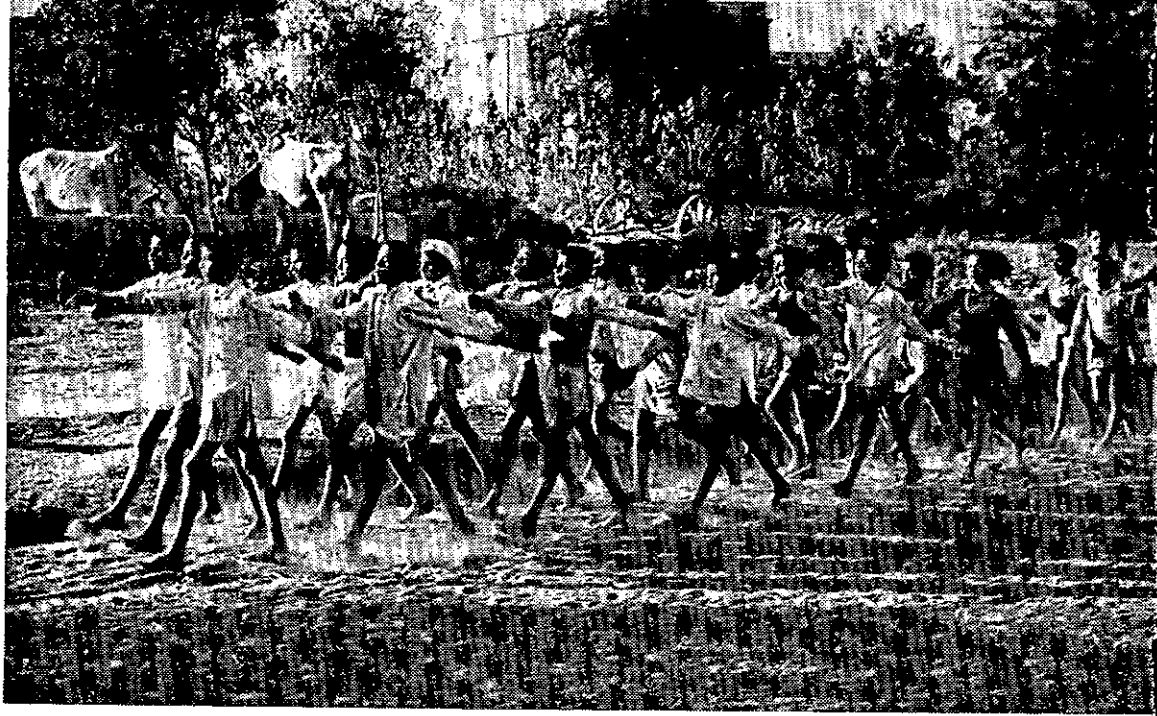


kurukshetra

NOVEMBER 14, 1964





Children of a village school near Meerut in Uttar Pradesh learn to march with a new sense of pride.



A young girl learns to use a sewing machine in a sewing class conducted by the Mahila Mandal in a Community Development Block in Madhya Pradesh.

मजदूर



मंजिल

kurukshetra

an open forum on community development

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In This Issue

EDUCATION IS THE PRIME NEED OF INDIA—ESPECIALLY THE EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG. THE C. D. PROGRAMME, THEREFORE, LAYS THE GREATEST EMPHASIS ON RURAL EDUCATION. IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH WE SEE A YOUNG BOY AT STUDY, HIS EYES GAZING FAR INTO THE FUTURE.



Articles, Letters, Books for review and Photographs of interest to Community Development, on glossy paper, are invited. The articles should be neatly typed on one side of the paper and in double spacing. The name of the contributor and his complete address should invariably be mentioned on the manuscript. Accepted articles will be paid for at our usual rates. Unsolicited articles will not be returned unless accompanied by self-addressed stamped envelope. All correspondence in this connection should be addressed to the *Editor, Kurukshetra*, Ministry of Community Development & Co-operation, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi, Telephone No. 34943.

All remittances and correspondence relating to subscriptions, sales, advertisements, etc., should, however, be addressed to the Business Manager, Publications Division, Old Secretariat, Delhi-6. Phone No. 229928.

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This Beautiful World of Ours

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, who died in New Delhi on May 27, 1964, symbolised not only the resurgence of Independent India, but the hopes and aspirations of myriads of people—young and old. He was, during his lifetime, many things to different people. Throughout his working life, particularly during the years since Independence when he had to shoulder the heavy burden of office, and despite his many pre-occupations, he loved children and inspired in the young a passionate affection for him. To the children of India, he was the affectionate 'Chacha' who always found time for them and was ever willing to join them in their innocent joys and pleasures. In a letter written in 1949 to the children of India, Shri Nehru expresses not only his abiding affection for them but his deep faith in their future. We reproduce the letter below in this issue dedicated to the welfare of children and women in India and is published on Shri Nehru's birthday, which is observed as Children's Day.— Editor.

I LIKE being with children and talking to them and, even more, playing with them. For a moment I forget that I am terribly old and that it is a very long time ago since I was a child. But when I sit down to write to you, I cannot forget my age and the distance that separates you from me. Old people have a habit of delivering sermons and good advice to the young. I remember that I disliked this very much long ago when I was a boy. So, I suppose you do not like it very much either. Grown-ups have also a habit of appearing to be very wise, even though very few of them possess much wisdom. I have not quite made up my mind yet whether I am wise or not. Sometimes, listening to others, I feel I must be very wise and brilliant and important. Then looking at myself, I begin to doubt this. In any event, people who are wise do not talk about their wisdom and do not behave as if they were very superior persons.

So, I must not give you a string of good advice as to what you should do and what you should not do. I suppose you have enough of this from your teachers and others. Nor must I presume to be a superior person.

What then shall I write about? If you were with me, I would love to talk to you about this beautiful world of ours, about flowers and stars and birds and

animals and mountains and glaciers and all the other wonderful things that surround us in this world. We have all this beauty around us and yet we, who are grown-ups, often forget about it and lose ourselves in our offices and imagine that we are doing very important work.

I hope you will be more sensible and open your eyes and ears to this beauty and life that surround you. Can you recognize the flowers by their names and the birds by their singing? How easy it is to make friends with them and with everything in Nature if you go to them affectionately and with friendship. You must have read many fairy-tales and stories of long ago. But the world itself is the greatest fairy-tale and story of adventure. Only, we must have eyes to see and ears to hear and a mind that opens out to the life and beauty of the world.

Grown-ups have a strange way putting themselves in compartments and grounds. They build up barriers and then they think that those outside their particular barriers are strangers whom they dislike. There are barriers of the religion, of caste, of colour, of party, of nation, of province, of language, of custom and of wealth and poverty. Thus, they live in prisons of their own making. Fortunately, children do not know much about these barriers which separate. They play or work



Shri Jawaharlal Nehru talking to a group of children in a village school near Delhi

with one another and it is only when they grow up that they begin to learn about these barriers from their elders. I hope you will take a long time in growing up.

I have recently been to the United States of America, and Canada, and to England. It was a long journey, right on the other side of the world. I found the children there very like the children here and also I easily made friends with them and, whenever I had the chance, I played with them a little. That was much more interesting than many of my talks with the grown-ups. For children everywhere are much the same; it is the grown-ups who imagine they are very different and deliberately make themselves so.

Some months ago the children of Japan wrote to me and asked me to send them an elephant. I sent them a beautiful elephant on behalf of the children of India. This came from Mysore and travelled all the way by sea to Japan. When it reached Tokyo, thousands and thousands of children came to see it. Many of them had never seen an elephant. This noble animal thus became a symbol of India to them and a link between them and the children of India. I was very happy that this gift of ours gave so much joy to so many children of Japan and made them think of our country. So, we must also think of their country and of the many other countries in the world and remember that everywhere there are children like you going to school and

play, sometimes quarrelling but always making friends again. You can read about these countries in your books and when you grow up, many of you will visit them. Go there as friends and you will find friends to greet you.

You know that we had a very great man amongst us. He was called Mahatma Gandhi. But we used to call him affectionately Bapuji. He was very wise but he did not show off his wisdom. He was simple and childlike in many ways and he loved children. He was a friend of everybody and everybody, peasant or worker, poor man or rich man came to him and found friendly welcome. He was a friend not only to all the people of India but also to all the people in the rest of the world. He taught us not to hate anybody, not to quarrel but to play with one another and to co-operate in the service

of our country. He taught us also not to be afraid of anything and to face the world cheerfully and with laughter.

Our country is a very big country and there is a great deal to be done by all of us. If each one of us does his or her little bit, then all this mounts up and the country prospers and goes ahead fast.

I have tried to talk to you in this letter as if you were sitting near me and I have written more than I intended.

Yours affectionately,

CHACHA

**(By courtesy of Shanker's Weekly)*

"Where have I come from, where did you pick me up?"

The baby asked his mother she answered half crying, half laughing, and clasping the baby to her breast :

"You were hidden in my heart as its desire, my darling.

"You were in dolls of my childhood's games ; and when with clay I made the image of my god every morning, I made and unmade you then....."

—Rabindranath Tagore

—The Crescent Moon

Women and National Development

SMT. SUCHETA KRIPALANI

ONE OF the myths which has been exploded long ago and which hardly needs repudiation now is that women in India are essentially meant for their homes and they need concern themselves only with their domestic life. Our history of National independence is strewn with numerous examples of brave and courageous women who devoted the whole of their life time, and gave their all, all that was best in them, for the cause of freedom. In the vast movement for national development which has been going on in this country since Independence, also, we need hardly say, they have been most prominently in the forefront. Here I am not thinking of those who are at the helm of affairs occupying positions of great trust and responsibility, although they too symbolise the significance of the revolutionary changes which have been taking place rather slowly and imperceptibly in the peoples' heart and minds over the past quarter of a century of our National history. I am thinking of the vast multitude of our women who constitute the hard core of Indian womanhood. What has been their role in bringing about a social change in this country? What it should be in order to gear up our vast human resources for national reconstruction, what are the present trends, are some of the questions we must ask ourselves by way of a fresh thinking on these problems, on an auspicious occasion like this, the birth day of our former beloved Prime Minister, who did so much for the common Indian women toiling silently and ungrudgingly in the field and factories, in their homes giving their all to make life worth living.

Needless to say, the problem of our National development is to be viewed more in terms of peoples' involvement and participation and less in terms of limited national resources we have. The role of the Government is, to my mind, merely to provide the technical 'know-how', to prepare the blue print and to organise and stimulate greater activity in the vast multitude of our people. The Government, in my opinion, should be expected only to create the basic conditions of progress so as to release their vast energies in all directions of all round development. From this point of view, therefore, it is very important not to overlook what potentialities exist in our women who constitute nearly 50% of our growing population.

Unfortunately, our women in India, are still regarded as one of the weaker sections of the community in spite of all that we can say in appreciation of their important roles. There is no doubt they have suffered

neglect in the past and deserve special treatment in regard to various welfare measures. One of the greatest hurdles in their way is their own illiteracy and lack of adequate social education among both men and women which hampers their effective participation in the countrywide programme of national development. This is the task to which all of us must address ourselves, not merely from the point of view of the task of uplifting the weak as a social welfare measure but from the larger angle of an all-round and accelerated progress. Our hearths and homes illumined by the light of learning constitute the base of democracy and progress, strengthening of which brooks no further delay. It is, therefore, of utmost urgency that women's education in India should be (and perhaps is) occupying the place of highest priorities in the various schemes of socio-economic programme. It should be our utmost concern to accelerate the pace of women's education both general and technological, faster than we have done so far and help create the basic conditions of progress soon enough, if we want to catch up with the pace of progress achieved in other developing countries in Asia and the world, otherwise, we will be sadly lagging behind them.

Another reason which is, perhaps, responsible for lack of their better involvement in development programmes is their own attitude towards themselves. Why should they think and feel, even now, that they are helpless and that enough is not being done for them by others? They must realise that there is no impediment to their progress in India, legal or social. In a free democracy they are equal partners in the common task of national development and they are expected to play their full and effective role in bringing about a social change and progress in the country with limited resources and despite all hurdles and difficulties within a short period. What is needed is that they must awaken themselves to their own sense of responsibility in a free country both individually and collectively, fight out, irrespective of what others say, all that the indecent and ugly in our life,—communalism, casteism, regionalism, linguism and all that that are slowly corroding our national life in many ways. After all, this country belongs to them in the same way as it belongs to other classes of people living along with them on this sacred soil. They must, no longer, think and feel weak and neglected as they are now masters of their own destiny and they are free to shape it according to all that is best in our national genius.

Government have already given adequate lead to women in India by inviting their participation in various national development activities. The existence of Central Social Welfare Board, State Advisory Boards and a vast net-work of voluntary women organisations in the country, e.g., Social & Moral Hygiene Organisations, All India Women's Conference, National Council for Women in India and Young Women's Christian Association of India, which receive substantial assistance from Government is proof, if proof is at all needed, of Government's utmost desire to secure women's involvement in national development activities. What to my mind is still lacking is not Government's support, but active participation of a very large number of women who have their roots in the masses and who are even now outside the pale of these national activities. It is, therefore, very necessary that women in India join these voluntary organisations in large numbers, go round every nook and corner, visit every hearth and home, particularly the homes of the poor and the weakest sections, look into their difficulties and work hard to improve their living conditions. Mere participation of a handful of leading personalities in the meetings to review organisational matters and to decide what funds are needed is not likely to produce tangible results. What is urgently needed is execution of the positive content of the programme and not merely a consideration of what is wrong with our organisation and methods and what we should do about it.

In the sphere of Community Development also, the Government expect much better involvement of women workers in rural areas. The main object of Community Development programme is to help people to improve their living standards through their own efforts and to increase agricultural production. The present food crisis in the country has once again highlighted the need for special efforts to step up production of food grains. In this context, preservation of food, food grains and quality seeds, extension of kitchen gardening on a large scale, poultry, nutrition programme and

allied cottage industries are some of the spheres in which our women can play an effective role. Substantial funds have been provided for this purpose in Third Five Year Plan, and there will be no dearth of funds if more funds are needed. Family planning is another important item of national development programme in which participation of a large number of adult women workers will be particularly useful. The Government in Uttar Pradesh have already taken adequate measures to train up a large number of Gram Sevikas and other associate women workers in the Gram Sevikas Training Centres to ensure the execution of the programme referred to above. The main difficulty in carrying out these programmes, I am told, is lack of public enthusiasm and general apathy of parents and guardians in sending their daughters for field work of the type envisaged in these programmes. I am told that right type of women candidates for recruitment as Gram Sevikas and for other posts are still not available on account of this general apathy of the people, particularly in the backward regions of Uttar Pradesh. This constitutes a serious bottleneck, and, unless voluntary women's organisations come to our rescue, it is difficult to say how we can fulfil the expectations aroused by this vast programme of national development launched in the country during the first Three Five Year Plans.

