JANUARY 1, 1973

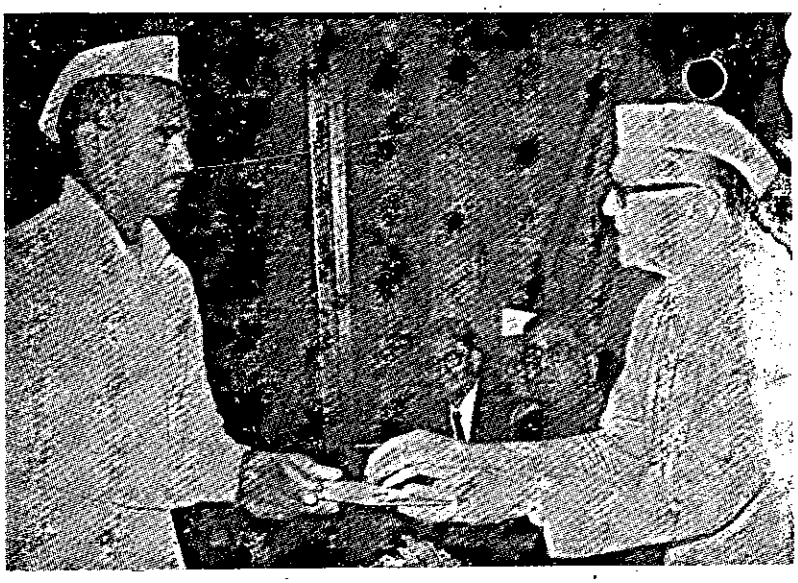
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JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND VILLAGE DEMOCRACY ● INCORPORATING 'PANCHAYATI RAJ'



Progressive Farmers Honoured



Shri Pandurang Bhausaheb Jadhav receiving the Krishi Pandit Award for Paddy from the Union Minister for Agriculture, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

SIX PROGRESSIVE FARMERS of the country who are winners of the All-India Crop Competitions in paddy and wheat, organised by the Union Ministry of Agriculture, received cash prizes and awards at a function held in New Delhi on December 19, 1972.

In the Paddy (kharif 1971-72) competition, Shri Pandurang Bhausaheb Jadhav of village Talashi, District Kolhapur (Maharashtra) received the coveted Krishi Pandit award. The yield of paddy he obtained was 15,325 kg. per hectare.



Shri Bhabhabhai Mandanbhai Parmer Krishi Pandit (wheat)

Shri Ramloo Ragholu Nemaniwar of village Lonwat, District Nanded (Maharashtra) stood second. He produced 14,240 kg. of paddy per hectare. Ranked third was Shri Patil Govinda Reddy of Gollapalli, Taluk Rayadurg, District Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh) who produced 13,610 kg. of paddy per hectare.

In the Wheat (rabi 1971-72) competition, Shri Bhabhabhai Mandanbhai Parmer of village Navagam, District Amreli (Gujarat) who was adjudged first got the Krishi Pandit Award. The yield to his credit was 7,600 kg. per hectare.

Shri Vinod Chandra Chaturbhai Patel of village Jethi, District Banaskantha (Gujarat), won the second prize by producing 7,445 kg. of wheat per hectare.

Shri K. Amar Singh of village Ali, Badarpur, Delhi, who produced 6,735 kg. of wheat per hectare, stood third in this competition.

The two Krishi Pandits (for 1971-72) were also given cash prizes of Rs 3,000 each. Each of the second and third prize winners in paddy and wheat competitions received certificates of merit and also cash prizes of Rs 1,200 and Rs 800 respectively. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed distributed the prizes.

As in the past years, All India Crop Competitions in paddy and wheat were organised by the Directorate of Extension, Ministry of Agriculture during 1971-72 also. In paddy competition 16 cultivators from five States viz Maharashtra, Gujarat, Mysore, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh took part and in the wheat competition 11 farmers from the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Union Territory of Delhi participated.

All India Crop Yield Competitions are organised every year to promote a spirit of healthy competition among the farmers so as to encourage them to adopt recommended practices to get high yields of food crops and to give social recognition to the outstanding farmer.

P.C.

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FOOD PROSPECTS

THE new year opens with somewhat better prospects on the food front. The review by the recent conference of Food Ministers has lessened people's anxiety about the situation. Firstly, in spite of the serious shortfall in the *kharif* production, procurement is proceeding successfully. About half a million tonnes have already been secured and surplus States have even promised to exceed the target of procuring 40 lakh tonnes of rice and six lakh tonnes of coarse grains. Secondly, *rabi* sowing has been successful and there is reasonable hope of getting good harvests. Thirdly, even though the drought is severe in some parts of the country, there is no acute famine, and relief measures are being geared up with massive Central assistance. Fourthly, the fear of buffer stocks being wiped out has been removed by the quick arrangements for replenishing them with marginal imports. Last but not least, the Food Ministers have reiterated their decision to take over the wholesale trade in wheat and rice by public agencies. This is particularly reassuring, in view of the dissenting voices recently raised by some States in this regard. Even now no practical scheme for the takeover has been worked out and a Committee is expected to go into the problems that are likely to be faced by the States in the process. State takeover of or control on the wholesale trade in foodgrains seems to be the only way to curb the recurring menace of hoarding and profiteering. But the stupendous problems of finance, storage and distribution and of ensuring continued employment for the persons engaged in the wholesale trade have to be solved before the State agencies could take over. The most important thing, however, is that the Government has to make up its mind without delay and implement its decision promptly. Indecision and delay will only strengthen the very anti-social forces which are sought to be suppressed.

KURUKSHETRA
Wishes its Readers
A Happy and Prosperous
New Year

A Comparative Study of Cooperative Movement in USSR and India

SAMI UDDIN

THE COOPERATIVE SYSTEM is widespread in the Soviet Union. It has three basic forms: agricultural producers' cooperative, industrial producers' cooperative and consumers' cooperative. However now independent individual units do not exist.

Before October Revolution the cooperatives were organised by the landlords (Kulaks), village business class and liberal intelligentsia to serve their purpose. The Tsarist Government encouraged these societies as they were a better choice to implement government orders regarding tax realization and recovery of loans. The important consideration was to gain moral support of the masses in favour of the Tsarist Government for its stability. Consequently the number of credit cooperatives increased to 1,400 in 1905. After the Bourgeois Democratic Revolution, the Tsar Government further strengthened the cooperatives and their number increased to 14,000 in 1915. A unique feature of the cooperatives during this period was their active participation in politics. The funds of cooperative societies were utilised for helping the supporters of Bolshevik Party. In October 1917 revolution also the cooperative societies helped the Party materially and morally.

After the victory of Bolshevik Party in 1917 the decree on land was promulgated by Lenin to help the agriculturists. At that time the most important task facing the country was to maintain its independence and be in a position to take up socialist construction for creating a powerful country. With this end in view another decree was promulgated in 1922 which emphasised the need to organise an extensive network of agricultural credit societies. The 14th conference of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union also favoured free elections, i.e., democratic management. This conference pointed out that the charters of cooperatives should contain a special clause refusing admission of Kulaks to the board of directors. In 1925 the decision of the Party central committee's plenary meeting entitled 'On Work Among the Poor Peasants' provided for a special fund to be set up to help poor peasants who joined the cooperatives. A number of measures—e.g., providing financial assistance to credit cooperatives through the Central Agricutural Bank of the USSR and through agricultural banks in Union Republics and helping farmers by providing them loan to purchase share capital of societies—were taken to increase the membership of these societies and enlighten them. However, the Communist Party effectively participated in the programme and watched over the activities of the members.

The main concern of the Party has been to judge the loyalty of the members to the Party decisions and carrying out its programme through the cooperatives. Any member of the cooperative found guilty of not obeying the orders of the Communist Party is looked down by the society itself and measures are taken to educate him. As one of the principles of cooperatives is 'political neutrality' the members of cooperative society have the right to participate in the Party meetings and label themselves as active Party workers outside the cooperative and be neutral at the time of attending meetings of their society. In USSR a Party worker has a high social status in every walk of life and therefore. as member of a cooperative society, he has a dominating voice and this makes the society work on Party lines.

Collectivization

In 1930 the Communist Party decided to convert the existing farms into collective farms and accordingly private lands were consolidated as farm units. In view of the then prevailing conditions the decision was justified on economic grounds. As the private land owners were not financially sound and the demands of industrial development were heavy on agricultural sector, it was necesssary to collectivize the land to feed the growing industrial sector but in this process not less than five lakhs of landlords are said to have been liquidated. After the process of collectivization was completed the credit cooperatives were abolished in 1931 giving way to producers' cooperatives.

The producers' cooperatives developed rapidly after 1931 with the growth of small factories, petty

The author, who is Reader in Cooperation in the Aligarh Muslim University, has made a first-hand study of the cooperative system of socialist countries and has travelled widely in USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia and G.D.R.

industrial units, etc. However a number of cooperative industrial units were not as efficient as the state enterprises were. This led to the thinking of closing down such factories or reorganising them under State supervision. Lenin's saying 'Cost accountancy is socialism' helped the planners in deciding the issue by closing down all the inefficient producers' cooperatives in 1961 and passing on the efficient units to government control through passing necessary resolutions in the general body. Thus, industrial producers' cooperative came to an end in 1961. The collective farmers were categorised as agricultural producers cooperatives and, therefore, the industries run by them were not closed down as they were not independent industrial producers' cooperatives. Thus collective farms and agricultural producers' cooperatives run by these farms still exist.

Apart from these the Soviet Union has a long experience of developing consumers' cooperative as a unique system of organisation of cooperative stores under the ideological set-up of the Communist Party. The development of consumers' cooperatives helped the Soviet Union in driving away private capital out of trade and establishing direct contacts between the individual peasant households and the state-owned industry. After the abolition of private trade in 1931, the consumers' cooperatives became an important agency to carry on trade side by side with the state-owned commercial organisations. The government also helped the consumers' cooperatives by granting cheap credit facilities, discount on goods sold to them and charging lower rent for the premises provided. The consumers' cooperatives on the other hand, strengthened the economic union of the workers and peasants by bringing them together as partners in a joint commercial venture.

Consumer Coops

The consumer cooperatives of USSR work under the guidance and control of CENTROSOYUZ, i.e., Central Union of Consumers' Societies, which came into existence in August 1917. The Centrosoyuz is a powerful body. It controls all the activities of the cooperative sector of USSR through its various departments.

The work of supervision, inspection, audit, control, finances, laying down the basic policy, procurement, marketing, education, training etc., is decided at the national level and for all purposes the decisions of Centrosoyuz are binding on all the cooperatives. The Republican union helps Centrosoyuz in questions of retail and wholesale trade, procurement of farm products and raw materials, production, construction and finance. It lays down the general economic policies and takes measures for their fulfilment. The primary aims of Centrosoyuz are the greatest possible development of Soviet cooperative trade to satisfy the growing needs of the population, procurement of farm products and raw materials from collective farms and collective farmers, organisation of the trade in these products to increase the commodity circulation between the town and the countryside and production of consumer goods at cooperative enterprises by making maximum use of local raw materials.

For the steady progress of the movement the Centrosoyuz organises its own wholesale trade units which have their sale houses and offices. It arranges for the procurement and processing of farm products through specialised chief procurement administration units.

Also the system of maintaining account books, techniques of account keeping and methods of planning in the system of consumers' cooperatives are prepared by the Centrosoyuz. It runs the cooperative institutes for training the leading personnel for the consumers' cooperative organisation and enterprises. A number of foreign students from India, Ghana, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Mongolia, Indonesia, Uganda, Nigeria, Somali, etc., are also studying in the cooperative institutes run by the Centrosoyuz.

Centrosoyuz has developed trade and cultural relations with foreign national cooperative organisations. Trade relations (with cooperative organisation) have already been established with more than 30 countries of the world on the principle of bilateralism under which equal amout of export and import takes place between the USSR and other countries.

At present the cooperative stores handle 26 per cent of the retail commodity circulation of the country. They sell costly items like radiograms, fur coats, projectors, machinery, etc., on credit to their members.

Cooperatives in India

The cooperative movement, which came to India in 1904, was first confined to providing credit for the farmers. From 1912 it was extended to non-credit activities also. But the growth of cooperatives till 1919 was quite unplanned. After 1919 the provincial governments were made responsible for the development of cooperatives in their respective areas. Thus no opportunity was left to the Central government to streamline the development of different forms of cooperatives and build up a pyramidal structure upto national level. Even now the apex cooperative organizations in most cases work only upto the State level. The implementation of a national policy is left to the State governments. The National Cooperative Union of India has neither the resources nor any legal force to direct the State

Cooperative Unions to take up a particular programme.

As a matter of fact the cooperation movement in India has been prominently a credit movement. The real development of cooperative marketing, processing, farming, industries, etc., started only under the five year plans.

Theoretically speaking the cooperatives in India work on the principle of democratic management but in reality they are administered by the government. To quote a few examples, the member-secretary, cooperative education and training, NCUI is a government official; the secretary and many officials of the National Cooperative Development Corporation are I.A.S. officers; the Registrars of cooperative societies are from the administrative service. Moreover, in many cases the district magistrate is the ex-officio chairman of central cooperative bank. Why does the government dominate the cooperatives? The reason is simple. We have developed the cooperative sector without parallel development in the cooperative managerial cadre. Consequently there is utter dearth of management personnel, trained and devoted workers and active members, which has caused a gap between principles and practice of cooperation in India. The government being responsible for carrying out developmental activities has taken up the task of guiding, supervising and controlling the cooperatives.

A Comparative Analysis

Cooperatives in both the countries came into existence with the object of providing financial help for increasing agricultural production. In USSR the cooperatives have participated actively in politics and helped the Bolsheviks in the achievement of the goals. In India the cooperatives have not participated actively in politics but the politicians have used the cooperatives as a spring-board. The cooperatives have been liberally financed in USSR. About eighty per cent of their present capital has been provided by the government at one per cent rate of interest. In India the government has acquired the membership of cooperatives to justify bureaucratic domination. The cooperatives in Soviet Union have developed a scientific system of cooperative book-keeping and accountancy which has been adopted by all the cooperatives throughout USSR. In India the most neglected aspect is book-keeping and accountancy. Thus embezzlements are not found out immediately and management cost is high. The supervision, inspection and audit of societies are designed in such a way in Soviet Union that the chances of misappropriation are reduced, while the controversy regarding audit, inspection and supervision has yet to be resolved in the case of Indian cooperatives. Timely audit and quick action are demanded by Centrosoyuz.

The communist countries have viable cooperatives. However, for developing a new cooperative unit in a newly developed colony the district cooperative society runs its new shop, restaurant or store and its independent balance sheet is not prepared. The losses are shown in the balance sheet of the district society for a particular period during which it is expected to achieve viability. Soviet Union has a strong central union (Centrosoyuz) which is capable of planning and directing the Republican and other lower societies. In India we lack all the prerequisites of a successful cooperative sector.

The cooperatives work in USSR under the supervision of the Communist Party. The party nominates its candidates for various posts in the annual general election. Naturally they are elected to the board of directors. Thus the Communist Party is all in all and cooperatives are no more than extension of the Party in a different colour. In India the cooperatives do not work under the dictation of the ruling party but they are helping the national goal of establishing a socialist pattern of society.

