

President's Appeal

THE Bharat Krishak Samaj views with grave concern the present situation arising out of the Chinese aggression. A

large section of the farmers of India have always borne the brunt of fighting on various fronts from times immemorial.

It is no exaggeration to say that many farmers' families have either fought on the battle-fronts or ploughed the land, that is to say they either wielded the sword or used the plough.

Even now the bulk of the fighting forces come from villages and belong largely to the farming community consisting of various castes and communities from the highest to the lowest.

Under the present crisis the Bharat Krishak Samaj pledges every support and co-operation to the Government.

It also appeals to the farmers all over the country to give unstinted support to bring about greater national solidarity and gird up their loins to be prepared to fight to the last man. Those who are not needed on the front should exert their utmost to produce more from their fields. We have no doubt that every farmer would respond to the appeal of the Prime Minister and contribute his utmost in various fields for the sake of the protection of the freedom of India.

P. S. Deshmukh



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Bharat Krishak Samaj Contributes to National Defence Fund

The Bharat Krishak Samaj has contributed a sum of Rs. 1,000 to the National Defence Fund. The staff of the Central Office of the Samaj have collected a sum of Rs. 350/- for the Fund.

All India Farmers Council

Fourteenth Meeting, Chandigarh, October 17 to 20, 1962

Summary Report

CHANDIGARH, the modern Capital of Progressive Punjab was the venue of the Fourteenth meeting of the All India Farmers' Council held from October 17 to 20, 1962. About 2000 members of the Council from all parts of India, including official and non-official agricultural experts and extension specialists participated in the processings. The Punjab Krishak Samaj with the active co-operation of the Government of Punjab had made elaborate arrangements for the lodging and boarding and transport of the delegates. Both the Legislators' Flats and the Hostel were placed at the disposal of the Punjab Krishak Samaj, by the Government of Punjab to house the delegates. A meeting of the Governing Body of the Bharat Krishak Samaj was held on October 17, 1962 at 9.00 a.m. at the Legislators' Hostel.

Inaugural Session

The Council meeting was held at the spacious hall of the Engineering College, Chandigarh. The inaugural session of the meeting commenced with an invocation song in Punjabi recited by the artists of the All India Radio, Chandigarh.

Welcoming the delegates, Shri Gurbanta Singh, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Punjab and Chairman, Reception Committee referred to Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh as the Great Builder of the Farmers' Forum. He further congratulated Dr.

Deshmukh for his success in creating a platform to the unfortunate farmers who did not have a voice of their own inspite of their bearing the brunt of the work that engaged them not for 8 or 12 hrs. a day, but to 24 hours even. The minister referring to the hard lot of the farmers remarked that inspite of hard work there was not enough profit in the occupation of the farmers on account of small holdings. He further praised the farmers of Punjab for having worked their way up to self sufficiency in 14 to 15 years inspite of having been dislodged from the position of the granary of India due to partition and brought about increased return of grain, cane, cotton, etc. He further informed the gathering that Punjab had drafted a bill for crop insurance, a necessity during natural catastrophes due to nature like floods, drought etc. and forwarded the same to the central Govt. He said that Punjab, inspite of its having had to face a number of calamities, had to its credit some pioneering success, like cooperative farming minor irrigation etc. He was of the opinion that it was the business of an organisation like the Bharat Krishak Samaj to educate the small farmers and make them conscious.

Address by the President

Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj in his address said that it was entirely due to the kindness of the Patron of the

Samaj, Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon, Chief Minister of Punjab and President of the Punjab Krishak Samaj, that there was this opportunity of holding the session of the Council at Chandigarh, the great Capital of the great Punjab. Complimenting the progressive and renowned farmers of Punjab for their having made a mark in producing better than most other farmers in the whole of India, Dr. Deshmukh said, "Actually, they have shown their skill, ability as well as adventure wherever they have gone all over the world. Their superiority over their other compatriots is already recognized and fully established. These great sons of India also realized the importance of Farmers' organization earlier than many and so they welcomed the Bharat Krishak Samaj most enthusiastically. By doing this, they have won the organization's and my own personal gratitude. Our pleasure is all the greater that this is the first opportunity of partaking their hospitality. It is a matter of great joy for us, therefore, to be amongst these very affectionate friends of mine and the Bharat Krishak Samaj whose kindness and consideration for me I can never forget as long as I live.

"To the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, I owe a personal debt of gratitude because he has helped the organization from its very birth. He was, I am glad to recall, Minister of Agriculture when the idea of this organization was mooted at Srinagar. He

supported it strongly and has maintained this support irrespective of the fact whether he was in charge of the portfolio of Agriculture or not. This has enabled us to make steady progress in the State of Punjab contributing greatly to the progress and prosperity of the Krishak Samaj in Punjab.

Sympathy for the sufferers

"I, however, regret to have to say that our coming here this year does not synchronise with better crops and happier times for the farmers of Punjab. A very large part of the State was visited by floods which has inflicted untold misery on the farming population and the other rural people; the farmers of more than 7 districts, such as Amritsar have lost considerable part of their crops and in some other districts the loss has not been negligible. The farmers of India were extremely sorry to hear of this, and I can safely say on their behalf that they felt every sympathy for them. It is a matter of still greater misfortune for the members of the Samaj that many other States like those of Assam, Bihar, Delhi and others have also suffered greatly from the same calamity. The Samaj would like to record its deep regret and express genuine sympathy for the sufferers. We have also suffered another great loss in the demise of Smt. Rajbansidevi wife of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who has been our Patron-in-Chief. Besides being a noble daughter, coming from a farming family, she was deeply interested in the country-women of India. She had, therefore, rightly agreed to be the first President of the Bharatiya Gramin Mahila Sangh, which organization came into being side by side with the Farmers' Forum in 1955 and of which Her

Highness the Maharani Sahiba of Patiala is now the distinguished President.

"From the time we met in Madras, a great many things have taken place and one of them is the fortunate fact that I am in a position now to devote more time to the organization since I am free from the office of the Minister of Agriculture. Luckily enough, this release came at a very opportune moment since I could take advantage of the opportunity to lead a farmers' delegation to the U.S.A. and study their agriculture, their system of credit, their co-operative movement, their marketing etc. at firsthand for a period of 9 weeks. During this visit I and my friends had the opportunity of knowing the real life, aspirations and condition of the farming community in USA. I was also invited not as a Minister of Agriculture but as the President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj for two weeks tour of West Germany. The West German Government wanted me to stay for six weeks but this I could not do because of the previously arranged programme of my visit to U.S.A.

Lessons from the tour

"Very briefly, I would like to tell you that as a result of these visits, I have learnt a great deal of things which are sure to be of very great use and value to the farmers of India. Besides knowing how the American people have very sincere feelings of friendship towards India and its people, we could see how hard work is a matter of religion with them. There is also high regard for dignity of labour and every farmer, man or woman, has to work extremely hard which, without seeing them working, it is not possi-

ble for us to realize. But more than the social contacts and sharing their affectionate hospitality, we have learnt certain things which are of material benefit to us. No sooner the farmers were taking to machines and therefore required oil, machine and spares for their use, the farmers' organizations undertook the task of making these things available through their organizations. Therefore, the task of supplying the requirements of the farmers through farmers' organizations was undertaken by them very early. At a later date they took to not only setting up various factories and industries for the benefit of the farmers but also took up life and other insurances. It is very important to note that the organizations themselves became insurance companies. Apart from the Nationwide Insurance Company, which is now claimed to be the biggest in the big and rich nation of America, there are various other insurance companies which are operated directly by the organizations themselves. For instance, there is in the South America an insurance company named Southern Farm Bureau Insurance Co. This is not a time to submit to you a complete report of what we saw, but it is purely as a result of my observations in the two countries that we are determined to establish two new co-operative organizations. The first is the Producers & Consumers Co-operative Association and the second is the Bharat Krishak Samaj General Insurance Company.

Co-operatives

"The members of the Council will recall how we had thought of co-operative farming long before anybody else talked about it with any emphasis and how we had resolved

in the very first Convention that we held in Delhi in 1955 that the members of the Samaj should encourage and promote the establishment of Co-operative farming in whatever way the farmers came forward voluntarily to agree. We then passed a resolution that there should be a cooperative marketing federation and this we brought into being on the auspicious day of 2nd October, 1958. Although the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation had many difficulties in the beginning, thanks to the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation, it is now receiving very great deal of support from them and is making very rapid progress. This is an organization four years' old but its work is equivalent to more than ten years in terms of the transaction it has put through. The Samaj came to the conclusion that the farmers must have their own bank. We had to wait for a few years before this resolution could be implemented, but at long last we did, in the year 1960, register this bank and start selling the shares. We have not done badly taking into account the inauspicious circumstances in which it was born, but we have no doubt that we will soon start business and we will also be able to show progress at a rate not very much slower than what the Marketing Federation was able to achieve.

"In the light of our experience, therefore, we feel confident that the two new co-operative associations we want to start will be able to achieve rapid progress and would be of great benefit to the farmers and other people of India. In bringing the producers and Consumers together, I think, we will be doing something which is new and unknown in India but which represents

the present trend of thinking in the advanced parts of the world. Farmers are producers of so many crops. It is not very profitable to sell these crops in raw conditions and more we can process them the greater is the benefit that the farmers can derive. The farmers have to face chronic difficulties even to market their unprocessed goods. So we want the farmers to market their goods properly and also to establish the processing units. After they have processed the products, we want to provide them with an agency of selling it to the consumers. The greatest merit of such operations would be that while on the one hand we would like to protect the interests of the producers and give them the best possible prices for what they produce, but on the other we want to take them to the consumers at as reasonable a price as is humanly possible. Secondly, no one can deny that the producer is also a very big consumer himself not only of the things that he produces but also many others which he does not produce. I have no doubt, therefore, that this idea is sure to be popular and successful. Of course, we may have to do many preliminary things before we launch on this endeavour. After-all it is going to be a commercial proposition and so we must make sure that we will succeed.

General Insurance

"I have mentioned that the American farmers took to life and other insurances. Life insurance in our country is a nationalised business and, therefore, we cannot ask for it although it would be desirable that the Government should permit co-operatives to operate in the field. But there is no such obstruction so far as general insurance is concerned. Therefore, we believe, we can

freely go in for it. The farmers have tractors, oil engines and pumps; they have to protect themselves from fire and other risks. The risks of motor car accident is also very great. For all these, it is desirable that the farmers should have their own insurance companies which, of course, will not confine its business only to farmers but other people also would be free to join. I happened to read the other day the report of the working of the Ruby General Insurance Company. The President deplored the fact that in India general insurance was so backward. I fully agree with him and, therefore, I am sure, they will welcome our organization taking up this activity, which is highly desirable for the progress of India. Here also we will have to study carefully the attending circumstances before we launch the project. But I hope it will not take long.

Impressions in U.S.A.

"Some of the things that impressed me most in the U.S.A. are as follows :

"The strikingly extensive cultivation of oranges in the State of Florida, which we visited. There is orange cultivation on both sides of the road on many of its fine roads and as far as eye can reach. It is a very attractive sight because every tree is full of vigour and burdened with oranges. Hardly a yellow or pale green leave is visible to indicate any deficiency of plant food. There also neither weeds nor any superfluous growth of any kind. Florida is indeed a predominantly orange-growing country so much so that one of the counties is known as Orange County. The total acreage under oranges in this State is said to be six lakhs of acres. In India we boast of Nagpur oranges and they are sold throughout India, but

should be tested properly of every field after four year and proper percentage of manure prescribed just as proper dosage of medicine is essential for bodily ailments. We should treat agriculture as an organised industry. In this age of planning we should guide the poor, ignorant and illiterate farmer and equip him with latest techniques and also enable him to buy cheap tractors and latest implements. I would invite people with missionary zeal to come forward and guide our peasants. Some kind of a religious passion or fervour is required which enables people from far off countries to go out and spread their message. Let the educated youth come out and show the way to their ignorant brethren. I must even say at the cost of repetition that it is not due to small holdings, increase in population etc., but it is due to lack of mechanisation and inability to change with the time and to adapt ourselves and the result is that the yield per acre in my country is pitifully low. Undoubtedly here and there, some individuals have shown brilliant results but this should be the common practice rather than only an exception. In traditional agriculture, production is primarily for home consumption and there is very little use of capital whereas in progressive agriculture, it is chiefly for the market and the capital is used extensively. In traditional agriculture there is a *cycle of low income, low savings and low capital formation which again results in low income* and our aim is to break this cycle, and also to assure that almost all the farmers take to progressive agriculture. The difference between the traditional and progressive agriculture can thus be re-phrased as difference between the traditional and the choice

making. So long as agriculture advances in productivity, it requires ever-increasing number of choices. Thus we need very strong research and extension service programme combined with developed human resources and human institutions in the country for bringing about desired change in our agriculture.