Finally, I must say and as I have said earlier, the role of the Government agencies in national development is very limited, although it is very important. What is absolutely important and urgent, however, is peoples' participation in these programmes on a very large and unprecedented scale. Obviously, therefore, if our women are not fully involved in these programmes, at least 50% of the vast human resources that we have may be treated as a waste and the progress that we may achieve is bound to be lop-sided. I would, therefore, invite all our women comrades throughout the country to join us in the fulfilment of the most inspiring task of bringing about an all round national development within our own life time.

Poultry equipment made in India to an FAO design is now being sold in export markets. Incubators are being exported through UNICEF for projects in Afghanistan, Indonesia and Thailand, said Mr. Allan McArdle (Australia), FAO poultry production adviser to India, "and we may export such equipment to other countries". Mr. McArdle put forward the suggestions responsible for production of the poultry equipment.—U.N. Weekly News-letter

The Applied Nutrition Programme

DR. CHARLES A. EGGER

THE APPLIED Nutrition Programme may be defined "as a programme which aims at the application of the existing knowledge in the fields of Food and Nutrition sciences for improving the nutritional status of dietary intake of the masses particularly of the vulnerable groups consisting of children, expectant and lactating mothers of developing countries through increased production, balanced consumption, supplementary feeding, domestic food conservation, food enrichment, etc." The Applied Nutrition Programme encompasses "the guiding principles of coordination among the international, national and local agencies for effective realisation of efforts in the field of nutrition. This programme weighs heavily on the educational and training aspects of the personnel of the national operational agencies, particularly the Agriculture, Community Development, Health and Education Departments and the local communities so that there may occur the desired change in the food habits of the local communities and radiation of knowledge on nutrition may take place gradually. Their knowledge of nutrition may improve. They may adjust their production and consumption plans in such a manner that there should be availability of enough food quantitatively and qualitatively for their consumption ensuring better health for all."

The Applied Nutrition Programme, as is operated nowadays, "is confined mostly to the rural areas as along with balanced consumption there is emphasis on increasing local production. The Programme should ideally be incorporated in the framework of the national food and nutrition policies which, in turn, should form part of the social and economic development of the country."

From the above, it will thus be seen that the above definition is quite comprehensive and covers the facets of production and consumption of the desirable food stuffs, aims at coordinated efforts between the various participating agencies—international and national—and emphasises the need for educating and training of the local communities so that they may produce better, eat better and live better.



A child looks down the empty mug which he has drained of milk to the last drop. Milk is being provided to millions of children throughout to country under the Applied Nutrition Programme.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

UNICEF was started in the year 1946 by the United Nations as an emergency measure for feeding the vulnerable groups of children, expectant and lactating mothers, particularly in the countries which were devastated and badly affected by the horrors of World War II. The activities of the organization at that time were confined mostly to the distribution of skimmed milk powder to these groups. The actual distribution work was effected mostly through the local agencies.

In India, UNICEF started its small branch in the year 1949 and undertook the work of distribution of skimmed milk powder in certain areas of the country among children, expectant and lactating mothers mostly through the States' Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. Such activities were continued upto 1957 when the UNICEF Executive Board, New York devoted considerable attention to the great need for additional practical action to improve child nutrition in the world. It is since then that the activities of the UNICEF have started multiplying and besides the supplementary feeding programme, include its participation in the country's nutritional survey work, assistance in the training of the national personnel and the communities in nutrition,



Women and children who are taking increasing interest in the Programme listen with rapt attention to a Gram Sevika explaining the finer-points of preparing nutritive dishes at home.

starting of home and community gardens, fish culture, small animal and poultry raising, enrichment of food, etc. for improving the feeding standards of the local people. The technical aspects of the programme are looked after by FAO and WHO, while equipment and supplies are arranged by UNICEF.

IN INDIA

The first step which the UNICEF undertook to help the development of the Comprehensive Nutrition Programme was to assist the Nutrition scheme of Orissa in the year 1959, where the State Government had already taken steps for starting school gardens, poultry-raising, fish culture, etc., for feeding the vulnerable groups of children, lactating and nursing mothers in certain areas of the various districts in order to find out its repeatability throughout the State in a course of few years. The timely help of the UNICEF, in the shape of necessary equipment for accelerating the progress of work and that of the FAO and WHO through the technical know-how in the various fields of activities provided stimulus to the scheme. It was considered feasible that such an experiment would serve as a good fore-runner for extending similar schemes in other areas of the country in case it proved successful. The results obtained from Orissa were found to be rewarding. The State of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Madras followed suit in subsequent years extending the scheme to cover a population of 1.4 millions in 1,620 villages within 99 Community Development Blocks. UNICEF's assistance committed for these State projects amounted to \$912,000. A major portion of the same has already

been expended towards meeting the required supplies and equipment envisaged under the programme. The scheme was then known as Expanded Nutrition Scheme. Later on it was designed as Applied Nutrition Scheme, the emphasis being relatively more on education and training aspects of nutrition. While working out the plans of operations, the representatives of the international agencies—UNICEF, WHO and FAO—impressed on the State Governments the desirability of executing the nutritional schemes in their areas on the stipulation that they will be operating the programmes, that these are their programmes, that they will undertake to provide educational training facilities to the local people whose knowledge about nutrition and proper dietary intake are rather poor and that the State Governments will be contributing their shares to make the schemes workable and comprehensive with the assistance made available to them by the international agencies.

There is no doubt that these schemes had their own birth pangs and teething troubles; nevertheless, they served as a sort of precursor for the expansion of similar programmes in the country. They attracted the attention of the Government of India as well as of the State Governments. The Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation in collaboration with the international agencies worked out a plan during February 1963, known as the Master Plan, for the expansion of the Applied Nutrition Programme in various States. On that basis, a number of State Plans have already been prepared with necessary modifications and improvements for which some experiences are already available from the Nutrition Schemes in the country. The new plans of operations of Applied Nutrition Programme have been completed for the States of Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Himachal Pradesh and Orissa while the plans for West Bengal and Punjab are in the process of being completed. Other States, whose draft plans are in the stage of being processed, are Bihar, Maharashtra, Delhi and Tripura. Action is to be stimulated for the preparation of plans in Assam, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Goa, Manipur and Andaman Nicobar.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

The international agencies under the Applied Nutrition Programme provide the following assistance:—

- (i) *FAO* provides technical guidance through its experts for raising production of agricultural crops, poultry, fisheries, fruits, vegetables, milk, etc. It provides expert guidance in milk and food conservation.
- (ii) *WHO* provides assistance in the field of food hygiene and help in dietary and clinical surveys for determining the deficiency diseases and suggest methods for controlling them.
- (iii) *UNICEF* helps in the training of the national personnel in nutrition within and outside the country. Women and Youth Clubs are provided help for practising the Applied Nutrition Programme in the villages. Help is also

extended for starting and equipping the Regional Training Centres for imparting training to the teaching staff of the Extension Centres. Help is also provided to the production centres like those of milk, poultry, vegetable and fruit growing, fisheries including coastal fisheries, etc. for which transport, equipment and other facilities are arranged.

The International Agencies, thus, help in supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in increasing production and at the same time emphasising the need for establishing proper relationship between production of nutritious food and their consumption. On the one hand the International Agencies make coordinated efforts among themselves in helping production and consumption of nutritious food and of education, on the other hand coordinate their activities with the Government of India and the State Governments and through training programme stimulate action for fuller involvement of local communities. They also help in the "built-in" process of evaluation.

The Applied Nutrition Programme, according to the present signed agreements covers 193 Community Development Blocks, 92 Extension Training Institutions and 72 Production Centres (including those covered under the first phase of ENP Projects). UNICEF assistance committed for these State Projects, according to the signed Plans of Operations amounts to \$4,111,000.

When all the plans are signed, which are in the process of being finalised, the Applied Nutrition Programme will cover approximately 300 Community Development Blocks, 170 Extension Training Institutions and about the same number of Production Centres. The cumulative value of UNICEF assistance for all the State Projects will amount to approximately \$8.5 million. In years to come, the emphasis of UNICEF will shift to consolidation and some expansion under the Applied Nutrition Programme particularly during the Fourth Five Year Plan period.

The interest and cooperation that the National and the State Governments have taken in the working of the Applied Nutrition Programme in India is really very encouraging and it is hoped that with the joint efforts of all the participating agencies, the Programme in future



Kitchen gardening is steadily becoming more popular in many parts of rural India. In this photograph we see trainees of the Home Economic Centre at Bhubaneswar (Orissa) working with Gram Sevikas weeding a kitchen garden.

will be further strengthened. The educational and training aspects of the programme are, no doubt slow, but they are really fundamental to the successful working of the programme. This is the basic reason that sufficient attention is being given to the educational aspect of the programme, as it is through them, that the desired changes in the food habits of the masses can be brought about and the need for adequate diet can be realised. This programme is a sound one as it aims at improving the general health of the masses, particularly of the vulnerable groups in India. International Agencies are happy to derive the satisfaction that they have been able to stimulate thinking of the Central and State Governments on the needs of the Applied Nutrition Programme for the general good of the vast mass of humanity in India which suffers from a number of nutritional deficiencies.

A fish farm centre, with facilities for induced breeding in air-conditioned laboratories and ponds for breeding and for fry and fingerlings, is being developed at Kathantatal, Uttar Pradesh. This was reported by Dr. S. Berg, FAO fishery adviser working on the Government of India's Applied Nutrition programme. Fish farms are under construction in various parts of U.P. and in tanks, lakes, reservoirs and ponds already stocked, the growth of the fish is good, Dr. Berg said.—U. N. Weekly News-letter

School Lunch

PRAMILA PANDIT BAROOAH

TODAY millions in our country are sick because of mal-nutrition and the principal victims unfortunately are the infants and children. Our country is economically and socially changing fast, but with it our population is increasing also. We preach or even teach nutrition to our masses, but, even when they learn and understand the same, they cannot apply it in their day-to-day lives for insufficient income of their families. Growth of population is one of the biggest problems now facing the country, and it has to be dealt with expeditiously. But in the meanwhile we must take care of what is on hand, the infants and children, and give them adequate nutrition.

The late Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, who felt deeply for the children once said. "It pains me to see neglected children in villages. It is not that they are orphans for they have parents but none the less their condition indicates as if no body looks after them. It is a matter of regret that the task which we should have attended to primarily, has not been done. But there are many similar things for which we have to have regrets. It is, however, not possible to bring about a change in the conditions in India with a magic wand. The problem of giving priorities in the plans is a difficult one, what should come first and what the second and the third, and which of them should be the last? But in my opinion child welfare should have the first priority in all our activities. If we neglect our children today, if we do not look after them well, we will be creating many more difficult problems for ourselves in the future".

Milk being served to children at a village school.



The true richness of any country depends on its human richness, specially those who are between 1—14 years of age. Therefore, all plannings must aim at children and all the resources possible be used for the children of today, so that they may possess everything they need for their harmonious development—physical, intellectual, civic and moral.

Children in the age group of 0—9 constitute a vital section of the total population in the country. Nearly 2.5 crores of children are attending primary schools. Today provision of health services, in schools like immunization, medical care, accident prevention, health, environment etc. are available but these alone does not lead to good health. The school children need increasing attention because most in this group come from low income groups and the poor health is mainly due to mal-nutrition. Hence, the problem should be solved from this angle, and the best solution is "School Lunch".

It is estimated that 15 to 20 million children suffer from protein caloric deficiency. Also Vitamin A.B.C. and minerals are absent in their food. These not only affect their growth but make children an easy prey to communicable diseases.

The importance of school lunch, reminds me of the National Institute for the Protection of Children, in Mexico city, which we visited last year. Though Mexico is a small country, the people and the Government there are doing a stupendous job for the children. The President's wife takes special interest and sees that all other women did voluntary services. She has put all the First ladies i.e., the wives of the seniormost officers or workers from capital, district, division, and Block level in charge of the whole programme at their respective levels.

Every pre-primary and primary school child gets milk and vitamins free. While for other needy children school lunches are distributed in packets at a very nominal price. They distribute 200,000 meal packets per day in Mexico city alone and over 1 million per day in the whole country. The expenditure is 300,000 pesos per day. Each packet, according to their conditions and standards cost about Rs. 8/- and the child who gets the packet pays about Re. 1/- per day. Each lunch packet consists of sandwich, milk, fruit and candy. Sandwiches vary; thrice a week they give meat, once peanut and once jam.

The factory is just a place worth seeing, where all works are done mostly by machines. There are 5 machines working, and each machine produces 500 packets per hour. They work in the morning from

(Continued on page 26)

Bengal's Fish Problem

S. N. BHATTACHARYYA



Fishermen display their catch in a village pond in West Bengal

THE Applied Nutrition Programme, launched a few years ago by the Government in collaboration with agencies like United Nations Children's Emergency Fund, Food & Agricultural Organisation and World Health Organisation, is based on self-help, promotion of local resources and coordinated effort. Through self-help villagers are not only encouraged to produce more but also are taught to preserve the surplus food as well. More important, they are eating nutritious food prepared in healthy, hygienic condition.

The Village Mahila Samiti or the school serves as the base for this programme. All villagers, particularly the school teacher, members of the Mahila Samiti, Youth Club and the Panchayat are playing active part in making the scheme a success. Their efforts are linked up and coordinated with those of the Community Development Blocks. In States, where the Applied Nutrition Programme is making progress, the Block headquarters have been equipped with poultry centres and sub-centres. Orchards, vegetable gardens and fish tanks are also raised in Block areas. Fingerlings for tanks are distributed free which are maintained by Panchayats. In areas, where fish forms an important item in the daily diet of the people and is a source of rich protein, more attention is paid to the production of fish.

Fish had all along been an important food with the Bengalees. But, unfortunately, there is an acute shortage of fish in Bengal now. Portions of the Ganges have traditionally been the collecting ground for fish eggs and spawn. This is mostly confined to shallow placid water in the small area bounded, in the west, by Rajmahal and, in the east, by Murshidabad. There are one or two other water areas, but none so fertile as this one. Moreover, the fishermen living in this area are in the trade for hundreds of years. They know the technique of catching and preserving the eggs and spawn which are despatched to the Calcutta market. From Calcutta, where a small portion is grown into fingerling, spawn and fry are sent not only to other States of India but

to the regions in the Far East. Even these are flown, in specially sealed packets, as far off as Japan.

This lucrative trade is in the hands of a few persons who are making enormous money and, naturally, are not interested in growing and selling fish in the State as such. Other States like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, not only purchase spawn but rear them in State tanks under the supervision of the Panchayats to be sold back to Bengal with a heavy margin of profit. Even the temples of Mysore, not to speak of the vegetarian States of the South, are rearing fish and exporting them in large quantities to the fish loving Bengalees.