PROGRESS OF RURAL JOB SCHEMES

THE progress report of Crash Scheme for Rural Employment till November shows that work/projects in respect of 246 districts amounting to Rs 5,118.39 lakhs have been sanctioned by the States and Union Territories. Scheme-wise details are available for Rs 4,820.09 lakhs. Out of this, the cost of road schemes works out to Rs 3,813.14 lakhs, that for minor irrigation Rs 459.67 lakhs, soil conservation and afforestation Rs 72.73 lakhs, land reclamation, flood protection and anti-water-logging Rs 283.27 lakhs, miscellaneous agricultural schemes Rs 44.91 lakhs and others Rs 146.37 lakhs.

A sum of about Rs 24 crores has been released by the Centre this year in favour of the States. The expenditure reported is about Rs 17.21 crores and the employment generated 477.99 lakh mandays. The tempo of progress is distinctly better during 1972-73 as compared to the last year.

Data in regard to the number of mandays for which work projects have to be formulated under the Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Project have been received from eleven States. Work projects have also been formulated in several States. Registration of workers has either been completed or is under way. Work on the projects has already commenced in a few States.

MITRANIKETAN, A COMMUNITY EXPERIMENT

ORION ULREY*

MITRANIKETAN is a community organized and operated to develop people and their service institutions, through an integrated rural development scheme. Modernizing of the community is carried out primarily through educational activities of a constructive nature, health service, and building an economic base. The system is based on a social democratic pattern, practical and functional processes, and humanistic relations among the citizens. The total experiment and demonstrations are designed to improve and strengthen life experiences centered in the community where individuals and families participate to evolve superior goals and life styles.

The "House of Friends" community is located in the low hills of Kerala State, South India, about 18 miles east of the capital city, Trivandrum and near the village Vellanad.

The hilly area of Mitraniketan has an average of 120 inches of rainfall during the two monsoons of six months. The location is near extensive forests of the Western Ghat mountains, to the east. The families in this area of retarded economic and social development were reported to earn an annual cash income of only Rs 50-75 in the sixties; the area has been isolated from educational and cultural centres until recently when roads and electric lines and a telephone line were extended into these hills. The families suffer from a high incidence of intestinal parasites. Poor sanitation and poor nutrition also add to the ill-health of the residents who live in small scattered farms rather than in villages.

The founder of Mitraniketan, K. Viswanathan, comes from this community, where he was born in 1926. Apparently dissatisfied with the conditions and ideals of living in the area, yet optimistic about the potential, he devoted at least eight years in search of ideas, a philosophy, constructive programmes and a community system. He investigated at first-hand the methods and community experiences of Gandhi and Tagore; the cooperatives and credit unions, and the community service scheme of Arthur E. Morgan in the United States; and the folk schools, cooperatives and adult education in Scandinavia.

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He decided that best location to experiment, to evolve a pattern, and to evolve a system of creative production and living, was in his home community. Viswanathan was without land, capital, or friends to assist. He had no support or no one who understood. He had to sell his ideas of an improved local society to his family and neighbours. The Catholic Church rented him 1.3 acres for a beginning. His family turned over a few acres to the project. He did most of the work in constructing the first building. In time, family and neighbours extended their assistance—and the land area and facilities were slowly extended—and in time, roads, and an electric line and a telephone line reached the Centre.

Probably his greatest encouragement came from Arthur E. Morgan whom he met in 1954 while attending a conference. Community Services has made annual contributions through the years, and has encouraged young people to devote a few months to two years of service work at "The House of Friends".

Viswanathan sought investment and operating funds for his experiments from many sources. Contributions came from the American Friends, Unitarians, CARE, OXFAM, AFPRO, Pathfinder and a host of individuals and families from abroad. So the experiment slowly grew.

The original property, owned by the founder, was turned over to a community society in 1967, registered under the literacy, scientific and charities societies Act XII of 1955. The Centre thus became a type of cooperative society; the by-laws provide for an executive committee of five to meet monthly, and a general council of twelve to meet twice a year.

The writer was stimulated to visit India during the winter of 1972 for several reasons, one of them being to examine Mitraniketan.

Activities

Starting in 1956 with 1.3 acres rented from the Catholic Church and with no facilities, the Centre, (Mitraniketan) has accumulated 47 acres of which 35 are used for farming; has constructed housing for families and animals, and buildings for small industries; has dug wells and tanks and has constructed roads.

The economic or income-earning investments include the land and its improvements; the farm buildings, and the small industry buildings and equipment. The educational and social investments, which are low or non-income earning, include the school and health facilities, and the houses for the staff and visitors. The community service investments include the roads, electricity and telephone. These are all necessary to create a viable modern community.

One might conclude that the latter have received relatively more attention than the income-earning enterprises. However, most of the investment funds have been used to create economic enterprises. Undoubtedly, some errors in estimating economic potential—piggery, dairy and poultry, for example—along with inadequacies in operations have restricted the economic returns.

People, the greatest potential resource of the area, have been reached in only a minor way as yet—with motivation, health, education, skills, and understandings required in a progressive and growing economy.

Reaching retarded people and areas: the marginal farmer and landless labourer, the low income, the illiterate, the sick, and those isolated and bypassed by progress. A beginning has been made on the primary objective of the founder of the Centre. There has been some awakening among nearby villagers; as they have been gaining confidence in the personnel, and belief in the objectives and the scheme of the Centre. The limited resources in funds and personnel, and inexperience, have retarded progress in this phase of the total experiment.

In the school an attempt has been made to train the intellect and the emotions, and to provide the practical and the physical. The participation of all-students, staff and community folks in the physical jobs of building roads and constructing facilities—serves to elevate the value of physical work—neglected in most of Indian education. The aim is to reach, train and develop the various potentials of the human being.

The human relations in the school, community meetings, and at work are designed to provide an effective blend of individual and group experiences. The latter generally receives inadequate attention everywhere if basic objectives of education are to extend harmony and deepen social integrity among human beings.

The regular religious sessions, usually every evening, and which are non-denominational in nature, apparently are designed to develop a feeling of belonging to, an awareness of and a concern for others—some of the foundations of brotherhood. Many participate in talks, songs and plays as individuals and as groups.

A primary objective of the total experiment has been to evolve a system and an environment which would reduce the negative: The excesses of individualism and self-seeking activities, and the frictions and tensions; and to extend the positive: The feelings of unity and belonging to, and the expansion of individual and social integrity—as well as economic progress.

The founder evidently has believed that a social democratic pattern in which the maximum number are concerned and participate; and when based on a proper balance of economic and social institutions which provide services to the members—will evolve into the system and environment visioned.

The experiment is new and progress has been less than the hopes, but there is increasing evidence that this objective is being furthered.

Weaknesses and Remedies

Some significant weaknesses—from several reports are as follows :

(1) Developed educational and social programmes and experiments more rapidly than the creation of an adequate and sound economic base for support.

(2) Shortages of capital funds for economic base and the desired social investments.

(3) Difficulties in developing and maintaining a qualified and competent staff. After training and experience, tendency to leave the low salaries for better jobs.

(4) The volume and variety of programmes and activities, apparently has spread the "top" staff

OBJECTIVES OF MANPOWER PLANNING

WHILE INAUGURATING the State Manpower Officers Conference on November 25, Shri K.C. Pant, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, said that we have to find answers to the problem of unemployment by bold planning. Unemployment could not be divorced from the socio-economic planning and even law and order aspects. Again economic growth in itself was not sufficient to ensure job opportunities. Therefore, it was necessary for manpower planners to work with two clear objectives—one was to serve the higher levels of technology, particularly needed for capital intensive industries. But there would be sectors where deliberate lower levels of technology would have to be resorted to in order to tackle the unemployment problem effectively, removing urban, rural and regional imbalances.

too thinly.

(5) Shortages in management, to adequately plan, train, coordinate, evaluate, and get the jobs done efficiently.

(6) Internal tensions and conflicts, perhaps evidence of inadequacies in understandings, communication and participation—some issues have been handled too slowly. The low salaries encouraged such conflicts, especially if the non-economic incentives are inadequately used.

(7) Limited support from the Kerala and Indian governments. The director has feared the loss of autonomy and authority in experiments, and the possible restrictive impact of government bureaucracy.

(8) Outside financial and service support has not been adequate for the total scheme as is desired, especially from within India.

The report of the representative of the USAID mentions, among other things, that the accounts are a mess.

The writer, on his part, feels that there is much scope for improving the poultry house, cow barn and water system.

Dairy farming, with all-year forage, apparently has considerable potential in the area as there are shortages of milk in Trivandrum and other cities of Kerala. The White Revolution, now starting in India and based on cross-breeds—imported cows to raise bulls to cross with native cows—should provide heifers and cows for the Centre in the future.

Shift is possible to higher nutrition crops and to a larger proportion of livestock products.

Non-farm enterprises—small industries and handicrafts—probably form the primary basis for economic expansion over the long period. Attention should be paid to planning of buildings, production efficiency, quality control, markets, promotion and contracts.

A move might be made towards the founding and development of a training and development centre for vocational leaders of the villages of the area, which might be called a growth centre. A modern progressive society and community requires a host of skilled leaders of the various economic, educational and social activities.

The top three related priorities seem to be: developing adequate water resources, obtaining extra land, and finding a capable business director of economic enterprises.

Almost all development attention should be given to the economic ventures—farm and non-farm—perhaps during the next five years. The success of such projects should materially aid in obtaining funds for the educational and social welfare projects later.

The educational and health activities should continue to be strengthened by testing methods and improvement of personnel in the near future—with limited emphasis on expansion, regardless of the dire needs, unless specific outside funds are obtained for operations.

The evidence seems conclusive that experiments such as the Mitraniketan community should be speedily tested, evaluated, made successful, and multiplied if there is to be much hope for sizable segments of rural India in the future. The "House of Friends" scheme has advantages much beyond the economic; such as: improving human relations; creating constructive cultural foundations, and lifting of individual and social concern and hope.

ASPHALT TO MAKE DESERTS GREEN

AN AMBITIOUS research and development project involving the use of asphalt contained in crude oil, to make barren deserts green is now being pushed forward by the Japan Desert Development Association.

Briefly the idea is that an asphalt layer at a depth of about one metre below the desert surface would make possible the effective and efficient use of irrigation water as well as preventing damage to plants due to the salt in the desert sand.

Recently, a machine for spreading the water-arresting asphalt layer has been successfully developed. It comprises a bulldozer with an underground plough at the rear. In test operation, the machine laid a water-arresting layer—3 millimetre thick and 3 metre wide—at depths of 60 to 90 centimetres underground at a speed of one metre per second by spraying a sheet of asphalt, heated to about 200 degrees C, through nozzles on the reverse side of the ploughshare.

The newly developed asphalt system is expected to be cheaper and faster than the technique for laying a vinyl sheet in sand developed earlier in Japan. Therefore, it is said, the new machine will play an important part in turning vast desert areas into fertile expanses of green.

(Japan Review)

ULTRASONIC TREATMENT FOR COLD

THE INSTITUTE of Otolar-yngology in the capital of the Ukraine has developed an effective method of ultrasonic treatment of chronic coryza (cold). The mechanism of the treatment consists in micro-massage affected by ultrasonic oscillations and the normalisation of the mucous membrane of the nose. After ten-five minutes treatment 80 per cent of patients who had suffered from the ailment were completely cured of it.

(Youth Review)

NUTRITION FOR CHILDREN

NUTRITION PLAYS an important part in the proper physical, mental and emotional development of a person. Mal-nutrition and under-nutrition constitute a serious hazard to the growth and development of people, particularly children.

Recent surveys carried out in different parts of the country under the auspices of the Indian Council of Medical Research and the State Nutrition Divisions indicate that out of 100 million children in the age-group 1-6 years, about half suffer from protein-calorie mal-nutrition in one form or the other. The survey also revealed that the incidence of blindness caused by vitamin 'A' deficiency is equally high. At least, 60 per cent of all young children in the country have nutritional anaemia.

The ill-effects of deficiencies take various forms—retardation of growth, weakness, loss of weight, increased susceptibility to infections, prolonged convalescence periods, anaemia, mental depression, etc. These, besides resulting in a serious loss of cooperative efforts for national development, add to the social cost, the State having to incur large expenditure for the rehabilitation of the handicapped children.

The most critical malnutrition damage is suffered by the very young children in the period from the later stage of the mother's pregnancy upto the age of two or three. A number of experiments at the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, demonstrate that special nutrition intervention during the last trimester of the pregnant mothers, produces babies with significantly higher birth weights.

The second period of nutritional trauma begins when the child is six months old and the breast milk is no longer available in adequate quantity. The death rate is low from the second to the sixth month and becomes severe again, particularly in the period from the sixth to the twenty-fourth month. Proper nutrition of the expectant and nursing mothers and of the children from the age of six months to three years would go a long way to lay a sound foundation for the healthy development of the human resources of the country.

Recognising the role of nutrition in national development, an Applied Nutrition Programme was introduced in the middle of the Third Plan. It was only after the end of the Third Plan period that some other programmes for improvement of nutrition were taken in hand, such as the production of groundnut flour, Balahar, weaning food, multi-purpose foods, and the feeding of expectant and nursing mothers.

In 1970, the Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, while presenting the Budget in Parliament, announced a number of new initiatives for improving the conditions of the weaker sections of the population. This included a Crash Nutrition Programme for providing supplementary nutrition to children in the age-group 0-3 years living in tribal areas and in urban slums of Capital cities. A provision of Rs. four crores was made for this programme.

Response to the programme had been very good and, due to public demand for its extension to other areas, the scope of the programme was extended to cover the entire group of pre-school children upto six years in the two priority areas, namely, tribal and urban slums. Moreover, since the healthy developmeet of infants is closely related to the nutritional status of their mothers during the pre-natal and ante-natal periods, the programme has been extended to cover the expectant mothers during their last trimester, as well as the nursing mothers.

Tribal pockets with a concentration of tribal population outside the Tribal Development Blocks and urban slums of all cities/towns having a minimum population of one lakh were also included as priority areas under the programme. The number of feeding days in a year has been increased from 250 to 300.

The programme is mainly based on the use of locally available commodities. During the current year, a target of 29,09,100 beneficiaries through 22,731 feeding centres has been achieved. Out of this 15,99,739 beneficiaries in 16,760 feeding centres are in tribal areas and 13,09,361 beneficiaries in 5,971 feeding centres are in urban slums.

The Modern Bakeries (India) Limited is collaborating in the programme in a big way by making available fortified bread/rusk or special milk bread in the States where they have units and in the neighbouring States at a reasonable cost.

GEO-THERMAL POWER PROJECT

IN JAPAN, a volcanic country endowed with a bountiful supply of underground heat, a four-year study on the utilisation of underground heat for power generation purposes is under way. A Tokyo company has been commissioned to drill a steam-well for geo-thermal power generation in Shizukuishi. The geo-thermal power plant, estimated to cost over two million dollars, will have an output capacity of 50,000 kilowatts. It is estimated that geo-thermal generating plants with a total capacity of more than 20 million kilowatts can be built in Japan.