Role of Agriculture

Fortunately we have in our country political stability, proper law and order and political leadership, committed to development. These are the essential pre-requisites for sustained economic development. We have to create economic motivation and attitudes combined with necessary capital technology. We are concerned here with attitudes towards work, leisure, saving, investment, and particularly the ability and willingness to discuss and apply technological and institutional changes conducive to increase in output. We are in the phase of rising agricultural production with low capital and labour and intensive technology. In this phase, agriculture has to play a crucial role in overall economic development. Capital being the most limiting factor, it precludes enlargement of the average acreage per farm, and use of labour-saving agricultural machinery is also not largely possible because of unfavourable labour-capital cost relationships. In such an environment, technological advance favouring an intensive type of farming can provide the basis for rapid increase in agricultural production. Our discussions in this context should clearly bring out specific recommendations for the uplift of the farmers.

It must be realised that there is practically no more land that can be brought under cultivation without

further endangering the need for forests and grazing. Consequently, all the additional production has to be secured by raising the yield per acre. A few of the major factors for achieving this increase are fertilizers, irrigation, improved agricultural implements, good seed and plant protection measures.

Towards Higher Yield

Experiments conducted under zamindari conditions in the country have established that both nitrogenous fertilizers increase the yield of various crops substantially. Extensive use of the fertilizer is the dual need of the day.

Similarly, irrigation is another powerful instrument for increasing production, and has a three-fold role, viz. larger yield per acre, greater response to fertilizers applied and possibilities of growing two or more crops in a year. Large investments of governmental spending on agriculture have been devoted to creating a sizeable irrigation potential in the country. This will go a long way in augmenting agricultural production.

Apart from fertilizers and irrigation, the use of improved seed has a considerable scope for increasing agricultural production. Adequate production of good quality seed and its supply to the farmers in larger quantities are the two problems. Improved seed should be multiplied in each village and distributed through the co-operative agency to saturate the entire area in the village during the Plan period.

Emphasis on increasing production cannot be complete unless some care is taken in minimising losses to standing crops in the field as well as their produce in storage from insect pests and diseases. I can venture to state that the use of appropriate

plant protection measures are not being exploited to the desired extent by the farmers. As everyone would appreciate, pest control is one aspect of farming, where nothing short of a concerted intensive effort would help.

A change in cropping pattern in our developing economy seems essential to increase the income of the farmer. Diversified farming seems to be answer to this to keep pace with income in other sections.

Economics of Agriculture

A basic condition for increasing production is that the farmers must have the necessary capacity and incentive to produce more. Apart from supplying to the farmers, technical guidance and financial assistance, they have to be assured of economic returns for their land, labour, capital and initiative. One aspect of this assurance is the prices for agricultural commodities. It is well that over a period of time, Government's concern on this element of public policy has been on the increasing side. It will, of course have to be admitted that price policy for agriculture is not a simple issue to resolve. Rather it has to be viewed within the larger context of the needs and direction of the over-all national economy. I would favour that instead of just passing a simple resolution in this behalf, the Council should sponsor an immediate expert study on this problem and place the farmer's view-point as a logically developed case in the hands of policy makers. Linked with it is also the question of rationalising the market structure, so that the terms of trade are balanced in favour of the producers. The policy in this behalf will have to be both institutional as well as educational, and I am sure,

some clear-cut ideas can be thrown into the discussions by the participating leaders in this meeting.

Another form in which economic certainty can be provided to the farmers, is through the programme of crop insurance. Punjab has already taken a lead in this direction. Very soon we will be launching one of the most dynamic experiments in agricultural development. We will, of course, be greatly benefited if you can give us the benefit of your mature thoughts on this project, the pit-falls we may avoid and also the guide-lines on which we might proceed.

Capital scarcity being one of the predominant handicaps of our agriculture no less attention needs to be paid to the prevailing farm credit policies. The most important problems of credit are its provision on the basis of production, capacity of the borrower, rather than how much tangible security he can offer, fuller use of the credit thus advanced and lastly linking credit with marketing. Our objective here should be that farmers are able to get as much credit as the need and full guarantees exist against any possible misuse. No Government can pump out entire need of capital from its resources. Additional capital can only be available if farmers learn to save more for production investment instead of spending on ceremonial occasions. Small-saving Schemes should have higher priority with the farmer.

I shall now divert my thinking to some of the institutional aspects of the problem of increasing agricultural production and making it more profitable for the farmer. The most important one, on only list, is the present approach of working

with the farmer. It has been developed, perhaps, in the closed circuit frame-work, which emphasises that good farming only needs good seed, manure, irrigation and other improved agronomic practices. It tends to ignore the economic implications of farmers' limitations in terms of resources, facilities, interests and know-how. I believe, this is one strong reason why lots of farmers do not fall in for progressive agriculture, how-so-ever alluring their gains may be. Our extension agency in agriculture needs to be oriented, much more in what is known as the concept of farm-management planning. Correctly handled, this may turn out to be one of the strongest tools of transforming the character of agriculture in India from a mere way of life to an enterprise based on sound business principles.

Experiment tells that the farmer builds up confidence through change of attitude. This change can be brought about through proper education, demonstrations and effective action programmes. Krishak Samaj is the right body for initiating such action.

My humble suggestion would be that the Krishak Samaj should help produce workers of missionary zeal who should carry the knowledge from the laboratory to the field. The Krishak Samaj should be a movement for peasant awakening, more production, intensive cultivation, application of latest scientific technique, etc., by demonstration, dissemination of knowledge etc. Once again let me thank you for the honour you have done to me by asking me to inaugurate this important meeting. I sincerely hope that your stay here will be comfortable and the session extremely fruitful."

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Election of the President

After the inauguration of the Council by Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon, Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh requested the Chief Minister to preside over the election of the new President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj. Shri Nand Kishore Narain from Bihar proposed the name of Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh, the outgo-

The Second Session of the Council began at 9 a.m. on October 18, 1962. Dr. Punjabrao S. Deshmukh, President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj was in the Chair.

The election of the four Vice-Presidents of the Bharat Krishak Samaj was taken up. A proposal to delegate necessary powers to the President to nominate the four Vice-Presidents of the Samaj, was moved by Shri Kartar Singh Diwana from Punjab and was seconded by Capt. Ratan Singh, Dy. Minister for Agriculture, Punjab. It was unanimously decided that the President be delegated with such powers. The President thanked the delegates for reposing such confidence in him and informed the house that he would announce the names of the Vice-Presidents at a later date.

The President then requested Shri R. B. Deshpande, Secretary, Bharat Krishak Samaj to present his report.

Secretary's Report

The 13th meeting of the All India Farmers Council was inaugurated in Madras on March 8, 1962 by Shri Subramaniam, then Finance Minister of Madras. The meeting was held during the 8th National Convention of Farmers. The two events synchronised with the closing stages of the Second National Agriculture Fair. The Council meeting was well attended.

ing President for re-election which was seconded by Capt. Ratan Singh, Dy. Minister for Agriculture, Punjab. Since there was no other proposal Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh was declared elected unanimously.

Presentation of shares for the Farmers' Cooperative Bank

Shri Ajit Singh of Punjab and

Second Session

New Council

We very heartily welcome the new Council Members. While welcoming them and earnestly hoping that their sincere advice and cooperation will always be available to us in steering the activities of the Samaj, we sincerely thank the outgoing members for serving on the Council and for their valuable advice from time to time during the tenure of the Council. It is our earnest hope that even though they may not now be on the Council, they would continue to take the same keen interest in the Samaj as in the past.

Punjab Floods

You all very well know how the recent unprecedented floods in the Punjab have brought in their wake untold devastation and misery to the people of Punjab. The loss of property, crops, cattle etc. has been colossal. The farmers have been the worst sufferers. At this distressing time they need our sympathy. Therefore, on behalf of the B.K.S. and you all I express our deepest sympathy for their suffering and assure them that we all share with them their loss and grief. It is our sincere hope, nay we are confident that the farmers of this State well known for their indomitable courage, pluck and rare ability to rise to the occasion, will very soon come back to their normal life. Our sympathies also go to the farmers of Bihar,

Shri V. Venkat Rao from Mysore then presented their collections of the shares money and life membership fees for the Farmer's Cooperative Bank Ltd. and Bharat Krishak Samaj respectively to the President.

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

Assam and other parts of the country who have like wise suffered due to floods, drought and locust infestation.

Shri Sharma's Resignation

An event of mixed joy & sorrow occurred during the period under report. This was the resignation of Shri K.D. Sharma of the post of Secretary, Bharat Krishak Samaj which he had held since the birth of the Samaj. This was necessitated due to Shri Sharma accepting a whole time assignment as the Secretary-General, of the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation. The Governing Body which met on the 9th and 10th May, 1962 had no alternative but to accept the resignation. The Governing Body while accepting the resignation placed on record its appreciation of Shri Sharma's most valuable and devoted service to the Samaj. I take this opportunity of expressing on your and my behalf our appreciation for Shri Sharma's excellent work for the Samaj and of wishing him health, happiness and success in his new assignment.

The proposal to appoint Shri R.B. Deshpande, then Jt. Secretary, Bharat Krishak Samaj, as Secretary of the Samaj in place of Shri Sharma, was unanimously approved by the Governing Body.

New Constitution

An important event that took place during the period under report

was the adoption of the new Constitution for the Samaj. The Draft Revised Constitution was thoroughly examined by the Governing Body at its meeting held on May 9 & 10, 1962 and was adopted unanimously after making some modifications. This Constitution proposes to have uniformity of organizational set-up in all the State Krishak Samajs. The provisions extend to units right upto the village level. The Constitution came into force on August 15, 1962, the Independence Day.

It is expected that the State Krishak Samajs will take early steps to implement the Constitution in their respective States. In its last meeting the Governing Body had authorised the President to consider any difficulties arising out of its application and report the matter to the Governing Body in due course.

The President Honoured

As already reported in the August issue of *Krishak Samachar*, Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj during his recent visit to U.S.A. was honoured by the National Farmers Union, U.S.A. by making him its Honorary Life Member. This is a rare and unique honour for our President for which I, on your behalf and mine, felicitate him most warmly and also express our appreciation to the National Farmers Union for bestowing this honour on him.

Krishak Samachar in Marathi

As most of you are perhaps aware, the Maharashtra State Krishak Samaj on completing the target of enrolment of 3000 life members of the Samaj was permitted by the President, as his promise, to publish the '*Krishak Samachar*' in Marathi from August 1962. The State Samaj has accordingly undertaken the task and has done

quite well. On this achievement the Samaj deserves our sincere congratulations. Out of this numbers, it must be recorded with gratitude and gratification that the Jalgaon District Krishak Samaj alone has enrolled over 2000 life members. This most outstanding performance deserves our highest commendation and thanks.

It may not be out of place to mention here that the Punjab State Krishak Samaj is also well on its way to achieve the target of having enrolled 3000 life members. As soon as this happens, the State Samaj will be requested to make proposals for making, the '*Krishak Samachar*' matter available to the Punjabi-speaking farmers in the Gurumukhi script.