It is an irony that Bengal, which has a near monopoly of fish egg and fry, has not done enough for intensive fish cultivation in the State. The Fisheries Directorate, which is one of the oldest in the Indian Union, was so long of the view that there was not enough of water where pisciculture could be taken up on a large scale. But, recently, the Bhabatosh Dutta Committee proved with facts and figures that there was enough of water where pisciculture could be taken in hand. Unfortunately, the Land Acquisition Act of Bengal, under which the proprietary right of the land was vested in the State, also stood in the way of pisciculture. Though land was acquired by the State, the right on water reservoirs, strangely, was left with the original owners. The Union Boards of the recently constituted Panchayats have no control over them; nor does the State have any. Innumerable tanks—there are 400 such in Calcutta and in the vicinity—are lying unused without any effort on the part of the individual or the Government to culture fish in those.

Even in Community Development Blocks in the State, unlike those in other States where Applied Nutrition



Fishermen buying fingerlings for their ponds.

Programme has been taken up quite seriously, nothing significant is happening because of the indecision on the part of the Government. The Union Government suggested a scheme, backed by adequate subsidy, in selected 150 Community Development Blocks. Apart from fish production, it could provide jobs to many young men of Bengal. Whereas Bengal has not appointed a single Block level Fisheries Extension worker, its neighbouring State, the so-called poor State of Orissa, has appointed 89 workers under the same scheme. The Union Government suggested an expenditure of Rs. 13,000 per Block per annum for the intensive pisciculture scheme. While all the States accepted it on the principle that any help from anywhere is better than sitting idle, the West Bengal Government submitted an alternative scheme for only 16 Blocks with an expenditure of Rs. 2,300 on each. According to the programme, 20,000 fingerlings per Block would be supplied. If all these survive and proper care is taken to nurture them, there would be, at the end of two years, an addition of about 1,000 maunds of fish. Even the Community Development Block of about 66,000 people will hardly get enough to satisfy them for a week.

The other source could have been the sea fish. Unfortunately, there is the legacy of deep-sea fishing by the State Government which became a drag on the slender resources of the State. Ultimately—after about 12 years of experiment—it was stopped. Unfortunately, the State Government did not survey the potential of estuarine fish or deep-sea nor did it encourage the foreign agencies like F.A.O. to do it, though they offered their services. Above all, there is the peculiar Bengali taste in favour of sweet water fish, which, it is high time, should change.

Incidentally, it will be of interest to note that Diamond Harbour boats of West Bengal were considered by the foreign experts to be best suited for mechanised fishing in the whole of India. While West Bengal could not mechanise even one out of about 3,000 on water, States

like Andhra Pradesh are getting their out-board fittings from firms located in Calcutta.

Junput, a small place off Digha, a sea-side resort in West Bengal, has one of the finest research stations in the country. They have not only developed and popularised certain types of sea and estuarine fish, but have made oil, biscuits and even fertiliser out of fish. Unfortunately, at no time, much attention was paid to this research work, though lakhs of rupees are being spent by the State Government to lure a few hundred tourists to the Digha sea coast.

According to the official figures in 1958, Calcutta market was supplied with 12,500 tons of fish from the State's resources. It dwindled to 9,500 tons in 1962. During the same period, the States of Orissa, Bihar, Rajasthan, U.P., Madhya Pradesh and the Punjab increased their supply from 18,500 tons in 1958 to 24,900 tons in 1962. But more interesting are the statistics about supply of fish from East Pakistan. From 9,900 tons in 1958, it rose to 41,000 tons in 1962. This figure may give a clue to the pressure put for renewal, year after year, of the Open General Licence. This may also indicate why the Fisheries Department could not make an all out effort to develop State's own fisheries development programme as other non-fish eating States of the Indian Union are doing. All told, in the year 1962, 75,500 tons, as against 41,400 tons in 1958, were supplied to the Calcutta market, which, according to the Fisheries Minister of West Bengal, requires 8,000 maunds of fish every day.

In partial answer to this demand, the Central Fisheries Marketing Corporation is being set up shortly by the Union Government with headquarters in Calcutta. This is, apart from other reasons, to stop 30 per cent of the required fish supplied from Pakistan representing Rs. 7 crores of foreign exchange. In this marketing organisation, the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, the Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Madras and Gujarat would be included. The main job of the Corporation would be the collection of fish, their storage and arrangement for sale to the people.

But simultaneous attention should be given to intensive and extensive pisciculture within the State. This should be done in an integrated way as has been done in other States, particularly in Gujarat, where fishermen's cooperatives have been formed in many places. They are given subsidies for mechanised boats, as also loans. They are also given nylon nets for better catch. Apart from that, the fishermen are given training in modern methods of catching fish.

The cooperatives collect the fish which is preserved at the ports with ice manufactured locally. A number of ice plants have been started. The fish is packed carefully, then despatched, mostly by road—for which purpose roads are properly maintained and, in some places, newly constructed—in refrigerated vans. Fish comes to the central market in Ahmedabad, from where refrigerated trains carry them to markets in Bombay and Delhi. The plan for West Bengal should be more or less on this line.

Prime Minister's Clarion Call appeal to farmers

The Prime Minister, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, in a nation-wide broadcast in the face of a mounting food crisis appealed to his "brother Kisans" on October 1, 1964, to do everything possible to increase agricultural output in the coming Rabi season. Addressing the cultivators of India, the 300 million people who lived in the countryside and till more than 350 million acres of land, he said that there was no greater service that they could render to society, their fellow countrymen and their country than to do everything possible to increase output from their fields. The Prime Minister dealt specifically with the roles of Community Development Blocks, Panchayats and Co-operatives in this tremendous task. We publish below extracts from the Prime Minister's broadcast in the hope that it will inspire and be emulated by those who are directly concerned with the implementation of the C. D. programme.—Editor.

DURING the last few years there has been some increase in agricultural production. During the First Five Year Plan, production went up by 17%, and during the Second by 20%. We had set a target of increasing production by 30% in the Third Plan. All the credit for this increase in production goes to our cultivators, who have laboured so much to bring it about. It is, however, unfortunate that this increase in production had not been to the extent that we had hoped, and the effect becomes still less when one considers the rapid increase in population. One of the difficulties has been natural calamities—excessive rain in some areas, lack of rain in others, frost, etc.—and the result has been that our production has been well below the Third Plan targets. But there is no reason to lose heart. None knows better than you that agriculture is a matter where a little increase and decrease is a phenomenon that one has always to be prepared for. But in the long run, Fortune smiles on those who strive and endeavour.

I believe firmly that the cultivators of this country have the strength and the capacity to make up the deficiencies even in one single season—the coming Rabi season—and to give a new direction to the country's economic progress.

My brother cultivators, when it comes to fields and agriculture, you know so much more than I do. In this

appeal, therefore, I shall confine myself only to a few broad matters.

- (i) Proper preparation of the fields plays an important part in the success of agriculture. We must use cow-dung and other compost and make the fields as productive as possible. There is no need for getting too many things from outside, and success will depend to a great extent on the efforts which you and your family members put in.
- (ii) Use improved seeds, improved manures and fertilizers to the maximum extent possible. Proper use of fertilizers does so much to increase output rapidly. It has also been seen that many cultivators use far too much seed. Research has shown that by use of less seed, sown in a proper manner, the production actually increases, especially as every plant is able to get sufficient space for nourishment.
- (iii) In many parts of our country, the success of agriculture depends on irrigation. It is indeed a pity that not all areas have got the irrigation facilities they require, but wherever such facilities are available, we must put them to the maximum possible use. For instance, where canal water is available, we must have the field channels ready and also raise proper

boundaries in our fields so that maximum use can be made of the water available. All this may seem rather trivial, but this is a matter of utmost importance. I would urge you to give maximum attention to construction of masonry wells, tanks, and field channels etc., and this in itself will have a very rapid impact on increase in production.

- (iv) There are many fields from which we can get two crops but are unable to do so. This is because ploughing and preparation of the field is not done in time, and so sowing is not possible. Our endeavour should be to see that there should be no single-cropped fields. By proper rotation of crops we can ensure that no agricultural land is left without a crop in any agricultural season.
- (v) At a time when food shortage threatens us, the need is to go in for those crops that ripen early and give greater output. Whereas you can get about 25 to 30 maunds of wheat from an acre, from that same one acre you can grow three to four hundred maunds of potatoes, or 250 to 300 maunds of cauliflower and cabbage, tomatoes etc. We do need to give more emphasis to increased production of vegetables.
- (vi) In this country, we have not also been able to use pesticides and improved agricultural implements to the extent necessary. This is one of the reasons why production lags behind. As soon as any crop is attacked by pest, we must use the proper insecticides, and for this you can get the necessary know-how from your Gram Sevak and other Development Officers.

MINIMUM PRICES

I believe you all know that we have decided to fix minimum prices for various agricultural commodities. This is being done to guarantee that the cultivator gets sufficient remuneration for the labour and investment put in by him. We shall ensure that you are properly remunerated, just as we propose to impose restrictions on those middlemen who tend to take away the greater part of the profits. In order to increase production in the coming Rabi season, you will have to invest in improved seeds, manures and fertilizers. The prices of Rabi crops will be so fixed that this investment will bring in sufficient return. In fact, it will always be our endeavour to ensure that our cultivators are properly rewarded for the commodities they produce, and which are so essential for the life of the community.

VILLAGE PANCHAYATS

In this vast country, we have set up once again the system of village Panchayats. These Panchayats can only come to their full flowering in conditions of economic prosperity, and hence it is their first duty to do

everything possible to increase agricultural production and thereby bring about that prosperity. It is this increase of production that is also now the principal challenge before the Community Development Movement, on which we have laid so much stress. If we have to import food indefinitely to feed our people and import raw material to run our industries, how can we ever hope to improve the economy of our country or raise the standard of living of our people?

CO-ORDINATION ESSENTIAL

For the success of the Rabi campaign it is of the utmost importance that there should be full co-ordination between the different departments who are concerned. It is equally essential that items like improved seeds, manures and fertilizers, improved implements, pesticides, irrigation facilities and agricultural loans should be available in proper measure at the appropriate time.

For the proper utilisation of these facilities, the Development Block, the Panchayat, the Co-operative Society, the Krishak Samaj, the Gram Sahayak and all other workers, who come into contact with the Kisan, have got to put their best foot forward and work with utmost enthusiasm and devotion. For the Government servants particularly, especially, those serving in the districts and in the villages, this is indeed a wonderful opportunity for service to the country. They can share in the great task of providing food to their countrymen.

CONTACT WITH CULTIVATORS

When Gandhiji was our leader, the workers of the Congress used to go from village to village throughout the country and bring home to every individual the meaning and content of freedom. In this manner, they created enthusiasm wherever they went and built up a vast National Movement. At this time of emergency, when a serious food crisis threatens us, the need of the time is that everyone of us, to whatever group or party he may belong, should enlist himself in this agricultural campaign and go once again from village to village enthusing the cultivators and helping them to resolve their difficulties. To bring the message of this campaign to every corner of India, to spread a new glow of awakening and enthusiasm in the hearts of our villagers, is truly today the greatest service of the Nation.

The monsoons are coming to an end and the month of October gives promise of the cool and pleasant season that is to come. This is a month of the greatest significance and the greatest effort for our cultivators. It is in this month that long before the break of day, you take up your plough and drive your bullocks and go to the fields and labour hard so that the soil becomes soft and fertile and productive. By the sweat of your brow you have to end this shortage of food and defeat want and poverty. Let the coming agricultural season, the new crop that is to be sown, mark a new turning point in our country's future.

In what words shall I appeal to every single peasant of this country to spare no effort of body, mind, wealth or labour, in the forthcoming Rabi sowings in order to make our country prosperous and strong? I would also earnestly request those who are the elected members of co-operative societies and of village pan-

chayats and, in fact, all workers and volunteers, that in this time of difficulty they may stand shoulder to shoulder with their kisan brothers and build up a new and irresistible force on the agricultural front. Where there is courage and there is determination, can success ever be in doubt?

Community Development and Cooperation

SAMI-UD-DIN

THE Community Development Programme calls for the improvement of village communities in all spheres—economic, social, cultural, moral and political. The Programme lays special emphasis on the growth of self-reliance in the individual so that the people, as a whole, are able to manage their affairs themselves without Government assistance. The unique feature of the Programme is that it is both a community development and an Extension programme. It is an Extension programme because it leads to the establishment of links between all the higher centres of information and the villages, and helps to create a cadre of trained personnel for disseminating knowledge in the fields of agriculture, education, health and other matters. In the words of Prof. Toynbee, "In Russia, China and India alike, energetic attempts to modernize the peasantry are being made in our time; but the experiment in India is uniquely important and interesting. India has chosen the harder and slower way of trying to persuade the peasants' conservative mind to opt for modernization voluntarily as a result of being rationally convinced of its advantages." The unique significance and the relatively slow pace of progress in India are due to the democratic character of the Indian experiment. It is far more easy to dictate, than to induce men into action. This explains the difference in the growth-rates of the two processes: transforming fields into agricultural factories through imposition, on the one hand; or making self-respecting peasants into conscious, productive, citizens after rational conviction, on the other. We have deliberately opted for the latter. It is not only because it allows man his freedom, but also because the growth rate is faster in the long run and is more abiding. Our programme also differs from those of advanced countries like the U.K. and U.S.A. In advanced countries this technique is employed to solve some of the problems of the agricultural or urban population. But, in India this method enables people living in village communities to improve their economic and social conditions and thereby become effective working groups carrying out programmes of national development. We have adopted this method for we

thought that the villages would be dynamic members of the community, only if they were permitted to take decisions and encouraged to take up projects of immediate utility. It is also borne out by experience that increased production may be achieved only if we also take up the problems not directly related to agricultural production e.g., prices of agricultural produce, marketing and warehousing facilities, eradication of illiteracy, health services, etc. All these are inter-related problems, and, in any programme of rural development, all these have to be tackled speedily. Consequently, emphasis has been laid on all the inter-related problems of the rural areas. The Community Development Programme, broadly speaking, takes care of agriculture and animal husbandry, irrigation and land reclamation, health and rural sanitation, education, including social education, communication, village industries, and housing, etc. In the 12 years that the C.D. programme has been in operation, it has spread through the length and breadth of India; but it has still to prove its effectiveness as an agricultural Extension agent. It is not an easy task; but it can be achieved with the proper coordination of activities and a balanced growth of the different sectors under a planned programme of action. It has been noted that the cooperation of the village community can be achieved by efficiently organising supplies and credit under proper leadership.

