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INDIA'S FARMERS MEET AT MYSORE

Jain Endorses Samaj's Suggestion

Addressing the All India Congress Committee Meeting at New Delhi on May 11, Shri Ajit Prasad Jain proposed for Marketing Cooperative Society in every mandi.

This statement endorses the view of the Bharat Krishak Samaj expressed in the 5th National Convention of Farmers at Mysore.

He said that credit had to be linked with both production and marketing. Unless that was done, co-operatives would not succeed. It was proposed to set up a Marketing Co-operative Society in every mandi. It would work in collaboration with the branch of the Central Co-operative Bank. The idea was to sell the agricultural produce through this society so that the credit advanced to the farmer could be recovered from his sale proceeds. The balance of the money would be given to him after deducting the loan.

SHRI PAKVASA INAUGURATES FIFTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF FARMERS

Food was an important thing for the nation and the producers of food should not be allowed to suffer in any way, declared, Shri Mangaldas Pakvasa, Governor of Mysore, inaugurating the Fifth National Convention of Farmers.

The Convention was held at Mysore from May 2. About 4,000 farmers and delegates hailing from all parts of India attended the Convention. Among those present on the occasion were Shri M. V. Krishnappa, Union Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Shri K. F. Patil, Minister for Agriculture of Mysore, Shri Thimma Reddy, Minister for Agriculture, Andhra, Shri M. H. Choudhry, Minister for Agriculture, Assam and Shri S. S. N. Mushran, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh and a large number of Agriculture and Development Officers.

The Convention started with music in a gaily decorated pandal in the permanent Exhibition Buildings of Mysore—the Garden City of India.

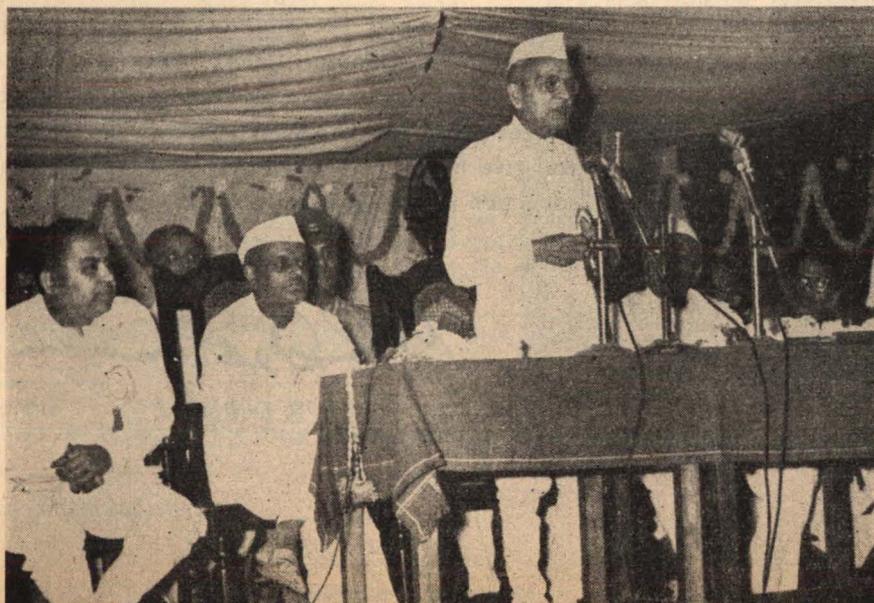
Welcoming the delegates and guests, Shri K. F. Patil, Minister for Agriculture and Food of Mysore and President of the Mysore Farmers' Forum said that he was happy that the National Convention was being held outside Delhi and Mysore was selected as the venue of the Conven-

tion, which he thought was very appropriate because of its agricultural position.

Referring to the problem of increasing agricultural production, he said that he was thoroughly convinced that the country could not only be self-sufficient but it could have surplus production and suggested some methods besides hard work in this connection.

Non-political organization, like the Farmers' Forum and the Young Farmers' Association could play a very important role in suggesting ways and means to increase the agricultural production in the country, he added.

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Shri Mangaldas Pakvasa inaugurating the
Fifth National Convention of Farmers

KHARIF CAMPAIGN—A Challenge to Farmers

KRISHAK SAMAJ PRESIDENT'S APPEAL TO FARMERS

Dear Friend,

Once again I take this opportunity of addressing you through these columns as I did in September last when I appraised you about the Rabi Production Campaign which was then started.

It is with some regret that I have to tell you that in the last Rabi drive the members of the Samaj in some States did not come up to expectation. I would like you to share my feelings that it was very regrettable that in some States the members of the Samaj did not take as leading a part and did not respond as much as we expected, to the appeal to enlist cooperation.

I am sure you will all agree that as farmers everyone of us must take interest in all that is connected with farming and this becomes more essential when the farmer is a member of a fairly well-knit organisation like the Samaj. I want every member to strive to make it a more and more responsible and representative body.

You must now be busy in the preparation of your Kharif crops. I need not waste any words on bringing home to you the urgent necessity of increasing the agricultural production and help the nation through intensive cultivation to increase foodgrain output. It is with a view to improve upon the present situation that the Kharif Production Campaign is being launched by the Government of India and the State Governments. I would like you to consider this as a challenge to the farming community which all of us must accept by discharging our responsibility to the utmost possible degree. If we fail to utilise the facilities offered to us for credit, seeds, fertilisers, irrigation, pest and disease control etc., it would not be the Government that we could blame but it would be, we ourselves, who would deserve to be blamed. I, therefore, hope that the Life Members of the Samaj particularly in whatever part of the country they are living, would take utmost pains and try to derive maximum benefit of the opportunities offered in the Kharif Campaign. I am sure they would be able to persuade the other members and farmer friends to participate in the campaign so prominently that we

would deserve the consideration that is given to the members of the Samaj by Government, officials and others.

The Kharif Campaign is being launched in all the States including the Union Administered territories of Manipur, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.

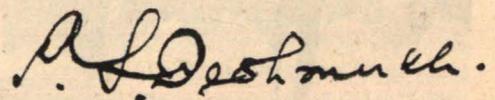
The important crops included in this Campaign for boosting up production are Paddy, Bajra, Jowar, Maize and Ragi.

The Government has decided to provide such facilities as improved seeds, fertilisers, implements, irrigation, plant protection measures and agricultural credit and is striving to mobilise the available resources and agencies for raising the per acre yield of these crops. But these efforts cannot succeed if farmers lag behind and did not make the best use of the opportunities offered to them.

I may further add that with State Trading in food-grains the cultivators should not have any misgiving that they would be deprived of a reasonable return for their hard labour and produce. The Samaj is endeavouring to remove the defects that still persist in the implementation of the Scheme. But larger success will depend upon the influence which the word of the Samaj carries and this in its turn depends on how best the Samaj discharges its duties and help the nation. This Campaign therefore offers an excellent opportunity to the farmers. In helping the Nation they would be helping themselves also.

I request all members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj to give serious thought to this and prove that this National Organisation although still in its infancy is capable of making a significant contribution in increasing agricultural production. I am aware the farmers have suffered from neglect and that they have many grievances which remain un-redressed. But this is not the time to think of them. This is the time for action, for fullest cooperation with governmental machinery and a perfect coordination of effort. I have every hope that every one connected with farming will give his whole-hearted support in making the Kharif Production Campaign a real success.

Yours sincerely,



(P. S. Deshmukh)

New Delhi, May 20, 1959.

The Fifth National Convention

(Continued from page 1)

Addressing the farmers, **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh**, President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, said that the account



of previous four Conventions of the Samaj indicated the rate at which the Bharat Krishak Samaj had been growing. It also established the fact that in supporting and strengthening this organization

they were doing something for which there was a definite place in the country's economic and social set-up.