Election of Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon as Patron of the Bharat Krishak Samaj

I feel very happy and proud to report that Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon, the celebrated Chief Minister of Punjab State Krishak Samaj, was unanimously elected to be the Patron of the Bharat Krishak Samaj by the Governing Body at its meeting held on the 9th & 10th of May this year. As the President then recalled Sardar Sahib is not only the President of the State Samaj but is one of the co-founders of the organization. He was not only present at the Srinagar Conference when the idea was conceived but lent his active and whole-hearted support as the Minister in-charge of Agriculture of the State of Punjab. He has given every possible help to the Samaj ever since and has taken the most active interest in its progress. The Bharat Krishak Samaj owes him a great debt of gratitude and it was therefore, fitting that this Patronship of the Samaj was conferred on him.

National Agriculture Fair, Bombay

Preparations for the Third National Agriculture Fair to be held in Bombay are progressing satisfactorily. The Fair will open on January 14 and close on February 28, 1963. The site for the Fair selected earlier in Kalanagar at Bandra was rather small for holding such a Fair but a bigger site being made available subsequently at Ville Parle, it has been decided to hold the Fair at this site.

The office of the Fair was started in Bombay during the first week of July 1962 and invitations were extended as usual to the Ministries of the Government of India, State Governments, Trade in Agricultural Machinery, Plant Protection Chemicals and Equipments, the Food Industries and a large number of manufacturers and dealers in miscellaneous goods. Invitation were also extended to some Embassies in India to put up displays in the Fair.

The response from them is quite encouraging. It is expected that 10 States of the Indian Union, 4 or 5 Ministries of the Govt. of India besides the Trade in Agricultural Commodities will participate in the Fair.

The President, National Agricultural Fair constituted as usual a local Advisory Committee of the Fair consisting of Ministers and high ranking officers of the Maharashtra Government and Government of India stationed in Bombay besides a few public men and representatives of Maharashtra Krishak Samaj. The Advisory Committee held its first meeting in Bombay on September 6, 1962 which was addressed by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Y.B. Chawan. The Chief Minister offered full cooperation on behalf of the Government of

Maharashtra and also requested the representatives of all Departments present in the meeting to lend their full cooperation to make the Fair a success.

The Fair office now shifted to the new site and will very shortly start the work of layout of plots, etc.

Rules and regulations and prospectus and the site plan of the Fair have been printed.

Afro-Asian Conference on Rural Reconstruction

The Second Afro-Asian Conference on Rural Reconstruction was held in Cairo from March 19 to 31, 1962. Eighteen nations and F.A.O., AFRASEC, Arab League and AID (Washington) participated. The Conference was inaugurated by the Vice-President of U.A.R. and addressed by Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj Shri V. V. Patil and Shri N. Basu, Members of the Governing Body of B.K.S. represented B.K.S. Their expenses were met by the Asia Foundation for which the Samaj is grateful to the Asia Foundation.

The most important decisions taken by the Conference were the adoption of the Constitution and setting up of the Organization (Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization—ARRO in short) in New Delhi under the charge of Shri K. D. Sharma as Secretary General. The conference discussed the following subjects: (i) Problems on Rural Reconstruction in Afro-Asian countries, (ii) Establishment of Farmers' Organizations in Afro-Asian countries, (iii) Cooperative preparation and Management, (iv) Freedom from Hunger Campaign, (v) Exchange of Farmers and Technical Personnel between Member countries, (vi) Setting up of Farmers' Agriculture Cooperative

Banks on the National and International Level, (vii) Development of Trade on Cooperative Basis between Afro-Asian countries.

Programme for 1962

It is gratifying that a few State Krishak Samajs have already taken steps to implement the Samaj programme for 1962, which was approved by the Council at its last meeting in Srinagar in October 1961. It is earnestly hoped that the other State Krishak Samajs will also give their serious attention to the matter and take very early action to implement the programme, particularly the organization and strengthening of the State Offices.

The Manipur Krishak Samaj as has been stated earlier, was not only the first to implement the new Constitution, but it has already planned to hold the Second Agricultural and Industrial Fair in early 1963. The very first such fair they held was a tremendous success. This was the unanimous view of all the people of the State, political leaders, officials, farmers and others. The Govts. of Assam, Nagaland, the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the All India Handicrafts Board and U.S.I.S. are expected to participate in the Fair besides the Departments under the Manipur Administration & the Manipur Territorial Council. Tripura, NEFA and U.S.S.R. are also likely to participate. The Manipur Krishak Samaj deserves our sincere congratulations for giving the lead to the rest of the State Krishak Samajs. It is earnestly hoped that the latter will not lag much behind Manipur in undertaking this rewarding activity.

Life Membership

Since we met in Madras in March, 1962, the life membership

has increased from 7, 623 to 8005. Besides this number the Gujarat State Krishak Samaj has recently enrolled 41 life members but the Central Office has not so far received the membership fee in respect of them. I would like our State Krishak Samaj Secretaries and life members achieve a target of at least 15,000 life members by April 3, 1965, when the Samaj completes ten years of its existence. Our pace in enrollment of life members as you will yourself realise, is rather slow and unless we make concerted efforts, I am afraid, we may not be able to achieve even this revised and very modest target. I have, therefore, to earnestly request you not to spare yourselves in this task and to see that this target is achieved and our Organization is further strengthened.

Commodity Councils

One of the resolutions passed by the All India Farmers' Council at its last meeting held in Srinagar in October, 1961, was the setting of the Commodity Councils. The resolution urged the President Bharat Krishak Samaj to take immediate steps to set up Councils of growers Jute, cotton, sugarcane, tobacco and fruits and vegetables.

As a first step to implementing the resolution, conferences of growers of jute, cotton, sugarcane and tobacco were held during the last Convention of Farmers held in Madras in March, 1962. For want of time the conference of fruits and vegetable growers could not be held. The delegates to the Convention approved of the idea of setting up of the Councils. A sub-committee was constituted by the President to draft rules and regulations for the Councils. The Conference of Tobacco growers also prepared draft rules and regulations for the

Tobacco Council which with modifications could be applicable to the other Council also. These were approved by the Convention subject to confirmation by the Governing Body.

The Governing Body which met in March 1962 thought that these rules and regulations were virtually a constitution. What was needed was a set of rules for the functioning of the Councils within the set up of the Samaj. The Governing Body therefore requested the President to frame suitable rules and regulations (bye-laws) on the lines suggested by Shri K.D. Sharma, then Secretary. Owing to the President's being out of India since then for a considerable time, it has not been possible for the President to devote time to this. It is hoped that the bye-laws will be framed before long.

Farmers Exchange Programme

The Second group of eleven Indian Farm Leaders selected by the Standing Committee of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, the selection being approved by Farmers & World Affairs of U.S.A., the sponsoring organization, visited U.S.A. under the Exchange Programme. The group stayed in U.S.A. for about eight weeks this summer. Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj led the group. Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining the pass-ports with the result that there was delay in the departure of the group and not only that but the members could not even leave in a group.

After a brief orientation in Washington, the group visited Florida, Alabama, Missouri, Colorado, Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania and went back to Washington where it had its final evaluation of the programme. Besides studying

the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, field and truck crops, the group also studied the working of farm organizations, cooperatives, Land Grant College System, the activities of the Tennessee Valley Authority in respect of fertilizer research, flood control, irrigation, drainage, generation of electricity, navigation, etc. The group also visited a number of experimental stations and demonstration farms.

The group stayed in the homes of U.S. farmers in some of the States. It left New York for India on August 4, 1962.

Throughout their stay in U.S. the group looked forward to studying improved farming technique adoptable to our small farm holdings and tried to discover ways in which the Krishak Samaj could be developed to help Indian farmers produce more food and fibre. The visit was also useful in bringing about closer understanding, goodwill and spirit of cooperation between the farmers of the two countries.

Realising the benefits of this Exchange Programme, the Farmers & World Affairs have proposed that the programme may be intensified by exchanging two groups of farm leaders in a year instead of only one as hitherto. The Bharat Krishak Samaj has provisionally approved of the proposal and is taking steps accordingly.

We take this opportunity of expressing our sincere gratitude to the Farmers & World Affairs, the U.S. Farm Organizations, U.S. Govt. and the U.S. host families for making this excellent programme possible. The generous hospitality of the U.S. People, and particularly of the farmers, is greatly appreciated.

Presidents' Visit to European Countries :

At the invitation of the Govt. of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr. Deshmukh and two members of the National Agriculture Fair visited Germany from May 15 to June 7. They saw the Agriculture Fair in Munich and also visited the sites and had discussions with the Directors of the Hannover and Berlin Exhibition. During these three weeks tour of Germany the delegation visited Bonn, Stuttgart, Heidelberg, West Berlin, Hanover and Branswick and saw a number of cooperative farms, Rural Credit Cooperatives, Rural Commodity Cooperatives, Marketing Cooperatives etc., and studied their working.

The President attended the I.F.A.P. Executive Committee meeting at Paris on Sept. 25, 1962. He also visited on his return journey London, Bonn & Frankfurt.

Award of Kairon Gold Medal to Dr. Amrik Singh Cheema

You will be very happy to learn that Dr. Amrik Singh Cheema, the enthusiastic Secretary, Punjab Farmers' Forum, was awarded a Special gold medal named 'Kairon' Gold Medal named after the illustrious Chief Minister, Punjab and President Farmers' Forum, Punjab, in recognition of his valuable services to the State Samaj. As Dr. Cheema was not present at the time of the prize distribution ceremony held in Madras during the last Convention, the medal is being awarded to him on the occasion of the Council meeting. On behalf of the Samaj and you all I warmly congratulate Dr. Cheema on the honour done to him which he really deserves.

Before concluding this report, I wish to express my deep sense of

gratitude to the Presidents, Secretaries and other workers of the State Krishak Samajs for giving their unstinted help and co-operation in the past in running the Organization. I take this opportunity of earnestly requesting them that they may kindly give their help and cooperation to me in a still greater measure in the execution of my onerous duties.

After the conclusion of the Secretary's Report, a condolence resolution on the sad demise of **Smt. Rajbansi Devi**, wife of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Ex-President of the India and Ex-Patron-in-Chief of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and **Dr. B.C. Roy**, Chief Minister of West Bengal was moved from the Chair and was passed unanimously. The house stood up and observed silence for two minutes as a mark of respect to the departed souls.

A resolution of sympathy with the people particularly farmers, who had to undergo untold misery due to the recent floods in a number of States in India, specially Punjab was moved by **Col. G. S. Dhillon** from Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Kartar Singh Diwana; (Punjab) seconded the resolution said, that the farmers should be given relief not in the shape of loans. He further said that the relief given should be in kind.

Shri V. G. Sukumaran (Kerala) said that floods were an annual occurrence in a number of States in India and suggested that measures for the prevention of floods should be undertaken.

Speaking on Col. Dhillon's resolution **Shri Nand Kishore Narain** of Bihar, said the recent floods had played havoc in Bihar. He further said that the farmers in his State who had been experiencing this

calamity for the past three years have suffered so much that they had to sell their lands in order to return the takavi loans of twelve crores of Rupees, which the Government is persistent in collecting inspite of this misery. He also pointed out that there were instances where lands worth Rs. 1,000/- were sold at Rs. 400/-. He further requested the President and other members to visit the villages in Bihar in order to get a clear picture of the sufferings of the farmers.

Shri Yashwant Singh (Punjab) said that he was very much pained to see the Governments, attention was only on the collection of taxes and takavi loans even during this catastrophe, instead of rendering help to the suffering farmers.

Commenting on the speeches delivered in connection with the resolution, **the President** said that there were enough funds at the disposal of the Central Government for this purpose and they had made proper arrangements in this connection, but the difficulty was that enough advantages could not be secured from the State Governments due to lack of funds. He further informed that since the days when **Shri C. D. Deshmukh** was the Finance Minister, it had been declared by the Government that maximum relief should be given to the farmers in this connection and the Centre contributed half of the expenditure incurred by the States in this regard for which no account was to be rendered. He also said that in the event of the expenditure incurred by the States exceeding 2 crores of rupees the contribution of the centre would be 75%. He regretted for the unfortunate financial helplessness of the States to incur any expenditure in this regard thus allowing the

funds available at the Centre to remain unspent.