In this respect the Community Development Programme has to depend on the Cooperative movement which is the main current of the programme of economic development of India. The supply of credit, fertilizers, improved seed, etc., is the normal function of Co-operatives, though they discharge a number of other functions too. Since their birth Service Co-operatives have been engaged in preparing production plans for their members, giving technical advice and meeting their requirements of cash and goods according to their ability. Moreover, they link credit with marketing and provide incentives to the farmer to produce more. Service Co-operatives and other single and multipurpose Coopera-

tives are also engaged in mobilising group efforts for the successful implementation of the programmes like digging of field channels, maintenance of bunds, contour bunding, development of local manurial resources, etc. This undoubtedly underlines the great contribution of cooperatives in the successful implementation of the Community Development programme in India. If the cooperatives are incapable of rendering this service, the village and Block leadership should scrutinize this problem. It has generally been alleged that members of Cooperatives expect too much from it. They think that a Cooperative Society is a public bank full of Government treasure from which every member can draw, as a matter of right, if he agrees to pay the prescribed rate of interest. Also, the Cooperatives are expected to function without the active participation of members as the Government provides financial help to these societies. This may lead to the abandonment of initiative in a growing Nation. The greatest disservice the Block staff can render to the village people is to misguide them in their efforts to find appropriate methods of solving their traditional problems by encouraging them to expect too much with too little effort. If properly organised on sound principles with enlightened membership, Cooperatives can help the village people to earn their living and in their dealings with the outside world, particularly about agricultural and industrial development. It is, however, of utmost importance that the Block staff clearly understand that a Cooperative is a method of assisting the village people to do things through defined group relations which they cannot effectively do as individuals.

One of the most important objectives of the Community Development programme is to promote a coopera-

tive way of life. This can be achieved by organising the entire village population in such a way that it functions as one community. In this context the Cooperatives acquire a new meaning. To achieve this end the Cooperatives must look after the economic and social life of the village community, by bringing all the village families within its fold and fostering a sense of both individual and joint responsibility among them.

The basic problems of our rural sector are: firstly, low saving because of small income; secondly, unemployment due to seasonal work in agriculture and absence of rural industries; thirdly, lack of a desire to improve the existing conditions due to illiteracy, etc., fourthly, inadequate means of communications; and lastly, poor leadership and political bankruptcy. To overcome all these handicaps from which the rural economy suffers, the Cooperatives offer the best possible remedy. We have ample opportunities of (a) starting cottage and small-scale industries on a cooperative basis; (b) organising agriculture on modern lines by adopting cooperative principles; (c) forming labour cooperatives to eradicate unemployment and (d) of changing the outlook of the rural population and rousing them from mental lethargy. If Cooperatives are guided properly by selfless workers they can achieve the targets of agricultural production. It may be maintained that Block authorities do not bother about the progress of the Cooperatives since they regard them merely as agencies for channelling fertilizers, credit, etc. The Cooperatives have still to prove their social utility and economic viability. If properly developed the Cooperative sector can help the Community Development Programme in achieving the desired targets of economic, social and cultural advancement.

Socio-psychological Aspects of Agricultural Credit

V. S. S. POTTI

KNOWLEDGE about sociological aspects in the acceptance and use of credit is indispensable for providing a true understanding of the working of rural credit as also for the proper appraisal of the effects or any particular measure of governmental policy or legislation on the rural population. The social structure and the component elements like groups, institutions and organisations and the dimensions like value orientation, informal communication net work, social stratification and leadership exert powerful influence on the members of the community in the acceptance or rejection of change. Taking rural India into consi-

deration we can immediately discern that the society is largely caste-structured and land ownership is often an accepted symbol of social status. From the point of view of religious beliefs the vast majority of the people are orthodox and tradition-oriented. However the impact of industrialisation is naturally contributing to an increasing complexity and in some cases disorganisation of social life. New patterns of social interaction and exposure to new sources of technical and social knowledge have tended to result in motivations and aspirations for higher living standards.

Socio-psychological considerations play a large part in the acceptance and use of credit. Perhaps, these are equally as important as economic considerations. The ultimate decision by a farmer to use credit depends on the balance between economic and socio-psychological considerations. Instances are not rare of a farmer refusing to use credit or use it in an improper manner, even while economic considerations would justify use of credit for productive purposes. These characteristics of the farm operator can therefore be seen to exert a strong influence on the adoption of credit as a tool for increasing production.

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

An analysis of the factors in the social context which appear to strengthen or weaken the farm operator's predisposition to use credit is given below.

1. *Nationality and Religion* : The various cultural heritages implied by difference in nationality background and religious affiliations are of sufficient intensity to be considered as influencing the use of credit. Certain cultures have value orientations which decry getting into debt or borrowing. Debt of any sort is considered a social stigma and since these values are group-sanctioned and group-enforced, individual cultivators would not dare to go against established standards of behaviour which view debt in a socially or ethically undesirable light. Even in advanced countries, where the group standards or values tend to be highly rationalised, a significant proportion of farmers look down upon debt as being bad. Certain religions like Islam have built-in taboos against taking interest on loans and so the use of credit as an instrument for the production and flow of goods may be severely restricted.

2. *Age* : One might expect age to be an important consideration in the acceptance and use of credit. Youth are generally considered more radical and the old more conservative. The young farmer would be interested in getting ahead while the older operator would naturally be interested in preserving whatever security he has attained. A strong linear negative association of age with acceptance of credit would therefore seem to be indicated.

3. *Education* : Education has been found to be significantly associated with adoption of recommended farm practices. Education should prepare one to follow technical information and condition one to accept rationality as a basis for decision-making. A high level of education would, therefore, seem to be an important factor for the acceptance of credit. The Rural Credit Survey Report has observed that illiteracy is one of the major handicaps to the proper operation of agricultural finance in India.

4. *Socio-economic status* : Socio-economic status has frequently been found related to acceptance and use of credit. The systems of land tenure and tenancy which enter into any scale for the measurement of

socio-economic status would seem to be associated with acceptance of credit. The level of living is a resultant of income level, capital reserves and consumption standards and even as economic criteria they affect the extension and use of credit. However, the handicap of a tenant or share-cropper is not only the smallness of his operating unit or lack of economic resources but also his low credit rating on the basis of low social status.

5. *Familial status* : Family as a social institution governs the economic activities of its members. In the peasant societies economic activities such as supply of food, shelter and clothing are primarily connected with family and it ensured these basic necessities to each member. The Rural Credit Survey has indicated that the joint-family system prevailing in India is also one of the main handicaps to the proper operation of agricultural finance. The joint-family system and its subsequent disintegration without providing for other economic and social institutions to take up its functions has also affected the use of credit. Studies in the United States have shown that the number of generations with some influence on the management of the farm does seem to be related to adoption. Young operators sharing management decisions with fathers and middle-aged operators sharing management decisions with sons had the highest adoption scores. It would seem that a multiple generation farm is in a better capital position and so more inclined to accept and utilise credit.

6. *Caste and social stratification* : Caste and the stratification of society has a pervasive influence on the system of agricultural finance in India. Land-owners and tenants may live nearby, but have no close intimacy for sympathetic understanding of their day-to-day needs. Backward communities are tied to their old-world ceremonies, priests and caste rules. Their range of contacts is limited. They are less susceptible to new ideas and have little desire to improve their standard of life. Though theoretically anybody with wealth can acquire landed property, the rigid differentiation of class functions precludes one from a lower caste to take to cultivation as a profession. Even in the present era when ideas and technological change have begun to penetrate into the villages, the social ladder is largely a myth on account of the social layering and lack of vertical social mobility. Instances have been quoted where the basic cooperative institutions of credit have become instruments of overlordship of certain dominant castes. The poorer members and those who belong to lower social strata are not generally drawn into the sphere of such organisations.

7. *Leadership* : The Rural Credit Survey Report states that the co-operative credit institutions today contain middleclass leadership of varying and conflicting interests. Village leadership has evolved on the basis of land ownership. In some communities land-ownership is the privilege of the dominant castes and other castes are not given equal status or opportunities for leadership. The operations of economic forces are

however, leading to a gradual erosion of leadership on the basis of social class and caste.

8. *Moral characteristics*: Moral characteristics of individuals influence the extension and use of credit through building credit rating and also in their effect on strengthening of risk bearing ability. Characteristics such as honesty, integrity, assumption of responsibilities and dependability go a long way to build a good credit rating. The individual with a determination and a will to work and sacrifice, if necessary, to fulfil an obligation or contract will overcome much greater difficulties than the one who quits when the going gets tough.

9. *Attitude towards farming*: A strong commercialised attitude towards farming is positively correlated with use of credit. Keeping farm records, their elaborateness and the purpose for which they are kept would seem to indicate an attitude consonant with commercial motivations in farming. On the contrary, subsistence farming combined with low level of education is not conducive to the keeping of farm records and indicates a disinclination towards the commercial aspects of farming.

Attitude dimensions of farm operators may be ordered on a rigidity-flexibility continuum. Farmers at the rigid extreme of this continuum seem to regard credit as a hazard which is to be avoided. Farmers at

the flexible extreme of the continuum tend to regard farming as a problem-solving situation and vary their farm operations to changing conditions. The more "flexible" farmers seem to exhibit a progressive mentality while the more rigid farmers appear to exhibit a more traditional mentality. However, willingness to borrow or a positive attitude towards credit may be confounded with ability to borrow and credit rationing may be voluntary or involuntary.

Another attitude dimension with implications in the use of credit is the acceptance of professional and scientific values in farming. This dimension is manifested by indicators such as a high degree of reliance on technical sources of farm information, willingness to try and experiment and membership in agricultural organisations.

CONCLUSION

Acceptance and use of credit by farm operators is not merely an economic problem. An important part of the explanation for failure to accept and use credit is involved in the operator's occupational philosophy—whether or not he views farming as a profession, whether or not he sees farming as a problem-solving situation and also the values and standards of the social milieu in which he operates. Thus the problem of use of credit is not merely one of logical considerations but one of changing the farmer's personality orientations.

Sericultural Cooperatives

T. S. SUNDARA MURTHY

INDIA HAS to draw a lesson from Japan in the matter of organising sericultural industry on cooperative line. In fact the phenomenal success of Japan which feeds over half of the world demand for raw silk stems from the sound and efficient working of the sericultural cooperatives.

Japan's 8,30,000 farming households are the members of some 13,750 sericultural cooperatives or market associations. Of this about 10,000 are the sericultural products, sales and agricultural associations organised exclusively by the sericultural farmers and the rest about 3,750 by the agricultural farmers. There are cooperatives for mulberry raisings, young silkworm rearing, seed production, reeling and marketing of cocoons and silk. There is at least one cooperative in every sericultural village and two or three cooperatives in a bigger village. The Japanese Government encourages the formation of cooperatives by munificent grants and

subsidies. Over 92% of cotton production is controlled by these cooperatives.

In India though attempts have been made during the first two Plans—and some atmosphere has been created during the current Plan period—our progress is rather halting. We have landless labourers in abundance and our agriculturists themselves do not have enough work throughout the year. It would, therefore, go a long way to ameliorate the condition of these persons and other backward hill tribes who are engaged in this industry, if cooperatives at all levels are organised. While mulberry can be successfully cultivated by the farmers in any part of his land-holding and food plants for the non-mulberry silkworms are available in plenty in the forest areas; there does not appear to be any need at the present juncture to organise cooperatives of nursery men for the propagation of improved and grafted varieties of food plants. But sericulture farming should

be practised on a cooperative basis by the landless workers particularly for whom, there is no scope for any other subsidiary or village industry. The two necessary factors are the availability of cultivable waste lands and the favourable climatic conditions for raising cocoon crops. There are large tracts of land in many States where both these factors exist. In most of the States, the cultivation of food crops or commercial crops is only seasonal operation and for the major part of a year, the farmers remain idle, and therefore poor and backward. The State Governments can undertake technical surveys in cooperation with the Central Silk Board. With the joint endeavour of the agricultural and cooperative departments, sericultural farming societies can be organised.

To begin with a compact block may be selected for this purpose and a limited number of agriculturists or landless labourers persuaded to form a cooperative. A sericulture officer trained in cooperation could be appointed to organise the work on a planned basis. The block may be divided into different plots of convenient sizes and types and the rearing sheds should be put up with all rearing facilities for the members to conduct rearings under one roof. In places where factories work only during certain seasons, the sericultural societies would be a good proposition and they are worth exploitation. This would not only provide work for the workers' families throughout the year but also absorb the workers themselves during the off-seasons, and eventually would help generate the national wealth. While such a proposition in the established sericultural areas may not be immediately feasible, in the other areas, where the industry is still in its infancy or bears a future, cooperative farming makes a good case for immediate introduction.

Another sphere where cooperative endeavour would pay handsome dividends is in *chawkie* rearings. There is no second opinion about the need and the utility of collective *chawkie* rearing centres on cooperative basis. The advantages are many and of which few are enumerated below :

1. The silkworm rearer gets relief to attend to his agricultural operations especially during the busy agricultural seasons.
2. Expert attention and best food are given to the young silkworms in a collective *chawkie* rearing centre and, therefore, the success of the crop is almost assured.
3. The cooperatives can purchase eggs of uniform quality and as a result of uniform treatment given to the young silkworms, the resultant cocoons would be uniform in quality and also superior to those produced in the individual rearing method.
4. The rearing techniques would also be more scientific and modern ensuring quality output per unit of seed rearer.
5. There is considerable savings also in collective rearing unit.

Collective *chawkie* rearing unit is one of the positive methods by which cocoon production is standardised. The Central Silk Board and the State Governments sponsored a few schemes during the first two Plan periods primarily to spotlight the attention of the silkworm rearers on the benefits of collective *chawkie* rearing. But it is high time to organise rearers' co-operatives for this purpose. The concept of cooperation must be fully exploited for the ultimate stabilization of the sericulture industry instead of leaving the collective *chawkie* rearing entirely in the hands of governmental organisations as is done at present. In view of its far reaching importance, it is necessary that the States should initiate action.

A cooperative could be organised with the help of a limited number of rearers from each village or group of villages. The work in rented buildings with a plantation on lease could be started in all important sericultural tracts. A cellar or a wooden cell as per Japanese standards could be supplied to these societies free of cost or at subsidised price by the State and the Central Governments. Similarly other appliances like incubator, hygrometer and disinfection appliances may also be provided for each unit on a subsidised basis. The cooperatives can establish their own gardens and obtain necessary technical personnel and skilled labourers from the department or the sons of the silkworm rearers can be got specially trained in any of the government institutions. Once the good effects of the endeavour are brought home to the silkworm rearer, it would be possible gradually to bring in all the rearers under the cooperative fold to the ultimate advantage of the industry as a whole.

Organisation of service and credit societies and also marketing societies which are already functioning under the agricultural sector can also be attempted in addition to amplifying the activities of the farming societies or the *chawkie* rearing societies mentioned earlier, wherever scope for such expansion exists. As regards silk reeling operation the question of organising small-scale reeling units under the workers cooperative can be considered.