The recommendations that the Samaj had made from time to time were not only balanced but, as time had shown, they were also full of wisdom. As an example, **Dr. Deshmukh** referred to the fact that the Bharat Krishak Samaj had not waited till the Nagpur session of the Indian National Congress to emphasise cooperative farming. The Samaj had done it more than two years before. It had advised all its members to promote cooperative farming and to bring cooperative farms into being wherever possible. Hardly any member of the Bharat Krishak Samaj had opposed cooperative farming; in fact many of them had already set up cooperative societies, he added.

He said that emphasis on the principle of cooperation had been laid right from the beginning especially in the field of marketing. The Samaj had gone a step further and decided that there should be an All India Cooperative Marketing Federation so that the growers could through the help of cooperatives, be able to have a share in the export and import business of the country and thus obtain better prices for their goods. The

Samaj also aimed at saving the consumers from paying unduly high prices. It was gratifying to note that the important resolutions that had been passed at previous Conventions were being progressively implemented.

Dr. Deshmukh said that for the last 10 months preparations had been in progress for holding the World Agriculture Fair under the auspices of the Bharat Krishak Samaj. The Fair would be held in December this year. He added that he was very grateful to the Prime Minister for the interest he had shown in it.

In the field of cooperative marketing he said that the Samaj had fulfilled its resolve by getting registered on the very auspicious day of October 2, 1958, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation. Although the Federation was only seven months old it had undertaken certain business and provided certain goods with the support and cooperation of the State Trading Corporation and the present Ministry of Cooperation. It had entered into a token trade agreement with the National Union of Consu-

mers' Cooperatives of Soviet Russia, known as Centrosoyuz in the Soviet Union. As soon as Centrosoyuz came to know of the birth of the Federation, it sent a trade delegation for negotiations. The Soviet delegation extended to the Federation a very pressing invitation requesting it to send a delegation to the Soviet Union and urged it to consider the question of expanding the scope of cooperative trade between the two countries. The Federation intends to investigate the possibilities of larger trade before sending a delegation.

Thanking the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, **Dr. Deshmukh** said that the Federation had been authorised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to trade with Ceylon Cooperatives also.

Referring to the formation of Farmers' Bank **Dr. Deshmukh** said that though some time had passed since this had been decided, they had yet to clear up the whole ground and consider all possible approaches to the issue. He said that this was a decision in regard to which every possible caution should be exercised and the scheme should be launched only after the fullest preparations had been made.



Delegates listening with rapt attention the address of **Dr. Deshmukh**.

Dr. Deshmukh referred to the reports bearing on Agricultural Production, Procurement and Prices of Foodgrains, Cooperatives, Agricultural Organizations, etc.

He said that from the farmers' point of view it was gratifying to see that the Krishnappa Delegation had attached great importance to the fixation of the minimum prices for agricultural crops and maintaining them at a level which would give reasonable remuneration to the farmers. The emphasis which was now being laid on both the Service Cooperatives and Cooperative Farming might also be attributed to what the Government had come to know about China and Japan through these delegations.

Dr. Deshmukh referred to the reports of the Ashok Mehta Committee and the Nalagarh Committee. He said that the recommendations of the latter were examined critically not only by the States but at a Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and most of them were considered favourably.

He thereafter dwelt on two widely known reports, which he considered to be of great importance. These were a brief report on the "Essentials of an Agricultural Production Programme in India", by Dr. F. W. Parker former Agricultural Advisor of the T.C.M. and the report on "India's Food Crisis and steps to meet it", by the Agricultural Production Team of the Ford Foundation.

He said that Dr. Parker's report should be studied by the members of the Samaj. Dr. Parker believed that the ultimate salvation of the country's agriculture lay in a sound organization of farmers.

Dr. Deshmukh quoted the remarks on the importance of Farmers' Organization contained in Dr. Parker's report which said :

"The need for farmer organization arises from the inability of the individual farmer to meet some of his vital needs in a developing economy. These needs may relate to his own farming operation or to the interests of farmers, as a major segment of

society. In business operations, particularly purchasing supplies, processing, marketing and credit, there are usually advantages in large scale operations. Efficient cooperatives can bring most of these advantages to small farmers. Likewise farmer organization afford cultivators an opportunity to discuss and voice the interest of farmers just as unions represent labour and various organizations represent industry. The educational value of farm organizations is also great. In fact they are one of the very best means of educating the farmers about new methods and practices."

Dr. Deshmukh then referred to some of the important recommendations contained in the Ford Foundation Team's report.

The report had expressed the view that too many people were attempting to earn a living on land. Available data indicated that there were only about 5.3 acres of net cultivated land per family dependent on agriculture. Of this area a little over one acre was irrigated land. Even if land resources were fully developed they would not be sufficient to provide a living for all the families now dependent on land. They were certainly inadequate to provide for the expected increase in village population (an increase of 45 million by 1966). Consequently, income improvement for the landless and for those with too little land must be sought in ways that might permit subsequent adjustment in land holdings and in farm sizes, when non-farm employment expanded. India should expect greater mechanization of its agriculture. Larger farms might then be needed for more efficient operations than could be provided under the present conditions. Care should be taken, therefore, to avoid freezing the pattern of land tenure that could not later be modified to meet the changing conditions. It was just as necessary to establish a minimum standard of land resources per family as it was to set a ceiling on land holdings. The minimum standard

necessarily would vary in acreage, depending upon the physical productivity of the land, whether it was irrigated or unirrigated and its location with respect to markets. Consequently, the minimum standard would be needed to be adapted to local conditions, but the general principle of a minimum unit for a farm family of land per family should be equally applicable to private or to co-operative operation of land. If land resources per family were insufficient neither co-operative nor private operation could provide adequate living.

Dr. Deshmukh said that the Team in its report had said that Cooperative Marketing was needed to strengthen the bargaining position of the cultivator at the first stage of marketing from the farm to the wholesale market. Next, it had said that if the growers were to obtain fair prices for their foodgrains, a speedy dissemination of reliable market information was an absolute necessity. Dr. Deshmukh commended the study of this report to the members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj.

He said that his extensive reference to these reports should not be misunderstood. Most of the things in the reports were not beyond their knowledge or understanding. But it was natural for human beings to under-rate themselves often and for some people not to appreciate the value of suggestions except when they were endorsed by some people from outside.

Shri Pakvasa's Address

Inaugurating the 5th National Convention, Shri Mangaldas Pakvasa, Governor of Mysore State said that people did not realise the important role played by the farmer in satisfying the food demands of the country.

He expressed his gratification at the fact that for the last five years the Government and people had been taking interest in the difficulties of the farmers.

Shri Pakvasa said that the holding of Convention had offered a good opportunity for serious consideration of the food question which was so vital for the country.

The Governor complained that the farmer and the consumer had

Convention Committee's Meeting

After the inaugural session, the Convention broke up into three Committees: (1) Agricultural Committee, (2) Animal Husbandry Committee, and (3) Cooperation Committee.

Agricultural Committee

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Deshmukh said that the problem of soil conservation and building up soil fertility was an important problem which needed special attention from all quarters. He added that our forefathers used to have recourse to the bunding of dry and wet land for soil conservation and in many places this method was still in vogue.

Dr Deshmukh impressed on the gathering the importance of bunding and terracing in the interest of soil fertility.

The Committee discussed (1) Soil Conservation and the building up of Soil Fertility, and (2) Irrigation and Water Economy.

Many observation and suggestions were made by delegates. It was stated that more organic matter in the absence of fertilizers should be utilised. A novel method of carrying river bed fertile soil to fields on the banks of rivers and the foot of hills to increase production was suggested. The necessity of creating green belts was particularly emphasized.