JAPAN REVIEW

SIMPLE REMEDIES

Unani

FOR THE MOTHER TO BE

After overcoming the first disturbance—'the morning sickness'—you are becoming aware of the oncoming responsibilities. You have plans to knit and stich and keep things ready. You might have consulted a doctor and received the necessary advice on antenatal care.

However keep these notes handy. Keep a watch on your urine output, get it examined twice a month. Before retiring to bed every night observe your feet; if there is swelling or pitting on pressure, you should get your urine examined immediately and consult ante natal care centre in any hospital.

Bowel movement should be regular. You can purchase these two items—Gulkand (Rosepetal preserve) and Muraba-e-Adrak (Ginger preserve), about 250 gms each. Take about 10 gms of each with a little water, first thing in the morning. This will keep your appetite fine and bowel soft.

If the quantity of urine decreases you can take a simple decoction of Khar-e-Kasak (Eng. small caldrops, Hindchota, Gokhree) and coriander (10 gms each), boiled in a glass of water, once at about 10 a.m. and again at 4 p.m. This will increase the output of urine and keep your body light.

(Dr. Hakim Ahmed Hussain, Research Officer, Arignar Anna Govt. Hospital of Indigenous Medicine, Madras-29)

Homoeopathy

BOILS

In many people the skin is subjected to the conditions for the development of boils and furuncles. They are small, hard and red swellings on the skin causing much pain. They progress into pus formation and burst out with formation of ulcers. The ulcers cause itching and discomfort. These conditions are very common among the people who are living in low hygienic conditions and may spread from person to person.

Along with the medicinal treatment the general condition of the patient should be improved by giving him or her good diet, bath, etc.

In the early stages when the boils are red and painful and without pus formation, the Homoeopathic drug BELLADONNA will give good results. With this drug the patient will be having severe swelling with fever and pain. There is much thirst, with hot skin and swelling of the glands near the affected parts. This condition leads into formation of pus. Then MERC. SOL is frequently indicated. The suffering is more during nights with this drug. Also there may be metallic taste in the mouth with troublesome itching, discomfort, fever associated with thirst and intense salivation.

When the boil is very sensitive to touch with severe shooting pain through the nerves the drug HEPARSULPH is very useful. It can be given at the stages when there is pus or not. Frequently with this drug the patient is highly sensitive to cold air and cold applications.

Sulphur is another important remedy frequently indicated in this condition. With this drug the boils appear in crops and the condition persistently prolongs for a number of days with much itching and pain. With this drug the trouble becomes worse from washing and from warmth of the bed. This drug is of much use when the condition of boils is relapsing frequently and it suits best persons who are lean and hungry.

RHUSTOX is also useful especially for the boils on the head with severe pain and fever. The patient is very restless and there is appearance of pus in the boils.

200th or 30th potencies are useful in the acute conditions.

(Dr. M. Kutumba Rao, Adviser in Homoeopathy, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.)

Ayurveda

EXERCISE FOR HEALTHY LIVING

BODILY EXERCISE or *vyayama* and the oil massage or *abhyanga*, have been recommended in Ayurveda as daily routines for the maintenance of health and prevention of disease. We will consider exercise briefly here.

Exercises may be commenced from early age, even from the age of 8 to 9 and continued till the age of 70. The duration of the exercise depends on various factors as the age, occupation, season and bodily strength. Exercise should be done only when the person is in normal health and free from any disease.

The quantum of exercise depends on the individuals. The individual should determine himself the type of exercise he should utilise for the purpose. The general rule is, that he should stop doing exercise when perspiration appears on the forehead, chest, etc. Moreover, according to the season this varies. Generally in hot seasons, the individual feels weak and the exercise should be less, in rainy season it should be moderate and in cold season it can be maximum. While one is

(Continued on page 12)

THE CHAUBATIA ORCHARDS

R. K. BHATNAGAR



RANIKHET, a small town in Kumaon region in Uttar Pradesh attracts holiday makers all the year round. There are a number of picnic and beauty spots in and around it. The foremost is Chaubatia which is only 10 kilometers away. It is famous for the fruit gardens noted for delicious apples.

When the orchard was set up in 1869 under the charge of Mr. Crew, a trained gardener, the object was declared to be "the free distribution of the finer varieties of such fruit trees as would thrive in the climate and soil of the outer ranges of the Himalayas to show practically the best methods of culture for the various species and to prove what could be done in the outturn of excellent fruit under proper treatment."

In the beginning, over a lakh of fruit trees were distributed free to anyone who applied for them. This could not work and many trees could not grow for want of care and follow-up. After some time, this scheme of supplying trees free of cost was discontinued, and trees were made available only on subsidised rates.

Premier Institution

In 1932, the Hill Fruit Research Station at Chaubatia was established by the Government to help the orchardists. The Research Station could be useful in the real sense only after the attainment of independence. Successive Five Year Plans helped it to become a premier research institution. It is the first fruit research station on temperate fruits not only in Asia but in the whole world. Its researches have formed the guiding lines for carrying on the work in other States.

Besides the four sections of Horticulture, Soil Chemistry, Mycology and Entomology new sections of Plant Physiology and Fruit-breeding have been added to enlarge the scope of research.

The station has issued over 200 technical papers and leaflets for use by the cultivators. The orchardists are also given advice on the selection of sites, laying out of orchards, digging, manuring, soil conservation, pruning and control of diseases and insect pests in the trees.

The sustained efforts of the station have resulted in the phenomenal increase in the area of orchard from 2,600 hectares to over 50,000 hectares in Kumaon and Garhwal divisions alone. The yield of the gardens has also risen considerably by the adoption of new techniques and devices.

Among the numerous activities the fruit research station is currently busy in evolving superior fruit varieties. Thousands of seedlings with broader leaves in the case of apples have been planted in hedge system. Early fruiting could be induced in these varieties by pegging down the branches. The fruit and vegetable breeding section started functioning in 1969. This section is busy in evolving temperate fruit and vegetable varieties for the whole hilly region of Uttar Pradesh.

Some of the promising apple varieties developed at Chaubatia have won prizes in the All India Apple Show.

During the season, the trees are found full of red delicious apples. Workers pluck them methodically. All the apples are stored at one place and sorted out according to quality. The fruit station with well-knit sales organisation pushes out the fruit boxes to distant areas.

(From page 11)

doing active exercise he should take more of fatty substances and nourishing food.

The process of absorption of nutrition and elimination of waste products is helped by exercise. During exercise the extra fat in the body is being utilised and so it decreases and gives shape to the limbs and muscles. The muscles become strong and the tendons and cartilages which are attached to these muscles become stronger. As the limbs move rapidly the joints of the limbs become healthier and the man avoids stiffness of joints. The food is properly digested and utilised and all sense organs like eyes and ears perform their functions well. The brain gets enough of good blood and the intellect becomes sharp.

Exercises can be done individually or collectively. Elderly people can take long walks. To have a healthy living, it is essential to have exercise daily.

(Dr. V. Narayanaswami, H.P.I.M., Madras)

White Revolution in the Punjab

HARBHAJAN SINGH KEHAL*

PUNJAB, WHICH has achieved a break-through in the sphere of agriculture as a result of the overall development efforts and the hardwork put in by the robust people of the State, is again in the midst of another revolution. It is 'White Revolution'. Punjab is giving a lead to the country in the sphere of milk production.

Number of milch cattle in the Punjab, according to 1966 Livestock Census, was 21.9 lakh, of which 7.8 lakh were cows and 14.1 buffaloes. In a study conducted by the Institute of Agricultural Research Statistics, in 1966-67, average milk yield per day per cow and per buffalo in Punjab was estimated at 2.24 kg and 3.9 kg respectively. In this respect Punjab was second only to Haryana in the country.

Extensive efforts have been made over the last five years to improve the cattle wealth of the State by adopting scientific methods of breeding, improved feeding practices and disease control measures. Punjab Government has also imported a large number of high-yielding cattle from foreign countries with a view to improving the indigenous cattle by cross breeding.

Total milk production in Punjab is steadily rising. The estimated production of milk for the year 1969-70 (latest estimates available) works out to 200 lakh quintals† as compared to 192 lakh quintals in 1968-69. Ferozepur district was at the top in the production of milk with 28.7 lakh quintals in 1969-70, and Kapurthala district at the bottom with only 7.2 lakh quintals. The government hopes to double the milk production during the next ten years.

The per capita availability of milk per annum for the State as a whole came to 152.5 kg. in 1969-70 as compared to 136.9 kg. in 1968-69.

As milk is a highly perishable product, the rising production needed the establishment of milk plants. Two milk plants are already working at Verka (Amritsar) and Chandigarh. In 1969-70, Chandigarh Milk Plant procured 30.5 lakh kg. of milk as compared to 23.4 lakh kg. in 1968-69, showing a rise of 30.5 per cent in one year's time. Verka Milk Plant procured 102 lakh kg. of milk in 1969-70 as compared to 91.3 lakh kg. in 1968-69, a rise of 11.6 per cent. These milk plants produce sterilized sweetened flavoured milk, 'ghee', 'lassi', 'yoghurt', 'paneer', etc.

Two other major milk projects taken up in Punjab are: Composite Milk Project, Ludhiana and Rural Creamery at Bhatinda. The Ludhiana Milk Project, a UNICEF aided project, will have a capacity to handle 75 thousand litres of fluid milk per day initially with a provision to increase it to two lakh litres. It will produce milk powder, whole milk powder, 'lassi', 'dahi' and whole and tonned bottled milk. It is anticipated that Ludhiana project may be commissioned by the end of 1972-73. Rural Creamery at Bhatinda will have the capacity to handle 50 thousand litres of milk. Six Milk Chilling Centres will be set up under this project. Each Centre will have capacity of six thousand litres. The project is expected to be commissioned by the end of 1972-73.

Punjab Government proposes to set up its fifth milk project at Mohali at a cost of Rs. three crores. This milk plant will handle three lakh litres of milk every day. The Mohali plant would augment milk supply in Chandigarh while the remaining milk would be contributed to the national pool.

Under the programme "Operation Flood" has been allocated an amount of Rs. 3.82 crores for the development of dairy industry in the State. Punjab Dairy Development Corporation has started dairy extension units at various places in the State. These extension units are playing a valuable role in providing education and training for commercial milk production.

In order to provide necessary finance to the farmers for the purchase of high-yielding milch cattle, the scheme entitled "Strengthening and Revitalization of Milk Supply Cooperative Societies in Bassi Pathana, Rajkot and Patti areas" is to be started. It aims at providing good quality milk and milk by-products to the people, and for providing year round employment to small farmers and landless labourers.

*Asstt. Professor of Economics, Deptt. of Economics & Sociology, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana

†*Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1971.*

THREE-DIMENSIONAL MAPS FOR THE BLIND

THREE-DIMENSIONAL plastic maps are helping the blind for easier movement in the English Midlands City of Leicester.

The basic idea of the map, which has attracted worldwide attention, is a simple one. Streets, churches, major buildings, parks, bus termini, street crossings controlled by lights and other important landmarks in Leicester are indicated by raised features on the surface of thin, flexible sheets of plastic. A key to the features, in raised Braille letters, is included in a corner of each map.

The whole area of the city has been mapped out on 27 sheets. The scale used is 10 inches to the mile.

BIS

BOOK REVIEWS

READINGS ON MICRO-LEVEL PLANNING AND RURAL GROWTH CENTRES *Edited by Lalit K. Sen, National Institute of Community Development, Hyderabad. pp 350—Price Rs 35.*

PLANNING in India has made unmistakable gains; but the criticism is largely valid that mostly the benefits of planning have gone into a few hands and only a few areas in the country have profited at the cost of others, resulting in a certain polarisation at various levels. The weak and vulnerable sections, population-wise and area-wise, have either remained static or have further gone down the chute.

Equitable distribution of growth is a major problem of the planner today in India. The macro-level sectoral planning based on national priorities clearly fell short of our requirements. This needs to be dovetailed with micro-level planning at the local levels. The book under review seeks to focus attention on the importance of micro-level planning.

The present volume contains a wide variety of articles on this subject based on lectures delivered by eminent social scientists—some well known like C.D. Deshmukh, Douglas Ensminger and A.M. Khusro, at the National Institute of Community Development during 1970-71.

A number of papers in this collection dwell upon the methodology for preparing micro-level plans. At what stage should the micro-level plan begin? Should it begin at the individual, village, town or the city level? To plan from the level of the individual citizen is clearly impossible, as he can only be reached through a system. The average village, according to the authors, has proved to be infeasible as an instrument of comprehensive development. Many of the urgent problems of rural development admit of solution, at the base, only at the level which lies below the taluk or block. This is the level of micro-region which is taken as the unit for planning. From the empirical studies made in almost every populous part of the world it has been deduced that to bring about progressive changes in the rural areas, planning which is termed integrated area planning, should start at the micro-region level, and a large village or a small town, selected according to certain criteria laid down, should be the centre from which the growth impulses are transmitted to the other rural settlements in its area of influence. These centres are termed growth centres. The concept of the growth centres and integrated area planning is a recent projection in the field of planning. A growth centre and the surrounding cluster of villages, according to Douglas Ensminger and Prodipto Roy, might include a population ranging from 50,000 to 1,00,000.

The growth centres of the type described above along with their clusters of villages will further depend on higher order growth centres where more specialised services and functions, not available at the lower order growth centres, are located. This process goes on, ending finally in the metropolises and megalopolises of the country which are the highest order of growth centres.

Apart from its value as a theory which has reasonable chance of success, if implemented efficiently, in correcting imbalances in the present economic development, micro-planning has also exploded the dichotomy between the village and the town; the theory recognises the paramount need for establishing a rural-urban continuum.

While the micro-level planning sets the national and regional priorities and allocates resources sector-wise thus providing the broad framework, micro-level plans evolve the techniques and blueprint for the emergence of a self-reliant and forward-looking socio-economic society. These two are complementary to each other.

A most important aspect of micro-level planning is the proper location of the growth centres. Appropriate theory is available and a whole range of techniques has been developed in respect of location of growth centres for area development. But there still remains the difficult task of adopting these to Indian needs and of creating the institutions required to carry out these tasks on the vast scale intrinsic to the Indian sub-continent. As regards planning practices in India with special reference to location theories, Indian social scientists will have to work out their own norms in the matter of the spatial relations between a growth centre and its service hinterland as well as between one order of growth centres and another, since the models worked out by sociologists and planners elsewhere need not necessarily hold good in Indian conditions.

The C.D. programme was the nearest to micro-level planning in the past but it failed to plan for a rural-urban continuum since the programme did not aim at reducing the dichotomy between rural and urban settlements. The hope that the programme would generate enough resources and local enthusiasm so that Governmental assistance in the form of funds or motivation can wither away has itself withered away. To quote from an official document "Activities languished and the staff remained almost supernumerary".

The book is a good introduction to micro-level planning in India. But while making theoretical constructions, if all the factors, particularly at the human behavioural level, are not taken into consideration, the resulting gap between theory and the results of its application, would undermine the credibility of the theory itself.