Capt. Ratan Singh Dy. Minister for Agriculture Punjab said that the Government had not only taken measures for relief but had temporarily suspended collection of taxes.

Sarwashri Naik from Nagpur, **Rayangowda Patil** from Mysore and **Madhusudan Singh Bedi** of Punjab also participated in the discussions.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

The next resolution taken up for discussion was on Land Tax Policy.

Moving the resolution **Shri Nand Kishore Narain** said that the Bharat Krishak Samaj was really concerned with the increasing land taxes levied by the Governments. He added that the Samaj is convinced that such increasing burden would create discontent amongst the farmers and would result in disruption affecting the Third Five Year Plan. At this delicate condition, the Nation needed the goodwill of the farmers. He further said that over and above the land tax the Kisans were made to bear the major brunt of the direct and indirect taxes in view of their being 77% of the total population, as well as other taxes like Land Revenue, Road Cess, Cane Cess, Water tax, Education Cess and Betterment Levy, not in cities. He complained that crores of rupees were being spent on constructions in cities, and a farmer who had to incur expenditures on fertilizers, ploughs and other implements was made to give for Road Cess, Cane Cess, Water Cess etc. by the Government. He said that the increase in Land Tax day by day was very destructive affecting the development of the country.

Seconding the resolution **Shri Virendra Varma, Uttar Pradesh** said that U.P. was producing 55% of India's Sugar production. He said that the farmers of his State were facing a number of hurdles and were backward without any investing power. He complained that while there was an income level of Rs. 3,000 for other earners for taxation, the farmers were forced to pay tax without reference to any income level. He suggested that it was not sufficient to pass only resolutions but to send delegations to wait on the Governments.

Chowdhary Surajmal of Punjab, felt that passing resolutions would not be enough and felt the need for a strong organisation in order to adequately voice the grievances of the farmers.

Shri Bishan Man Singh of Uttar Pradesh suggested that the matter should be taken up with the Prime Minister through a deputation and we should also approach the Planning Commission without whom nothing could be achieved.

Shri Ajit Singh Chowdhary of Punjab said that 75% of the farmers were economically backward and further taxation would deteriorate their condition further. He added that the farmers had already several burdens of taxation in addition to his feeding the middlemen who were nothing but parasites on them. He said that even a shoe maker was in a position to assess his cost enabling him to refuse to take a lower price, but the farmer had no such basis. He further stressed the need to strengthen the organisation.

After the close of **Shri Ajit Singh's** speech the meeting was adjourned for the after noon.

After-noon

When the meeting was resumed

after-lunch the President announced the continuation of the discussion on Land Tax Policy.

Shri Ram Chandra Pandey of Madhya Pradesh while agreeing with the need for improving the miserable living conditions of the farmers, wanted that the possibilities of successful implementation of the Third Five Year Plan, should also be considered.

Shri Ram Sivam (Madras) informed that in his district, Kanyakumari, there was a basic land tax of Rs. 2/- per acre in addition to Re. 1/- per acre for irrigated lands and that on the income earned from crops there was no tax for the first Rs. 3,000/-, above which there was taxation according to slabs like 0.09 nP. for the next Rs. 2500/- and so on. He said the system was introduced by Sir C.P. Ramaswami Iyer, during his Dewanship when Kanya Kumari was in Travancore State. Sardar Gobindar Singh of Punjab recommended that no tax should be levied up to 10 acres or up to an income of Rs. 3,600/-. He also referred to the speech of the Union Minister for Food and agriculture in the Parliament in which he gave a categorical assurance that small farmers would not be taxed.

Shri G.G. Mehta of Gujarat, after describing the pitiable plight of the Indian farmer, said that a farmer was the producer as well as the consumer who stood to lose both ways selling the produce at a disadvantageous price and buying an exorbitant price. He further said that switching over to cash crop was a phenomenon and would lead to large scale import of food grains. He also suggested a Tripartite Conference of labour, Capitalists and Government which would prove useful. He wanted that tax should

be levied only on cash crops.

Shri Dayanidhi Sahu of Orissa said that it stood to reason that landowners had to pay taxes but the taxes should be according to the paying capacity. He suggested forming a sub-committee to study the basis of taxation.

Shri Gurbanta Singh Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Punjab advocated the strengthening the voice of the farmers. He added that taxes were necessary to meet the cost of various development programmes which could not be given up. He felt that the first and foremost question was giving the farmer his full price. He assured that due consideration will be given to the resolution when placed before the Government. He also wanted that unless the farmers raised their united voice no body would take notice of them. He appealed to the farmers of the country to strengthen the Bharat Krishak Samaj, under the leadership of Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh.

The suggestion of the member from Orissa was accepted and a sub-committee with **Shri Gon from West Bengal, Shri Rayangowda Patil from Mysore, Shri G.G. Mehta from Gujrat and Shri Nand Kishore Narain from Bihar** as members to draft the resolution for consideration in the next meeting was set-up.

The next resolution that was moved was on sugarcane Industry. Moving the resolution, **Shri Nand Kishore Narain from Bihar** stated that the Government while linking the price of sugarcane with sugar recovery, failed to see that the mills did not have the necessary facilities ascertain the exact recovery. He was convinced that there were a number of malpractices in the mills and that the cane growers were being exploited. He complained that the

prices had gone down considerably and felt that it was necessary to appoint a committee to go round and collect fact and figures.

Shri Kartar Singh Diwana from Punjab seconding the resolution of **Shri Nand Kishore Narain**, said that the prices of sugarcane had been steadily going down year after year. He wanted that the sugar content should be ascertained by scientific methods in the presence of the cane growers.

Mr. Virendra Varma from U.P. supporting the resolution said that farmers had not been given their due share of the excess profit promised to them. He felt that the mill labour and the owner had gained making the farmer lose his share. He further said on account of a number of factors, like the failure of the Research Stations in recommending diseasefree canes etc., the yield and recovery had suffered and wanted proper investigation. **Shri Sundararajan from Kerala** referred to the price fixing formula and said that it was reasonable to give a better price for a better quality. He was of the opinion that a grower's representative working in the laboratory alongside the mill owner's staff in testing the quality would go a longway.

The Third Session of the Council meeting was held at 3 p.m. on Oct. 19, 1962 with **Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh** in the Chair.

Speaking on the resolution on Land Tax Policy, redrafted by the sub-committee, **Shri Nand Kishore Narain**, the mover of the resolution observed that some new taxes, not envisaged before, were levied on the farmers who had no capacity to pay. He also wanted that the farmers, who were being asked to produce

Shri Babu Lal Bhiva of Madhya Pradesh said that the dispute between the grower and the millowner was a long standing one and wanted the Government to solve this dispute by nationalising the sugar industry if necessary. He further pointed out that a cane grower had to spend more on transporting his produce to the mill than on actual cultivation. The solution he suggested was setting up of small units of sugar mills in villages.

Shri Ajit Singh of Punjab stated that the condition of the cane growers was not so bad even during the British rule. He expressed a number of difficulties of the price recovery formula on account of different types of cultivation depending upon the soil and the variety of the cane. He said that even the price of fire wood was much more than the price paid by the mill owners for sugar-cane. He also felt the necessity for nationalisation of the sugar industry.

Another sub-committee, consisting of **Capt. Ratan Singh, Dy. Minister for Agriculture, Punjab, Sarwashi Virendra Varma, Sundararajan and R. Srinivasan**, was formed to redraft the resolution.

The meeting was adjourned for the next day.

Third Session

more day in and day-out, should be given incentives. He wanted that a sum of Rs. 3,600 should be fixed as income not taxable and the income above the ceiling should be taxed. He asked why should the farmers alone be made an exception to the system of a particular income level for taxation.

Shri Sukumaran Nair of Kerala described the plight of the farmers in his State. He said that for the purpose of calculating Agricultural

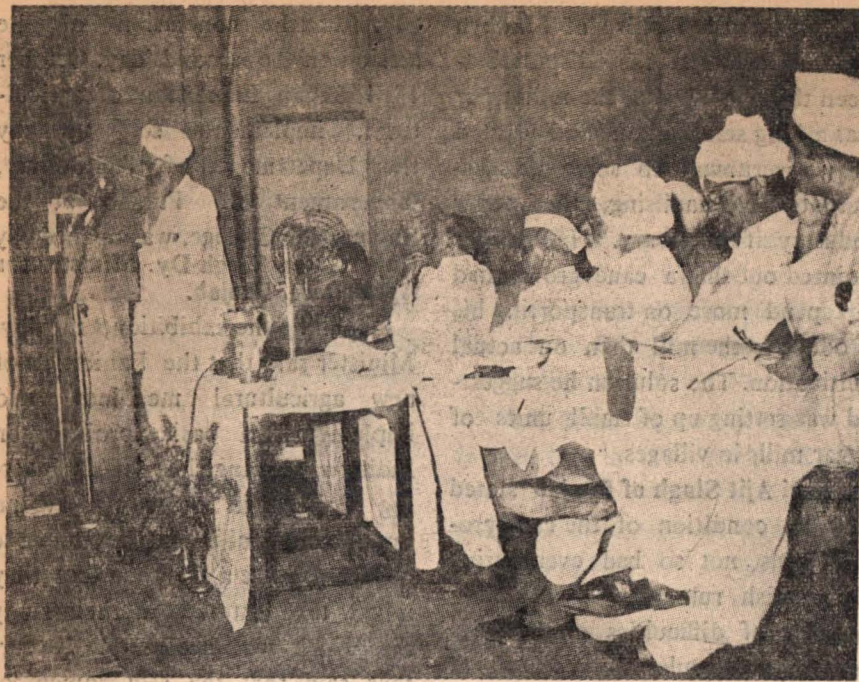
After the conclusion of the session on the second day, October 18, 1962 an Exhibition of agricultural, implements set up by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Punjab at the Engineering College, was opened by **Capt. Ratan Singh Dy. Minister for Agriculture, Punjab**.

Opening the exhibition, the Dy. Minister said that the Exhibition of new agricultural machines and implements, a basic problem in India, was arranged at the Engineering College in order to give an opportunity to the students of the college to have a look so that they might take interest in their study also which was necessary. He further said that the Government of Punjab were evolving such improved designs to enable even a farmer owning five acres could afford to buy them. He concluded his speech with the word. "Better implements mean better crops. Better crops mean better income and living."

Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh expressed his appreciation of the machines and implements and said in view of their importance a separate agricultural machinery section found place in every national exhibition. He felt that such exhibitions would necessarily make the farmers machine minded.

Income Tax a meagre sum of Rs. 3/- is being entertained as the feeding charges of a cow or a bullock for a month.

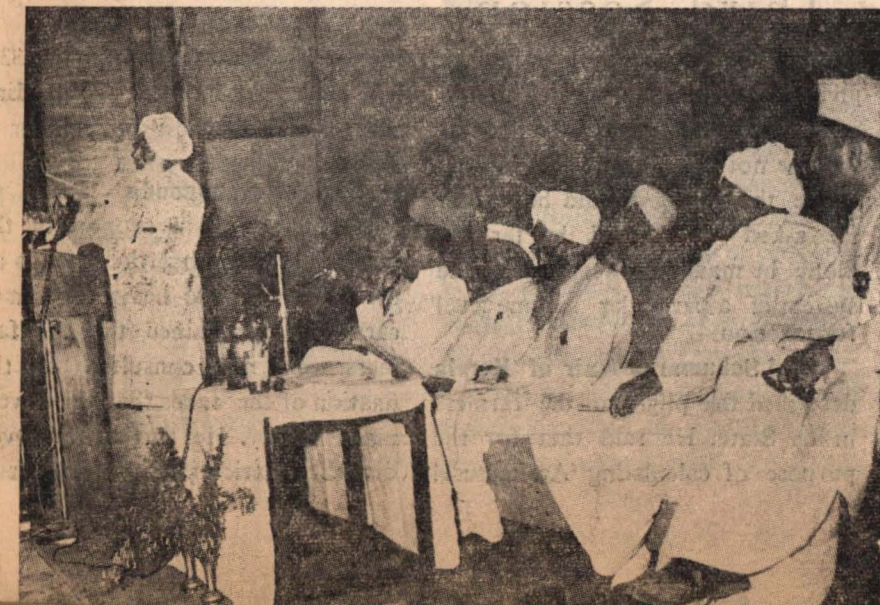
Shri Ravanagouda Patil of Mysore speaking in support of the resolution said that the burden on the farmer was too heavy for him to carry. He complained that the farmers were not consulted on the fixation of the taxes that they were made to pay. He further observed that the taxation policy of the States



Shri Pratap Singh Kairon, Chief Minister, Punjab and President, Punjab Krishak Samaj, delivering his inaugural address.