In India 81 sericultural societies were organised during the Second Plan period. These included seed production cooperatives, *chawkie* rearing cooperatives, credit and service cooperatives and cocoons and raw silk marketing cooperatives. The seed production cooperatives, which are largely functioning in the non-mulberry States of Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh purchase seed cocoons from important seed cocoon-producing areas and make them available to their member rearers. The *chawkie* rearing cooperatives have been making good progress particularly in the areas where the industry has been recently introduced and gaining momentum.

The silk cooperative society launched in March 1962 at Gautampura, Indore (Madhya Pradesh) is an instance as to how the society if well managed and guided could prove fruitful and effective. The society

named as Resham Udyog Sahakari Sanstha, was started with a small-share capital of Rs. 2,200 with 56 members. During the first year the society produced 181 kg. of cocoons registering a nominal net profit. But, the very next year, production figure sprang from 181 kg. to 869 kg. Moreover, appliances worth Rs. 2,500 were manufactured and the net profit this year was to the tune of Rs. 3,500. A handsome bonus was given at the rate of Rs. 25 per kg. along with the dividends. Presently, the society has a working capital of Rs. 13,850.30P. including the loan.

During the Third Plan period, the number of co-operative societies to be organised is 174. In the Fourth Plan for sericulture, we must place special emphasis to develop this sector intensively so as to cover the interests of the mulberry cultivators, the silk-worm rearers, the reelers and the weavers. The cooperative approach brings in the social gains; the productivity increases and demonstrates vividly how the national wealth can be generated for the benefit of teeming millions.

(By courtesy of Indian Silk)

Panchayati Raj in Andhra Pradesh a survey

RAM K. VEPA

ANDHRA PRADESH, a pioneer State in the introduction of Panchayati Raj, recently conducted a "little" general election to more than 15,000 Panchayats and 300 Panchayat Samitis in the State. Since this represents the first time such elections have been conducted for these institutions, it seems appropriate to review the discernible trends in the evolving pattern of Panchayati Raj administration.

Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh are now regulated by the Gram Panchayat Act which came into force on 18th January this year. Panchayat Samitis and Zilla Parishads were constituted under an Act passed in 1959, which was first modified in 1961 and then more substantially in 1963. Further, in pursuance of the recommendations of a High Power Committee headed by the Chief Secretary (Sri M. P. Pai, I.C.S.) significant changes have been made in the territorial jurisdiction and staffing pattern of the development Blocks. It seems, therefore, desirable to review the effect of these changes on the working of Panchayati Raj in the immediate future, and on a long range basis.

The pattern of Panchayati Raj administration in the State basically follows the scheme envisaged in the Balvantray Mehta report with the Panchayat at the village level, Panchayat Samiti at the Block level and the Zilla Parishad at the District level. The Panchayat Samitis and Zilla Parishads function largely through Standing Committees and executive authority is vested in Government officials. A unique feature in the Andhra Pradesh pattern is the role accorded to the District Collector who is not merely the only official member of the Zilla Parishad but is also the Chairman of all the Standing Committees of the Zilla Parishad. The Zilla Parishad has primary responsibility in Secondary educa-

tion and major communications, besides acting as a distributing agency to the several grants made available by the Government both out of the C.D. budget as well as Departmental funds. The Panchayat Samiti at the Block level has, however, emerged as the strongest of the three tiers and has already acquired considerable importance in the rural areas.

IMPORTANT CHANGES

The basic features of the three-tier pattern have remained unchanged by the recent statutory and administrative changes. The system of indirect elections to the Samitis and Zilla Parishads has been continued so as to provide an organic link between these bodies although at one time it was suggested that the President of a Samiti may be elected by the members of all the Panchayats in the Samiti and similarly the Chairman of the Zilla Parishad by the members of all the Samitis. The special role accorded to the District Collector has also been retained. While some criticism was voiced that an official should not head elected Committees, it was felt that the system had, in fact, worked well in practice. No significant alterations have been made in the functions and powers allotted to the institutions. But a number of changes have been made which cumulatively affect the working of these institutions in a significant manner and these are detailed in succeeding paragraphs.

At the village level, the most important innovation is the constitution of Gram Sabha consisting of all the adults residing in the village. It will meet twice a year to consider the working of the Panchayat and to approve its budget, but its recommendations are purely advisory. Perhaps, a more important change is the substitution of

the "show of hands" procedure by secret ballot in electing the members and President of the Panchayat. Another change of some consequence is the provision of a no-confidence motion against the Sarpanch (as the President of a Panchayat is called) by a two-third majority of the total strength of the Panchayat. It has now been specifically provided that meetings of the Gram Panchayat shall be called at least once a month and if no meeting is held for consecutive three months, the Sarpanch shall automatically cease to hold office. Another important provision relates to the appointment of Group Executive Officers for all Panchayats unlike formerly where the executive authority in the majority of Panchayats was vested in an elected President. A Panchayat is required to submit an administration report to the concerned Panchayat Samiti which will thus be able to exercise more control over the working of the Panchayat than has hitherto been possible. A provision has been made for the establishment of Nyaya Panchayats which will exercise civil and criminal jurisdiction in petty cases—and will in a sense be the true successors of the tradition of five men "good and true" prevailing in ancient India. Although a suggestion was made to integrate the village Revenue officials with the Panchayat (as has been done in Maharashtra) it was considered inopportune to do so at present by the High Power Committee.

The most important change effected at the Block level is to reduce the number of Blocks in the State, as a result of the recommendation of the High Power Committee which felt "that the expenses on staff and administration of the Block have been disproportionately large with consequent reduction in the limited funds available for development". The number of Blocks in the State has been reduced from 418 to 321 which meant a corresponding increase in the area and population of a Block. As regards the staffing pattern, the Committee recommended the retention of the existing Extension Officers in Agriculture, Education, Works Programme, while in Animal Husbandry, Co-operation and Panchayats there will be one Extension Officer for each of the reorganised Blocks. In the case of Rural Industries, it was considered adequate to have one Extension Officer for three Blocks. Although there has been some criticism of the work of the Social Education Organiser and Mukhya Sevika, the Committee recommended their retention at least for a period of three years. In the matter of allocation of grants, it was decided to replace the existing categorisation of Stage I, Stage II and Post-Stage II with a classification based on the stage of development of the area. Thus, a tribal area would receive twice and a backward area 125 per cent of the normal grant while an advanced region would receive only 75 per cent of the grant of an ordinary Block.

Statutorily, the most important amendment relates to the disqualification laid on the members of the State Legislature or Parliament from becoming President or Vice-President of a Panchayat Samiti (a similar restriction has been laid in the case of the Zilla Parishad also). In the case of a Block in the tribal area, there is the added restriction that the President must himself

be a tribal. A President who does not convene a meeting of the Samiti during consecutive four months shall automatically cease to be President and shall not be eligible for re-election for a period of one year. An important disqualification has been introduced by which any person in arrears of any dues to the Panchayat Samiti cannot be a member of that body. Those found guilty of misconduct in the discharge of their duties are liable to be removed while those found guilty of corrupt practices are debarred for a period of six years. The functions of Standing Committees have been realigned so as to secure uniformity at both the Block and district levels.

Many of the Statutory amendments relating to disqualifications for President and membership of the Block level organisation apply to the Zilla Parishad as well. The cooption of two additional members to the Zilla Parishad interested in rural development is provided and such members are required to be registered voters in the district to ensure against the election of minors. If the budget of a Zilla Parishad is not sanctioned in time, Government have the right to approve it.

EFFECT OF CHANGES

As is seen from the above, the changes introduced in the Panchayati Raj pattern are of varying type : some are purely administrative as the number and size of the Block, while others are more fundamental. It is, therefore, of some interest to discuss briefly the likely impact of these changes with special reference to the elections recently conducted to the Panchayati Raj bodies :

(a) *Gram Sabha* : The Gram Sabha is undoubtedly a useful forum for discussing the problems of the village, but it is doubtful whether it can develop into an effective institution. Its purely advisory nature and the infrequency with which it will meet lead one to believe that, as in other States where it has been tried, it will perhaps remain a model institution—on paper. In a few instances, however, where the public is educated and alert, it might help to advise the Panchayat but otherwise, its role is likely to be limited.

(b) *Secret Ballot* : The adoption of a secret ballot at the village level is a measure of far reaching consequence in rural communities where traditional interests hold powerful sway. Elections which till now were somewhat nominal affairs are likely to become more unpredictable under the new procedure. In many cases persons drawn from the scheduled castes had won in the recent elections reflecting the numerical strength of that community in the electorate. There is, however, the danger that the traditional balance in the village will be upset leading to disharmony in the rural life—but such a contingency seems inescapable with the adoption of adult franchise. Another unfortunate consequence of secret ballot is the primacy of caste considerations in voting and the new elective process seems to entrench caste even more rigidly than before.

(c) *No-Confidence Motion* : The provision of a no-confidence motion against the Sarpanch is a salutary one and conforms to the basic democratic principle that a body which has a right to elect a President is equally entitled to remove him. In practice, there is the danger

that it may keep alive post-election feuds in the hope of throwing out a particular candidate. The two-third majority rule is a safeguard but in a Panchayat with 8 or 10 members, one person may make all the difference between a simple and a two-third majority. There is, therefore, need to review the provision after some time so as to assess whether it has hampered harmonious Panchayat working by keeping alive election disputes which might otherwise have healed.

(d) *Disqualifications*: The disqualification of members of State Legislature or Parliament from holding office in the Panchayat Samiti or Zilla Parishad is a significant one on a long range basis. During the past five years, most Zilla Parishads in the State have been headed by persons belonging to that category and, naturally so, since they represented a corps of experienced political leaders, readily available. There has been some friction, however, between these older men and the younger Presidents of Panchayat Samitis, who have tended to resent what they considered as the patronising attitude of the former. In fact, with the increasing importance accorded to the Panchayat Samitis, the office of the President of a Samiti has acquired considerable patronage and even prestige. In the recent elections, it had been demonstrated that the President of a Samiti no longer regards himself as the nominee of an M.L.A. but has acquired a sphere of influence in his own right. This has given a boost to younger leadership but, on the other hand, the dearth of able men of experience and ability at the district level to head the Zilla Parishads has proved a real problem. While, therefore, the new restriction is both desirable and necessary at the Block level, it may have been relaxed at the district level where the Chairman of the Zilla Parishad has at his disposal the services of experienced officials and the District Collector is also associated closely in its working.

(e) *Size and Staffing Pattern in a Block*: The impact of reducing the number of Blocks and increasing the size of the Block cannot be assessed so early, but it is obvious that the advantage of reducing establishment overheads is off-set to a certain extent by the fact that the decision-making levels are removed farther away from the people. However, as the High Power Committee has rightly pointed out, size is not necessarily the only criterion for efficient and effective functioning. There may also be an advantage in a larger sized Block, having a "built-in" corrective against excess factionalism. The fact that in important departments such as Agriculture, Education, Works and Public Health, no curtailing of basic facilities is proposed will ensure the continuance of these widely welcomed services in the rural areas. The retention of the posts of the Social Education Organiser and the Mukhya Sevika is a welcome recognition of the intrinsic importance of their jobs. The categorisation of Blocks, depending on their stage of development and the allocation of grants on that basis will eliminate the artificial distinctions previously being made in this regard.

(f) *Convening of Meetings*: The provision to remove the heads of Panchayati Raj institutions at all levels who do not convene meetings within the prescribed

intervals is a salutary one, particularly when such failure is due to the fear of no-confidence motions being carried against them. This is specially effective since the removal is automatic and there is the further deterrent of a continued disqualification for a specified period.

(g) *Nyaya Panchayats*: The proposal to establish 'Nyaya Panchayats' has caused misgiving amongst some who doubt whether such institutions will be non-partisan enough in the emotional temper of our times to inspire confidence in the public mind in their ability to dispense justice impartially.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

One may speculate a little and try to visualise what the long range impact of these changes is likely to be on the pattern of Panchayati Raj in the State. As regards the Panchayats, it seems unlikely that they can play the important role that is allotted to them in the pattern. It is more probable that they will continue to be handicapped by inadequate finances and poor local leadership except in isolated instances. The Panchayat Samiti bids fair to become even stronger with the increase in its size and resources. There is, however, the danger that with the increasing allocation of routine functions to that organisation, its primary role of providing leadership in the rural areas is somewhat masked and it becomes merely a quasi-Government department. It has, therefore, been suggested that it would be better if the Samitis were to devote themselves to basic tasks such as increasing agricultural production and wiping out illiteracy in which public participation is sadly lacking today.

With the complete coverage of rural areas by Panchayat Samitis, the future role of the Zilla Parishad seems somewhat uncertain. Apart from its responsibility towards Secondary Education and Communications, the Zilla Parishad has become a distributing agency of Government grants which is a most un-inspiring role hardly requiring the elaborate apparatus of a Zilla Parishad. It seems desirable if more specific tasks are allotted to the Zilla Parishad which require to be worked with the District rather than the Block as a unit. The development of Rural Industries where considerable amounts are spent by various agencies with little effect is an instance where the Zilla Parishad can make a useful contribution. The Zilla Parishad, in other words, should be responsible for providing a base—the "infra structure"—for economic development of the District, while the Panchayat Samitis deal with such aspects as Agriculture and Education and the Panchayats with basic amenities such as drinking water supply, sanitation etc.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that the increasing stress placed on Panchayati Raj pattern has detracted some what from the importance of the C.D. Programme itself—which, however, remains the ultimate objective. The former is merely a framework for achieving the objectives of the latter and there cannot—and must not—be any conflict between the two. Panchayati Raj is useful to the extent that the basic aims of the C.D. Programme are more rapidly attained through it, but the disquieting trend of regarding it as an end in itself is to be curbed.

A Prize-Winning Panchayat

MIHIR KUMAR RAO

THE PANCHAYAT Industries programme in Orissa is playing a significant role in bringing about an agro-industrial revolution in the State. But, the programme as a means of bringing about this end cannot be judged in isolation. It has in the Panchayat Prize Competition scheme, a vital adjunct which seeks to accelerate the process of revolution, and impart a dynamism to the Panchayati Raj institutions never conceived before. The path charted out to achieve the goal is, no doubt, complex; but the State has embarked upon it on a scale and with a zeal unprecedented in the recent history of Orissa. Panchayati Raj bodies at Panchayat and Samiti levels are frenziedly busy in proving equal to the task. A spirit of competition—healthy and purposeful—to excel in the implementation of various programmes is sweeping the countryside. The progress made so far is heartening. Already 137 Panchayat industries—small, power-based, and using modern skills and equipment—have started taking shape in the rural areas of the State. Over 30 units have gone into production and new ones are being commissioned every month, and eventually Orissa's 46,400 villages under 2300 Gram Panchayats will be covered by industries of varying sizes. In the long run there will be about 300 medium industries at the Block level and more than 2,000 smaller industries at the Panchayat level.