This book contains 40 lectures grouped into five sections. In this kind of collection of articles by different people who have gained expertise on a subject like this, an amount of repetition of ideas and observation is perhaps unavoidable. But there is a lot of material that seems to be in the nature of ballast. The book could have usefully shed some of its pages and gained in readabillty. Much of the statistical data provided in the form of tables should have been supplemented by adequate interpretative analysis. The select bibliography appended at the end of the book contains over 300 references.

M. SYAMALA RAO

NITROGEN IN INDIAN AGRICULTURE *(1961-70)*
A bibliography on N, NP, NK, NPK and other related factors. Published by European Nitrogen Service Programme, New Delhi-24. pp. 466. Price not mentioned.

THIS bibliography documents 3,696 published references to research in India during 1961-70 on nitrogen and related factors pertaining to all agricultural crops, soil science and fertiliser trade. The topic is of great significance for India because nearly three-fourths of the fertilisers produced or consumed in the country are nitrogenous. The period of 1961-70, has been rightly chosen as it was during this period that the country had breakthrough in agricultural research and production.

Dr. H.L.S. Tandon, who compiled this, deserves appreciation for presenting in one volume the information which was scattered in numerous journals, some of which are obscure and not available to all the people interested in the use of nitrogenous fertilisers. The need for such a reference book has long been felt especially since information regarding research in agriculture is not easily and readily available.

All those who are interested in agricultural research in India in general and in nitrogen research and balanced fertiliser use in particular will find this volume very useful. Grouping of the titles under seventeen major sections with appropriate sub sections, cross references for titles which deal with more than one subject with an author index and a list of journals at the end of the text makes it more useful.

The Nitrix AG, Zurich, Switzerland who sponsored European Nitrogen Service Programme have agreed to distribute this publication free of cost to scientists, agricultural universities, institutions and libraries to further the cause of agricultural research in India.

(S.K)

ENDING SMALLPOX IN INDIA

SMALLPOX is still endemic in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. The total incidence for these countries so far in 1972 (January-September) is 35,599 cases. India accounts for 62 per cent of these cases.

Smallpox can be eradicated in any country regardless of geography or climate. However, other obstacles stand in the way of achieving eradication. No campaign can be successful unless every single case is reported; yet though there has been improvement much remains to be done. Certain populations still hide cases for religious reasons. Some health personnel do not report cases because of fear that they will be blamed for not having done enough to prevent them. Vehicles that break down sometimes cannot be repaired rapidly because of administrative difficulties.

Once an outbreak is known to occur, the campaign can swing into action. In the country, "fire fighting teams" can avoid administrative delay and get to work stamping out the spread of infection. These teams consist of two to four persons who go from outbreak to outbreak in their vehicle. One team can usually cover a population of two to ten million. These teams are being used in some states in India.

In India, with the exception of Bombay which has remained free of smallpox since 1970 due to a good vaccination programme, many cities remain endemic. They become the source of infection for rural outbreaks. In return, rural people may bring new sources of infection to the cities. Studies show that more than 80 per cent of all cases occur in unvaccinated children less than 15 years of age. And the largest number of cases occur in slums and among poor people. Top priority is now being given to these high risk groups. Children and poor city-dwellers are prime targets.

In India, the problem areas this year were in the northern states of the country: Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar and West Bengal. In the southern states (190,000,000 population) only small localized outbreaks occured. Remarkable progress has been made in the states of Rajasthan and Gujarat which had recorded the highest incidence of smallpox in India in 1969 and 1970 respectively. Today, the number of cases has fallen to a very low level in both these states.

(WHO)

When you come bring your wife along

We at the Family Planning centre are ready to listen ; listen to your personal problems and offer suggestions, suggestions that will help you in your personal life and lead to greater happiness.

You can talk to us freely. Ask us any question, even something that you hesitate to ask your friends.

And, it is wise to bring your wife along. Let her also talk to the lady doctor. Your wife can seek answers to questions that she has been hesitating to ask you.

When you are back home, you will find that your married life is happier because—



ROLE OF GROWTH CENTRES IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

P.N. SHARMA*

A STUDY OF different theories put foward by economists and research workers indicates that the growth is guided by a selective process and it takes place in certain particular areas which are able to dominate their hinterlands in the sense of exercising irreversible and partially reversible influence on the latter. These places, which are called growth centres are generally central places arranged in a definite hierarchy in the functional context.

The concept of growth centres is gaining importance in the present context of regional planning. Their development will enable the local population of the particular regions to enjoy the benefits of economic planning utilising the local resources and initiative to the maximum.

A Case Study

For the purpose of regional planning, Uttar Pradesh has been divided into different regions and in each region backward areas have also been demarcated. One of the backward regions is Bundelkhand region which comprises of four districts of Jhansi, Jalaun, Banda and Hamirpur. The problems of this region are underdevelopment, non-utilisation of natural resources, lack of industrial units, poor transportation network and low agricultural production. Out of this region two districts of Banda and Hamirpur were selected for a preliminary study to identify growth centres with the objective of bringing about a more rational distribution of population in urban and rural areas and to create a physical environment which would encourage various parts of the region to develop to an optimum level. This implied identification and location of a set of existing or proposed nodal points to achieve the accessibility of all necessary facilities. In order to arrive at a desirable pattern of settlements the basic needs for each class of settlement depending upon population and its function in the regional context had to be considered. The centrality of these places had to be worked out in terms of simple linear distances and in terms of nodality.

The following criteria were adopted for identifying growth centres:

1) population range and population growth;
2) proximity to an established industrial centre;
3) functional orientation towards industry or commerce;
4) convenient location in the surrounding areas;
5) intensity of agricultural development;
6) availability of local resources for industrialisation.

On the basis of these criteria the prospective settlements were selected for identification as growth centres. The availability of various infra-structural facilities was studied and different scores were given for adequacy or inadequacy of a particular facility. As per this score these growth centres were divided into three groups, according to their potentialities.

Group I—Banda, Mahoba, Rath, Karwi, Mau, Manikpur, Attarra, Baberu, Hamirpur, Charkhari and Mandaba (Total 11)

Group II—Naraini, Mataundh, Kulpahar and Bharwa-Sumerpur (Total 4)

Group III—Rajapur, Kabrai, Panwari, Jaitpur, Srinigar, Goendi, Ichauli and Khanna (Total 8)

In this study certain models for the road-system for the region were also examined and an ideal model was recommended. This model would connect the maximum number of settlements at the minimum cost. This study shows that further economic activity in the region can be organised on the basis of these growth centres. A careful analysis of the study would help the planners in formulating realistic and viable proposals. A specific type of economic activity may be located at each growth centre so as to give the maximum benefits to the largest areas.

Recommendations

In order that these growth centres develop into effective nodes capable of generating sustained growth over a long period of time and diffusing such growth to the hinterlands causing the creation of new growth points the aggregate demand in their hinterlands must be sustained at high and rising levels so that a maximum extent of interaction develops between them and their hinterlands. For this purpose the primary activities in the hinterlands must be rendered highly productive and must be ably supported by collection and marketing services, efficient distributive services, social services like educational and health institutions, professional skills, etc.

This sort of identification of growth centres would help in conceiving the economic development programmes in right perspective. It would also help in maximisation of benefits from economic planning on the one hand and safeguarding against any wastage of limited resources available in our country.

Senior Research Officer, Regional Planning Division, State Planning Institute, Lucknow

Before you have another child think

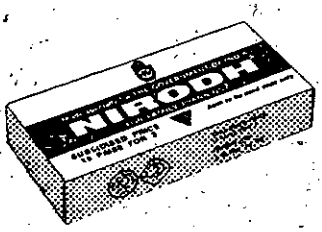
wouldn't you first like to give this child all the care he needs?



Help him take his first steps in learning. Make sure he gets all the things you're planning to give him. But if another child should come along too soon, this may not be easy. Wouldn't you prefer to avoid this ?

Millions of couples all over the world are doing just that. They put off having another child till they are ready for it. You too can do this with NIRODH. It's the world's most popular rubber contraceptive for men. Remember, NIRODH is the safest, simplest method of Family Planning and has been used successfully for generations. So why don't you too use NIRODH.

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dayp 71/460

Role of Education in Modern Farming

G. RAJAGURU and C. SATAPATHY

THE EXTENSION workers keep the farmers well informed about the new farm techniques evolved at research stations or agricultural universities so that agricultural production may go on increasing. For this they utilise teaching method suited to the educational, mental and physical capabilities of the farmers. It is generally found that farmers with some educational background are comparatively more inclined towards new farm techniques than those who have no such background.

To determine the exact relationship between educational attainment and the degree of acceptance of new ideas by the farmers of rural area, a study was undertaken in two panchayats of Pipli N.E.S. Block of Orissa.

The study covered only four villages of the panchayats. 170 farmers were selected at random and interviewed. The extension contacts included under the study were the visit of village level workers, field agents and extension officers to the farmers and vice-versa. The farmers' participation in activities arranged by extension agency viz. training camp, meetings, group discussions, demonstrations and film shows were included under this study. On the basis of contacts made per year, three categories were made; low contact category having associated with 0-30 per cent, medium contact category 31-60 per cent and high contact category with 61 per cent and above of the total contacts.

An analysis of the data revealed that out of 170 respondents, 72 were illiterates, 48 had education upto upper primary, 33 upto middle and 17 above middle school. It was found that in case of illiterates, the degree of contacts decreased with increase of intensity in contacts. In other groups it showed an increasing trend. On the whole with increase in educational background of the farmers their frequency of contacts with extension agency increased.

The recommended practices of high-yielding varieties of paddy such as seed rate, seed treatment, raising of seedlings, use of chemical fertilizers and plant protection measures were included under the present investigation. The findings of investigation reveal that adoption of these practices were found to be in increasing order with increase of educational level of the farmers from illiterates to the middle school standard and above.

Farmers with some amount of educational background are comparatively more favourable in their information-seeking habits over illiterates. Moreover, farmers receiving education upto certain standard are better adopters of recommended practices of high yielding varieties of paddy. Hence, attention need be paid to identify potential programme audience on the basis of educational experience in order to secure desirable response for the successful implementation of any agricultural programme.

Shri Rajaguru is Head of the Department of Extension and Shri Satapathy, Lecturer in the Department of Extension, College of Agriculture, Bhubaneswar.

FISH TAUGHT TO 'HELP THEMSELVES'

A NEW 'self-service' system for artificial fish ponds enables the fish to get their food whenever they feel hungry—after a little training. This device has been invented by Israeli fish breeders.

Whenever fish feels like a snack, it nibbles at an iron rod fixed onto the bottom of the pond. The rod operates the trap door of a container of food, suspended above the fish pond. How does the fish learn to nibble at the rod? It only takes about two days to train the average fish, the instructors say. The new system prevents waste and enables the breeder to keep a more accurate check on the quantities of food he is using, the experts say.

(NEWS FROM ISRAEL)

UNDERGROUND MOTORWAY FOR LONDON

LONDON'S first stretch of underground motorway, which will be Europe's longest stretch of motorway to be built underground for purely environmental purposes, has been approved in principle by the Greater London Council's Environmental Planning Committee.

The proposed motorway, stretching for 1½ miles in south-east London, would be made up of four separate deep-bored tunnels, each carrying two lanes of traffic. Each tunnel would have an internal diamter of 37 feet and an overhead clearance of 16½ feet. The cost is estimated at more than £39,000,000.

(BIS)

Step by Step

CSRE Saves Gurdaspur from Floods

GURDASPUR district has been freed from floods as a result of the crash scheme for rural employment. Shri Rajinder Singh, Deputy Commissioner, told newsmen on November 28.

During the last financial year emphasis was laid on providing bunds on the Ravi and Beas and constructing new drains connecting depressions. With the execution of these schemes during the last two years about 50 villages and 10,000 acres of cultivable land were saved from floods.

Twenty-five miles of road were constructed in the sub-montane areas under this programme.

The year 1972-73 will be observed as the year for improvement of environment and greater cleanliness in the villages and towns.

A programme for electrifying 25 harijan *bastis* has been sanctioned.

SFDA in Patna District

THE SMALL farmers' development agency has so far included 48,000 small farmers' families of Patna district in the list of identified families. Another 29,000 families have been identified as those belonging to the marginal farmers' category.

Within a year, the agency has helped marginal farmers obtain 333 pumping sets, construct 86 wells and sink 66 tubewells. It has given 25 per cent subsidy to farmers after completion of their projects.

The state cooperative bank has so far advanced Rs. 17.5 lakhs as short-term loans and Rs 41,000 as medium-term loans for the purchase of bullocks. In addition, Rs five lakhs have been advanced as long-term loans for the purchase of irrigation and agricultural implements.

The commercial banks have advanced Rs there lakhs as short-term loans for buying seeds and manure and Rs 5.5 lakhs for the acquisition of irrigation implements.

Similarly permits have been issued by the block authorities to marginal farmers for the supply of manure and seeds on credit worth Rs 31 lakhs.

Eighteen out of the 28 development blocks in the district have so far been taken up under this programme with prior sanction of the Union Government.

—(From *The Hindustan Times*)

Help to Patiala Small Farmers

AS MANY AS 2,829 small farmers of Patiala district have been provided with a total loan of Rs 1,36,93,000 for tubewells and dairy farms during the last 18 months under the Small Farmers' Development Scheme, Shri G.S. Gill, Deputy Commissioner, told a press conference on December 7.

Indigenous Red Phosphorus

RED PHOSPHORUS is an important chemical used in defence, match box industries, fireworks and also in production of pesticides. Till recently, red phosphorus was an imported item and there was no indigenous manufacturer of the same. Only a handful of countries are producing red phosphorus from white phosphorus.

M/s United Phosphorus Pvt. Ltd. developed indigenous know-how and complete process for the manufacture of red phosphorus from white phosphorus and have set up a plant at Vapi in Gujarat State. They have been meeting country's requirements of 600 tonnes of red phosphorus partially and had, till the middle of June 1972, saved more than Rs 18 lakhs in foreign exchange. They plan to increase their production to about 700 tonnes in 1974-75 and increase the annual saving in foreign exchange to Rs one crore.

Besides making available indigenously red phosphorus to many industries including defence, M/s United Phosphorus Pvt. Ltd., are marketing this product at competitive rates viz. Rs 14 to Rs 16 per kg. vis-a-vis the rates of imported product.

In recognition of this impressive effort in import substitution of a vital chemical, M/s United Phosphorus Pvt. Ltd. have been awarded a 'Gold Shield' the by the Inventions Promotion Board.

More Small Savings in W. Bengal

THE NET collection in West Bengal under the small savings scheme in the first seven months of the current financial year is about Rs nine crores higher than that of the corresponding period last year. It has increased from Rs 16 crores to Rs 25 crores. The target for this year is Rs 32 crores.

SBI 'Adopts' 14 Villages

A GURGAON branch of the State Bank of India has adopted 14 villages. The bank has already financed 1,200 small farmers with loans aggregating to Rs 39 lakhs. According to its Agent, another scheme worth Rs 35 lakhs for financing the purchase of buffaloes by small farmers through milk societies was under study.