Dr. Punjabrao S. Deshmukh, President of the All India Farmers' Council, delivering his Presidential address.

Master Gurbanta Singh, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Punjab and Chairman, Reception Committee delivering the welcome address.



BHARAT KAK SAMAJ

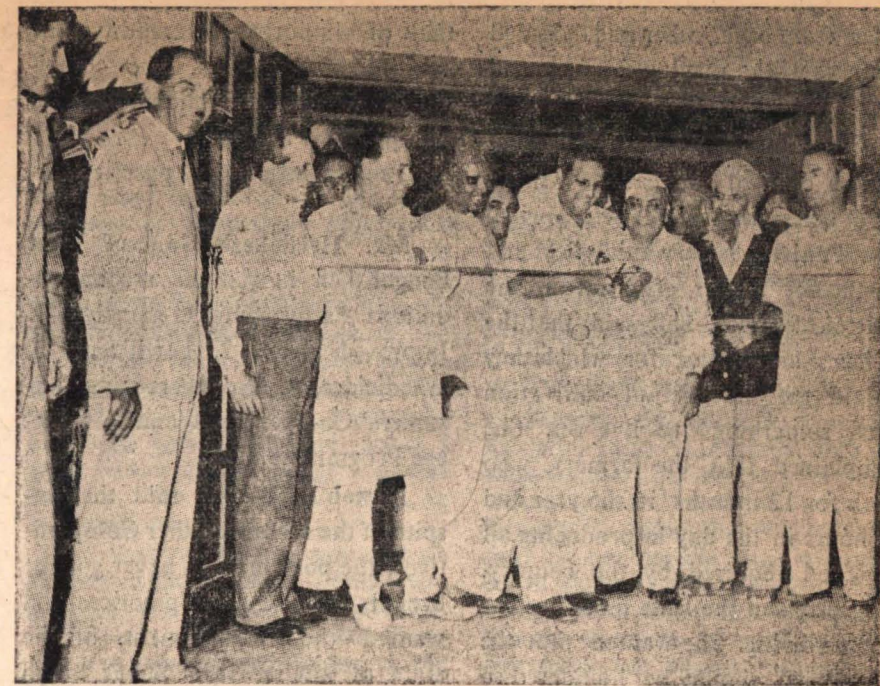
All India F's Council

Fourteenth Chandigarh.



Dr. Punjabrao S. Deshmukh his Presidential address.

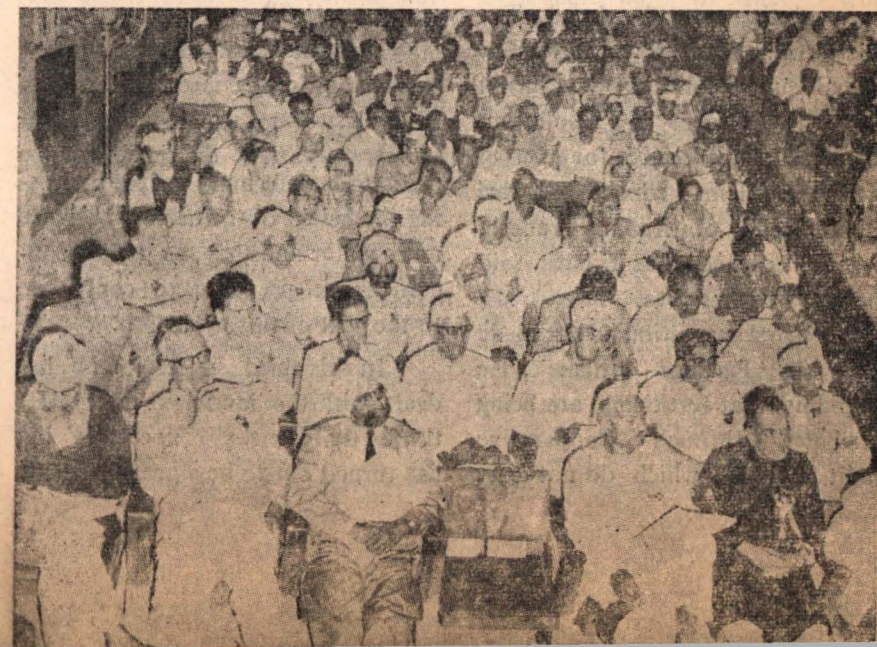
Our Most work.



Capt. Ratan Singh, Dy. Minister for Agriculture, Punjab opening the Exhibition of Agricultural Machinery and Implements set up on the occasion.

Concluding Session

A Section of the delegates intently listening.



differ from each other and pleaded firmness while placing the facts and figures before the Government.

Choudhary Charan Das Singh of Punjab pointed out that the farmers were being neglected. Mrs. Brijlal from Punjab was very analytical and sought for a fair criterion on the control of prices. She said that the farmers are to live for which they should get the cost of cultivation plus something to live on. She complained that the farmers, who work for 12 months in the year and 24 hours in the day in producing all the food required by the country, was not given the least incentive for a better living. She wanted that the middlemen should be liquidated so that the farmer might have his due share without pinching the consumer. She further said that the taxes and other expenditures on development were worth nothing when the price of the local commodity equalled to

that of imported commodity. She said that the farmers, who contributed 50% of the national income did not get a fair deal.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

Mr. Hrishikesh Gon of West Bengal then moved the recommendations on five subjects namely:—1. Improved seeds, 2. Fertilizers, 3. Weedicides, 4. Producers-cum-Consumers' Co-operatives and 5. Package Programme.

Nawab of Bhopal said that in spite of the seed and other Co-operatives, the poor farmers never got the benefits because of malpractices and wanted the improvement of the state of affairs. **Shri Subar Singh Paidalwar of U.P.** wanted the **Bharat Krishak Samaj** should have its own seed farms.

Shri Pandya of Gujarat pleaded that Sales Tax and Octroi Duty should be waived in respect of seeds

and fertilizers.

Shri Kiran Singh of Punjab wanted that no interest should be charged on takavi loans given for fertilizers. **Shri Ajit Singh** referred to the condition of the bags of fertilizers obtained from the factories and insisted that agreements should be made to ensure proper packing.

The recommendations were unanimously accepted by the Council.

The redraft of the resolution on Sugarcane Industry was taken up for discussion.

Shri Nand Kishore Narain the mover of the resolution and one of the members in the Committee constituted earlier, said that the resolution in its altered form stressed the advisability of reverting to the old method of fixing sugar cane price on tonnage basis. He also suggested the formation of a committee to tour the cane growing areas and collect data.

The meeting was adjourned for the next day.

Concluding Session

The Concluding Session of the Council meeting was held at 3 p.m. on October 20, 1962.

The proceedings started with the discussions of the resolution on Land Tax Policy.

Speaking on the resolution, **the President** said, "the final draft of the resolution on the Land Tax Policy will be read to you now. The original suggestion that was given was not in the form of a resolution. However, I shall read it for you so that the gentleman concerned, **Shri Sethi V. Reddy of Andhra Pradesh**, may be satisfied that I have said whatever he wanted to.

"The first suggestion he has made is on the 'Package Scheme'. He complains that fertilizers are being distributed through Cooperative Credit Societies which do not exist

in every village, with the result that people of the villages where there are no Credit Societies, are put to great difficulties. He also said that even where they are supplied through the Cooperatives the required quantity is not available. His plea is that such societies should be set up in all villages.

"He further said that the present barrage across the river Godavari at Dhewaleswaram which at present, serves only two districts, can be made to benefit more people by raising the height of the barrage to store more water and that the people concerned are prepared to contribute to the cost of this operation.

"In his third suggestion he has dealt with the land tax policy. He thinks that the tax is necessary but has turned out to be a great hardship

on the people. He feels that instead of enhancing the tax three fold all at once, it would be better to enhance it gradually."

The final draft of the resolution was read by the Secretary, **Bharat Krishak Samaj**, and was translated in Hindi by the President. Some amendments were suggested by some delegates which were accepted and the amended resolution was unanimously passed.

The Secretary, then read the resolution on the Price Fixation Policy and was rendered in Hindi by the President. After incorporating the amendments, the resolution was passed unanimously.

Similarly the Resolution on the Sugarcane Industry was passed after being read out in English by the Secretary.

Shri G.G. Mehta (Gujarat) wanted to move a resolution on Tripartite Conference but the President

felt that there was no necessity to move a resolution but suggested that while forwarding the other Resolutions and Recommendations to the Government, a letter on this subject can also be sent in the form of a suggestion.

Concluding Speech of the President

The President in his concluding address said that he was really sad the Governor of Punjab, who had agreed to address the meeting was indisposed and was not able to be in the meeting. He informed the house that the Governor had sent a message and said,

"When the Governor had given his consent to be here, I had prepared a speech to welcome him, but he has not come. However, I wish to speak a few words. I want to inform you that the Governor has been giving his support to us always. I well remember how, as the Chief Minister he had kindly accepted the invitation of the Keral Krishak Samaj when the Samaj held its 7th Convention. He was presented there and has seen the working of at least the Keral Krishak Samaj. He praised the organization of the function and was very happy to see the activities of the Samaj. We wished to have admitted us, the person who had given his unqualified support to address the farmers. But his health has not permitted him to be present here. I pray to God that he may very soon regain his health and attend to his normal functions as Governor.

The Bharat Krishak Samaj had come into being much earlier, but was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on April 3, 1955, when he inaugurated the First National Convention of Farmers. The Ex-President of India was also our Patron-in-Chief. The formal inauguration of the Samaj was by itself a singular event because never before in the history of India had such a representative gathering of farmers been held. During that Convention it was decided to awaken the farmers of this country. While taking this decision we had very many aspirations. With these ambitions, the Samaj has been holding Conventions every year. Agricultural Exhibitions, though on a smaller scale in the beginning, had

also been organized during the Convention.

"In the course of the past three years exhibitions have been organised on a bigger scale. Emboldened by the success of these exhibitions the Samaj embarked on the organisation of Agriculture Fairs on a National Scale. After the World Agriculture Fair in New Delhi in 1959-60 the First National Agriculture Fair was held in Calcutta, the Second in Madras and the third is being organised at Bombay. The unanimous opinion of these who had seen these Fairs are doing a great service to the farmers of this country. We feel elated when we hear such comments.

"I wish to inform you that we are one of the members of an international organisation of agriculturists called the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, the head-quarters of which is in Paris. We invited them to hold their 11th Annual Conference in India in 1959. Just two years after the Conference on Rural Reconstruction, the outcome in the establishment of the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation. The Conference was sponsored to discuss ways and means of Rural Reconstruction in the underdeveloped countries in the two continents of Africa and Asia and we found the Conference to be really fruitful. This Conference was such a success that the Government of the United Arab Republic extended an invitation to hold the Second Conference in their country and this was held at Cairo in March, 1962. They had spent lakhs of rupees on the arrangements of this conference. The credit for all this goes singularly to Bharat Krishak Samaj. Thus we do not confine ourselves to the needs of the farmers of our country alone but also of the farmers of neighbouring countries. Our aim is the welfare of the farmers. Thus in every Convention subjects relating to the farmers are discussed in detail. The resolutions that we have adopted in this Council meeting are very important and no one can dare to say that there has been some foulplay here. Whatever problems that confront us, we have tried our utmost to solve them. Whenever I am confronted with any problem relating to the farmers, I at once correspond with the concerned de-

partments of the State or Central Governments. I have been doing like this in the past and will continue to do in the future. If one only pondered over deeply, it will be realised from what we had been doing or what we are at present engaged in or what we will be doing in the future, that our Organisation has been trying its utmost and has achieved very many things. Even in this Fourteenth meeting of the Council which is concluding today, we have done useful work.