The Panchayat Prize Competition scheme is intended to discover those who desire as well as deserve industrialisation. It creates a spirit of healthy competition among Panchayati Raj bodies and provides them with incentives and encouragement in the shape of prizes to help them put forth their best efforts in bringing about the all-round development of the areas under their charge. The scheme was introduced in two parts. The first, the Panchayat Prize Competition scheme was launched in 1962-63 and it was followed by the Panchayat Samiti Prize Competition scheme in the following year. Under the scheme Gram Panchayats are allowed to compete for prizes on the basis of their all-round performance—the tests, among others, being the assessment and collection of taxes, raising of income from internal sources, unanimity in the work of Gram Panchayats, proper maintenance of office records, proper utilisation of the Gram fund, implementation of agricultural production programmes, execution of various development works, works executed out of its own resources, maintenance of school orchards, contributions to Mahila Samitis for school feeding and milk feeding schemes, progress of actual implementation of V.V.F. schemes, assistance to primary school and Mahila Samitis, etc. The Panchayat Samiti competition rules are also framed on similar lines.

Every year the State Government awards seventeen first prizes of Rs. 10,000 each and seventeen second prizes of Rs. 5,000 each to the two best Gram Panchayats in every District or a unit of 200 Panchayats as the case may be. Under the scheme, 200 Gram Panchayats or less in a District are grouped together for the competition and every such unit is awarded two prizes. Thus there are 17 such units for the purpose of the competition. In addition to the cash award, the best Gram Panchayat in each case receives a grant of Rs. 50,000 for establishing an industrial unit. Similarly the second best Gram Panchayat gets a grant of Rs. 25,000 for the same purpose. Besides the prizes at the District or unit level, those securing the first three positions at the State level receive additional grants of Rs. 50,000, Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 10,000 respectively for the establishment of an industry of their choice. Whereas the prize-winning Gram Panchayats have full discretion to utilise the cash awards for development works in their areas, the grants can only be used for setting up industrial units. In addition to this, a prize of rupees one crore—in the shape of medium-size industry—is awarded every year to the best Panchayat Samiti in each of three divisions in the State. These medium-size industries have to be located at the Samiti headquarters, and the Samitis not only have financial and promotional interests in the unit, but are also guaranteed a dividend of about five lakh rupees a year to be utilised for setting up ancillary industries. These grants provide the initial share capital for the establishment each year of 34 Panchayat industries, which are, in fact, industrial cooperatives.

The true import of the scheme was apparent to me only after my visit to the Golabandh Gram Panchayat in the Ganjam district. This Gram Panchayat under the Rangailunda Panchayat Samiti was adjudged the best Gram Panchayat in Ganjam, unit II last year and qualified for a grant of Rs. 50,000 for the establishment of a fish curing industry.

Golabandh's success came the hard way. Financially it was not as affluent as its counterparts in Northern or Western Orissa. Neither had it any community land (Bhogra) to augment its resources, nor did it receive Kendu leaf subsidy from the State Government to buttress its finances. For every paisa earned it had to explore all possible avenues permitted under the law. Against this backdrop the success it has achieved can only be described as spectacular.

This small Gram Panchayat consisting of five villages and five hamlets and a population of 7,709 is the envy

of many. The vast expanse of the Bay of Bengal which skirts its southern borders, its windswept villages, coconut and banana groves and lush green fields give to it the charm of a sea-side resort. Fishermen and cultivators form the bulk of its population. Its close proximity to Berhampur—an important business centre and to Gopalpur-on-Sea—a sea side resort has given the people a broader outlook and helped solve, to a great extent, the problem of unemployment. No wonder that the Panchayat has no landless or unemployed labour. The Community Development programme has left an indelible imprint on the minds of the cultivators. Agriculture in the area, as a result, is in an advanced stage. The Japanese method of paddy cultivation is prevalent all over the area. The use of chemical fertilizers is universally prevalent. The area is famous for banana and coconut cultivation. Composting and green manuring are the usual practices followed by the cultivators. Irrigation is no doubt a problem; but lift irrigation has eased the situation considerably. Sea-fishing is an important avocation providing employment to nearly 3,000 people. Due to its close proximity to Berhampur, the marketing of surplus agricultural and marine produce has never posed a problem. Long before the Panchayat Prize competition was introduced the Panchayat was breaking new grounds in promoting economic activities to help increase the income of the people. The meticulous way in which the Panchayat works is evident from the various records of the Panchayat. It meets often to assess the progress of works undertaken and to plan new ones. Its income mainly comes from taxes and levies, the main heads being Panchayat tax, market receipts, levy on dry fish trade, stone quarry, pisciculture and rice huller. The other sources of income are shop licences, cattle pound, cycle tax and cart tax, etc. The budgeted income from internal resources during 1963-64 was about Rs. 6,000, which was supplemented by Government grants and subsidies.

In the field of development works, the performances of the Panchayat has been outstanding. Every village in the Panchayat has been provided with a drinking water well, a tank, an approach road and a primary school. The Mahila Samity building under construction in Golabandh is an imposing one. In the execution of all these works the beneficiaries have cooperated wholeheartedly and have contributed liberally to the funds earmarked by the Panchayat.

The transfer of 16 tanks (including those meant for minor irrigation) to the Panchayat by the Revenue Department has given a boost to agriculture and pisciculture in the area, and provided a rich source of income to the Panchayat. Pisciculture in these tanks were

taken up in 1960-61. After the initial teething troubles the Panchayat started earning about Rs. 2,500 annually from them.

The V.V.F. of the Panchayat is actively associated with development works undertaken. It works not in fits and starts but according to a well-thought-out work schedule chalked out by the Panchayat. This 3,508-strong body has both men and women as its members. The total number of man-days donated by it till 4-1-1964 stood at 42,096. Out of these 10,579 man-days were utilised and the value of works executed was nearly Rs. 15,000. As the scope for work in agricultural sector is limited, the V.V.F. has been utilised mostly in the developmental works, and its services have been utilised in repairing school buildings, laying of roads, construction of school and Mahila Samiti buildings, renovation of wells for irrigation and digging of new tanks for community use as well as pisciculture.

The success at the last Panchayat Prize Competition has opened a new chapter in the life of Golabandh Gram Panchayat. Two of its long awaited projects—remodelling the rice huller and provision of pipe-water to its people—are now sure of materialisation. The cash award of Rs. 10,000 which the Panchayat has got in addition to the fish curing industry, in this context has come in handy. Out of Rs. 10,000 received, it has spent Rs. 6,000 in purchasing a new machine for the rice huller unit. The remaining Rs. 4,000 has been set apart for the pipe-water supply scheme. Also, the people have had to contribute Rs. 50 per head for the pipe-water supply scheme.

The fish curing industry that is going to be established at New Golabandh will benefit the Panchayat and its fishermen. But, that does not mean that the Panchayat will rest on its oars. Its demand for a coir industry to gainfully exploit the locally available raw material to which the State Government has agreed, shows that the Panchayat is ever anxious to augment its resources in order to provide every possible amenity to its people.

Rural electrification is bound to follow these industrial units. One can easily visualise the impact of all these measures on the life and economy of the area, which, till the other day, was afflicted by poverty, ignorance and economic backwardness. Golabandh Panchayat has now found its feet by dint of hard work and honest endeavour. It symbolises the pulsating drama that is being enacted in the 2,000 and more Gram Panchayats in Orissa—a glimpse of the new India in the making. In the sphere of rural regeneration the role of Panchayat Prize Competition scheme spotlights the progress that has already been made and the trends for tomorrow.

V. L. Mehta

The passing away of Shri Vaikunth Lalubhai Mehta in Bombay on October 27, removes from the Indian scene one of the pioneers of the Cooperative movement in the country. Shri Mehta, who was 73 barely four days before his death, was an acknowledged authority on rural economics and was prominently connected with social and economic activities in the country. He began public life at a very young age and worked with the Central Famine Relief Commission and the Servants of India Society for Famine Relief work in 1911-12. He was honorary Manager of the Bombay Central (Provincial) Bank Ltd. and later became Manager and Managing director of the Bank. Shri Mehta was connected with a number of journals and was a prolific writer who contributed frequently to "Kurukshetra". He was a member of the editorial board and former Editor of Social Service Quarterly and Bombay Cooperative Quarterly; Vice-President of the Social Service League, Bombay; Chairman of the Bombay State Cooperative Union (1943-46) and member of the Bombay Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee. He was also actively associated with All-India Village Industries Association since its inception.

He came into prominence in politics when he was elected to the Bombay Legislative Assembly in 1946, and became Minister for Finance in the Provincial Government. He also held the portfolio of Cooperatives and Cottage Industries. In 1943, he was appointed member of the Taxation Enquiry Commission. Six years later, he worked as Chairman of the Expert Committee on Agricultural Cooperative Credit. He became Chairman of the All-India Khadi & Village Industries Board in 1952. In 1956, he was appointed Chairman of Khadi & Village Industries Commission, which he resigned in March last year on account of ill health. Shri Mehta was also intimately associated with the Rural Industries Projects of the Planning Commission.

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

C. D. in the U. A. R.

RIFAT HABBAB

KAFR SHUBRA Zingi is an Egyptian village situated about 46 miles north of Cairo. Nearly 500 families have decided in their own primitive way to make a better village for their community. Three hundred of these families own some land while the rest are predominantly agriculture labourers, small merchants and hawkers.

Kafr Shubra Zingi is one of the demonstration villages of the Arab States Training Centre for education for Community Development, at Sirs-el-Layyan, U.A.R. The land of the village is rich and the people depend mainly on agriculture. Their main crops are : wheat, cotton and maize. They have hardly any cottage industry and most of them have settled down to a quite life.

There was nothing to warrant a change in the life of the people until a rural social centre was established in a neighbouring village and a team composed of 4 to 6 trainees of the Arab States Training Centre for education for Community Development worked with the people of the village and stimulated, guided and assisted the villagers to tackle the problems of their community.

Among the enterprises the Rural Social Centre and the trainees intended to undertake was the attempt to

revive the interest of the people in self-help and ascertain the felt needs of the villagers and their attitude towards community action in meeting their needs.

The trainees faced an uphill task. The villagers were more or less resigned to their fate. Not having known anything better for ages they did not think that any change was possible or likely. The continuous efforts of the trainees, however, began to bear fruit. There was more awareness amongst the people of their problems. They were willing to discuss things with each other and sometimes they even took concerted action to meet their problems.

The villagers started to look around and make all sorts of demands. It was difficult for the trainees to meet them and it was not easy to decide what would be the most useful. Village sections voiced for different needs based on factions. The trainees succeeded in compromising conflicting demands and set a committee composed of members from the various sections to deal with such problems. The choice was made for the erection of three water pumps and building an additional class room for the village school.

The villagers in this village became more than ever convinced of the benefit of pump water for drinking and the bad result of using canal water. They kept up the repairs on the two existing pumps and contributed towards the erection of three water pumps. The Training Centre furnished one-third of the expenses.

Village elders and teachers brought up the problems of the school building before the trainees, which was too small to hold the increasing number of children of compulsory school age in the village. The question was thoroughly discussed with the elders and village leaders. Many objections were raised. Most villagers pleaded poverty. Village contribution could be had from one section only and even these were very difficult to get for certain purposes. The poor were unwilling to do voluntary service. They were too poor to forego any part of their daily earning or offer any manual work.

The village teachers and the trainees approached the village parent's council which decided to ease the situation by putting up an additional room in a corner of the school yard,—a wall of bricks served to make an encloser, with a thatched roof of reeds. The expenditure incurred on this room amounting to \$ 24.00 was met by boys' savings and the parent's council.

Throughout the summer the school was the topic of discussions. When winter came, the improvised class proved to be inadequate and the problem cropped up again.

The team met several times with elders and village leaders. People explained their difficulties and suggested various methods to solve the problem. The trainees were driving at that the suggestion for construction should emanate from the people so they could feel that the institution was theirs. More serious considerations were given to it and various suggestions were proposed.

Just opposite the present school there were the ruins of the old school building which had been abandoned in 1937. The trainees suggested a new building could be constructed with the help obtained from the village

community, on the same site to house two class-rooms. The idea caught the imagination of the teachers—especially of one young and enthusiastic teacher—Rajab—who took endless troubles in resolving with the aid of the trainees various problems that arose in connection with the execution of this project. This idea, however, was gradually expanded so that the structure could include an out patient clinic, a library and a recreation hall. The lay out was thus designed to contain five rooms including two class-rooms.

The task was not easy. There were various hurdles to be crossed. The ownership of the site was claimed by one of the villagers and the matter had to be taken to appropriate authorities who decided that it was a public property. Then there was the problem of drawing up such construction plans as would involve the least cost. It was decided to utilise the material obtained from dismantling the old building. Then there was the most important problem of finance. Permission was obtained from the Government to raise public subscription. Rajab with the help of the trainees was able to raise \$ 390.00 from the village. Construction was frequently interrupted by periodical shortage of money, occasional personal obstructions and other situations had to be tackled frequently.

More than two-thirds of the construction were completed by July 1957. The expenses incurred amounted to \$ 510.00. The Training Centre contributed a sum of \$ 90.00 and the timely receipt of \$ 100.00 from the Save Children Federation made the completion of building possible.

Today the villagers of Kafr Shubra Zingi look with pride at the neat little building that has come up and provided the village with :

1. an adequate space for educating its children of the compulsory school age;
2. a village library;
3. a village play ground; and
4. two rooms for literacy campaign.

SCHOOL LUNCH

(Continued from page 10)

6 a.m. to 10 a.m. for preparing noon-lunches and work from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for next morning breakfast packets.

The workers of the factory are well looked after. The women workers have a nursery for children where other poor mothers leave their children also. The children of poor parents are admitted after the social worker studies their home conditions. There were 65 children in the nursery, which is taken care of by 7 nurses, 3 cooks, 1 teacher and 1 cleaner. The children accepted here are from the age of 14 days to 5 years old. They get breakfast, lunch, bath, sleep, cleaning, play and school. Then there is a kindergarten attached to it which had 120 children, and a primary school which had 140 children.

The factory is doing a splendid job. The main store

of all material is kept in the capital city. It is then distributed at regular intervals to the 30 different States. This is not the end; they still have new plans coming as they are determined to do everything for the benefit of Mexican children. Every function and school classes start with the hoisting of National flag and singing of National anthem. This is to ensure the children to learn more about their country; love it and not to be influenced by powerful and rich neighbours.

But the pride of the country is obviously noted on the faces of the children. They are bright, smiling and satisfied.