Animal Husbandry Committee

The deliberations of the Animal suffered at the hands of the middleman who had made immense profits by hoarding agricultural commodities. He referred to the measures the Government had taken during the last five years to improve marketing conditions.

Concluding he said that he was glad that the farmers had awakened to their needs and wanted help in securing reasonable prices for their crops.

The satisfaction of their needs would be conducive to greater production and prosperity of farmers, he added.

Husbandry Committee were held under the chairmanship of Ch. Brahm Perakash, President, Delhi State Krishak Samaj in the absence of Dr. Deshmukh.

The delegates felt that due to the shortage of pastures, farmers had to struggle hard for the procurement of food for animals.

It was suggested that land for pastures should be exempted from the operation of ceilings. The meeting felt that pedigree animals of good breed should be increasingly used.

Cooperation Committee

The Cooperation Committee met under the chairmanship of Ch. Brahm Perakash and discussed the "Form and Role of Service Cooperatives."

Addressing the gathering, Ch. Brahm Perakash emphasized the need of cooperatives. He pointed out that the Prime Minister and the Government had repeatedly said that no farmer would be compelled to take to cooperative farming. The farmers' participation in it would be absolutely voluntary.

He said that cooperative farming was not advocated merely by a party. It had indeed been accepted by the representative of the people in Parliament. There were some issues, he said, like land ceiling, which were opposed by big landholders. He said that it was important that the interest of 80 per cent of farmers, who were small farmers, should be safeguarded.

Addressing the meeting Shri M. V. Krishnappa emphasized on the need of reorganizing agriculture on co-operative basis. He pleaded for the development of service cooperatives and said that considering the growing population of India and limited land resources the country could only prosper through cooperatives in the field of agriculture as well as in animal husbandry.

He said that U.S.A., Denmark, and Russia have benefitted a lot from cooperative methods.

"Interest of the small farmers must be safe-guarded"—



Ch. Brahm Perakash addressing the Committee meeting

The meeting strongly urged that the present cooperative laws should be drastically amended with a view to making the formation of service cooperatives easier. It was felt that sufficient resources were not available for starting these cooperatives and substantial Government help would be needed.

Some delegates appealed for an intensive campaign by Government to provide the necessary training to farmers and help them in forming service cooperatives.

It was unanimously agreed that service cooperatives would be of immense benefit to the farmers in increasing food production and raising their standard of living.

Farmers Must Assert Themselves In Planning

—Thimma Reddy

Addressing the valedictory session of the 5th National Convention of Farmers, Shri Thimma Reddy, Minister for Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh, said that agriculturists had collected there to discuss their problems and devise ways and means to increase production.

Shri Reddy regretted that in the First Plan agriculture was not given its due place and the Second Plan was also directed mainly towards industrial development. He said that in the middle of the Second Plan period people started realizing the need for the development of agriculture. He expected that under the Third Plan many great things about agriculture would be done.

Shri Reddy warned that unless the agriculturists woke in time and took the lead in giving shape to the agricultural pattern which was to be embodied in the Third Plan, the so-called experts of Delhi who had absolutely no practical knowledge would try to impose their own plans on them.

He said that he would like that for the Third Plan the Agriculture Sector programme should be framed in villages and not in Delhi. In his view it was not good that the rural and agricultural plans were framed without consulting those who were connected and concerned with the particular subject. He demanded the abandonment of this practice

He said that farmers could increase the yield if they were given improved seed and help for plant protection and ultimately a good price for their produce.

DR. DESHMUKH ELECTED PRESIDENT

Shri Jain Inaugurates the 7th Meeting of the All India Farmer's Council

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, was unanimously elected President of the Samaj for the next term at the 7th meeting of the All India Farmer's Council held at Mysore on May, 2, 1959.

The Council started its deliberations under the chairmanship of Shri S. M. Wahi, Vice-President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj.

Shri N. T. Karle, Vice-President of the Mysore Krishak Samaj proposed Dr. Deshmukh's name for the Presidentship and said that the farmers of India were indebted to him for organising them into the Samaj and for championing their cause.

In his opinion it was wrong to compare the production of Japan, Italy or U. S. A. with India. He said that in the conditions which prevailed in this country even farmers of those countries would not be able to produce more.

There was no use blaming Indian agriculturists. They were quite hard-working and if Government met all their requirements they would not only be able to feed 40 crores of people but even 120 crores, he concluded.

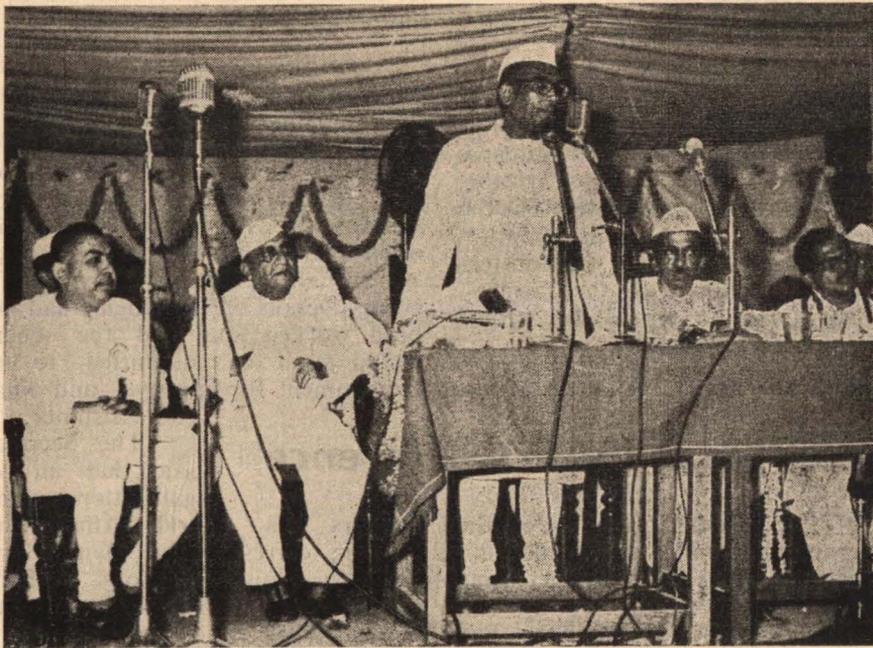
He said that were it not for his work and devotion this organisation of farmers would have never come into existence. Shri Karle requested Dr. Deshmukh to accept the Presidentship of the Bharat Krishak Samaj.

Seconding the proposal Shri M.C. Bondriya (M.P.) said that in Dr. Deshmukh the farmers had their best friend who had always devoted his time and energy to their advancement.

Shri Jagjit Singh Mann, Organising Secretary of the Punjab Krishak Samaj, Shri H.G. Patil of Bombay and



Kerala Farmers with Dr. Deshmukh at the Convention



Shri A. P. Jain inaugurating the Council Meeting.

Shrimati Ramanand of Mysore also referred to the great services of Dr. Deshmukh to the cause of farmers and seconded the proposal.

The Council unanimously elected Dr. Deshmukh President of the Samaj and Shri Wahi requested Dr. Deshmukh to take the chair.

In a brief speech Dr. Deshmukh thanked the Council members for honouring him by electing him the president and said that he was confident that the Samaj would march onward with the active cooperation of the members.

Shri K. F. Patil Minister for Agriculture of Mysore welcomed the delegates and said that the decision of holding the meeting at Mysore was good as the delegates would get an opportunity of seeing the agricultural work in Mysore State.

Dr. Deshmukh's Address

Addressing the Council, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, President of the Samaj, welcomed the members of the newly constituted Council and other farmer delegates from all over India. He said that so far six meetings of the Council had been held and the business transacted at those meetings had always been of great value.