Side by side I wish to say the following also. I express with all sincerity that the cooperative institutions is the ultimate salvation of farmers. I agree that the cooperatives are not run efficiently in a number of places. The farmers had to undergo a lot of difficulties. It is because that the members of such cooperative have not shown enough interest. The Presidents or Secretaries of such cooperatives give credit to even those who are not entitled for it and who do not return it. Thus the cooperatives had to face a loss. There are very many cooperatives of this kind. But I am convinced that we can achieve what we want only with cooperation. We should organise them on proper lines. We had planned and set up the Cooperative Marketing Federation, and as I had been telling you earlier, we have to set up very many organisations in which we have to function in a cooperative way. We intend setting up General Insurance and Producers-cum-Consumers' Co-operatives for the agriculturists and if possible manufacture small tractor on cooperative lines. We have been observing that the prices of even spare parts of tractors which are manufactured in India have gone up by two or three fold. The reason is that there is no cooperative set up to compete with manufacturers. I am of the opinion that if only these are manufactured in factories run on cooperative lines, we can reduce the prices to a very great extent in comparison to the prices demanded by these capitalists. I am convinced that such cooperative set ups can be organised for very many things. I wish and am convinced that if only attempts are made on behalf of members, the leaders of Punjab, the Government of Punjab will give

all their help and support in fulfilling our ambition as early as possible.

"There is a wrong impression in the minds of certain persons that our organisation is an organisation of wealthy landlords. This is not correct and I wish to make it clear that first of all, after the introduction of ceilings there are no big landlords. Secondly, we have the membership application forms of each and every member, which can be scrutinised by anyone who wishes to. The holdings of each member is to be filled in that form. In the beginning, when there were only three or four hundred members, we had scrutinised the application forms and found that 57% of the members had holdings of less than 15 acres, about 20% had holdings of 15 to 25 acres and the rest above 25 acres. It was also noticed that the number of members having more than 50 acres was negligible. It is really regrettable that Shri Vibhuti Mishra, members of Parliament remarked in Parliament that ours is an organisation of wealthy landlords. I know that he is aware of the reality and yet he had passed the remark. I want to correct that wrong impression. There are on the whole 8,500 life members in the Samaj. I think that hardly 50 or 100 members will have more than 50 acres. If anyone has any doubt, he is at liberty to come to our Central Office and scrutinise the application forms. It is also to be realised that, if only there are 8,500 wealthy landlords in our country, it means ceiling has had no effect on us. But this not so.

"I do not want to take any more of your time. Capt. Ratan Singh will read out the message from the Governor after which Giani Zail Singh will address you. I request Capt. Ratan Singh to read out the message."

Governor's message

The following message from the Governor of Punjab was, then read out by Capt. Ratan Singh Dy. Minister for Agriculture, Punjab.

"I am glad to learn that the Bharat Krishak Samaj is holding its 14th session of the All India Farmers' Council at Chandigarh.

Only a few months ago, when I was Chief Minister of Kerala,

your organisation offered me an opportunity to address the Seventh Convention of the Kerala State Farmers' Forum, which was held at Palghat. The agricultural producers, it will not be an exaggeration to say, are real builders of the health, economy and the welfare of the Nation. I feel very happy to see that this organisation, which you have formed to guide the farmers in their day to day problems, is making steady progress.

I have tried to follow the progress of your organisation since its birth in the year 1954. I am glad that you have applied yourself to constructive activities right from the very beginning. The World Agriculture Fair, which was organised by your Samaj, was no mean achievement. It was a unique event of its kind and proved to be of immense benefit to the farmers who came from all parts of the country to see it. It made a big impact on the minds of the farmers, and generated new hopes and aspirations.

I am also aware that after the World Agriculture Fair, you initiated the organisation of the National Agriculture Fair from State to State and have already held two attractive fairs, one in Calcutta and the other in Madras. You have now planned to hold the third in Bombay during January, 1963.

I have learnt with great pleasure that the Bharat Krishak Samaj was responsible for the formation of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation, which is carrying on International Trade in agricultural commodities. This institution, in the long run, is bound to be of great assistance to the farmers. Yet, another of your achievements is the setting up of the Farmer's Cooperative Bank of India. I consider it to be a boon to the Indian farmers whose greatest problem is to get adequate and timely credit at reasonable rates of interest.

The farmers of the country have got a great responsibility to shoulder at the present moment. Actually it is no longer just a responsibility. It is a challenge not only to feed over 400 millions of our people, but also to usher greater prosperity in their lives. They have to demonstrate by their efforts that their land

is capable of producing far more than they have been able to obtain so far. The Government in the States and in the Centre are making plans and initiating many schemes to assist them in this endeavour. A very substantial part of the expenditure under the Third Five Year Plan has been earmarked for promoting the development of agriculture, and the welfare of the agriculturists. However, with their limited resources of the Nation which are badly needed for numerous developmental activities and for strengthening the overall economy of the Indian people, it may not be possible for the Government to meet all the needs of the agriculturists to the fullest extent. In fact the farmers have to shoulder the major part of the burden, and be ready to face the challenge. Government help can only be supplementary. You must come forward to produce seeds of better varieties and arrange their distribution through your own agencies. You should have your own manufacturing units to meet the needs of your profession. Even to save your crops from attack of pests and disease, you should try to set up plants which may supply you with enough chemicals at reasonable cost. You are the single biggest force in the Nation, and if you have the will, you will achieve success in these efforts.

You know I came to Punjab hardly three weeks ago. During this short period, I have had a few occasions of seeing the vast damage done by the recent floods to crops, houses, and cattle, and felt greatly distressed. Some other parts of the country have also suffered heavily. While the ways of nature are curious, and we may feel helpless when disasters of such magnitude overtake us, the real test of a farmers' courage lies in his determination to bear these sufferings, and have implicit faith in his own potentialities. He must not despair, because on his morale in such situations, depends the prosperity of the Nation. I have no doubt that with the generous help of your respective States, which should be forthcoming in abundant measure, you would rise to the occasion, and devoted yourselves to the service of the people whose well-being and happiness so largely depend on you.

If you stick to the principle of being non-political organisation, there should be a bright future before you for serving and upholding the interests of the farmers. If you falter in this, and allow yourselves to be misled, you will neither benefit yourselves, nor the Nation.

I have great pleasure in welcoming you all to this State, which is justly proud of its hard working and progressive farmers who are second to their compeers in any part of the world.

Speech of Giani Zail Singh

Giani Zail Singh, Minister for Animal Husbandry, Punjab said he was sorry that he could not participate in the earlier proceedings but congratulated the Samaj for its success in its endeavours. He felt that the real 'Annadata'-Bread giver—was the farmer who worked for 12 months in the year and 24 hrs. in the day for producing the country's food requirements. He felt that in the past independence era the condition of the kisan was not in any way altered nor his voice heard. He was of the opinion that the farmers were still backward because their representatives in the legislatures forgot their responsibilities due to a number of forces influencing them. He was sorry that, inspite of Five Year Plan, the country had failed in solving its food problem. He wanted the farmers to adopt modern methods of cultivation to improve our agriculture. He also pleaded for the cause of the landless labour and wanted the landowners to safeguard their interests unlike the industrialists.

He pointed out that our task was not only to produce more food,

but also better food to keep the nation healthy and strong. He was of the opinion that milk was a necessity and exhorted the farmers to start modern dairy farms with improved breeds of cows.

He was happy that the leadership of the Samaj was in the hands of Dr. Deshmukh. He further stressed on the need of unity in this country and wanted the farmers to think of India as a whole and not think in terms of individual States.

He concluded by thinking the Bharat Krishak Samaj for having organised the Council Meeting at Chandigarh.

Shri Kartar Singh Dewana proposed vote of thanks.

Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj, later thanked the Punjab Krishak Samaj, Dr. Amrik Singh Cheema, Shri Piara Singh and Shri Jagjit Singh Mann for their relentless work in making the Council meeting a success. He also thanked the Government of Punjab and its officials for their help and co-operation, the Principal of the Engineering College for having put the Hall and and the Committee Room of the College at the disposal of the Samaj for its deliberations, and all others who had contributed towards the success of the meeting.

The proceedings came to close with the singing of the National Anthem.

The Punjab Government had arranged a trip to Bhakra Dam and Nangal Fertilizer Factory on October 21, 1962 for the delegates. On their return to Nangal from Bhakra,



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the delegates was given a sumptuous lunch by Shri Madhsudhan Bedi of Una Estates, who is a life member of the Samaj, at Satluj Sadan.

Response to P.M.'s Call

The Young Farmers Association of India is confirmed in its opinion that due to the aggressive tactics of China the integrity and freedom of our country has been threatened. In this hour of need, the Young Farmers Association, India is prepared to make any and every sacrifice in the cause of the country that it may be called upon to make. It appeals to all young farmers in the country to be ready to join the armed forces wherever called upon to do so and to be also ready to serve the country in every other way. The Association assures the Prime Minister and the country that this organization and its members, full of vigour and patriotism as they are, and in fact all the young farmers of the country will stand behind him solidly and would be prepared to sacrifice themselves in the interest of the country in whatever this may be required.

P. S. Deshmukh

Resolutions

1. Resolution of sympathy for the people of flood affected States

The All India Farmers Council expresses its deep concern over the untold misery caused by recent floods involving considerable and in some cases complete loss of crops, property, cattle and even human life, in number of States like Punjab, Bihar, Assam, Delhi etc. The plight of the people, particularly the farmers, in these States, is beyond description. The farmers of Punjab in particular have been the worst sufferers.

The All India Farmers Council, therefore, places on record its heart-felt sympathies for the people affected by this calamity and assures them that it shares with them their loss and sorrow. The Council also appeals to fellow farmers to contribute their mite in giving relief and encouragement to the sufferers.

2. Resolution to condole the death of Smt. Rajbansi Devi and Dr. B. C. Roy

The All India Farmers Council of the Bharat Krishak Samaj deeply regrets the recent demise of Smt. Rajbansi Devi, wife of our beloved and revered ex-Patron-in-Chief of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and ex-President of the Indian Union.

Smt. Rajbansi Devi took considerable interest in welfare of rural women. She had been one of the pillars of Gramin Mahila Sangh of which she was the first President on its inception in 1955.

Smt. Rajbansi Devi was the living symbol of Indian Womanhood.

The All India Farmers Council expresses its deep sorrow at this irreparable loss and sympathises with Dr. Rajendra Prasad in his bereavement.

The All India Farmer's Council also deeply regrets the sad demise of Dr. B. C. Roy, Chief Minister of West Bengal.

Dr. Roy was a giant among men. His contribution to the Medical profession in this country has earned him a permanent place in its history. As an administrator, he was a towering personality. As a politician he was respected by one and all.

Dr. Roy took a keen and active interest in the growth of the Krishak Samaj in West Bengal. He took a personal interest in the First National Agriculture Fair Organised by the Bharat Krishak Samaj at Calcutta in 1961. His enthusiasm and active Co-operation was instrumental in making the fair a great success.

In his sad demise the country has lost a stalwart and the farmers of West Bengal their friend, philosopher and guide.

The All India Farmers' Council expresses its deep sorrow at this irreparable loss and sympathises with Dr. Roys' kith and kin in particular and the people of West Bengal.

3. Resolution on Sugarcane Industry

The All India Farmers Council of the Bharat Krishak Samaj regrets to note the decision of the Union Government to link cane price with sugar recovery. As a result of this decision of the Government cane-growers have already had a very sad experience. They are the worst sufferers because of price of cane being calculated on the recovery basis in the months of May and June.