Farmers' Advisory Service

A FARMERS' Advisory Service Centre (FASC) was inaugurated by the Governor of Haryana, Shri B.N. Chakravarty at Gurgaon on December 3. This is the second such centre established by the Haryana Agricultural University, the first being at Hissar.

The Centre, built at a cost of Rs 5.5 lakhs will provide, under one roof, all advisory services needed by the farmers. There are plans, in the near future, to have such centres at every district headquarters in the State.

Military Farms Earn Profit

THE MILITARY FARMS of India have made a profit of Rs 1.5 crores during 1970-71.

The Military Farms have been pioneers in dairy and animal husbandry in the country. They have a herd of over 10,000 pedigreed cross-bred animals and a lactation yield of 5,500 kg.

Trends

National Survey of Rural Unemployment

A NATIONAL sample survey scheme covering 9,000 villages and 4,800 blocks will soon be started to study the size of unemployment in rural areas, according to Shri Bal Govind Verma, Union Deputy Minister for Labour, Relief and Rehabilitation.

Coordination of Jobs and Relief Schemes

THE THREE-DAY conference of Senior Administrative Officers of Rajasthan decided on December 13 to ensure full coordination between the crash scheme for rural employment and the drought prone area programme (DPAP) on the one hand, and famine relief projects on the other to provide maximum relief to the people of scarcity affected areas in the State.

Sugarcane Area Up

THE ACREAGE under sugarcane production this year had gone up by five per cent and more acreage was expected to be under it next year because of incentive sugarcane price offered by the Government, Shri Shinde said in the Rajya Sabha on December 13.

Aid for Rural Dispensaries

THE UNION GOVERNMENT will give financial assistance to voluntary agencies for setting up hospitals and dispensaries in rural areas.

Disclosing this in the Rajya Sabha the Minister of State for Health and Family Planning, Shri D.P. Chattopadhyaya said that detailed rules of the scheme were being finalised.

More Tubewells for Punjab

THE PUNJAB STATE Electricity Board has energised 3,000 tubewells in the State in the last two months under the Emergency Food Production Drive sponsored by the Central Government.

A total of 15,000 tubewells are scheduled to be energised by the end of the current financial year under the programme.

Cultivation of Sunflower in Punjab

THE CULTIVATION of sunflower as edible oilseed crop has proved successful in Nabha Block of Patiala district where three large-sized composite demonstration plots of a total area of 7.5 acres were brought under this crop in March last. An area of about 170 acres is planned to be brought under sunflower in this district next year.

Similar programmes for extending the cultivation of sunflower are being pursued in other districts of Punjab. The yield of this crop goes up to eight quintals per acre which sells very easily at Rs 150 per quintal.

Sugarbeet prospects in South India

SUGARBEET is an alternative raw material for the sugar industry. Experiments in growing sugarbeet carried out in the northern parts of the country have given encouraging results. Some trials were conducted in the South also, in the plains as well as on the hills, with this new crop and on the economics of its cultivation and its value as a source of factory sugar. According to the report of the Task Force on Agriculture of the Tamil Nadu Planning Commission, the efforts to grow sugarbeet on the hills under rain-fed conditions have indicated that "there is a good chance of making sugar production economic under South Indian conditions utilising sugarbeet as an additional raw material for the industry.

(From *The Hindu*)

Agri. Consultancy Service in Nilgiris

THE INDO-GERMAN Nilgiris Development Project has set up an agricultural consultancy service for the Nilgiris district at the Information Centre of the Project at Ooty.

West Bengal Scheme for Rural Uplift

THE WEST BENGAL Government will soon be implementing a new comprehensive area development scheme for the development of rural areas.

The scheme, as envisaged, is not merely agricultural but includes development of poultry, dairy, piggery, marketing, small industries, etc. in selected areas. Since fragmentation of land is one of the main problems in raising agricultural production, the new scheme aims at technological consolidation of land, while at the same time preserving the individual rights of farmers. The increased production made possible by the area development scheme would generate its own resources.

Pilot Scheme in W. B. Villages

A PILOT scheme for the purpose of strengthening the rural economy has been taken up by the Agricultural Refinance Corporation at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 lakhs at village Kendus in the Sankrali area of Howrah district, (W.B.). 100 shallow tubewells will be sunk for the purpose of irrigation to 600 acres of land for high-yielding three crops in a year.

Awards for Savings Campaign

THE U.P. GOVERNMENT has sanctioned Rs. 1.3 lakhs to reward non-officials in rural areas who made notable collection for national saving on World Thrift Day and during the special national savings drive in November 72.

Hybrid Seeds for MP

HYBRID SEEDS in jowar, maize, cotton, groundnut, urad and mung will be made available in Madhya Pradesh by next *kharif* season to prevent the use of adulterated seeds. This was disclosed by Dr. Chandraka Thakur, Vice Chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru Agricultural University, Jabalpur, on Dec. 4.

Press Comments

Drought

SOME STATE Governments are beginning to realise that to counteract the effects of drought sanction of financial assistance by the Centre is not enough. Administrative skill is needed to ensure not only that the money spent relieves those affected and permanent assets in the form of new projects or repairs to old projects like roads and irrigation sources are created, but also that the allocations are, in fact, disbursed.

The Indian Express

DURING THE discussion of the drought situation in Parliament, Shri Annasahib Shinde, Union Minister of State for Agriculture, complained that despite suggestions from the Centre to drought prone States to keep ready the blueprint of a master plan of action against prospective famine conditions, no such plans had been prepared.

....It would be well if both the Central and State Governments recognised this point and also that long-term solutions, not belated and ad hoc remedies, have to be found.

The Hindu

BY SPENDING much less than is spent on relief works, the Central government could airlift hundreds of powerful drilling rigs capable of cutting through 250 feet of rock in a day, in order to sink thousands of tubewells in the affected areas. With a little organisation, it could marshal some at least of the thousands of unemployed engineers and geologists in the country, hundreds of miles of steel or cement pipes, diesel pumps and the like which are all manufactured in this country.

The Times of India

Food Supplies

SUCCESSFUL PROCUREMENT will now call for harsher measures, including monopoly procurement. This is precisely what is being avoided, the talk of take-over of foodgrains trade notwithstanding. The other alternative is to import.

To be effective, however, the imports will have to be on an adequate scale.

The Indian Express

UNLESS IT CAN prevail on the State governments to step up procurement drastically, New Delhi will be forced to import far more than two million tonnes of foodgrains to tide over the current crisis.

....The best the Central Government can now do is to reimpose the single-state zonal system to restrict the activities of private traders, and to cordon off the large urban centres where wheat, and even rice, is still freely available.

The Times of India

FOOD IMPORT is not a crime and is not necessarily an infallible proof of official ineptitude, lethargy or indifference. Even the U.S.S.R. and China have been unable to find an answer to Nature's vagaries and are currently in the world market as big buyers of grain. But in those countries the impact of food shortage on consumers is much less severe than in a poor country like India where the inflationary pressure on the economy has considerably reduced the low purchasing power of the people.

The Hindusthan Standard

THE GOVERNMENT has, in the course of the recent food debate in Parliament, virtually conceded that the AICC resolution on the takeover of the wholesale grain trade is a dead letter. This is not altogether surprising, for it is no secret that the machinery at its disposal cannot undertake an operation of this size. As it is, the Food Corporation itself is in a bad way....The pity of it is that even now the government has not fully imbibed the lesson that an efficient distribution system is as important as adequate supplies.

The Times of India

Farm Education

ALTHOUGH IN THE last 25 years we have spent Rs 106 crores on agricultural research, the bulk of Indian agriculture remains untouched by science. What is the solution? Every agricultural institution in the country should have plots to demonstrate improved practices for the benefit of the farmers of the area as well as students.

The Indian Express

Green Revolution

TO SAY THAT there has not been even a limited green revolution is as misleading as the earlier campaign of denigration against the community development movement which for the first time created the national extension service as a permanent transfer belt for the upliftment of Indian farm technology, The results are to be seen in any reading of agricultural statistics.

The Hindustan Times

Land and Water

THE MANAGEMENT of soil and land resources is intimately linked with the management of water resources, and cannot bear fruit unless the latter too is subjected to common discipline. Irrigation is not an end in itself, but only a means to greater production. Therefore, the Central Government should take early steps to ensure better coordination of management and planning policies for both.

The Times of India

Rural Roads

BESIDES facilitating the green revolution, road development would provide employment to countless people. Considering the magnitude of the problem there would have to be a heavy rural road-building programme during the Fifth Plan period if the aim is to be achieved.

....The multiplicity of agencies now handling the task is in itself a drawback and accounts in part for the slow progress.

The Tribune

Depressed Classes

THE KEY to improvement lies in education, which will, in turn, create a certain mobility in employment so that Harijan children are no longer forced to perform those menial caste functions which now set them apart.

....An integrated scheme which includes allotment of land to Harijans, financial inducements to send their children to school and stiffer punishment for any form of exploitation may prove more effective than the six Constitutional clauses which now discriminate in favour of Harijans. The task would be considerably simpler if, as a first step, the Government accepted the Commissioner's recommendation to create an autonomous Harijan development board on the lines of the Dandakaranya Development Authority.

The Statesman

IT IS not uncommon to find private sector companies turning Harijan candidates away even when they are qualified. When a suitable Harijan candidate is available, he should invariably be given some preference. This is also the best way to ward off the possibility of outside interference in the recruitment policies of the private sector.

The Times of India

TN Rural Medical Plan

THE IDEA of covering each block of villages by about 20 health units manned by both allopaths and degree holders in indigenous medicine (assisted by adequate para-medical personnel) besides unani, ayurvedic and homoeopathic doctors with experience, does give the choice to the villagers in the block of either modern medicine or the traditional ones....A possible snag would be the qualified allopath who is also to man the health units may still be hard to find....The real merit of the Tamil Nadu alternative is that, far from being a paper plan, the State Government has decided to implement it on a pilot scale in four (out of a total of 374) blocks in the state from April next....Cooperative schemes like the Voluntary Health Service can also play a complementary role. It is good that another essay in such a cooperative venture, promoted by the V.H.S., is being launched near Erode to provide health services for about eight blocks.

The Hindu

SOVIET TRACTOR PLANT CROSSES THE MILLIONTH MARK

The millionth "Belarus" tractor has recently come off the main conveyor of the Minsk Tractor Plant in Soviet Byelorussia. The plant started production in 1946. Automatic lines and programme-controlled machine-tools have been installed in recent years.



"Belarus" stands for a whole family of tractors comprising twenty modifications. They are exported to 58 countries. They can operate in any soil and climatic conditions and perform a wide range of agricultural operations. These tractors won the highest award—Gold Medals—at international exhibitions and fairs in Brussels, Leipzig, Plovdiv and Moscow.

(APN)

Malnutrition

THE GROWING unemployment and spiralling food prices have been accelerating the process of the slump and sucking larger number of families in it. Malnutrition, in such circumstances, is not a discovery but a statistical compilation of the inevitable results of the prevailing conditions.

...The real, and commonsense, remedy lies in increased production, equitable distribution and effective check on prices. Until and unless pragmatic measures are devised for these and applied with iron determination, seminars and conferences will be little more than exercises in vacuum.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika

Small Farmers

IF THE SMALL farmer is to be helped, the priorities are obvious. These are small irrigation projects; availability of facilities for subsidiary occupations like poultry-keeping, sheep-rearing and bee-keeping which can give additional income, inexpensive storage bins where he can store his produce; fertiliser, seed and pesticide supplies on deferred payment basis; and availability on rental of agricultural implements.

The Indian Express

Khadi Production Goes Up

THE TOTAL production of various units under the control of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission during 1970-71 was worth Rs 111 crores as against Rs 104 crores during the previous year, according to the annual report of the Commission.

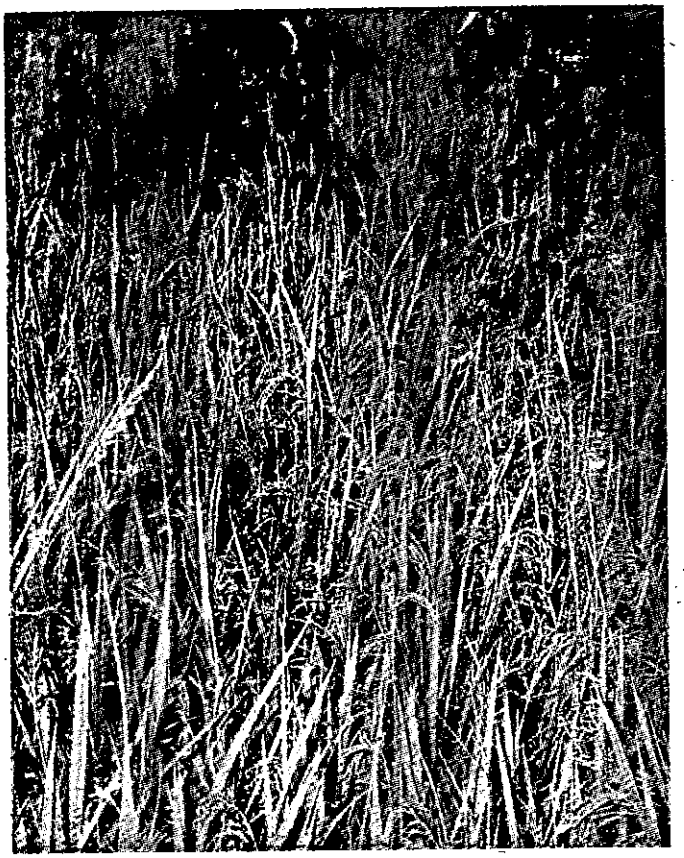
The sales increased from nearly Rs 91 crores in 1969-70 to Rs 100 crores in 1970-71. A total of 19 lakh persons were provided employment in 1970-71.

Regd. No. D-414

POTASH IN DOSES

The demonstration cultivation of IR 8 in two plots undertaken at Chalad in Cannanore Block has proved that by adding potash in three instalments, one can produce more paddy than one can produce by adding potash, in one dose. In one plot potash was added in three instalments, and in the other in one dose. The yield from the first plot was 2,977 kg. whereas it was only 2,764 kg. from the other plot where potash was applied in one dose.

V.K. Moideen Koya



The crop which received potash in three doses



The crop which received potash in the lump

CHEMICAL SHEEP-SHEARING

THE large sheep farm of the agro-industrial complex near the Danubian town of Rousse (Bulgaria) uses specially compounded feed mixtures, mechanical milkers and all other methods of modern sheep farming.

An experiment was started this year to give sheep certain medicines with their drinking water, which makes their fleece come off by itself in about ten days. The quality of the wool has proved to be better and no injury is caused to the animals or their skin. The experimental flock thus averaged 7,860 grams of wool. Veterinarians are carefully watching for eventual untoward effect on the animal system.

(NEWS FROM BULGARIA)

DURABLE PLASTIC RAILWAY COACH

AN ALL-PLASTIC railway coach has completed 10 years' service with British Rail—and easily beat traditional wood and metal coaches with an almost total lack of maintenance needs.