We also have 'School Lunch' and 'Nutrition' programmes in our country. They should spread beyond the cities and towns and must be well organised. I am confident, we can do this without any difficulty.

From The Centre



BEST GRAM SEVAK & GRAM SEVIKAS

SHRIMATI Kamla Awasthi of Nawabganj Block in Unnao district, Uttar Pradesh, was adjudged the best Gram Sevika for the year and Shri Bhagwan Singh of Chiraigaon Block in Varanasi district, Uttar Pradesh, the best Gram Sevak, after a nation-wide competition. Each of them was awarded a certificate of merit. The awards were given away by the Minister for Community Development and Cooperation, Shri S. K. Dey, at a function in New Delhi in October.

The second prize for Gram Sevikas went to Kumari Damayanti Behera of Nawarangpur Block in Koraput district, Orissa, and for Gram Sevaks to Shri N. R. Patil of Shahpur Block in East Nimar district, Madhya Pradesh.

For the Union Territories the prize for the best Gram Sevika went to Shrimati V. Sakuntala of Karaikal Block (under the Coordinated Welfare Extension Project), Pondicherry, and for the best Gram Sevak to Shri S. Lakshminarayanan of Pondicherry Block.

The selections were made by a Committee consisting of Members of Parliament and officers of the Ministries of Food and Agriculture and Community Development and Cooperation and the Central Social Welfare Board.

The prize for the best Gram Sevak was instituted in 1958-59 by the Union Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation to reward outstanding work at the district, State and national levels. The award is in the nature of an incentive for better work, particularly in the field of agricultural production, including animal husbandry, poultry, fishery and cooperation. A similar award for Gram Sevikas was instituted in 1962-63.

BEST VILLAGES OF 1963-64

DAPORA VILLAGE in the East Nimar district of Madhya Pradesh has been adjudged the best village at the national level for 1963-64, by a selection committee appointed by the Union Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation.

Kilayur village in the Karaikal Block of Pondicherry has been adjudged the best village at the Union Territories level.

Proud winners in the nation-wide Gram Sevaks and Gram Sevikas competition photographed with the Minister for C. D. & Cooperation, Shri S. K. Dey, after receiving their certificates of merit at a function in New Delhi:

In Dapora, all the farming families were using improved seed, and 100 per cent of the families were covered by cooperatives. The village also did well with regard to vegetable cultivation and poultry development.

In Kilayur, the utilization of irrigation potential was cent per cent and 99 per cent of the area was brought under green-manuring.

Both villages used a large amount of fertilizers and improved farm implements.

* * *

PRICE FLUCTUATION FUND FOR COOPS.

THE UNION Government has finalized a special Price Fluctuation Fund scheme to enable cooperatives to undertake marketing of agricultural produce on a large scale.

The intention is to make it possible for cooperative marketing societies at different levels to meet the losses they may suffer as a result of outright purchase of agricultural produce.

The scheme will cover 200 selected cooperative marketing societies this year and another 300 next year.

These societies will contribute 10 per cent of their net profit every year to the fund. The Government will contribute two per cent of the value of outright purchases of agricultural produce made in the preceding year by the selected societies. This will be subject to a total limit of Rs. 20,000 for each primary marketing society, Rs. 100,000 for regional or State apex societies and Rs. 2.5 lakhs for the national federation.

The scheme will be in the State sector and the Government contribution will be shared equally by the Centre and the State concerned.

* * *

FEDERATIONS TO STRENGTHEN CO-OPS.

THE UNION Government is in favour of formation of federations at the national and State levels in all sectors of cooperative economy and enacting legislations to strengthen the voluntary character of the movement.

The Government is of the view that dependence of cooperative organizations on Government assistance should be reduced to the minimum and non-official leadership helped to emerge and shoulder greater responsibility.

Functional federations would be able to provide specialized assistance to their affiliated units for promoting better business and management and also render financial assistance to State cooperative unions.

State Governments have been asked to take necessary steps in this direction and to vest such federations with statutory powers for guidance, supervision and control over their constituents. The restrictive features of cooperative legislation limiting the voluntary character of the movement are to be removed and the practice of the Government nominating the entire board of directors still prevailing in some States abandoned.

The Union Government has pointed out that expansion of the cooperative movement requires the services of a large number of persons to work as managers and secretaries—jobs which are being performed by Government officials. The federal organizations, such as the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories, should help their affiliated societies by providing managerial and other personnel.

Another problem is the elimination of non-genuine societies and curbing the influence of vested interests on cooperative organizations, on which the Mirdha Committee is expected to report in due course.

The Community Development and Cooperation Ministry feels that the States should lay down norms to decide the genuineness of different types of cooperatives and give comprehensive instructions to registering officers.

Many instances have come to the Government's notice where a number of cooperative institutions are controlled by one person, or a small group of persons, who get themselves re-elected from year to year. The States are being told that prompt and effective action be taken to prevent such vested interests from perpetuating their control over the organizations as this would only undermine the cooperative movement.

One of the steps suggested is that general meetings of the cooperatives should be held regularly and persons who have mismanaged the affairs of the societies should be debarred from contesting elections. The same person should not hold key positions in more than one cooperative, especially at the State or district level. A system of ensuring fair elections should be ensured and impartial supervision arranged.

* * *

COOPS. FARM LOANS

THERE HAS been a substantial increase in loans disbursed by cooperatives for agricultural purposes. Short-term and medium-term agricultural credit disbursed by cooperatives in 1962-63 amounted to Rs. 252 crores, as against Rs. 50 crores in 1955-56.

Cooperatives in the States of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madras and Punjab accounted for 70 per cent of the loans.

Short-term and medium-term credit disbursed by cooperatives in 1963-64 is estimated at about Rs. 290 crores. This is likely to go up to about Rs. 400 crores in 1965-66.

According to a recent survey, cooperatives met 22 per cent of the total borrowings of cultivating families.

As regards long-term credit, loans outstanding at the end of 1962-63 amounted to Rs. 68 crores, as against Rs. 13 crores at the end of 1955-56.

* * * LABOUR CO-OPERATIVES

THE CENTRAL Advisory Committee for Agricultural Labour set up by the Planning Commission has recommended the formation of labour cooperatives in rural areas. A detailed scheme is likely to be drawn up shortly for the guidance of the State Governments.

At its meeting held in September under the chairmanship of Shri Shriman Narayan, the committee is understood to have emphasized that such cooperatives should constitute the principal channel of Government assistance for agricultural labourers.

The State Government, it has further urged, should utilize labour cooperatives to the maximum possible extent in the execution of various building and construction projects undertaken by them.

A labour cooperative may not necessarily be co-extensive with a village; it may cover a group of villages or a block, as may be feasible in different areas.

The committee felt that because of their weak socio-economic position, agricultural labourers lack bargaining power and are thus deprived of the benefits of the minimum wages legislation. They should, therefore, be organized into labour cooperatives which could ensure for them reasonable wages.

These cooperatives are also expected to provide additional employment opportunities for their members.

* * * TACCARI LOANS THROUGH COOPERATIVES

The Union Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation, in a letter to State Governments, has urged them to take an early decision on the question of routing taccari loans through cooperatives for productive purposes. The State Governments have also been requested to chalk out a phased programme for the implementation of the scheme.

It may be recalled that the last Conference of State Ministers of Cooperation held at Hyderabad recommended that loans for production purposes should be routed only through cooperatives.

Already, the Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat distribute taccavi loans for specific purposes like sinking of wells, etc. through cooperatives. In Orissa and Madhya Pradesh, certain funds have been placed at the disposal of cooperatives to augment their resources and the responsibility for disbursing taccavi loans has been left to cooperative institutions. The Madras Government is making arrangements to implement the scheme.

The detailed arrangements for routing taccavi may differ from State to State, depending on the credit needs of rural areas and the strength of the cooperative movement.

In areas where cooperatives are strong, the State Governments have been advised to distribute taccavi only through cooperatives. In areas where cooperatives are weak, State Governments are to take concrete steps to strengthen them; in the meantime, the existing arrangements may continue.

TRAINING OF FARMERS

IN ORDER to secure a coordinated approach to programmes for training of farmers and young farmers by agencies of the Central and State Governments and to ensure effective implementation of these programmes, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture have set up a Standing Committee.

The Director-General, Intensive Agriculture District Areas and Special Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Food & Agriculture, will be the Chairman of the Committee. Its other members will be the Extension Commissioner, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Project Director, Intensive Agriculture Programme, a representative of the Ministry of Education, two representatives of the Ministry of Community Development & Cooperation, a representative of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Director of Extension Training, Ministry of Food & Agriculture, who will be its Member-Secretary.

The Standing Committee will deal with the training programme initiated by the Ministry of Food & Agriculture in the Department of Agriculture, the Ministry of Community Development & Cooperation, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Ministry of Education and suggest measures to ensure coordination or improvement wherever necessary.

MODERN RICE MILLS IN IADP AREAS

THE GOVERNMENT of India have decided to set up six modern rice mills at suitable centres in districts under the Intensive Agriculture District Programme in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Mysore and West Bengal. The mills are to be set up on an experimental basis as part of a phased programme to demonstrate ways and means of increasing the out-turn of rice in the country by adopting modern methods and equipment. It has been tentatively decided to establish three of these mills in the co-operative sector and the other three in the public

sector. The whole pattern of development, under the scheme, will be such as to enable Government to have adequate control over the rice industry both in regard to supplies and distribution.

N.C.D.C.'s DECISIONS

THE NATIONAL Cooperative Development Corporation, at its meeting here, has decided to expand the programme of establishment of rice mills in the cooperative sector by providing 100% financial assistance. The assistance which would be routed through the State Governments, will be outside the State Plan ceilings, and will be given out of the accumulated funds of the Corporation. The State Governments in turn will invest these funds in the share capital of cooperatives undertaking paddy processing. In providing such assistance, the Corporation will give priority to the proposals received from the States in the Eastern region which are comparatively backward in the field of co-operation.

The Corporation reviewed the progress and problems connected with cooperative marketing of agricultural produce, with special reference to foodgrains. In this connection, the Corporation recognised the strategic position which processing activity occupies in marketing of paddy. It was noted that at present the cooperative sector accounts for a very small proportion of the total installed capacity of rice mills in the country.

The Corporation approved a proposal that a direct link should be established between marketing societies and consumer cooperative societies. It was hoped that such a linking may reduce the price spread between producers and consumers and at the same time ensure a better return to the producer without injuring the interests of the consumer.

With regard to distribution of fertilisers, the Corporation was of the view that cooperatives should be utilised as the sole agency for distribution.

The Corporation also considered the question of establishment of promotional and assessment cells in apex marketing societies. It felt that there was an urgent need for establishing such cells which would be composite in character and perform a variety of functions, including continuous liaison with affiliated marketing societies to assess their progress; advisory service to the societies on problems connected with marketing techniques and technical service on problems concerning processing units. The size of the relevant cells may vary according to number of affiliated marketing societies and the nature of problems involved.

Since this is a new scheme of crucial importance to the cooperative marketing structure, the Corporation decided that the entire cost of staff employed in the cell should be borne out of its accumulated funds for a period of five years on a tapering scale. Individual apex marketing societies would be required to send their concrete proposals through the State Governments concerned for prior approval of the Corporation before financial assistance was released.

Around The States

MAHARASHTRA

ENGINEERING STAFF FOR ZILA PARISHADS

ON OCTOBER 1, the Government of Maharashtra launched a scheme of short term sub-overseer's course for training of candidates who would be appointed as Assistants to the Extension Officers (Works). This step has been taken to meet the needs of the Zila Parishads in manning the lower supervisory engineering staff required to carry out their development programmes. The trainees will be paid a stipend of Rs. 40 per month. The scheme has been started at nine centres with a total strength of 360 trainees. The duration of the training course is 10 months. Admission to the course is restricted to those who have passed the S.S.C. examination with at least 45 per cent marks, preference being given to those who have passed S.S.C. (Tech.) with at least 45 per cent marks.

BULDANA FIRST IN FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION

BULDANA district stood first in Nagpur Division for the second time in the consumption of chemical fertilizers.

The district has consumed 26 per cent of the total consumption of Nagpur Division during the year 1963-64, which indicates that the district is on the forefront in adopting the improved methods of agricultural cultivation.

The district-wise consumption of fertilizer in the division is: Buldana 7029.30 tons, Akola 3816.56 tons, Amravati 4029.67 tons, Yeotmal 2168.14 tons, Wardha 623.66 tons, Nagpur 250.53 tons, Chandrapur: 1650.24 tons and Bhandara 4924.69 tons.

PUNJAB

COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

ONE THOUSAND and ten new Cooperative Societies of various types have been registered during the period of six months from 1st January, 1964 to 30th June 1964. According to an official estimate the total number of credit, agricultural service, labour and construction, farming, transport, marketing and other cooperative societies stands at 30,668. With a view to maintain the healthy growth of the movement registrations of 102 cooperative societies of various types which could not fulfil their objectives or had lost their cooperative character were cancelled during the month of June, 1964.

The Punjab State Cooperative Bank has shown commendable progress during the cooperative year ending June, 1964. The share capital of the Bank, which stood

at Rs. 109 lakhs on 30th June 1963 increased to Rs. 131.76 on 30th June 1964 thereby showing a net increase of Rs. 22.76 lakhs. Similarly its deposits have increased from Rs. 178 lakhs to Rs. 395.03 lakhs during the period under report.

The share capital of the Punjab State Cooperative Land Mortgage Bank which caters to the needs of long term credit requirements of the cultivators for the improvement of land and cultivation etc., has also increased.

The Bank has disbursed loans to the tune of Rs. 86.5 lakhs during the cooperative year ending 30th June, 1964.

The Punjab State Cooperative Supply and Marketing Federation has also increased its distribution of fertilizers during the year to 1,91,823 tonnes from 1,15,933 tonnes of the last year. Insecticides worth Rs. 32,597 were distributed through the cooperatives during the period under report.

During the last Cooperative year the number of Consumer Stores under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme has increased from 5 to 16 and their membership from 12,739 to 60,251. The subscribed and paid up share capital of the Centrally sponsored Stores increased from Rs. 3.80 lakhs and Rs. 8.44 lakhs to Rs. 11.1 lakhs and Rs. 8.44 lakhs respectively during the cooperative year ending 30th June, 1964. On 1st July 1963 the Central Consumer Stores were running 20 branches and their number increased to 124 at the end of June, 1964. The total sales by the stores functioning in the State during the month of June, 1964 amounted to Rs. 21.29 lakhs.