I. Firstly, the percentage of sugar recovery is determined in a laboratory belonging to the Sugar Mill Owner and worked out by persons in his personal employment. That being so, they can not be considered impartial or reliable. There is, therefore, no assurance of correctness since the farmer has no access to the laboratory nor has he any means for independent determination of the percentage. Secondly, there are innumerable factors which affects the sugar content adversely and most of these factors are completely beyond the farmers' control. For instance, the farmer cannot choose, just on his own, the exact time of cutting the cane and taking it into the factory. Very often there is glut of sugarcane in the factory at a particular period of time. He has, therefore, to take his own turn not only to harvest the cane but to see that it goes for being crushed. Thirdly, even after incurring expenditure on keeping the cane in the field after it is matured, it is the common experience of our farmers that he has to face transport difficulties and after that he has to wait some times for 2 to 3 days before his cane actually is taken up for being crushed. Fourthly, many of the mills are not efficient enough to draw out the full percentage of sugar from his cane. There are the breakdowns of machinery, difficulties of labour, inefficient working of the mills, etc., which all contribute to substantially lower recoveries and while this can, and does, benefit the Mill-owner it ruins the farmer. It is submitted that making the farmer responsible for the operation of these factors is adding insult to injury. The farmers are ignorant and, therefore, the formula, which advanced countries like Australia adopt, cannot be a proper solution as far as the Indian farmers are concerned.

II. It is curious, that while the minimum price of Rs. 1.62 per maund was available last year for 9.8% of recovery, for the current year the basis has been changed to 9.6%. This means that the mill owners will get free of cost 1.75 lacs of maunds in a crush of 30 lacs maunds of cane. Not only they do not pay prices to the farmers for this, but they will also escape the payment of cane cess and probably Excise Duty also. The farmers therefore apprehend that

this linking formula only favours the mill owners who have no compunction in resorting to methods which are neither fair nor honest.

III. The treatment meted out by the mill-owners to the farmers growing cane during the last three seasons, particularly in Northern India, deserves condemnation. They have withheld the payment of crores of rupees of cane price sometime over eight to ten months and in some cases even for longer periods. The misery which they, like this, inflict on the poor helpless cultivators of the cane can easily be imagined. This is sure to discourage sugarcane cultivation in the main sugar belt of U.P. and Bihar which will of course damage the interest of the farmers because there are not many alternatives to sugar cane that he could grow, but will also ultimately damage the national interest. The cane grower has besides this to face floods and droughts and pests and diseases. If the Government do not revise the policy of fixation of prices as now decided upon in the country, the Council fears that they may have to face the situation similar to that in 1952-54, when the whole country was the whole country was crying for more production of sugar and some Rs. 70 to 80 crores expenditure of foreign exchange was the outcome on the import of sugar.

IV. The Council, therefore, appeals to the Union Government to revert to the old method of payment of cane price on tonnage basis. The Council further requests the Union Government to constitute a committee consisting of atleast 50% of the cane grower's representatives nominated by the Bharat Krishak Samaj and the State cane growers' organizations to study and report on the various problems of the sugar industry in these States, particularly with regard to the planned production of sugarcane with a view to saving the industry in the interest of all concerned, particularly the cane growers, who for ages have been engaged in cane cultivation.

V. This Council, in the meantime, directs the Governing Body of the Samaj to constitute a small sub-committee to tour in these States, collect data, appraise of the situation and report to the Governing Body their findings by 30th of November of 1962.

4. Enhancement of Land Tax or Surcharge on Land Revenue

The All India Farmers Council of the Bharat Krishak Samaj views with grave concern the growing discontent amongst the agriculturists at the proposed legislation on Enhancement or Surcharge on Land Tax in certain Stages and its actual enactment in some others.

In the opinion of the Council there is neither economic nor moral justification for increasing the Land Tax, and even the historical justification is of doubtful validity. The Council is of the considered opinion that the steps taken for enhancement of Land Tax would irritate the agricultural community which constitutes over 72 to 77 per cent of the Indian population and ultimately retarded the progress of the Third Five Year Plan. The enlisting of cooperation and good-will of this farming community is most essential at this critical juncture rather than incurring their displeasure by forcing them to make pay beyond their capacity. Besides paying the direct or indirect taxes which other sections of the people pay, the agriculturists also pay land-revenue, road-cess, cane-cess, water or irrigation tax, education cess and betterment levy, for the specific services rendered. In addition, they are required to meet or pay half of the capital cost of well or drinking water, or irrigational water, establishment of primary Schools in rural areas and also to donate land for construction of such institutions. Strangely enough for such works, other sections of the people are not even touched.

The Council feels that the plea that so much is done by the State for Agricultural development is not tenable as the agriculturists are not the only group of people in the country for whose benefits these activities are being undertaken rather the country as a whole is benefited in a very direct way as a result of this. The other section of the people derive both a direct and indirect benefits from the large number of such developmental activities particularly in urban areas, but there is no question of imposing a tax upon these section on this ground. The only fair basis for taxation is the income of an individual or of a family and they pay income tax when it exceeds a minimum of Rs. 3,600/-. Thus an invidious distinction is made between a farming

community and people in other sections, as ceiling in respect of land holdings was fixed to be capable of yielding an income of about Rs. 3600/- a year although in considerable cases that does not reach the figure of Rs. 500/- even.

Draughts and floods, high prices of articles needed in agricultural husbandry, including fertilisers, insecticides and agricultural implements adding to the cost of cultivation, inadequate credit facilities and various other factors affects badly the financial condition of the farmers, who are incapable to bear any further burden.

Considering the circumstances under which the Indian farmers have been placed with, the council records lodges its strong protest at the discrimination made between the farming community and the other section of the people in the country and earnestly appeals to the Government both at Centre and at States to give up this idea of increasing land tax which is neither justifiable on economic grounds nor on the ground of equity.

5. Resolution on Policy of Fixation of Floor Prices for Agricultural Produce :

1. This meeting of All India Farmers' Council of the Bharat Krishak Samaj notes with regret that the Planning Commission and the Governments at the Centre and in the States have not yet accepted the policy of Price Fixation at an adequate level for Agricultural Produce, and particularly for food crops

and other necessary and important cash crops, such as, cotton, cane, oil seeds, etc.

2. This meeting wishes to draw the pointed attention of the Planning Commission and the Union and State Governments to the fact that under the prevailing system, the AGRICULTURIST does not get the advantage of either the competitive prices or the benefits of fully and effectively controlled prices and thus suffers both ways. When the produce is in abundance, due to the free play of the supply and demand factors, the prices go down steeply below even the cost of production. On the other hand when scarcity conditions prevail, the Government Machinery comes into play with controls and fixation of prices, often below the cost of production levels, and imposes other restrictions like zones, and also resorts to large scale imports from foreign countries.

3. The Bharat Krishak Samaj is, therefore, firmly of the opinion that it is high time for the Planning Commission and the Union and the State Governments to accept the policy of Price Support at adequate levels and implement the same immediately in the balanced interest of both the producers and the consumers. This will enable the producer to cover his cost of production and to provide him real incentive to produce more of agriculture produce, particularly food crops and other important cash crops which will also save considerable Foreign Exchange for the benefit of the Nation.

Recommendations

Recommendation on Fertilizers

1. It is a well known fact that our soils are generally at a very low level of fertility, particularly in respect of Nitrogen and that one of the best means of rapidly increasing agricultural production is the use of fertilizers. The fertilizers alone are estimated to have caused about 25 per cent of the great increase in crop yields in U.S.A. during the past 12 to 15 years or so. Field experiments, fertilizers demonstrations in cultivators' fields, etc. are convincing our farmers of the benefits of and the necessity for fertilizers for rapidly stepping up crop production. The Council, therefore, requests the Government that every effort should be made to meet the fertilizer targets set for the Third Five Year Plan. Immediate steps should be taken to set

up more fertilizer factories in the country, and the balance between the requirements and the supplies available within the country, should be imported as an interim measure.

2. Farmers should be provided sufficient credit facilities for the purchase of fertilizers. The loan should be given in kind and not in cash. The rate of interest should also be reasonable.

3. The fertilizers should be supplied to the farmers at as low a price as possible so that the cost of production is lowered which gives the farmer an inducement to use more fertilizers and raise agricultural production.

4. The present prices of nitrogenous fertilizers in the country are very high ; they should, therefore, be brought down to world prices.

5. It has been observed that fertilizers are often adulterated and packed in bags which often leak. It is, therefore, recommended that the fertilizers should be sold in strong sealed bags bearing a certificate giving the weight and the contents.

Recommendation on Production, Multiplication, Certification and Distribution of Improved Seeds

1. In view of the importance of improved seed in increasing agricultural production and the increasing demand for it by the farmers and its short supply at present, the All India Farmers Council reiterates its resolution adopted at its 11th meeting held in Calcutta in 1961. While appreciating and expressing satisfaction at the steps already taken by the Central and State Governments for the multiplication of improved seeds, including seeds of Hybrid Maize, Hybrid Jawar, etc. the Council requests the Central and State Governments to do their best to achieve the targets set up in the Third Five Year Plan to supply to the registered seed growers the foundation seeds and to the farmers pure seeds of improved varieties.

2. As seed testing and certification are important and essential steps in the seed multiplication programme, the Council requests the Central and State Governments to take immediate steps in setting up seed testing laboratories and enacting suitable laws for seed certification on the lines of those operating in U.S.A. Such seeds should be made available to the farmers in sealed bags bearing certificate by an authorised agency about its germination, purity and genetic identity, irrespective of whether these seeds are produced on Government or private farms.

3. In order to supplement Government efforts to multiply and distribute improved seeds, the Council resolves that the farmers form their own Seed Improvement and Multiplication Associations under the Bharat Krishak Samaj and its State branches. These Associations will work in close collaboration with the Government agency working in this field.

The Council requests the Government that for stepping up food production and in view of its shortage in the country, Government should encourage the formation of these Associations in every way.

Recommendation on Package Programme

1. The All India Farmers Council of the Bharat Krishak Samaj appreciates the introduction of Package Programme. The Council has also noted with satisfaction the encouraging results of the all out efforts made to increase agricultural production in the country under the Programme. The Council, however, strongly recommends that in order that the results of the improved agricultural practices adopted and other developmental measures taken under the Programme may be made widely known and undertaken by the farmers throughout the country, the Programme may be further extended during the Third Five Year Plan to atleast one village in one Block in every District of the country where the farmers may be responsive and all other necessary resources available.

If good results are produced in one village, the farmers of the neighbouring villages will automatically adopt the practices that were responsible for such good results, thus ensuring the success of the Programme which will considerably help in quickly stepping up agricultural production in the country.

2. The Council requests the members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj to extend their full cooperation to the Government in their efforts to achieve the aims and objects of the Programme.

3. The Council requests the Central and State Governments that representatives of the Bharat Krishak Samaj be included in the different Committees set up in connection with the Package Programme in the different Districts taluks, etc. This policy may be adopted at the Centre also. Close association between the Bharat Krishak Samaj and the Government at the different levels will ensure quicker and better result.

4. The Council recommends that the Government should give representation to the Bharat Krishak Samaj on the committees that may be set up to evaluate the results of the Package Programme from time to time.

Recommendation on Weedicides and Weed Control

1. The All India Farmers Council of the Bharat Krishak Samaj is conscious that weeds reduce crop

yields considerably and cause heavy losses to the farmers and consequently to the Nation. Weed control should therefore receive adequate attention. However, as weeding by hand, as is usually done in India in standing crops, is costly, the use of chemical weedicides, such as 2, 4-D, needs to be encouraged. This weedicide, according to the results of experiments conducted so far in this country, is very suitable for controlling weeds in cereals, including millets, and sugarcane. Its low cost, safety in use and ease to apply, make it eminently suitable for use by farmers. However, since the use of weedicides in this country is still in its infancy, the Council recommends that its use be popularised through intensification of demonstrations in cultivators' fields and other propaganda methods and also by supplying the weedicides and the necessary equipment at subsidized prices to the cultivators. The use of chemical weedicides will not only reduce the cost of agricultural production, but will also release valuable man-power for other work.