When checked recently, the coach structure was perfectly sound despite one bodyside section having been damaged. B. Cleathero, of British Rail's Technical Centre, said: "It would be difficult to imagine a coach of traditional materials looking as well or being structurally as sound after 10 years' life without the benefit of repair and paint."

(BIS)

JANUARY 16, 1973

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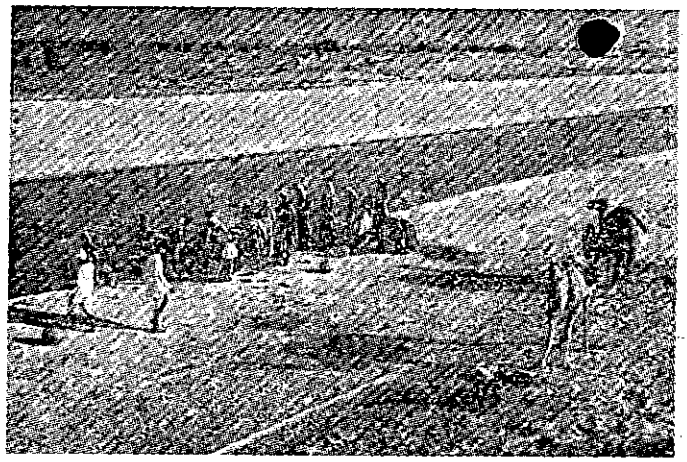
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JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND VILLAGE DEMOCRACY ● INCORPORATING 'PANCHAYATI RAJ'



A GRANARY IN THE DESERT

DR. A.S. CHEEMA



THE HAPPY TRANSITION that the Rajasthan canal waters are bringing about in the arid and desolate dunes speak of human achievement overcoming the centuries-old displeasure of nature. The canal which is being built through herculean engineering effort is converting simultaneously the 8,000 square miles tract of waterless wastes into lush green fields.

The canal is not complete as yet. But the impatient generation dodged by rain so long, cannot wait. A total of 8,96,000 acres of dry lands is already getting the Beas waters. The inhospitable terrain was not the natural habitat of agricultural communities. Nomadic cattle breeders who used to stray into these tracts made up the 12-per-square-mile population. However, in the last decade, a total of 30,000 families were induced to migrate to the area for agricultural settlement through land allotment. The population of the area has naturally registered an increase of 22.9 per cent according to 1971 census.

This narrow corridor on the Indo-Pak border has stupendous problems of colonisation and development.

So far, 307 new villages have been identified on the ground and Master Plans for development are prepared for 175. Residential plots are being demarked. There are no ground water wells in the area but each populated area is to be given a sanitary storage well (diggi), to be filled with canal water. So far, 135 such diggis have been constructed and 96 more are in progress. The upper region Canal Colony has sufficient primary diggis. With the increase in population, pipe water supply schemes are drawn for two villages. In addition, similar two schemes are under progress in Mandi areas.

The educational and medical needs of the area have also to be met. Twenty-seven Ayurvedic *Aushadhalayas* have therefore been opened. Two Primary Health Centres and two dispensaries are already functioning in the area. Three mobile hospitals are rendering further medical service in the area. On the educational side, eighty-one primary schools were opened during the last eight years. Thirty of them are lodged in modern buildings. By the time, the present primary school students come out, two middle schools would get ready for them.

An agricultural community needs marketing facilities and agro-services primarily. Two market towns with scientifically constructed storage godowns and modern market yards have been developed and 15 more are in the process of development.

A network of roads, linking the new 'Abadis' (colonies) and Mandis (markets) with area consumption centres and railheads has been partly laid. So far, 1,196 mile tarred road has been completed and 71 miles is in progress. With major basic necessities of life and an infrastructure for economic growth laid, the region is well set to achieve an agricultural breakthrough.

Large quantities of improved seeds and fertilisers have been pumped in through departmental, cooperative and private agencies. Loans for tractors have been advanced on crop-loan basis. Similarly, cultivators are being encouraged and helped to execute land-levelling, contour-bunding, water courses and field channels lining, shelter belts and other soil conservation and land development schemes. Lengths of water courses and field channels have been laid and other steps based on research have been undertaken to modernise agriculture.

The area which used to produce negligible quantities of kharif crops is slowly turning into a granary in the midst of the desert. The annual production of cereals has been going up. Starting from 122 lakh quintals a year, it has reached 3,455 lakh quintals a year now. And the agricultural produce ranges from the best quality rice to wheat, mustard, jowar and cotton.

After giving an impetus to the production of cereals, the area is preparing for production of commercial crops. An ambitious scheme of growing

Agricultural Commissioner, Government of India

(Contd. on page 8)

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WORDS AND DEEDS

THOUGH we are not interested in party politics, we have to take notice of the proceedings of the Congress at its 74th session because of its being the ruling party at the Centre and most of the States. The manner of implementing the party's earlier promises by the leadership was widely criticised by the rank and file of the party at Bidhan Nagar. The leadership too agreed with the criticism but blamed others—like internal and external subversive forces, bureaucracy, etc.—for the state of affairs. The Government has enough power and resources to deal with subversive forces and it can go ahead suppressing them instead of just blaming them. Similarly, much of the criticism of bureaucracy is not justified for various reasons. Firstly, the public servants are not in a position to answer back such criticism. Secondly, nobody has prevented the Government from reorganising the bureaucracy in accordance with the recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission. Thirdly, since the civil service is subservient to political leadership, the latter cannot blame the former without blaming itself.

In fact, the main snags in the fulfilling of the promises lie in the promises themselves and in the organisation which made them. The promises were made without plans for action, and there are powerful opponents to radical programmes within the ruling party itself. How the decision to reduce land ceiling ran into many practical difficulties is one example of this paradox. Similarly, the decision to put ceiling on urban property is still to be worked out. The latest in the series is the announcement about state take-over of foodgrains trade while the problems involved in it are yet to be considered. The feeling in the Planning Commission that the lack of political will at the State level is standing in the way of implementing such radical policies is worth noting in this connection.

The Bidhan Nagar session did not propound any new programmes, but reiterated the earlier ones with fixed timetables for their implementation. How these time-bound programmes regarding the creation of new jobs, completion of land-ceiling reform, taking over of the wholesale trade in rice and wheat, etc., are going to be carried out is yet to be seen. The people, who have been disillusioned about radical promises will be satisfied if they could see a general progress in the directions of price-reduction, more employment, economic growth and social justice.

FERTILISER DISTRIBUTION THROUGH INSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES

M.A. QURAISHI*

THE MAIN CHANNELS of fertiliser marketing in our country are the cooperatives, Government organisations, indigenous manufacturers and Agro-industries Corporations.

The cooperatives were given a predominant role in fertiliser distribution on the basis of certain expectations. As farmers' own organisation, they are expected to provide credit, marketing and supply services to the advantage of the farmers. Thus it was expected that adequate credit would be found for all the needy farmers from the cooperative sector enabling the credit agencies to serve almost all the agricultural families in the village. It was also felt that in the remote areas where other agencies were reluctant to open fertiliser depots, the cooperative agencies organised to render agricultural services, would be the only channel to reach agricultural supplies to needy farmers. Moreover in periods of relative scarcity, the cooperatives, as agencies subject to public control are expected to play a significant role in the just and equitable distribution of inputs.

The sale of fertilisers by cooperatives increased from about Rs. 114 crores in 1966-67 to Rs. 250 crores in 1970-71. During the year 1971-72, it is estimated that cooperatives have distributed fertilisers of the value of Rs. 300 crores. Their operations, it is expected, are being stepped up substantially during 1972-73 when their turnover may be about Rs. 375 crores.

Coops' Role

The organisational structure for the marketing of fertilisers in the cooperative sector varies from State to State. New measures for rationalisation of the structure of cooperative marketing of fertilisers are currently being examined by a Study Team constituted by the National Cooperative Development Corporation.

Cooperatives have also built up their own storage capacity for fertilisers and other inputs both at the Mandi level and the retail level. Upto the end of 1969-70, the storage capacity in the cooperative sector was of the order of 2.7 million tonnes of which over two million tonnes is utilised for storage of fertilisers. Recently, a scheme has been formulated for providing additional fertiliser storage capacity in the cooperative sector, for intermediate and road-head points of the order of nine lakh tonnes during the remaining period of the 4th Plan, as recommended by the National Commission on Agriculture. It is under the active consideration of the Government of India.

In regard to the arrangements for the supply of fertilisers from the wholesaler to the sub-wholesaler and the retailers in the cooperative sector, there is no uniformity. The situation varies from State to State depending upon the relative financial strength and operational and managerial efficiency of the structure. The Study Team recently constituted by NCDC is also studying this aspect of fertiliser distribution with a view to suggesting some viable models.

Until recently, cooperatives were dependent for the supply of fertilisers on the Central Fertiliser Pool functioning under the aegis of the Central Ministry of Agriculture. In 1966-67, supplies from the pool constituted 92 per cent of the nitrogenous fertiliser distributed in the country. The credit facilities available from the Government of India to State Governments enabled many States to plan and execute relatively large programmes for distribution through cooperative distributors on the basis of consignment on credit. In the context of Central Government's decision of 1969, to give increasing freedom to manufacturers to make their own arrangements for the distribution of their products, the consignment facility has been progressively withdrawn in most of the States. Simultaneously, the supplies from the pool have also been dwindling. Consequently, the cooperatives are required to procure fertilisers of various types from indigenous manufacturers (in addition to the pool) on normal commercial terms. In order to ensure that cooperatives have no difficulty in procuring fertilisers, several steps have been taken. A Committee set up by the Ministry of Agriculture is now reviewing the percentage share of the domestic production that should be distributed through cooperatives and other agencies.

In view of the major share of cooperatives in the distribution of potassic fertilisers, steps have been taken to broad-base the ownership and capital struc-

**From a paper read at the Annual Seminar of FAI held in December, 1972. The author is Secretary of the Department of Community Development and Cooperation*

ture of Indian Potash Ltd., sole distributors of potassic fertilisers, so that cooperatives have a major controlling interest in it. Cooperatives have already contributed a sum of Rs. nine lakhs to its share capital.

Fertiliser distribution is governed by the Fertiliser Control Order, 1957, under which maximum retail prices have been fixed for three nitrogenous fertilisers. Recently, some of the indigenous manufacturers of fertilisers, taking advantage of the shortage of fertilisers, have unilaterally increased the issue price of some of their popular varieties, which has resulted in a very adverse effect on cooperative distribution. The question of revised distribution margin, as also recommended by the National Commission on Agriculture, is again being looked into by the Committee mentioned above.

Other Agencies

The Agro-industries Corporations have different systems of distribution in different States. While some have tried to develop their own channels, others have relied on private dealers for the purpose. Although, the advent of the Agro-Industries Corporations has to some extent made inroads into the marketing efforts of the cooperatives, their activity has promoted healthy competition among institutional agencies which has resulted in greater emphasis being given to the service aspect of fertiliser distribution.

Some States have also developed departmental distribution agencies. A good example of this type of development is the Agricutural Supply Organisation (A.S.O.) which is active in Uttar Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh, there is also a Cane Union Federation, which is designed *inter-alia* to look after the fertiliser requirements of cane growers. In other States, such as Tamil Nadu, similar efforts have been made to channelise fertiliser distribution through departmental agencies. However, the role of these agencies in fertiliser distribution has gradually declined as these agencies have given way either to cooperatives or Agro-Industries Corporations.

Credit to Farmers

While discussing fertiliser distribution by institutional agencies, the vital role played by credit to the farmer for the use of fertiliser and to the fertiliser dealer for distribution of fertiliser cannot be over-emphasised. The requirements of fertilisers in 1978-79 will be of the value of Rs. 1,600 crores to Rs. 1,800 crores.

Considering the relative un-profitability of fertilisers trade, it would be realistic to assume that without liberal credit availability there would be bottlenecks in fertiliser distribution. Even assuming the proportion of 50 per cent adopted by the Venkatappiah Committee, the distribution requirements would be of the order of Rs. 800 to Rs. 900 crores in 1978-79.

The production credit requirements of the farmers have to be met by the cooperatives and commercial banks. Unfortunately during the 4th Plan, only about 50 per cent of the total production credit requirements are likely to be met by these institutional agencies. The achievements of the 4th Plan targets of agricultural production are therefore likely to be affected. We cannot afford to have such a gap uncovered during the 5th Plan.

The short-term loans advanced by cooperatives in 1973-74 may be of the order of Rs. 680 crores, out of which the component for fertilisers may be of the order of Rs. 300 crores. The Sub-working Group on Agricultural Credit appointed by Government has projected a target of Rs. 1,200 crores of cooperative short-term credit for 1978-79. Unfortunately, during the Fourth Plan, cooperative crop loans in some States have been disbursed without compliance with the crop loan rules. The linking of inputs with credit would be strictly enforced during the Fifth Plan, so that the cooperative loans may achieve their purpose of adding to agricultural output. Under such circumstances, it should be possible to sell fertilisers to farmers of the value of about Rs. 600 to Rs. 700 crores out of the total of Rs. 1,200 crores of credit to be disbursed.

The only institutional channel of fertiliser credit other than the cooperatives is the commercial bank. The exact amount of short-term loan given by the commercial banks is not known since only figures and outstandings seem to be available. During the Fifth Plan, it is expected that the commercial banking sector will step up its efforts in meeting a larger part of the agricultural credit requirements of which, at least in the short-term, fertiliser credit constitutes the major share. It is expected that by 1978-79, the commercial banking sector will meet the fertiliser credit requirements of farmers to the extent of about Rs. 400 crores.

The Credit Guarantee Scheme introduced in April, 1971, has been considerably liberalised in January, 1972. However, it is premature to assess the exact impact of the scheme in terms of increased flow of farmer credit. The banks seem to be moving towards the idea of exclusive branches and away from the present concept of multi-sector loan branch. The State Bank of India has a plan to set up 150 branches.

The problem of short-term finance by commercial banks has to be tackled more vigorously than even before. The bankers should be given adequate incentives to open branches in the countryside and

then should be called up to achieve the targets laid down for them.

It has been mentioned that the requirements of distribution credit may range from Rs. 800 crores to to Rs. 900 crores. The R.B.I. which used to extend concessional credit to cooperatives has now discontinued this facility with the result that the cooperatives have to fall back upon the costlier source of commercial banks. Again, the commercial banks are not coming forward to encourage distribution trade to the extent expected. There have been complaints that banks have been insisting upon very high margins, pledge as security, high rates of interest and other difficult terms. The National Commission on Agriculture has recommended that the margin money should not exceed 10 per cent. This should be implemented. Moreover, the incentive available to the banking system for extending distribution credit should be reviewed from time to time so that such credit does flow to the desired extent. As of now, the R.B.I. has withdrawn concessional refinancing facilities to banks, which it had extended on the basis that export promotion and fertiliser distribution are of equal priority. The withdrawal of this facility may have led to the reduction of banking finance for distribution. The various bottlenecks coming in the way of liberal distribution finance have to be reviewed from time to time and solved. In conclusion, I anticipate that during the coming years the institutional agencies will play a greatly enhanced role in distribution of fertilisers. It is necessary that the institutional agencies are, therefore, strengthened to take over this greater responsibility with the required facilities of credit and other incentives for distribution. At the end of the Fifth Plan, it is estimated that eight to nine million tonnes of nutrient will be distributed in the country. This is a formidable challenge. I hope that the cooperatives, the Agro-Industries corporations and other institutional agencies will fulfil these expectations and provide the necessary organisational support to the distribution effort.