WEST BENGAL

PANCHAYATI RAJ INAUGURATED

PANCHAYATI RAJ was ushered in in West Bengal on October 2, the Gandhi Jayanti Day. It began in this State seven years ago with the setting up of the basic body of Panchayati Raj structure—the Gram Panchayats—elected by Gram Sabhas consisting of the entire adult population of units of areas inhabited by 750—1500 people by secret ballot. The total number of Gram Sabhas in the State is 19,649. The other bodies in this integrated system of Panchayati Administration will be the Anchal Panchayats (2,925) and Anchalik Parishads (325), the Nyaya Panchayats (2,925) and at the apex, the Zila Parishads (15).

ORISSA

PANCHAYAT BILL PASSED

THE ORISSA Legislative Assembly in its Autumn session passed the Orissa Gram Panchayat Bill, 1962 as reported by the Select Committee.

The Bill seeks to consolidate and re-enact the law relating to Gram Panchayats keeping in view the recommendations of the Gram Panchayat Enquiry Committee appointed by the State Government some time ago. The existing Act was enacted in 1948.

One of the major changes proposed in the Bill is the election of the Sarpanch by direct election instead of indirect election made under the existing legislation. It also provides for compulsory levy by the Gram Panchayats as Panchayat tax on all buildings and land situated within its limits. The Bill also seeks to give more powers to the Collectors and Sub-divisional Officers in the management and control of Panchayats.

* * *

PANCHAYAT SAMITI PRIZE COMPETITION

THE BASTA Panchayat Samiti of Balasore district, the Barpali Panchayat Samiti of Sambalpur district and the Hinjlikatu Panchayat Samiti of Ganjam district were adjudged the best Panchayat Samitis in Orissa during 1964-65 under the Panchayat Samiti Prize Competition Scheme. Each of these Samitis has been awarded a prize in the shape of a medium-size industry costing rupees one crore. The prizes were awarded on October 2, 1964 at Bhubaneswar.

The success of a Samiti was judged from the level of efficiency in the working of Gram Panchayats under it, the extent to which it had brought about a spirit of cooperation and co-ordination and provided incentive and facilities for the growth of the panchayats.

* * *

THREE BEST PANCHAYATS

IN THE last Gram Panchayat Prize Competition, three Gram Panchayats of Ganjam district were adjudged the best three at the State level. The Gahangu Gram Panchayat secured the 1st place and was awarded Rs. 1 lakh for the establishment of two small-size Panchayat industries, besides a sum of Rs. 10,000 to be utilised for the development works of the Panchayat. The Golanthara Gram Panchayat which stood second at the State level, was awarded Rs. 75,000 for the establishment of Panchayat industries and Rs. 10,000 for development works. The third best in the State, the Fulata Gram Panchayat was awarded Rs. 35,000 for the establishment of a Panchayat industry and Rs. 5,000 for development works of the Panchayat.

* * *

BEST MAHILA SAMITIS

THE ANNAPURNA Mahila Samiti under the Ghasipur Panchayat Samiti in Keonjhar district was adjudged the best Mahila Samiti in the State at the last Mahila Samiti Prize Competition and was awarded Rs. 10,000. The second best Mahila Samiti in the competition was the Nirmala Mahila Samiti under Balasore Sadar Panchayat Samiti and it was awarded Rs. 8,000.

In the Yuvak Sangh Prize Competition Scheme, the Banbehari Yuvak Sangh of Champua (Keonjhar district) and the Pallisevak Yuvak Sangh of Rangailunda (Ganjam district) were adjudged the best two Yuvak Sanghs in the State and were declared first and second respectively. Prizes of Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 3,000 respectively were awarded to them.

BIHAR

PANCHAYATI RAJ

PANCHAYATI RAJ was inaugurated in the districts of Ranchi and Bhagalpur on the last Gandhi Jayanti Day.

RAJASTHAN

SADIQ ALI TEAM'S SUGGESTIONS

THE RAJASTHAN Government has so far considered about a dozen recommendations of the Sadiq Ali Study Team on the working of Panchayati Raj institutions in the State and has generally accepted them. The team has made about 100 recommendations.

The State Government has accepted the recommendation to retain the size of the panchayat circle with a population of 2,000 to 2,500. The Sarpanch would continue to be directly elected. The number of Panches will be from 5 to 20 and the chairman of all service cooperatives in a Panchayat circle are to be associate members.

It has accepted in principle, the recommendation that the Panchayat Samitis which are not co-extensive with tehsil boundaries should be reorganized to make them co-extensive with one or more tehsils. It has also accepted the recommendation to abolish membership of "krishi nipun" and co-option of two persons with administrative experience.

The election of Pradhan of Panchayat Samiti, after the acceptance of the recommendation of the Study Team, will be by a broadbased electoral college consisting of all members of the Panchayat Samiti (excluding the associate members and the sub-divisional officer) and all Panches.

On the election of the Pramukh of a Zila Parishad, the Government has partly accepted the recommendation and has decided that a Pramukh should be a resident of the district and a voter in a Panchayat or municipality. The electoral college is to consist of all members of the Zila Parishad excluding associate and non-voting members.

One of the recommendations accepted by the Government provides that members of the State Assembly should be full members of Panchayat Samitis with right to vote but they should not be eligible to hold office and contest elections. Likewise members of Parliament and State Assembly should continue to be full members of Zila Parishads but they should not be eligible to hold office and contest elections in Zila Parishads.

The Ford Foundation Report, 1963

477, Madison Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.

"MAN does not live by bread alone"—so goes an old adage. For proof, one may cast a glance at the American society with rivers of riches flowing through it and yet the individual American feeling neither happy nor satisfied. Being an oasis of plenty in a pervading desert of poverty is not his fulfilment, much less his vision. Here lies the origin of American foundations, nourished and nurtured by individual initiative, fellow feeling and private charity that transcends sometimes national boundaries.

Of all these foundations, the Ford Foundation is the most outward-looking in the international sphere. Dean Rusk, the US Secretary of State, complimented the Rockefeller Foundation for its "massive contribution to the well-being of mankind." But the Ford Foundation's overseas aid excels the Rockefeller's—a tribute to the massiveness of its contribution to human well-being.

Believing that foreign assistance is not just a dyke against international tensions and turbulence but primarily a moral imperative, the Ford Foundation has joined hands with 72 developing nations in programmes that are crucial to their respective development. The list of organisations and institutions assisted by it, in one way or the other, is so lengthy that it covers both the columns of eight pages (pp. 170—177 of *The Ford Foundation Report, 1963*). Those assisted in India find a mention on pp. 54 and 63 and pp. 149—152.

The Foundation's total assistance to date since 1936, when it was established, amounts to \$ 190 crores. The fiscal year 1963 ending September 30, 1963, as the *Report* indicates, touched new scales of assistance abroad and within the USA where it is spread over all the 50 States and the district of Columbia.

The Ford Foundation's work overseas is marked by (a) independence and flexibility, (b) selectivity, and (c) perseverance.

Its assistance to Government-sponsored programmes of family planning in the Indo-Pak sub-continent, while the UNO and the US Government have yet been debating the issue, and its assistance to the Congolese Government to train its officials within the first few days of Congo's independence, when she was rocked by civil strife and internal unrest, speak of its independence and flexibility.

Its strategy of development coinciding with that of the host countries, based as it is on mutual consultations and free, frank discussions, contributes to selectivity in its approach. And such indeed is the perseverance of the Foundation that while providing timely help when needed, it, in its own words, "stays with the effort until it has become self-liquidating—that is, of sufficient competence and permanence as to require no further Foundation support."

The first chapter of the volume entitled, "The Painstaking Ascent," is a masterly exposition of the philosophy and ideology that permeates the Ford Foundation and sustains its office-bearers and representatives in their bid to advance human welfare. A popular version of the volume, particularly of "The Painstaking Ascent" part of it, will be a strategic contribution of the Foundation to a mass understanding of its idealism matched by its pragmatism and practice.—H. S.

People and Living; Science and Technology for Development, Vol. V

United Nations, N.Y. 1963 US \$ 7.00 Pp. 217.

THE FIRST decade of the second half of the 20th century, while witnessing the phenomenon of more and more nation States becoming independent, is also experiencing an upsurge in the direction of more craving for better standards of living by more and more people in the world. Various ideas and situations are experienced by different societies in tackling their own problems of politico-socio development while releasing and meeting new tensions. The United Nations, ever since its inception, foresaw the need of broader perspective for planning a global programme of human development. The increase in the application of Science and Technology for the benefit of less developed areas has been engaging the attention of the world body.

In order to coordinate and correlate the various experiences in this regard, United Nations organised a conference in Geneva, Switzerland in February, 1963, of academicians, scientists and technologists of different countries of the world. The report of the conference runs into 8 volumes and is a narrative account of the deliberations on the Application of Science and Technology for the benefit of the less developed areas. The book "People and Living" is the 5th volume out of the eight-volume report of the same.

The book is divided into three sections relating to the main theme of the conference. They are, Population Trends, Public Health and Nutrition and Rural Development and Urbanization.

The section on Population focuses our attention on the fact that although world population has increased by 500 million between 1950—62 nevertheless human beings are the first and the last concern of any programme of development and manpower of the less developed areas can be world's most valuable resource. The conference highlighted that the first step in human development must, therefore, be the study of population data, and trends of what is popularly known as "Population Explosion"—its causes, perspectives, and economic consequences. This is covered by part I of this volume.

The second part of the volume deals with Public Health and Nutrition. The central theme of this section is that although the population is increasing, the manpower in the less developed areas can be renewed. That means whether it is agriculture or industry or trade, people should be healthy and well nourished. But they are not so at present. Despite the triumph of modern medical sciences, malnutrition and disease hampers or incapacitates half of the world population. Hence in the foreground stands the national task of organising adequate medical services. 147 papers were presented on this subject of the conference highlighting the need for local and regional research and the enormous efforts required to provide adequate food and allow the majority of human population to benefit by the modern advance in medical sciences.

Part 3 of the volume deals with the topics of Rural development and Urbanization. Due to coming of industrialisation in the developing societies, pressing problems such as over-crowding in the cities and poor housing have cropped up giving rise to deterioration of family. The stresses and strains due to the impact of imported culture are some of the difficulties associated with Rural development and urbanisation. If they are to be solved, the resources of social sciences and the findings of researches have sooner than later come to rescue. "Society must itself be the subject of planned development". A discussion on these grave issues suggesting the design for living, pinpointing the human aspect in development is found in this section.

In substance, the whole discussion on these three topics appears to be comprehensive embodying the oral discussions in the conference and the contributor's papers. In style the book is non-technical so that it can serve a wider audience. The aim of the editors had been to make these permanent records readable so that they can be studied and used.

India contributed six papers on all these three points. The book can be a useful reference material for the communicators in the residential Adult Education Institutions in India today since they are required to build up the themes on population, health and rural development keeping a wider angle—a perspective.—N. P. Jain.

A School is Built—A Case Record in Rural Community Organisation

By K. D. Cangrade. Published by the Principal, Delhi School of Social Work at the Kingsway Press, Delhi. Price Rs. 1.50. Pages 35.

ALL WORKERS in the field of Community Development have a difficult role to play, especially in villages which are traditionally feud and faction ridden. There is the role of guidance—through a process of encouragement and discouragement—not one of domination, but of a friend-philosopher. Besides, the community workers not only help the rift-ridden people to form cohesive groups and shed their narrower loyalties, but also mobilise the necessary resources in completing rural development projects such as school buildings, pavement of lanes, construction of Panchayat ghars and drains etc.

The monograph under review is the nineteenth in the series of case studies under the general title of "Studies in Social Work" and forms a part of the publication entitled "Problems of Rural Change". Primarily designed to evaluate and highlight the sociological aspects facing the rural people, it also brings out the difficult role of community organiser and the way in which the knowledge of inter-group relationship can be used for furtherance of programmes requiring community effort.

If the purpose of this paper is to illustrate from a case study the use of the process and method of community organisation in completing a rural development project such as the community school—which is supposed to be wedded to the society in a cyclic relationship of mutual benefit and transcends narrow groupings—then certainly it serves this coveted purpose well. But in so far as the presence of factional conflicts is concerned, such groupings cannot be avoided altogether in human relationship. The kind and differentiation that are desirable come slowly and the hard way. Moreover factional conflicts will not be tolerated for long by the people when they fail to yield benefits for the common man.

Based on practical experience of the author, the monograph will prove immensely useful to teachers and students of Community Development organisation in schools of social work and in training institutions engaged in the rural community development programmes.—O.P.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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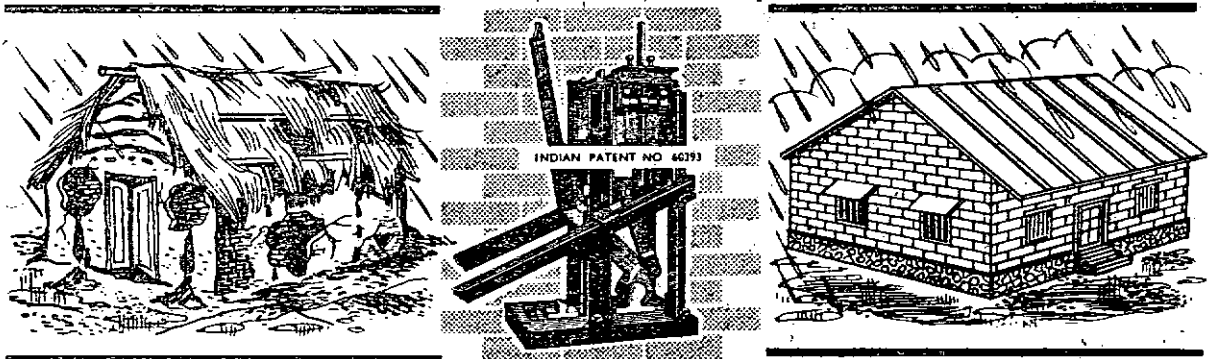
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Let people in different parts of the country, however strong their feelings might be on particular issues, never forget that they are Indians first, and that all differences must be resolved within the unalterable framework of one nation and one country. Let us make every endeavour to foster this feeling of oneness and to carry forward the work of national integration.

*—Lal Bahadur Shastri
Prime Minister*

Our way is straight and clear—to build a strong India with freedom and prosperity for all.

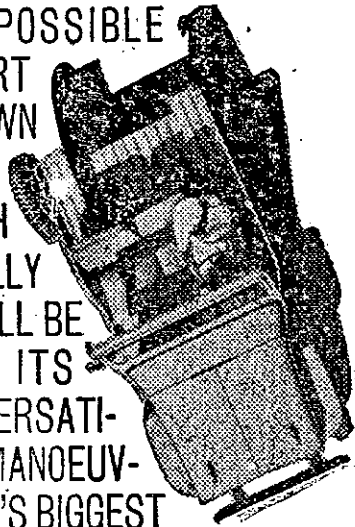
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An Orissa farmer proudly displays his catch of fish from the village pond.





Children line up to wash their hands before lunch at a village school somewhere in Orissa.

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