Dr. Deshmukh then referred to the vital question of marketing of farmers' produce. He said that it was one of the principal aims of service cooperatives to tackle it. If they succeeded he was sure farmer's woes would be reduced to a considerable extent.

He said that apart from having recourse to cooperative marketing, farmers in the neighbourhood of every *mandi*, should have a small *mandi* council of their own where they should decide the quantity of their crops that should be sent to the market each day of the season and regulate the marketing. This should be done with reference not only to cash crops and foodgrains but also to vegetables and fruits.

There was a definite limit for every commodity which a particular *mandi* could handle each day. But this fact was disregarded and the result was that whenever a large quantity of commodities than could be consumed came into it glut followed. This glut affected not only the farmer who took it to the *mandi* on the particular day but probably all the farmers in the whole district and outside. He said that it should be possible in every case to determine what quantity should go

to the market on each particular day and if the prices were too low or uneconomical, it should be possible to stagger the coming in of the particular commodity in the market.

Dr. Deshmukh suggested that every *mandi* should have a sale and purchase society or union. He said that this idea was embodied in the resolution also. Unless there was a cooperative marketing society, wherever there was a wholesale licence, it would be very difficult to stop unscrupulous dealings. He, therefore, attached great importance to this matter and hoped that the members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj would take every possible step in this direction.

Dr. Deshmukh next referred to the *rabi* campaign. He said that he had heard many members declare proudly that they had done their best in promoting the *rabi* campaign. But he was sorry to note that an independent report pertaining to a particular area had clearly stated that the members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj had not even cared to attend the meetings of the *rabi* campaign. He was mentioning this only to impress upon the farmers that if such things were repeated, it would have to be admitted that we did not deserve the recognition Government were prepared to give us.

Secretary's Report

Shri K. D. Sharma, Secretary, while presenting his report said that the most notable event of the year for the Bharat Krishak Samaj was, the consent given by the President of the Indian Union, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, to become its Patron-in-Chief. The Krishak Samaj was grateful to the President for bestowing this honour upon it, he added.

During the current year, Krishak Samaj were formed in the States of Andhra, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura and Manipur. Efforts were being made to start a branch in Jammu and Kashmir, as early as possible.

Shri Sharma said that there was a steady rise in the life membership of the Samaj. During the year ending on

December 31, 1957 the number of Life Members was 918. On December 31, 1958 the number rose to 2,333 and during the four months from January 1, 1959 to the end of April 1959, an additional 458 members had been enrolled.

The enrolment of ordinary members had been rather slow. A target of 5,000 ordinary members was fixed for each district of India, but this target had yet to be achieved. In certain States, the enrolment work had been taken up in right earnest and it was hoped that the target would not take long to be achieved, but in others the enrolment campaign had to be intensified if the target was to be fulfilled in time.

The 5th and 6th meetings of the Council were held during the Convention and the latter at Bhubaneswar on November 22 and 23. Both the meetings were largely attended. At the Bhubaneswar meeting six recommendations were made. They dealt with (a) State Trading, (b) Fixation of Fair Prices for Principal Farm Commodities, (c) Co-operative Policy, (d) Nalagarh Committee Report and (e) Consolidation of Holding and Soil Conservation.

The Secretary said that the Bharat Krishak Samaj was a member of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers which had 43 organizations of farmers in 28 countries as its members. The 10th General Conference of the I.F.A.P., was held at Brussels and Shri Sharma, Shri S. M. Wahi and Sardar Satwant Singh represented the Bharat Krishak Samaj at the Conference. He said that in accordance with the proposal of the Governing Body at its meeting in September 1958, a formal invitation was extended by the Indian delegation to the General Conference of the I.F.A.P. to hold its 11th General Conference at New Delhi in December 1959 on the occasion of the World Agriculture Fair. The invitation was accepted with appreciation, he added. It had since been finally decided to hold the Conference from November 27 to December 5. Arrangements in this connection had already been taken in hand.

The Secretary in his report said that the Bharat Krishak Samaj had

secured representation on several committees of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and other Bodies, but the Samaj had not so far been given representation on the Commodity Committees. Correspondence was going on with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in this connection. It was expected that the principle of having the representation of producers on these Committees through the medium of the farmers' own organization would be agreed to by the Government.

Shri Sharma said that the Minis-

Delhi Venue of Next IFAP Conference

try of Food and Agriculture of the Government of India had launched a campaign in eight States for increasing agricultural production during the last *rabi* season. The Ministry had invited the Bharat Krishak Samaj to cooperate with them and the State Departments of Agriculture in popularising the campaign. In nearly all the States the Krishak Samaj had taken an active part in the campaign to make it a success.

During the year under report the Bharat Krishak Samaj published besides the monthly magazine, *Krishak Samachar* (in English and Hindi) several pamphlets and reports, Shri Sharma said.

He added that Samaj intended to publish a book of about 800 pages entitled **Agriculture in India—Retrospect and Prospect**. Over 60 top experts had contributed articles on different sections of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Forestry, etc. Many of the articles would be illustrated. These articles had been edited and were ready for publication. However, for want of sufficient finance, it had not been possible to print the proposed book. The book would be a valuable piece of literature on agriculture and allied subjects,—useful both for practical agriculturists and for others as a reference book.

He said that the Krishak Samaj was undertaking, with immediate effect, the publication of a series of booklets entitled **Indian Agricultural Problems**. The booklets would be from 20 to 30 pages each. The first publication of this series **A Fair Price**

for Indian Farmers was ready to go to the press.

Shri Sharma said that the Bharat Krishak Samaj had been thinking seriously for some time of organizing an inter-State exchange of farmers in such a way that when farmers in one part of the country were free from agricultural work they would visit other parts of the country where agricultural operations were in full swing. Details of the scheme had now been worked out and the scheme would soon be submitted to the Government for approval and financial assistance.

The Secretary said that an organization named **Farmers in World Affairs** had been in correspondence with Samaj on the question of exchange of farmers between the United States and this country on a non-Government level. The Bharat Krishak Samaj had informed the organization that it would be happy to welcome the first batch of U. S. farmers and their wives in India some time in November 1959. They will be sent to different parts of India and would be given a fair opportunity to study various aspects of Indian agriculture and rural India. During their stay in India, the visiting farmers will be guests of farm families in various parts of the country.

Shri Sharma in his report acknowledged with a deep sense of gratitude the monetary assistance and encouragement given to the Samaj by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Shri Jain's Address

Inaugurating the seventh meeting of the All India Farmers' Council, Shri A. P. Jain, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, said that the Council was meeting at a historic time.

Referring to the agricultural situation he said that last year due to drought the crops were very unsatisfactory. He added in 1957-58 agricultural production had fallen by 10% compared to 1956-57. Only about one-third or one-fourth of the country's agricultural produce came into the *mandi* and the rest was utilised by the farmers. The deficit of 10% had therefore a very bad effect on the market.

He complimented the people on facing the difficult situation bravely.

Shri Jain condemned as baseless the complaint that the farmers had not increased production and helped the nation.

He said that in the last several years agricultural production had increased in the country by 28% to 30%. He expressed his appreciation of the increase in cash crops and said that at the time of partition 35 lakh bales of jute were imported and 17 lakhs were produced in India. The production had gone up to about three and a half maunds per acre. India was producing 53 lakh bales of jute and was also exporting jute. He said that in the post-liberation period the production of cotton had increased by 100 per cent. The production of oilseeds and sugarcane had also increased. Shri Jain said that this clearly demonstrated that the farmers had done their best. If they had not succeeded as much as was expected then others must share the responsibility with them. Their need for improved seeds, chemical fertilizers, credit, implements, irrigation and several other resources was very great. He said that after popularising the use of fertilizers the Government was unable to meet the requirement of fertilizers. He said that the problem had become more acute because of the difficulty of foreign exchange.