2. Spinny weeds like Pholi (Wild Safflower) and Mexican Poppy, which cannot be controlled easily by hand-weeding due to their spinny nature, can easily be controlled by chemical weedicides.

3. In order to make the supplies of 2, 4-D and other chemical weedicides available in adequate quantities and at cheap rates, the Council recommends that their manufacture in the country be taken up immediately on a large scale.

4. The Council urges the members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj to use chemical weedicides on their farms, invite the neighbouring farmers to see the results and advise and help them in adopting and popularising this method of weed control.

Recommendation on the Establishment of Producers-cum-Consumers Cooperative Associations.

The All India Farmers Council of the Bharat Krishak Samaj reiterates its resolution adopted at its 12th meeting held in Calcutta in 1961 and emphatically states that the only way to do away with the middle-man and safeguard the interests of the primary producers and give them the best possible prices for what they produce, and take them to the consumers as at reasonable a price as possible, is to forge a direct link between the producer and the consumer by establishing Producers-cum-Consumers Cooperative Associations. The Council also recommends that wherever possible processing units may also be established under the Association so that the profit from their operations may also accrue to the Association.

The Council, therefore, authorises the President, Bharat Krishak Samaj to constitute a sub-committee to work out the details for establishing such an Association under the Bharat Krishak Samaj.

New Vice-Presidents of Bharat Krishak Samaj

We are happy to announce the nomination of the following four Vice-Presidents of Bharat Krishak Samaj for a term of three years :

1. **Maharani Mahendar Kaur of Patiala**

Punjab

2. **Shri A. M. Thomas, Dr. Minister for Food, Govt. of India.**

Kerala

3. **Chowdhuri Brahm Perkash, M. P.**

Delhi

4. **Shri S. M. Wahi**

Bihar.

The President has announced the nomination of the above four Vice-Presidents vide the powers vested with him by the All India Farmers' Council during its fourteenth meeting at Chandigarh.

Fodder Preparation— Terramycin

Soviet specialists have developed a new method of producing the fodder preparation—terracyclin and a way of its most effective application.

The preparation is necessary for raising the productivity of farm animals.

It has been proposed to add a few grams of chalk, soda and several milligrams of cobalt to the nutrient medium on which the terramycin fungus is raised. It has been experimentally verified that these admixtures permit to grow a terramycin fungus in three days, and not in 6-7 as before. This will make, first and foremost, for doubling the output of this preparation.

The scientists have determined the optimum quantities of terramycin which would be added to the animals' daily ration. According to preliminary estimates, these additions will increase the weight gain of poultry, pigs and calves by 15-18 per cent, and reduce fodder expenditure by 10 per cent. The preparation is also an excellent prophylactic means.

Bihar Pedal Pump

The 'Bihar Pedal Pump' is the answer to the need of small cultivators for lifting water for irrigating their fields. Developed by the Agriculture Department, Bihar, this pump is easy to operate and can be worked by one man continuously for about four hours.

The pump on an average discharges about 1,800 gallons of water per hour when the water is to be lifted up to 10 to 12 feet. The discharge, however, increases when the lift distance is reduced, and can go up to 3,000 gallons an hour when the lift is less than four feet.

The pump costs Rs. 150, and will last easily for at least five years.

The Bihar Pedal Pump shows great promise of replacing the traditional water lifts like the swing basket which need plenty of labour

and lift comparatively smaller quantities of water. This pump is mounted on a trolley and can be easily transported from one place to another.

Producing Healthy Tomatoes

Deformed fruit, poor colour and cracks in tomatoes can be checked by applying Boron to the crop, according to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

Research conducted at the Institute shows that when plants are starved of boron, they look bushy and flat. Such plants bear deformed fruits which later on crack and ripen unevenly with poor colour, and fetch a poor price in the market.

To make up the boron deficiency in the soil, three sprayings of *sohaga* (borax) are recommended. The first spraying should be done in the nursery before tomato plants are transplanted. The second spraying should be done after three to four weeks of transplantation which may be followed, if needed, by a third spraying after about the same interval. Two to two and a half ounces of *sohaga* should be added to four gallons of water and 50 to 60 gallons of such a solution is enough for spraying one acre of land.

Boron is generally deficient in light sandy soils and soils rich in lime (calcium). Sometimes overliming also decreases the availability of boron to tomato plants.

OXFAM helps Indian Milk Scheme

THE Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM) has announced it will donate upto \$302,500 to the Freedom from Hunger Campaign trust fund for the purchase of a feed mixing plant for the Kaira Milk Producers' Union in India. It is the largest scheme that OXFAM has yet undertaken in any of its humanitarian endeavours.

FAO is now working out arrange-

ments for the project with the Indian authorities.

The Union, with headquarters at Anand, north of Bombay, serves 54,000 families. It has been operating with increasing success since 1946, and now produces more than 144,000 lb. of milk daily, compared with 500 lb. per day at the beginning of its operations. Some 40,000 school children are being supplied with milk daily through a school feeding scheme.

However, it was considered vital to the future success of the Union that the cattle in the Kaira district should get more and better feed. Although India has almost one-fifth of the world's cattle population, milk yield is extremely low because of the lack of adequate feed supplies throughout the year.

The average Indian consumes only about a quarter of a pound of milk and milk products daily, compared with at least one pound in England and about one and a quarter pounds in Denmark. Kaira district follows the national pattern in this respect, although with the advent of the Union, milk consumption naturally has risen.

For some time, the development of a "crash" programme to improve the yields in dairy cattle in a suitable area in India has been under consideration. The Kaira district was chosen, in consultation with OXFAM, because it has a fine organization (FAO experts consider it one of the best of its kind in the world) and because of the large number of families which could be reached through it.

The situation at the moment in Kaira district is that many surplus and waste agricultural products are available for feed at various times of the year. The feed mixing plant would make it possible to buy these products at their lowest prices and mix them into a balanced and nutritive feed which could be made available throughout the year. The feed could be distributed at a good price to farmers.

The feed would also be used for the 1,500,000 poultry in the Kaira district, which from another important source of animal protein. It is estimated that dairy and poultry production can be raised by as much as 50 percent through the proper use of mixed feeds.

Response to Prime Minister's Call

Punjab

Dr. Amrik Singh Cheema, Secretary, Punjab Krishak Samaj has sent a circular to all the District Secretaries of the Samaj, appealing to hold mass meetings to condemn the aggression by China in order to create the necessary atmosphere and enthusiasm among the farmers for contributing their maximum men, money and material. He has also urged upon the farmers to pool all their resources in increasing food production, the foremost need of the hour to save and divert the valuable foreign exchange for the purchase of arms and ammunition.

He has exhorted all district and tehsil branches in the State to mobilise all robust and sturdy Young farmers in their villages for willingly offering their services to fight in the front. He has further directed each District Office of the Samaj to donate a minimum of Rs. 500/- to National Defence Fund.

The Executive Committee of the Gurgaon District Farmers' Forum passed a resolution, in the meeting held on October 29, 1962, offering their unstinted and unequalled support to the Government in the grave and aggressive march of China on Indian Soil and expressed their determination to make supreme sacrifice to fight on the front and to establish an united home front to increase the production in every possible way and to render help by both men and money to meet this unjustified and ruthless action of China.

The resolution further appeals to all the farmers in the country to girdle up their loins and be prepared to fight the Chinese to the last men.

The meeting of the Executive Committee of Rohtak District Krishak Samaj, held October 30, 1961 passed resolution condemning the aggression of China over India and pledging to give full support to the Government with determination, men and money to drive out the Chinese from the Indian Soil.

The resolution further assures the Government that the farmers of the country, specially of Punjab will spare no efforts to increase production and solve the food problem in the country.

Bihar

Shri Nand Kishore Naraja, Member of the Governing Body, Bharat Krishak Samaj and President, Bihar State Cane Growers' Co-operative Association has appealed to all the Secretaries of Co-operative Development and Cane Marketing Unions to immediately donate 50% of the common fund of Cane Unions and Cane Societies to the National Defence Fund and to pass a resolution in a general meeting specially called, to contribute 25 nP per quintal or 10 nP per maund of Sugar Cane sold to Sugar Factories to National Defence Fund.

Rajasthan

Shri Nathuram Mirdha, Minister for Agriculture, Rajasthan and President Rajasthan Krishak Samaj, in his appeal to the farmers of the State said that the farmers of Rajasthan were to shoulder a new responsibility as a result of the aggressive occupation of our territory by China. He further said that India, for the first time after its attaining freedom, was faced with the responsibility of defending that freedom. In his appeal he has said :

"I am happy that the people of India have come out in a big way for defending the honour and integrity of India. I appeal to every individual farmer in Rajasthan, whether rich or poor, to contribute the maximum possible, either money or gold, for the National Defence Fund to the Chief Minister. I also appeal that every able farmer offers his services to the army.

"Secondly I appeal to the farmers of Rajasthan that apart from donating to the National Defence Fund, they should also spare no efforts to increase the production on their fields. The youth of our country is engaged in the fight and our duty is to relieve the Nation of its strain by increased production. I am confident that the farmers will stand up to the occasion by increasing production, by sending their sons to the battle field and by donating liberally to the Defence Fund.

"All the districts as well as Panchayat Samati branches of Rajasthan Krishak Samaj should give top priority to the task of mobilizing our strength in the State."

Mysore

Shri S. Nijalingappa, Chief Minister, Mysore inaugurated "The Farmers' Call to National Defence" at Bangalore on November 21, 1962 with Shri G. Narayana Gowda, Minister for Agriculture, Mysore and President, Mysore State Krishak Samaj in the Chair. "Farmers Call to National Defence" was organised under the Mysore State Krishak Samaj and the Mysore State Young Farmers' Association.

Manipur

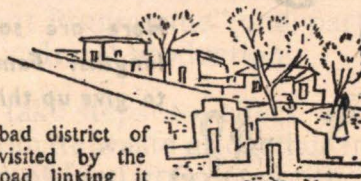
The Manipur Krishak Samaj, in its meeting held on November 7, 1962, took a pledge to drive out the Chinese from the Indian Soil. A contribution of Rs. 1,000 was given to the Manipur Defence Council.

The Changing Scene



ROAD TO DADRI

DADRI—a tiny village in the Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh lived its usual life unvisited by the wheels of progress. There was no road linking it to the world outside and the need was hardly felt.



But then started the great change. Like thousands of villages Dadri too woke to the message of planned progress. The farmers put in extra effort, the land responded to better cultivation and yielded more and more sugarcane. To transport sugarcane to the factory the village now needed a road.

The enterprising villagers of Dadri put their heads together and decided to draw the shortest line to the nearest pucca road and wherever the line passed the owner contributed land as a gift and thus the road was laid. This was an expression of faith in the movement for development and the promise of a brighter future for everyone.

Road building is changing the face of rural India, bringing it nearer to the highways of progress and prosperity. The mileage of unsurfaced roads rose from 1,51,000 miles to over 2,50,000 miles during the first decade of planning, while that of surfaced roads rose from 97,500 miles to 1,44,000 miles. During the Third Plan period, we hope to build another 25,000 miles of surfaced roads, apart from making considerable addition to the unsurfaced road mileage.

**THIRD
FIVE YEAR
PLAN**

**A GOOD LIFE
FOR EVERYONE**

D.A. 62/408



DEAL *Only* IN METRIC LENGTHS

With the compulsory use of metric linear measure throughout the country from 1st October, 1962, transactions are now in terms of the metre.

Here are some equivalents of standard garment lengths. Familiarity with the new unit will help you to give up thinking in terms of yards.



	SHIRT	2 metres and 75 centimetres (2.75 metres) instead of 3 yards
	COAT	2.75 metres
	TROUSERS	2.75 metres
	BLOUSE	0.90 metre

instead of 3 yards each

instead of 1 yard

A Sari of 6 yds. will be 5½ metres in length.

1 Metre = 1 yd.
and 3¼ inches
If a yard of cloth
cost Re. 1.00 nP.,
a metre of the
same cloth
will cost Re. 1.09
nP.

**METRIC
SYSTEM** Means
SIMPLICITY & UNIFORMITY
ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA