and more life members.
5. (a) *Certificates* to individuals enrolling 25 and more life members.
- (b) *Certificate of Appreciation* for outstanding organisational and other work.

For the award of prizes in respect of all the above items except the 5 (b), the period fixed is from 1st November 1964 to 5th March 1965, while the period for 5 (b) is from 1st April, 1964 to 5th March 1965.

Kerala State Farmers' Forum

TO INCREASE YIELD BY USE OF GOOD SEED VARIETIES

"Kunchathikara" and P.T.B. 4 are the common varieties of seeds used in Kuttanad in Alleppey District. They have been found to yield only 15 to 17 fold. A prominent farmer of Changanacherry last year used C0-25 seed in one acre of land and it showed yield of 32 fold. Another marked advantage of this seed crop is that it is not open to the common "Blast" disease. The crop has 180 days growth.

The supply of seeds as indicated has been done under the auspices of the Kerala State Farmers' Forum.

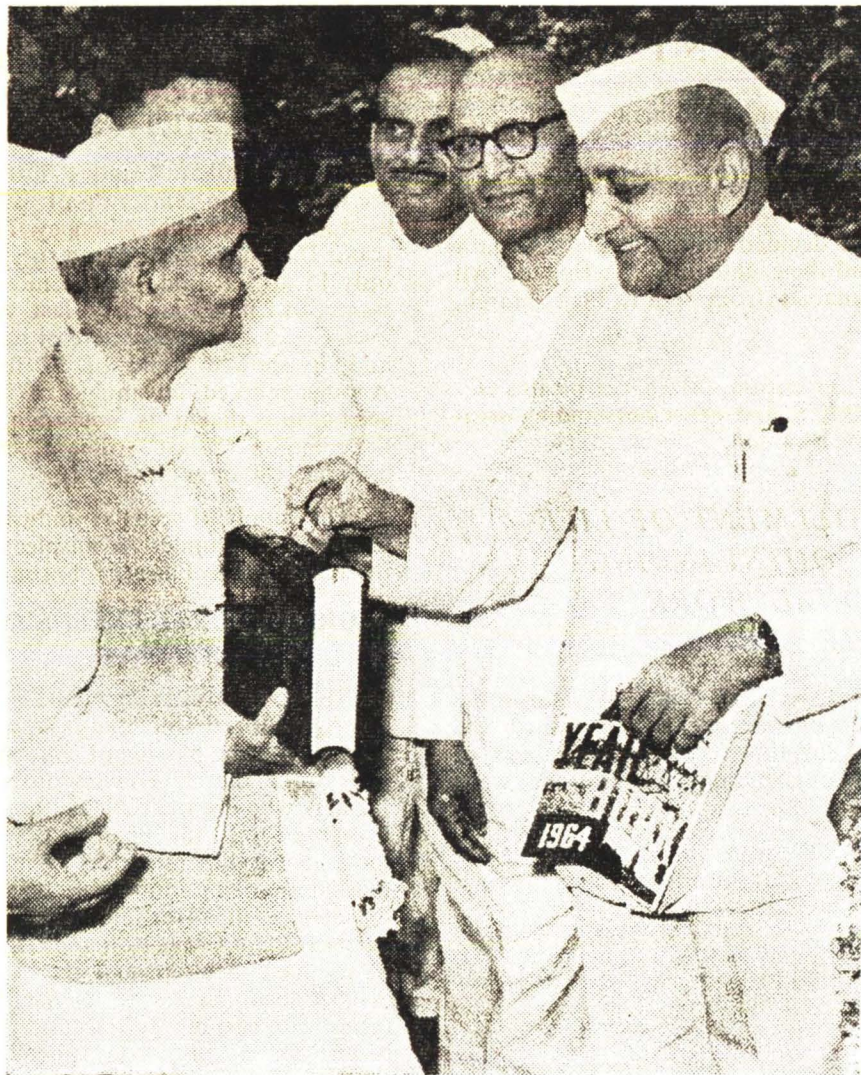
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION IN PUNJAB

The Extension Wing of the Punjab Agricultural University is concerned with the passing of information from the University to the farmers who are the real factors in bringing about the change. Several methods for dissemination of information are being adopted. Extension Specialists in Horticulture, Soil Science Plant Protection and Agronomy have been posted at each district headquarters to advise the farmers on various agricultural problems. These specialists endeavour to reach the farmers at their respective farms. But the number of farmers that a specialist is expected to deal with is so large that direct contact with all of them is not possible.

LIFE MEMBER IN ZRUCC'S COMMITTEE

Shri Kishore Chandra Samantaray, B.A., Life Member of Bharat Krishak Samaj has been nominated by the Orissa State Government and has been appointed as a member of the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee of the South Eastern Railway for agricultural interest for 1964-65 and 1965-66.

Shri Samantaray has also been taken as a member of the All India Radio, Cuttack for Advisory Committee for Rural Programmes.



Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, President Bharat Krishak Samaj, presenting a copy of the Year Book—1964 to Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri

Year Book Released

The Year Book was formally released by Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, President Bharat Krishak Samaj at a function held on October 18, 1964 at the Central Office of the BKS.

Many of the authors, some dignitaries including Shri A.M. Thomas, Vice-President BKS & Union

Minister of Defence Production, attended the function.

Dr. Deshmukh, in a brief speech explaining the necessity and utility of such a publication informed that the Samaj would be bringing out such a publication every year. He then presented a copy of Year Book each to all those who were present.

B K S

Year Book—1964

**PUBLICATION
INAUGURATED BY
PRIME MINISTER**

The Bharat Krishak Samaj Year Book—1964 was brought out on 2nd October (Mahatma Gandhi's birthday). The publication was formally inaugurated at the hands of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. A copy of the book was presented to him as his birthday present by the President of Bharat Krishak Samaj (2nd October being his birthday also). The President also personally presented a copy of the Year Book to Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, President of India.



Dr. P.S. Deshmukh with some of the authors of the Year Book and some dignitaries at the function

Bharat Krishak Samaj Year Book

The Bharat Krishak Samaj Year Book 1964 was brought out on 2nd October (Mahatma Gandhi's birthday). The publication was inaugurated at the hands of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. A copy of the Book was presented to him as his birthday present by the President—2nd October being his birthday also. The President also personally presented a copy of the Year Book to Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, President of India. The book has 760 pages as against 400 originally estimated. Accordingly, the price had to be raised from Rs. 12/- to Rs. 20/- in the case of non-members. However, it will be available to Life Members of the Samaj at a concessional rate of Rs. 15/-. The book contains valuable articles from renowned Indian and foreign experts on agriculture and allied subjects, statistical data on agriculture, 'who is who' and other important information. Shri C. Subramaniam, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India has written an illuminating foreword for the Year Book. Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Government of India has sent a fine message. The Year Book, which is profusely illustrated, will serve as a reference book for agriculturists, students of agriculture and agricultural scientists. The Bharat Krishak Samaj can take legitimate pride in its achievement in bringing out the Year Book, the first of its kind in the country. The book is worth more than its weight in gold. Members of the Samaj will be justly proud to possess it and display it on their book shelves. We are taking steps to bring out the next issue i.e., Bharat Krishak Samaj Year Book—1965.

Shri C. Subramaniam, Minister for Food & Agriculture in his foreword says "While Government is making many efforts to step up and improve agricultural production in the country, in the last analysis success in this vital matter will depend on the extent to which every agricultural producer sets about the job.

An intelligent and enlightened approach to the problem of agricultural production in a scientific way is essential for achieving success and the Bharat Krishak Samaj has as its broad aim helping the farmers in this country to develop such an attitude. In this great and important task of theirs, the dissemination of the knowledge of the latest practices and techniques will play a great part and I am sure that the special articles contained in Part I of the Year Book would go a very long way towards this. In particular, the knowledge of techniques and practices in other countries will be of very great value and I am glad to see that the Year Book gives ample coverage of this. I wish the Bharat Krishak Samaj all success in this venture of bringing out a Year Book which is the first of its kind in India. I am sure that in due course this Year Book will become even more useful to the farmers of our country as there is a gradual feed back from the individual farmers of their reactions to the book and their experience with regard to what they have learnt from it."

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Government of India, in a message, says "The book has several articles which have been contributed by persons who are considered authorities on agriculture and farm economics. I am sure that the Bharat Krishak Samaj Year Book will be a very useful document for all those who are interested in making an advanced study into various problems connected with agriculture."

Shri B. P. Chaliha, Chief Minister of Assam in a letter to the President writes "I am delighted to receive the copy of the Bharat Krishak Samaj Year Book—1964. I had a glance at the well thought out articles contained in the Year Book. I am sure this publication would focus the problems of the agriculturists and the agriculture in general to the intelligentsia who now know

Dr. Deshmukh to Attend I. F. A. P.'s Executive Committee Meeting

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, M. P., President, Bharat Krishak Samaj left Delhi for Sydney on 15th November by air to attend the Executive Committee meeting of the I.F.A.P. He will also attend the 13th General Conference of the I.F.A.P. being held at New Zealand. He will return to Delhi by the end of first week of December, 1964.

very little about the agriculturists and agriculture of India."

Shri M. Bhaktavatsalam in his letter to President writes "It is a very useful and interesting Reference Book. I offer my congratulations to you and the Krishak Samaj on this solid achievement of yours."

Mr. Ray G. Johnson, Chief of Agriculture Division, U.S.A.I.D. in his letter writes "You have done a monumental piece of fact gathering and have put it into a readable form. The Samaj deserves congratulations on this noble effort. For a first attempt it is a creditable achievement. Success and prosperity of Indian agriculture depends upon joint effort and willing cooperation on the part of the farmers, the farmer organizations, and the government agencies involved. Your Samaj has certainly a crucial role to play. The Year Book is certainly both useful and informative. All our technicians are agreed on this."

Dr. Wayne H. Freeman of the Rockefeller Foundation, New Delhi, writes "I find that this volume contains a considerable amount of very valuable information which will be of use throughout the year."

Mr. Mauritz Bonow, Agriculture Attache, Embassy of Sweden in his letter to President writes "I cannot tell you how glad I am to have this Year Book to hand. I have already seen that it contains much interesting and valuable information."

Not blowing our Trumpet but Announcing facts

- ★ Stepped up exports of Woollen and Cotton Textiles, Sugar, Pulses, Salt and Tobacco.
- ★ Organised exports of difficult items like Groundnut Oils, Bichromates, and Manioc Meal.
- ★ Production lifeline maintained through import of essential commodities such as Fertilisers, Chemicals and Rare Materials at advantageous terms.
- ★ Introduction of buffer stock operations in Jute, Seedlac and Lemon - Grass Oil, to help agriculturists.

A SOUND RECORD FOR

EIGHT YEARS OF EXISTENCE

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