He said that if the production fell the responsibility for it was thrown on the Union and State Ministries of Agriculture, and it was not fully realized that other departments that were responsible for supplies and arrangement of finances, had not played their part. He added that he did not want to blame anyone, but he wished that the difficulties should be realized.

Shri Jain said that the country needed 20 lakh tons of ammonium sulphate and the quantity that was available in the country was only 10 lakh tons. He said that efforts were being made to import fertilizers. Four or five years back five lakh tons of fertilizers were used and now the demand was nearly four times. He said that by the end of the Third Five Year Plan, if the country had to grow

over 10 crore tons of foodgrains, then 75 lakh tons of ammonium sulphate would be required. He announced that it had been decided to build four new fertilizer factories, one each at Rourkela, Nangal, Neyveli and Trombay and that the question of starting three or four more factories was under consideration.

Referring to agricultural departments Shri Jain said that they had not been given the importance and priority they deserved. He said that the report of the Nalagarh Committee was important. A conference of Agricultural Ministers of various States held at New Delhi had unanimously decided that if the country had to increase agricultural production then Union and other Agricultural Ministries should be given a proper status. Shri Jain said that work was being done on the suggested line and very soon the agricultural departments would be reorganized.

He also referred to the resolutions passed at the Nagpur Congress Session and said that they were very important.

Stressing the need for proper marketing, he said that several times it had happened that when the farmer had increased production the prices of produce had fallen and the farmer had to suffer. He stressed that nobody could expect the farmer to increase production in such a situation. Proceeding, he said that an expert team was called from the U.S.A. to study the agricultural situation in India and to advise as to how agricultural production could be doubled. He referred to the recommendations of the

"India's future rests on farmers"

American team and pointed out that one of these recommendations had emphasized the importance of marketing the produce. He said that he was thinking on that line. One of the results was the decision on State Trading.

Explaining the causes for the decision in favour of State Trading he said that last year the prices of agricultural produce had gone very high. In North India in a period of seven or eight months, the prices of wheat had soared to Rs. 30 to 31 from Rs. 13 to 14. The traders had hoarded

wheat in large quantities. This was considered detrimental to the interest of farmers and consumers and State Trading in foodgrains was ultimately decided upon.

Explaining the aims of State Trading, Shri Jain said that its first objective was that the farmers should get reasonable prices for their produce. Secondly, the consumer should get foodgrains at reasonable prices and the difference in the prices paid to farmer and paid by the consumer should be minimum.

Referring to cooperatives Shri Jain said that a small service cooperative should be formed in every village and both small and big farmers should join it. He said that these cooperatives should supply all necessary things, like improved seeds, implements, fertilizers, plant protection material etc. at correct prices, and they should also arrange for credit for farmers and sell the produce through cooperative societies so that the farmers may get full prices.

Shri Jain said that it had been decided that till the whole country was covered with cooperatives, traders should be licensed and controlled and compelled to sell the produce at a price which would be fixed after taking into account the payment made to the producer and the expenditure involved.

Referring to the third resolution of the Nagpur Congress, Shri Jain said that during the last ten or twenty years something had been done to organize agricultural work, but much had not been achieved on account of the absence of organization of farmers. He said that to organize villages and to infuse new life into them the Nagpur Session of the Congress had decided that the foundation of village life should rest on three pillars namely, Panchyat, Cooperative and School. The panchyat for looking after the administration of the village, the cooperative for arranging credit and marketing and the school for education.

The Food Minister expressed the hope that the farmers who had assembled at the Convention from all

parts of India would consider all problems in detail and evolve methods to solve them.

Shri Jain affirmed his faith that the future of India was in the hands of farmers and unless and until

farmers were happy and contented and strong India could not march ahead.

He said that the Council of the Krishak Samaj had a great responsibility to discharge and he expressed

the hope that it would succeed in solving the problems confronting it and enabling the Krishak Samaj to realize its goal, viz., the welfare of farmers.

Resolutions Passed By The All India Farmers' Council

The Council passed unanimously the following five resolutions.

The first resolution on "State Trading in Foodgrains" was proposed by Shri Hanumant Rao (Mysore) and seconded by Capt. Charan Singh (Punjab).

I. State Trading in Foodgrains

(i) The All India Farmers' Council has noted the statement made by the Minister for Food and Agriculture in the Lok Sabha on State Trading in foodgrains on the 2nd of April 1959 and is glad that a cautious beginning in State Trading is being made.

(ii) The primary objective of State Trading in foodgrains, as accepted by the Government, is to maintain price levels, which are fair both to the producer as well as to the consumer and to reduce to the minimum the disparity between the prices received by the farmer and the prices paid by the consumer throughout the season and over an agricultural cycle. The Council approves of this objective.

(iii) The scheme as announced falls into two parts. Firstly, the "interim scheme" to be worked till the establishment of full scale State Trading and the "ultimate pattern". In the interim period, the scheme provides that wholesale dealers will be permitted to function as licensed traders, who will make purchases on their own behalf but shall pay specified minimum prices to the farmer. The ultimate pattern provides for the collection of farm surpluses through service cooperatives at the village level and the channelling of the surpluses through marketing cooperatives and apex marketing societies for distribution through retailers and through consumers' cooperative societies.

(iv) While the Samaj generally welcomes the present scheme of the Government as it proceeds on the lines similar to those suggested by the Samaj to the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee, it feels that maximum vigilance would have to be exercised if the scheme is not to go astray at the hands of unscrupulous wholesale dealers and lack of adequate control by the supervising authorities. The Council feels that unless proper care is taken during the interim period itself,

the wholesale traders through their agents and village money-lenders may corner the stocks in the moffusil areas, pay very much lower prices than those specified by the Government to the growers on the ground of quality, etc. use traditionally false measures, insist on taking something extra without payment, etc., so that the benefit of minimum price envisaged in the scheme may not actually reach the producer.

(v) The Samaj also recommends that with a view to facilitate the speedy establishment of the ultimate pattern as suggested by the Government in the above scheme, it should introduce a system of bonus to be paid to farmers in case the foodgrains are delivered through Village Cooperatives or Market Unions of the farmers and sold at higher prices current in the markets.

(vi) The Council would like also to reiterate its faith in, and emphasise the need of the introduction of cooperative marketing on the largest possible scale at various points, especially in all the *mandis* in India. It, therefore, strongly suggests that the Government should take immediate steps to strengthen the cooperative sale-purchase societies or unions wherever they exist and help the members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj to bring into being such societies wherever they do not exist so that in the course of not more than a year or so every *mandi* will have a cooperative marketing organization. The Council thinks that this is the only way to subdue to a certain extent the instinct of profiteering at any cost by the private trade. Past experience also shows that as a rule cooperatives are unable to compete with private trade on equal terms. The Government should, therefore, take the utmost possible sympathetic view of their difficulties and protect them effectively from unfair competition and anti-social practices so rampant everywhere. It is only then that the cooperative organizations will be able to resort to grading, quality control and would be able to stand on their own legs. Without this assistance and adequate protection, cooperative marketing would find it impossible to succeed.

The Second resolution on "Co-operative Farming" was proposed by Shri Amrithnatha Aiyar (Kerala) and seconded by Sardar Satwant Singh (Punjab).

II. Co-operative Farming

(i) The All India Farmers' Council notes and generally approves the decision taken by the 64th session of the Indian National Congress held at Nagpur during January 1959 with regard to the future agrarian pattern of the country. The resolution passed at Nagpur envisages that the future agrarian pattern should be that of cooperative joint farming in which the land will be pooled for joint cultivation, the farmers continuing to retain their property rights and getting a share from the net produce in proportion to their land. Further, those who actually work on the land, whether they own the land or not, will get a share in proportion to the work put in by them on the joint farm.

(ii) As a first step, prior to the institution of joint farming, service cooperatives would be organised throughout the country. This stage is proposed to be completed within a period of 3 years. Even within this period, however, wherever possible and wherever agreed to by the farmers, joint cultivation may be started. The Lok Sabha has also endorsed the Nagpur Congress resolution envisaging the formation of service cooperatives as a first step towards introduction of joint cooperative farming.

(iii) The Samaj welcomes the bold decision of the Congress as the first step towards achieving a socialistic pattern of society and increasing the efficiency and productivity of the agricultural sector. Decisions in this particular sphere are in consonance with the aim, and ideals of the Bharat Krishak Samaj. Its however, wishes to emphasise the need to go ahead with speed to establish service cooperatives and urges liberal assistance to those who are prepared to resort to cooperative farming voluntarily and immediately.

(iv) In this connection, the Council wishes to bring to the notice of the Government the resolution passed by it in its 4th meeting in Amravati since in essence it still holds good, namely :

"The Farmers' Council feels that the efforts to organise, revitalise and strengthen the various types of societies can succeed only to the extent that cooperative principles and practices are accepted by the farmers and leadership is provided by them. This means that the farmers have to be educated and prepared to take part in the process and

guided properly to achieve the desired end through it. Such a stupendous task is beyond the capacity of the single agency of the Government.

"In every country of the world, wherever cooperation has succeeded in the field of agriculture, this process has been gradually achieved through the agency of the Farmers' Organizations, which not only provided the requisite education to their constituents, to own cooperatives principles but also provided all the guidance and technical skill required to set up cooperative societies for specific purposes and shown them the way to run them efficiently and achieve the desired object. To prepare the farmers of India to take actively to cooperation is a still greater and more arduous task and an active Farmers' Organization like the Farmers' Forum alone can help our nation to reach the cherished goal.

"The Council, therefore, requests the Union Government and also the Governments in the States that if they are really earnest to build an efficient and suitable Cooperative Movement in the country, they should not hesitate to take the organization of the farmers into confidence and strive to complete the process through this intermediary. Unless it is done, the Farmers' Council is confident that the Government will not be able to develop a really efficient Cooperative Movement in the country which will be of any real help to the farmer."

(v) The Council reiterates its resolve to help the Cooperative Movement in all its aspects and especially help the Service Cooperatives as well as Cooperative Farms wherever they may be set up. The Council, however, does not favour the idea of restricting the spread of the large-scale societies and somewhat exaggerated emphasis on small societies. The Council has no hesitation in stating its view that the chances of speedy success in the direction in which the Government is seeking to go are not likely to be very bright.

(vi) The Council thinks that the Government has not taken into proper account the history of the Cooperative Movement in the country for the last 50 years and the realities of the situation. The main reason for its failure in the past was its inadequate resources and lack of leadership. If undue insistence is placed on small societies the Council thinks that there is nothing to prevent the same unhappy experience being repeated because it is not possible to create leadership in every village overnight nor can any agency, governmental or otherwise, nor is it possible to advance to each small society even 10 per cent of the credit they require in spite of all the best we have. The Council, therefore, thinks that the Government should not give up the well-thought out scheme of the large-sized societies as they were envisaged and planned in the Second Five Year Plan and reiterates its demand made at its meeting at Bhubaneswar that the whole programme should be permitted to go forward unimpaired till the end of the Second Five Year Plan.

The third resolution on "National Farmer's Bank" was proposed by Capt. Charan Singh and seconded by Shri Rayan Gouda Patil.

III. National Farmers' Bank

The All India Farmers' Council reiterates the resolution passed in its 5th meeting held in New Delhi that a National Farmers' Bank should be established in the country to supplement the credit needs of the smaller agriculturists. It has noted the steps that have been initiated by the Central Office in this connection and calls upon the farmers of India to support the establishment of such a Bank in the country.

The fourth resolution on "Price Fixation" was proposed by Shri N. T. Karle (Mysore).

IV. Price Fixation

The All India Farmers' Council reiterates its resolution adopted in its 2nd meeting in September 1956 and 6th meeting in November 1958 and expresses satisfaction that the Indian National Congress in its 64th session in Nagpur has accepted the principle of the fixation of the minimum floor price for the crops reasonably in advance of the sowing season. In this connection it urges upon the Government that the question of the fixation of the minimum price for important agricultural commodities should be given the highest priority in any programme of higher food production in the country. The Council is also of opinion that a guaranteed economic price to the farmer acts as a great incentive for intensification of his efforts to produce more from his land. It also wishes to urge upon the Government that the fixation of any price for the agricultural commodities should be done in full consultation with the recognized organization of the farmers of India. The Council would also like to point out the delay that has already been observed in implementing price support policy. Occasionally it has been found that although a particular price for a particular commodity is announced as the minimum price the arrangements for purchases are either inadequate or inordinately delayed. The result is that a large body of farmers are not saved from avoidable losses. The Council feels that in future it will be seen that this kind of situation is not allowed to develop anywhere at any time.

The fifth resolution on "Agricultural Supplies" was proposed by Shri Anil Zhaveri (Bombay) and seconded by Shri M. C. Bondriya (M.P.)

V. Agricultural Supplies

(a) FUEL OIL : The All India Farmers' Council requests the Government of India that the diesel and all vapourising oils used by the farmers should be exempted from the levy of excise duty and a suitable system be evolved whereby the farmers are able to purchase the quantity of oil needed by them without any surcharge duty.

(b) AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY, SPARE PARTS AND TYRES : The All India Farmers' Council wishes to bring to the notice of the Government of India that considerable difficulty is being felt by the farmers in getting the spare parts of tractors which are being used by them on their farms. The Government of India during the past years have introduced a variety of models of tractors in the country. In several cases the import of those tractors have ceased with the result that spare parts for those tractors are not at all available today. In other cases, due to a severe curtailment in the quotas of the spare parts, it is very often impossible for the farmers to get the same. Very often the farmers have to wait for many months to get the supply of a small part which makes the tractors remain idle for very long time. This state of affairs is very much hampering the efforts which these farmers are putting in for increasing food production from their land. The Council requests the Government of India to liberalize the import of the spare parts so that farmers do not suffer on account of the shortage of the same. It further requests the Government of India to import only very few kinds of and tried models of tractors in the country so that farmers may be saved from difficulties which they may have to face during future years if they happen to purchase tractors which may be imported in small quantities to tide over the temporary shortage and which are bound to go out of market in future when tractors are progressively manufactured in the country.

(c) FERTILIZERS : The All India Farmers' Council also wishes to bring to the notice of the Government of India the difficulties that farmers are experiencing in the supply of fertilizers. As higher yield from land is very much in proportion to the amount of nutrition that is available in the soil, it therefore requests the Government to allot maximum funds and exchange so that it may be possible to import more fertilizers and their shortage may not seriously hamper the increase in the food production in the country. The prices of fertilizers also should be brought down to world prices.

(d) ELECTRICITY SUPPLY FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES : The All India Farmers' Council also desires to convey to the Government of India that wherever electric current is available, preference for supply invariably be given for purposes of agriculture. It also requests that the rate of unit of current for agricultural purposes should be much less than that charged for industrial use. It further requests the Government that the State Governments may be requested to carry out survey of areas where electric current is available and where wells could be dug and pumps could be installed for lifting water from them. The Council feels that lack of water for irrigation purposes is severely hampering the cause of agricultural production in the country and it suggests that immediate steps must be initiated in this direction so that agricultural production does not suffer till it is possible to have irrigation water from the major irrigation projects.

(e) INSECTICIDES : The Council requests the Government of India, to see that the imported insecticides are sold in the market at reasonable prices and look into the advisability of fixing them.



Shri B. D. Jatti

Jatti Opens Mysore Exhibition

“More than three-fourth of the population was working on land, but we were still not in a position to feed ourselves and had to import food worth crores of rupees every year”, said Shri B. D. Jatti, Chief Minister of Mysore, opening the Agricultural Exhibition held on the occasion of the 5th National Convention of Farmers at Mysore on May 2.

The exhibition was held at the Exhibition Grounds of Mysore in which a large number of agricultural, agro-industrial and rural industries firms, various departments of the State Government and Commodity Committees of the Government of India participated.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that the farmers were meeting at a time when living on land was becoming more exciting and more challenging.

He said that living on land was more exciting because the farmers of India had to employ better and yet better techniques evolved as a result of research.

Proceeding he remarked that living on land was becoming more challenging because with all the new discoveries available for use it was estimated that two out of three children in the world went to bed hungry.

He expressed the hope that farming business would become more rewarding and felt that until it became more rewarding enthusiasm could not be aroused among the farmers to produce more.

He concluded that the farmer had to be a good economist so that he could correctly decide what to buy and what to sell and he had to be a good agronomist so that he could rightly determine the proper seed rate, the proper time of planting and proper method of applying fertilizers.

Meetings of Commodity Committees of Krishak Samaj

The meetings of the six Commodity Committees of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, viz Plantation Crops, Fruits and Vegetables, Tobacco, Cereals and Pulses, Oilseeds and Sugarcane were held on May 1, 1959 at Mysore.

Addressing the large number of progressive farmers and experts who had gathered to attend the Commodity Committee meetings, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, President of Bharat Krishak Samaj suggested that the Committees should consider questions of increase in per acre production, improvement in quality, irrigation, soil moisture and conservation, adoption of improved agronomic practises, control of pests, diseases and weeds, marketing, processing, credit etc. along with other problems.

Plantation Crops

The Commodity Committee on Plantation Crops was presided over by Shri K. P. Amrithanatha Aiyer, Working President, Kerala Farmers' Forum.

The committee discussed important aspects of arecanut, cocount, cashew, cardamom, pepper, coffee and tea.

The committee felt that the results of research should be widely publicised and cooperative marketing should be organized on scientific lines in respect of arecanut.

As regards the storage of plantation crops, the committee recommended that warehouses should be constructed at *panchayat* and *taluk* levels.

Fruits and Vegetables

The meeting of the Commodity Committee on Fruits and Vegetables was presided over by Shri H. G. Patil of Bombay.

The Committee felt that Government should liberalize import of potash fertilizers. It was recommended

that wherever there were marketing committees a representative of the Krishak Samaj should be included in the committee.

Tobacco

The Commodity Committee on Tobacco was presided over by Shri R. L. Amin of Bombay.

The Committee felt that Government should not discriminate between tobacco and food crops while granting loans and subsidies for irrigational purposes. It recommended that income tax should be fixed not on acreage basis but on income basis.

Sugarcane

The Commodity Committee on Sugarcane was presided over by Shri J. P. Nanda of Orissa.

The meeting recommended that a committee consisting of cane growers, factory representatives, economists and technicians should be constituted on zonal basis to fix the price of cane, taking into consideration the cost of production of cane and sugar.

It was suggested that the operation's of laws regarding ceiling when fixed or proposed to be fixed by Government be not made applicable to sugarcane areas. There should be no Central or State Tax on diesel oil used for agricultural production. Cooperative sugar factories for areas where they do not exist should be brought into existence. The Government should take steps to improve the method of preparation and storage of Jaggery so that the ryots may obtain fair price.

Oilseeds

The meeting of the Commodity Committee on Oilseeds was presided over by Shri Satwant Singh of Punjab.

It recommended that growers should establish on cooperative basis small scale crushers or expellers to get maximum return from their produce. It was felt that export of oilseeds should be completely banned and oil should be exported instead. Oilcakes should be made available for feeding livestock or for use as manure.

Cereals and Pulses

The meeting of the Commodity Committee on Cereals and Pulses was presided over by Shri V. N. Kak of Rajasthan.

The meeting expressed the view that charges of irrigation should be uniform at least within a state and surplus water should be supplied free of charge in the interest of food production.

The committee recommended that prices of agricultural commodities be fixed and declared one year in advance so as to give incentive to the farmer to produce more.

Regarding manuring and Fertilizing the Committee recommended that soil analysis should precede manurial and fertilizer schedules and the V. L. W. should be trained to collect soil samples for analysis. Soil testing laboratories should be established at district levels.

As regards credit the Committee suggested that the sources of rural credit should be tapped and loans on low rates of interest be made available. The Committee suggested to suitably amend the rural indebtedness act and also for simplifying the procedure for granting loans.

Jain Gives Awards To Sugarcane Prize-winners

The South was doing much better than the North and the highest production of the South was twice that of the highest production of the North, said Shri A. P. Jain, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, at a function held in conjunction with the seventh meeting of the All India Farmers Council at Mysore on May 2.

Shri Jain was distributing prizes worth Rs. 20,000 to the winners of the All India Cane Competitions for the year 1956-57 and 1957-58 organized by the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee. Two silver shields were awarded to the villages in these regions which produced the first prize winner.

Congratulating the winners, Shri Jain said that the highest production in the South in 1956 was 115 tons, in 1957 it was 109 tons and it had risen to 150 tons this year. He regretted that the average production of the South was only 26 tons and remarked that this constituted evidence of the great difference between the yield of

a backward farmer and a progressive farmer.

He said that in the North the highest production had reached in 1957-58 to 66 tons and in the current year it was estimated that it would go to 94 tons. He said that the average yield in the North was only 13 tons.

Concluding, Shri Jain exhorted the farmers to concentrate on increasing the yield of sugarcane.

GOVERNING BODY MEETS AT MYSORE

The Governing Body of the Bharat Krishak Samaj held its thirteenth meeting under the presidency of Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, President of the Samaj at Mysore on April, 30.

The Governing Body considered the resolutions of the Fifth National Convention of Farmers and discussed questions relating to the Eleventh Ordinary General Conference of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers which is scheduled to be held at New Delhi from November 27 to December 5, 1959.



Shri A. P. Jain and Shri K. F. Patil going around the Exhibition at Mysore.

The meeting decided that the President of the Samaj might constitute a Reception Committee including members of the Samaj and representatives of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and in agricultural machinery trade to work out the details regarding arrangements in connection with the Conference.

MILK BOARDS TO BE FORMED IN STATES

The 13th meeting of the Animal Husbandry Wing of the Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India, which concluded its plenary session at Aarey Milk Colony (Bombay) on May 2 has recommended the setting up of Milk Boards in each State in order to secure efficient control over the handling and distribution of milk.

The Bharat Krishak Samaj was represented at the meeting by Shri V. N. Kak (Rajasthan), Shri Anil Jhaveri (Bombay) and Rajkumar Sanayaima Singh (Manipur).

PATIALA CELEBRATES FARMERS' NATIONAL DAY

The Farmers' National Day was celebrated on April 3 in the Community Development Block of Patiala (Punjab) with a view to arousing enthusiasm and securing full cooperation of farmers in successfully carrying out the Kharif Production Drive.

A conference was held at Village Kalyan under the auspices of the District Krishak Samaj of Patiala on the same day. Sardar Gurbux Singh Malhi, Block Development Officer, Patiala, presided over the meeting. Those present at the meeting included Sardar Basant Singh, President of the Patiala District Krishak Samaj, Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann, Organising Secretary of the Punjab State Krishak Samaj and a large number of Samaj workers and farmers.

Readers may kindly note that the Central Office of the Bharat Krishak Samaj has been shifted at the following address:

Central Office,
Bharat Krishak Samaj,
Exhibition Grounds,
Mathura Road,
New Delhi.

Efficient Marketing Indispensable for Economic Development

The F.A.O./E.C.A.F.E. technical meeting on marketing has recommended various measures for the development of efficient agricultural marketing to which special attention must be paid in "any plan of economic development that aims at eliminating poverty of the agricultural population, reducing consumer prices or earning more foreign exchange."

Nearly 40 delegates from Cambodia, Ceylon, China, Taiwan, Indonesia, Laos, Malaya, Pakistan and India and officials of the F.A.O. and E.C.A.F.E. participated in the meeting at New Delhi which was presided over by Shri R. T. Mirchandani, Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India and leader of the Indian delegation.

Shri Jain's Address

Inaugurating the meeting Shri A. P. Jain, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture said that in under-developed regions to which most countries of Asia and Far East happen to belong, the markets were not well organised. The farmers had little or no capacity to hold on. When the harvest was reaped, they brought their produce to the market which depressed the prices. In the lean period, however, the prices had a tendency to go up very high. He said that no person would deny the trader reasonable expenses of marketing, transport and handling, storage, interest on investment, recoupment of losses etc. and a reasonable profit. But few people would sympathise with weakness of the grower and make excessive and unearned profits by purchasing in the buyers' market and selling in the sellers' market.

Shri Jain said that in the matter of commodities necessary for the life of the nation, particularly the food-grains, India could not afford to run the risk of high prices. He said that India had adopted a system of planning for its agricultural, industrial, and social development. No planning could succeed without determining a standard of wage structure and cost of living, though such a standard could not always be too rigid. In a poor country like India 60 to 70% of the income of the lower wage group was consumed by the provision of food to the family. If food prices went up

all other prices would increase. Therefore, it could not be allowed that the middleman might play with food prices and thereby jeopardise the plan.

He added that the problems of marketing in the under-developed countries were many and complex. He was sure the meeting would consider these carefully. How to reduce the inequalities between the disparity in prices in years of plenty and years of scarcity? How to reduce the malpractices prevailing in the market which deprive the farmer of a fair return? How to control future trading without depriving the society of its benefits of equalised prices and assured supplies. How to standardise qualities were some of the problems, he said, which should be considered. These things were by no means capable of easy solution. But a desire to find practical solutions by experts and men of experience would go a long way towards their solution, he concluded.

Dr. Deshmukh's Address

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Agriculture addressing the concluding session said that most of the countries in Asia and Far East have a preponderantly agricultural economy. He recalled the emphasis that he had placed on the subject when he had the opportunity of attending a Technical Meeting on Cooperation arranged under the auspices of F.A.O. and I. L. O. in Ceylon and the two Regional Conferences for Asia and Far East that took place at Bangalore some years ago and the recent one at Tokyo.

At the Bangalore Conference, he had expressed his concern at the defective marketing of agricultural produce in India and had suggested that it would be worthwhile to study

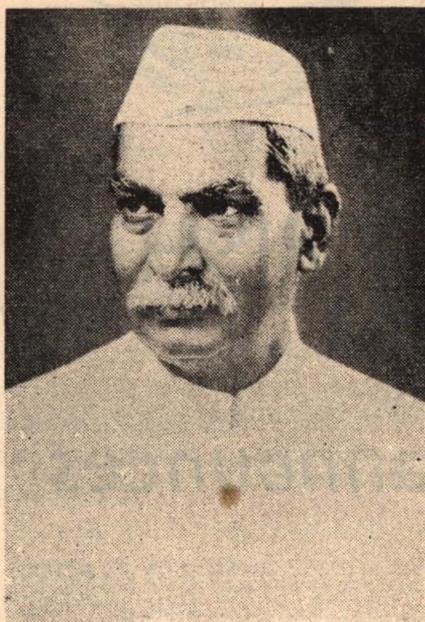
President Rajendra Prasad Inaugurates Kharif Campaign

Inaugurating the Kharif Production Campaign on May 15, the President Dr. Rajendra Prasad appealed to all farmers to work for increasing production of foodgrains so that their import might be stopped. He said that the farmers had to bear the responsibility of producing foodgrains in sufficient quantity needed by the country. The Government had made extensive arrangements for providing necessary help to them in this respect.

The President laid emphasis on the use of green manures and said that it should be made one of the chief objects of the campaign.

He appealed also to all connected with Agricultural Departments of the States to help in making the campaign a success and to carry the research information to farmers.

He was confident that if farmers utilised fully all facilities provided and adopted improved



methods, the Kharif drive would be a greater success compared to last Rabi Campaign.

the return which a producer of agricultural goods gets out of what he produces.

At the Tokyo meeting, he had emphasised cooperative marketing and suggested this as a basis for International Trade. He was glad to say that both the suggestions were welcomed by all the delegates.

Referring to India he said that the importance of the problem is being increasingly realised in this country in the context of planned programme for agricultural and industrial development. An integrated scheme of rural credit and marketing was already under operation.

Recommendations

Intended to enable countries of Asia and the Far East region to pool and exchange their experiences, the meeting discussed in detail the effectiveness of various approaches to

marketing improvement, the types of marketing research and surveys for guidance of policies, the organisation and working of government marketing departments and the specialised training of marketing personnel.

The meeting was of the view that greater competition between private enterprises should be induced as 90% of marketing of foodgrains was handled by private traders in several countries of the region. The lack of competition at the farm level was the main weakness of existing marketing systems and could be eliminated only by freeing individual farmers from obligations to sell their produce to the trader-creditors. This could be overcome to the extent farmers can obtain credit from other institutions.

The meeting drew a distinction between credit for production needed by the farmer and credit for marketing but emphasised that these should be linked by an integrated cooperative

system. It was felt that the progress so far achieved in this direction was not very significant.

The meeting maintained that warehousing of farm products was essential for orderly marketing and for ensuring regular supply of produce both during the peak and lean periods. In India Central and State warehousing Corporations have been established and Government capital was being provided for these projects. Receipts given for products stored in the warehouses could be used to obtain short-term loans from the banks.

The meeting emphasised the need for extension work both at the farm level and in the various markets and recommended the setting up of a marketing wing consisting of a number of qualified "practical" marketing specialists who could ensure that the marketing knowledge was passed on to the extension workers and traders.

The most immediate need, the meeting felt, was provision of specialised training in the field of marketing so that efficiency of service could be improved. It recommended that a centralised Regional Institute of Marketing should be established in the region for providing such training.

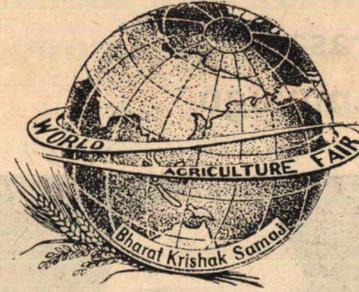
MYSORE DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh called upon the agriculturists to take up "mixed farming" in order to make agriculture more remunerative.

Declaring open the Mysore branch of the Mysore State Dairymen's Association on May 5 the Union Minister said at Mysore that the Government attached great importance to mixed farming and exhorted the farmers to take up to animal husbandry also. He added that it was difficult to have enough remuneration from agriculture alone.

Shri P. Thimma Reddy, Minister for Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh, said he was happy that the Mysore State ranked first in the programmes undertaken for the development of the cattle wealth in the country.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa, Union Deputy Minister for Agriculture, explained the Government's efforts to build up the cattle wealth in the country.



BHARAT KRISHAK SAMAJ

announces

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