INFORMING THE FARMERS

FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED

THE concept of Indian Agriculture as a 'way of life' has undergone a profound change in the recent years; indeed, during the last decade it has passed from the phase of subsistence farming to a progressive and modern one. This change is the result of many factors — inter-related and interacting — in which information communication has been playing an invisible, yet indispensable role. Frankly, our agricultural programmes—howsoever well-planned and imaginative—could not have made an impact on the rural life had they not been backed by an effective information and communication support.

Hitherto, the emphasis has been on the technical know-how on crop raising. The role of marketing, credit, banking, crop-planning, cooperation and fisheries figured practically nowhere on the job charts of the communication specialists and extension functionaries. It is time we gave the farmers package of information on such vital items too. For this, the communicators and extension functionaries have to be aware of the dynamics of rural situation; may be, their extension tools, their communication equipments have to be more sophisticated and broad-based to face new challenges. Our extension and communication strategy have to be consistent with our fast changing socio-economic conditions.

The imperatives of social justice demand that the information communication techniques must be such that they cross the barriers of illiteracy and reduce distance and ensure a richer and freer flow of information to the small and marginal farmers who constitute the vast majority of India's agricultural population. It should be incumbent on our part to reach these small farmers, prepare them suitably for the impending changes in the next half of this decade, provide them with an access to modern farm technology, guide them in getting necessary assistance from the different agencies and help his family in achieving an all-round improvement in the level of living.

What is needed now, is an integrated approach and coordination among the various bodies in the field of agricultural communication. Divergent recommendations emanating from different sources can prove a strong barrier to the adoption process. They should be coordinated and collectively effective in reaching the farm community—the smaller farmers in particular.

Farming cannot merely be dealt with only as technology or economics without consideration of its sociological and psychological implications. When we recommend an improved practice it has to be culturally compatible besides being technically sound and economically feasible. Success of the extension strategy will, to my mind, depend on the widespread creation of awareness about the innovations, creating confidence and providing opportunities for action.

**From the presidential address at the National Agricultural Information Communication Seminar, New Delhi, December 23 1972.*

Panchayati Raj in Maharashtra Reviewed

G.S. KAMAT*

THE Balwantrai Mehta Committee (1957) recommended that there should be a three tier system of local authorities in each district charged with the objective of all developmental work in the area and equipped with the necessary finances and staff organisation. Three autonomous and elected bodies were conceived under the scheme at the district, taluka and village levels. Technically speaking, in Maharashtra there have been only two tiers, namely, the Zila Parishad and the village panchayat. The middle tier panchayat samiti is practically an executive committee of the Zila Parishand having no separate funds of its own and without a corporate status for itself.

For all practical purposes it may have its own resource allotment and programme, and to that extent it can be considered as one of the tiers in the system. This has created an impression in the minds of a few about the desirability of having a middle tier, especially in the State of Maharashtra. The Bongirwar Committee (whose report has just been published) is in favour of maintaining the three tier structure. The Committee feels that the Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti are mutually interdependent.

The Committee fears that by virtue of the autonomy at lower levels the institutions are likely to pull in different directions and even in defiance of directives given by the higher body namely the Zila Parishad. All the same it is convinced that the Panchayat Samiti even as an executive body of the Zila Parishad, needs to be considerably stabilised and strengthened not only in terms of contents of programmes but in terms of definite financial resources. Also the Committee suggests that in the future set-up the present indirectly elected element should go and the Panchayat Samiti should be mostly a directly elected body to have a larger democratic base. Thus, at least 2/3rd membership of the Panchayat Samiti should consist of representatives of panchayats in the block area elected on the principle of common franchise. This will give it an organic link with its constituent panchayats. Further, a sub-committee of about 15 sarpanchas is also suggested at this level and by rotation of the sarpanchas from the area within a period of five years should be able to find a place in the sub-committee.

About the panchayats, the Evaluation Committee observes that they are in the state of doldrums characterised by paltry finances, lack of will to raise new taxes or collect the extant of levies and a general apathy and indifference. Especially, they have not been able to play an effective role in the matter of agricultural expansion and development which is essentially the basis of rural development. They are mostly complacent about their performance concerning sanitation and other similar measures. This has to be considered as a major deficiency in the village panchayat organisations. The committee suggests that the panchayats should be strengthened by providing an agricultural extension functionary who should be an agricultural graduate and should be its ex-officio secretary also. The panchayat should be able to influence not only all agricultural activities including flow of credit through cooperatives and other financing agencies but also should follow a planned development programme. Then only it may be an effective organisation.

At this level, the "Nyaya panchayats" were also conceived under the original scheme. But actually they are found to be dormant. The committee feels that in the context of new ideas about the individual's rights and arbitration of the same by impartial judicial functionaries that have now permeated upto the remotest village, the "Nyaya Panchayats" in their present form are "an anchronism and hence need to be scrapped."

The committee has found that during the last nine years or so, the functioning of all the zila parishads have had a substantial impact on the people in the rural areas of Maharashtra. They have been the fountain head of development and welfare activity in the rural areas. It is now coommonly felt that in respect of schemes such as land development, soil conservation, rural electrification, irrigation etc. which are broadly the exclusive preserve of the State Government, the people feel and rightly so, that their implementation should be entrusted to Zila Parishads, at least they should be allowed to play a major decisive role.

Weaker Sections

In the field of cottage industries and in the amelioration of the conditions of small artisans, agricultural labourers and those others belonging to weaker sections, unfortunately, the Panchayati Raj institutions have not been able to show much impact. The same is the case in social welfare including that

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of people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. A good many zila parishads, it appears, have failed to utilise the amounts earmarked. The committee, therefore, suggests the constitution of a separate social welfare committee under the zila parishads with more resources for educational and economic well-being of the weaker sections.

As to the performance of various office bearers during the last eight years, the Evaluation Committee feels that it was commendable. All the same, the Committee has felt it necessary to suggest, particularly to the President of the body to exercise "a greater amount of caution and restraint in the use of his power". In Maharashtra, as is well-known, the MPs, MLAs and MLCs are not included in the zila parishad bodies unlike in many other States. However, to secure coordination amongst the leaders elected from the local areas to the State and Central Legislatures the committee has suggested the formation of a separate Coordination Committee outside the zila parishads to be called as "Planning and Review Committee". The functioning of this committee is expected to be largely consultative and deliberative. Interestingly enough, while the committee wants the Education Department work to be entrusted to the zila parishad, it suggests the withdrawal of cooperation from the zila parishads and its reinstatement with the State Government. Perhaps the committee feels that 'cooperation' needs to be given more economic and business outlook and there should be less of political colouring to the movement.

As to the financial resources, the Committee suggests that the committed expenditure on all works and schemes including the staff should be, for all times, borne in full by the State Government and the receipts and the owned resources of zila parishads should be exclusively available for local developmental activities. In this way, the committee estimates that nearly Rs 40 crores will be available for development activities. The committee is not very enthusiastic about the popular contribution through Shramdan. Their objections are three-fold—1) the actual Shramdan burden is required to be borne by the weaker sections, particularly when the beneficiaries, in majority cases, are invariably those who do not contribute anything in the real sense, 2) those who can offer meaningful Shramdan cannot afford to work without adequate wages even though it benefits them, and 3) such schemes have led to corruption and in many ways they are self-defeating. The method can be used selectively and only for certain types of works having potential for social and economic benefits.

As to the relationship between officials and non-officials, the Panchayati Raj bodies present a mixed picture. The elected representatives, according to the committee, appear to be succumbing to the temptation of an urge for more and more powers, in administrative matters and control over small and high functionaries. If the trend continues, the committee fears, unless it is arrested in time and finally eradicate the zila parishads may present a disappointing image. It may be necessary, in some extreme cases, of imposition of something like a "Governor's rule" by taking over the administration of some of the zila parishads for sometime. The administrative machinery must not be demoralised and needs to be isolated from possible political groupism and internal factions.

In conclusion, the committee on the basis of its findings rightly feels that the experiment of Panchayati Raj in Maharashtra has been largely successful and has come to stay. It has been established on a sound basis. The present safeguards and checks need to be continued and strengthened with a view to exploiting the potential for growth of rural leadership.

From Cover II

long-staple cotton has been drawn this year and an area of 21,000 acres has been brought under cotton. This scheme is a part of the Crash Programme launched for termination of imports of cotton. The command area under the Rajasthan Canal is ideally suited and offers a great potential for growing cotton. With the development of this area and the irrigation water becoming perennial, the tract is likely to produce high quality cotton and turn the desert area as the Egypt of India. Similarly, a scheme for growing oil seeds, especially groundnuts is about to be launched.

The area already grows Montgomery variety of Malta, a citrus fruit. A more ambitious citrus fruit development programme will be launched when the canal system becomes a perennial source of water in 1974. Sand dunes in the fields and on the periphery of the canals are to be stabilised. This is being achieved through mulching and planting processes. Apart from this, anti-silting measures are being taken to prevent blocking of the canals. So far, 1540 hectares of sand dune area has been stabilised and on 980 hectares of land and 3,865 kilometres of canal-side plantation has been done. Similarly, plantation is being done on roadsides for protection against wind blown sand. The fuel and timber requirements are met by the forests attached to every new settlement with 50 bighas of command land. Twenty-five such forests are being taken up for development this year.

PR AND CD : NEED FOR REORGANISATION

HARIPAD R. SUBRAMONIA IYER*

THE PANCHAYATI RAJ bodies are instruments to promote rural planning, democracy, development and administration. One of the reasons for the slow progress of P.R. in India is the existing structure and organisation of community development administration. One of the major organisational problems of C.D. administration is the existing nature of organisational inter-relationship which has two aspects, namely the nature of organisational inter-structural relationship between the three-tiers of panchayati raj and the nature of organisational inter-personal relationship between officials and non-officials as well as the generalists and the specialists at different levels.

The existing P.R. bodies are primarily units of self-government at their own levels, and secondarily agents or limbs of the next higher tier which has resulted in the problem of organisational interrelationship. It must be remembered that the principles of organisational structure of P.R. should be based on the purpose, philosophy and objectives of P.R. The major purpose of P.R. is to enlist people's participation, cooperation and involvement in the planning and implementation of rural development and welfare programmes. The philosophy is capability or competence of the rural people to manage their own affairs in the fields of planning and implementing the C.D. and welfare programmes according to local situation thereby accelerating the process of development. The objectives are area development, community development and democratic development.

Existing Conditions

Let us examine the organisational principles of the existing P.R. bodies. The existing P.R. bodies are merely three layers and hence are the same segments of the integrated structure of State administrative machinery. There is the hierarchic system of supervision of control in the sense that the next higher tier exercises control and supervision over the activities of the next lower tier and the relationship is superior-subordinate. There is merely delegation of powers, functions and financial resources below the State level. Each tier enjoys limited powers, functions and financial resources. There is devolution of responsibility without a concomitant devolution of power to the P.R. bodies.

There is partial integration between community development and local self-government. In other words, only certain programmes, projects, schemes and plans are transferred to either the apex or the middle tier. Although in theory there is separation of powers between the deliberative, policy and decision-making wing and the executive wing, in actual practice, both planning and implementation of rural development and welfare programmes have been done by the bureaucracy.

Since the members of the middle and apex tiers are indirectly elected by means of indirect representation or ex-officio membership, they are not responsible to the rural community. The same is the case with regard to administrative and technical personnel who are professionally responsible to their respective higher officers and heads of departments. In short both the officials and non-officials at the middle and apex levels are not accountable to the rural community. Since planning is mainly done from above, the programmes, schemes, plans, etc., are not responsible to the felt needs, wishes, interests and aspirations of the rural community.

Reorganisation

Let us also examine the organisational principles for reorganisation of community development administration. The role of officials (both the generalists and specialists) and non-officials should be clearly specified and well-defined and authority must be commensurate with responsibility. Each tier should have specific and well-defined powers, functions, financial resources, taxation powers, etc., to discharge the functions and responsibilities to ensure maximum amount of freedom and responsibility with regard to C.D. and welfare: at the same time it should be autonomous to plan and implement the programmes according to the local situation. Diffusion of powers among the three-tiers as well as the officials and non-officials of P.R. necessitates the need for a machinery to coordinate the activities of not only the three-tiers of P.R. but also between officials and non-officials at different levels. Such a coordinating machinery can be provided by an organic link between the three-tiers of P.R. which can be had by means of indirect mode

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of elections at the middle and apex levels. The middle and apex tiers should consist of members elected partly directly by the electorate and partly indirectly by making the president of the next lower tier an ex-officio member of the next higher tier with a view to have organic link between the three-tiers of P.R. The president of the middle and apex tiers should be elected by the members of the respective tier from the directly elected members.

Planned Development

The lowest tier should become the basic unit of planned community development and the planning process must start from bottom onwards. There must be a single system or line of control by making the B.D.O. and the Block Extension specialists under the direct and single line of administrative and operational control of the president of the Panchayat Samiti. The entire rural development and welfare programmes within the district along with the administrative and technical personnel as well as financial resources should be transferred to the three-tiers of P.R. The power and responsibility for planning and implementation of these programmes should be entrusted with the elected representatives of the three-tiers of P.R. The administration of the C.D. and welfare programmes entrusted to each tier may be carried out by a committee consisting of the president and members of the respective tier who are individually and collectively responsible for rural development administration. Each member should be in charge of a functional sub-committee and as far as the panchayat samiti is concerned, the concerned block extension specialist should be the secretary to the concerned functional committee.

In other words, each tier should be allowed to develop itself without undue interdependence on the next higher tier. Both officials and non-officials should be accountable or responsible and responsive to the felt needs, interests, aspirations and wishes of the rural community. There must be a two way channel of communication and ample opportunity should be given for the rural community to participate in community development administration. There must be a separate agency to provide technical advice, assistance, know-how and guidance to the officials and non-officials of P.R. The organisational structure of P.R. should be based on the principle of democratic village republics within a sovereign democratic republic.

The existing community development administrative machinery is not suitable for community development administration and hence needs radical change especially in the context of development planning if P.R. bodies are to develop into agents of effective change and communication.

JAP TV NETWORK HELPS EDUCATION

IN JAPAN, audiovisual education by means of television is already extensively employed on a school basis. But, for the first time, an educational TV network covering all primary and lower secondary schools has been established at Tateyama, a city with a population of 60,000.

In recent years, Japan has become troubled with excessive congestion and excessive scarcity of population—that is, the concentration of population in Tokyo, Osaka and other big cities, and a decline in rural population. This trend towards a decreasing population has also spread to Tateyama. Consequently the number of the city's school children has diminished, accompanied by a drop in that of teachers as well. Moreover, the gap between large and small schools began to widen further. In these circumstances, it has become difficult to give equal education to all school children in the city, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

In a bid to solve this problem, the Tateyama Municipal Education Commission decided that all kindergarten and primary and lower secondary schools in the city would establish a joint television network as a means of audio-visual education. Such a TV network makes it possible to control and use teaching materials jointly. This serves to cut costs as well as to raise educational efficiency.

An educational broadcasting centre in the heart of the city and TV receiving facilities at 38 places—namely, 12 primary schools, seven lower secondary schools, nine kindergartens and 10 civic halls were constructed. One terminal TV receiver each has been installed in a total of 319 classrooms of the primary and lower secondary schools in the city. These terminal receivers are connected with the receiving facilities of the schools. The TV system has four channels—three for transmission from the centre to the schools and one for feedback from the schools. That is, the broadcasting centre can send three different educational programmes to each receiving facility.

Moreover, if a mobile TV camera is linked to each receiving facility, reverse transmission from the schools to the centre is possible. For instance, lessons in a classroom of one school can be televised to other schools via the broadcasting centre. Leased telephone circuits have been installed between the centre and schools so that children's questions may be received and answered at the centre. In this way, full consideration is given to feedback from the schools without limiting the new system to the unilateral transmission of educational programmes.

JAPAN REVIEW

Impact of Khadi and Village Industries in the Hill and Border Areas

A. RAMA RAO*

THE KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION has been organising and promoting khadi and village industries programme in the hill and border areas for the last ten years. The village industries have not only provided gainful occupations to the needy artisans and craftsmen and supplemented their incomes, but also have influenced the life of the people in these areas. A brief account of the Commission's work in the hill and border areas of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura is given below:

Rajasthan

During 1970-71, khadi worth Rs 38 lakhs was produced and khadi worth Rs. 65.25 lakhs was sold in Rajasthan. It provided employment to 33,243 persons and Rs 26.39 lakhs as wages. Sixty nine persons were trained in weaving. Implements costing Rs 1.37 lakhs were sold in the same period. Village industries accounted for Rs. 6.52 lakhs in production, Rs. 6.54 lakhs in sales, Rs. 0.33 lakh as wages and Rs. 1.54 lakhs for sale of implements. These industries provided employment to 178 persons and training to 148 in fibre industries and 38 in pottery.

When the Commission's first production centre was opened in 1964, there were few schools in the areas predominantly inhabited by Megwas and Muslims. The officials of the Commission started the spread of literacy among the children of the spinners and weavers at the centres and later with the cooperation of the State government more schools were opened in Jaisalmer district and Barmer district.

Introduction of khadi and village industries programme has eradicated untouchability in the areas. Now people belonging to different castes sit together and work together. The custom of wearing turbans of different colours by different communities is slowly diminishing.

Certain areas were inhabited by notorious dacoits. Now families of some of those dacoits are plying charkhas and their sons are earning their bread by working as khadi workers. The work by the Commission has also awakened the Harijans. Nearly 60 families of destitute women at Vaikunthgram are earning their livelihood by spinning. Many men who had the feeling that plying of the charkha was the job of the females are getting themselves trained in spinning and weaving.

According to some custom, women used burka or purdah and they were forbidden to talk to each other. Now these women come together, ply charkhas and discuss common problems without any fear.

Indebtedness which was inherited from generation to generation is slowly disappearing and out of 150 weavers only 13 weavers are under debt. Addiction to wine is also gradually disappearing.

Himachal Pradesh

Khadi alone was responsible for production valued at Rs. 5.67 lakhs and its sales amounted to Rs. 13.61 lakhs in 1970-71. Implements worth Rs. 1.76 lakhs were sold. It provided employment to 5,158 persons, Rs. 2.92 lakhs were given as wages to workers. The village industries accounted for Rs. 0.69 lakh in production, Rs. 3.21 lakhs in sales and Rs 0.61 lakh in sale of implements. 285 persons were provided employment by village industries and 15 persons were given training in different industries.

The introduction of the programme has provided employment opportunity to the rural artisans and craftsmen. It has also reduced the migration of population of the area to lower parts of the valleys during the winter season. As a result of the distribution of Gandhian literature, and the efforts made by the Commission's workers, use of liquor in public places has reduced considerably. The Commission's schemes have helped in developing a sense of self-reliance, initiative and local leadership among the people. There is also a growing sense of community consciousness.

Tripura

In Tripura, khadi was responsible for production worth Rs. 5.43 lakhs, sales worth Rs. 5.35 lakhs and for providing wages to the extent of Rs. 4.10 lakhs, during 1970-71. Khadi provided employment to 1,885 persons and training to 271 persons. The village industries accounted for Rs. 0.77 lakh in production and Rs. 1.18 lakhs in sales.

The Commission's programmes have helped the women specially widows, divorced women and those who cannot go for hard labour. The additional income from the charkha has made the social life of the destitute women more meaningful and respectful. The programme has also helped in rehabilitating erstwhile criminals.

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Koheda—a Village 25

THE COUNTRY has made rapid strides in various fields since it attained independence 25 years ago. One of the outstanding achievements is the transformation of rural India into smiling villages with green luscious fields, rural industries and happy and contended people. Indian villages today are not what they were 25 years ago. There has been remarkable progress in the villages, thanks to the Community Development programme and Panchayati Raj scheme. Koheda, a village in Andhra Pradesh, is one of the shining examples of rural transformation where one can see the development that had taken place in rural India during the last 25 years.

Koheda, a tiny village is situated some 8 kms. away from Hayatnagar the headquarters of Panchayat Samiti and 24 kms. from Hyderabad. The population of the village is 4,300 comprising mostly of farmers.

The village has a number of temples—Gopala Swamy, Ranganayaka Swamy, Anjaneya Swamy and Siva temples are a few to name. Every year in March—April, a festival is held on a grand scale at the Gopala Swamy temple when people throng from surrounding villages to offer prayers. A mosque also exists in the village.

Before Independence

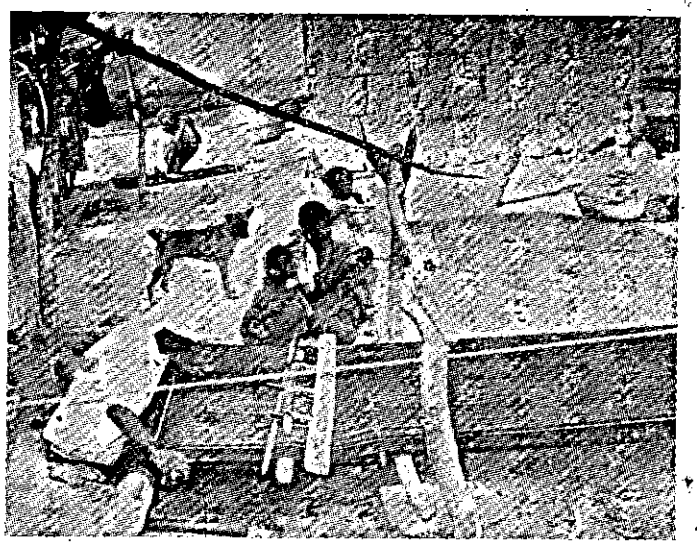
Twenty-five years ago, Koheda was one of the most backward villages in the Hyderabad district. The village remained cut-off in the rainy season for want of proper communication facilities. It was a problem for the villagers to cross the Hayatnagar marshy lands for reaching Hyderabad—the nearest market. Some of them even now recall that they had to spend one or two days to cross this rivulet. Education was a taboo. Literate people could be counted on finger tips. With old and out-dated agricultural practices, farming was not at all remunerative. Pests and diseases of the crops were uncontrollable.

Medical facilities were not available. People died of epidemics such as cholera, smallpox, plague. Malaria was prevalent on a large-scale. Cattle, the backbone of agriculture were not given proper attention with the result that they died of several diseases and farmers had to suffer huge loss. Poverty and ignorance were on the high side. This was the situation of Koheda before independence.

Now a Model Village

What is the position now? Today, Koheda presents a different look. It is like any other village in Telengana but with a singular difference—that it has been acclaimed as a model village in Hayatnagar Panchayat Samiti. The glowing spirit of the people and their ardent desire to live and progress made that difference.

With a view to enabling the villagers to have a say in their village problems and to plan programmes for the development of their own village, a Gram Panchayat was first constituted in 1950. This was the beginning of development in Koheda. The



Wool weaving has a bright future

panchayat now consists of 11 members including two women and two Harijans. The panchayat drew up an integrated plan for the overall development of the village and executed a number of works relating to communications, provision of piped water supply, street lights, improved housing for the weaker sections, school buildings, drainage, electrification, Ayurvedic dispensary, veterinary dispensary, a village market, etc.

The village as it appears now is very clean. There are wide roads and side drains. Street lights have been provided by electricity at 66 points.

A village which used to be cut off from the outside world in the rainy season, has now been connected with the national highway by a six km. all weather road. The APSRTC provides daily bus services between Hyderabad and Koheda.

A water supply scheme to provide safe and pure drinking water to the villagers has been implemented in the village at a cost of Rs. 50,000.

A branch post office and three community radio sets are serving the villagers.

The village which had no school before independence now has three educational institutions

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s after Independence

C.V. NARASIMHA REDDI*

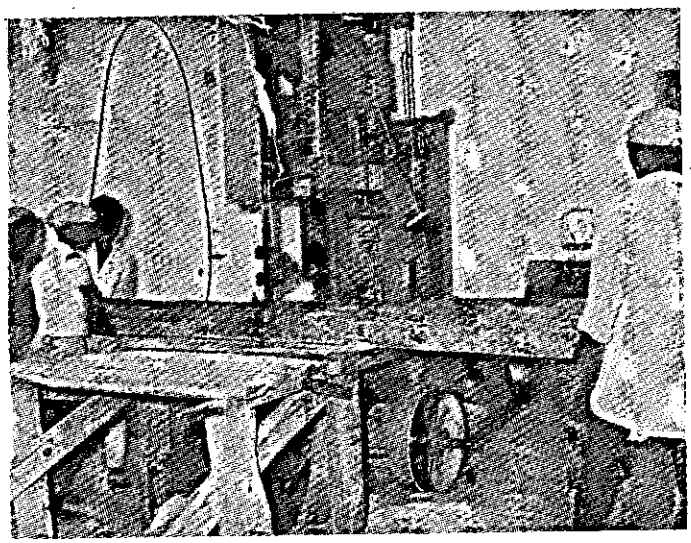
including a high school. Besides, night schools were run and more than 300 adults were made literates. Mid-day meal has been introduced to attract more children for education. Sarpanch now feels the need of a hostel for students.

Koheda has an Ayurvedic dispensary and a Primary Health Sub-centre. Over 100 patients are treated daily in the Ayurvedic dispensary. According to the in-charge of the dispensary "Malaria has been banished, plague is no more an epidemic. Cholera and smallpox have been controlled. Carbuncle which was very much prevalent before independence is no more a disease now in the village". People of this village are strong believers in family planning. Over 300 males underwent vasectomy operation.

For the upkeep of the cattle, a veterinary sub centre has been established. Epidemics like Jabbarapu and Gundevapu have been controlled. Better and timely treatment is now available for the cattle.

Agriculture and Milk Production

Agriculture is the mainstay of the village. Concerted efforts were made to bring about a breakthrough in farm production by the use of fertilisers, high-yielding varieties, pesticides, improved agricultural implements, etc. Farmers now use high-yielding rice varieties such as I.R. 8 and Jaya in an area of 628 acres and this has almost tripled their yield from 10 bags per acre to 30 bags. Before independence nobody knew cultivation of wheat and potato. A few farmers are now growing wheat, potato and hybrid bajra. Out of 125 irrigation wells in the village 75 are fitted with electric motors and oil engines.



The saw mill—a symbol of rural industrialisation



Piped water supply, a relief to women

With the breakthrough in green revolution, Koheda entered into an era of white revolution too. By establishing a Milk Supply Cooperative Society and purchase of about 50 Nanded she-buffaloes and Jersy cows, the village could supply 300 litres of milk per day during the peak season to the nearby milk project. The society was started with 41 members and each member was given Rs. 1,000 each as loan for the purchase of milch animals. This has not only enabled the villagers to earn more but also helped to sustain them in drought period.

Women's Welfare

The women of this village are much advanced. They have formed a Mahila mandali to look after women's welfare and child care programme. Under its auspices, a tailoring centre and dress making centre are functioning. These centres give training to village women not only in sewing and tailoring, but also in embroidery, dress making and other crafts consistent with raising their income. The Mahila mandali earned the appreciation of one and all for its splendid work and the UNICEF presented one sewing machine and a transistor radio. A Balwadi is being run with 100 children. Over 100 children, pregnant women and nursing mothers are given eggs and vegetables every Friday and Monday under the nutrition programme.

A youth club was organised to mobilise the efforts

Continued on page 15

SIMPLE REMEDIES

Homoeopathy

WOUNDS

THE COMMON types of wounds to which the people are generally subjected to are the contusions or bruises, lacerations, cuts, and punctured wounds. In the cut injuries occuring at the roadsides and with rusted instruments, proper attention should be paid in cleaning the wound and applying medicine in order to prevent complications like tetanus, etc.

In bruised injury the skin is intact but the internal tissues are wounded. In such conditions the Homoeopathic drug, *Arnica*, is very useful. It is indicated when the person feels severe pain and is not able to move the injured part because of the damage of the internal structures. In such conditions it removes the pain quickly and brings the part back to its normal function. It is highly useful for sprains resulting from severe exercises and falls from heights. In such conditions the tincture of *Arnica* applied externally on the wound will relieve the suffering. If a bone is wounded during the injury the drug *Symphytum* is useful.

For cut injuries, the part should be dressed with a lotion of *Calendula* tincture to prevent pus formation and then, three doses of *Hypericum 200* will do good. In case of considerable damage to the muscle and nerve tissues, the drug not only reduces pain, but prevents complications like formation of pus, tetanus, etc. Parts like fingers, toes and their nail beds are lacerated with excruciating pain through nerves are the prominent indications for the use of this remedy.

In punctured wounds caused by pointed instruments *Ledumpal* can be administered after cleaning the wound with *Calendula* tincture. This remedy prevents complications like tetanus, etc. It is also used for the bruised wounds when *Arnica* could not give satisfactory results. For injuries of the bones causing contusions without fracture but with great pain and swelling, the drug *Ruta* is useful.

Rhustox is frequently indicated for the wounds with formation of pus and severe pain involving the hard parts of the muscles like tendons, ligaments etc. *Staphisagria* heals sharp edged wounds.

30th or 200th potencies are generally useful in all types of the wounds.

DR. M. KUTUMBA RAO

Unani

CHILD BIRTH

WHEN NEARING the first child birth every woman is nervous. She has heard and seen prolonged pains and shouts and many an exaggerated story about it.

When the womb is opening at the outlet and contracting at the top, to push the passenger out, there is physiological pain; but not so severe as talked about. It starts slowly, apparently as pain in the low back, there is increase of secretions in the outer passage. In consultation with the elders of the house the onset of delivery pains is diagnosed.

According to the status, the person is shifted to a nursing home, hospital or maternity centre. In rural areas many a child birth are attended at home by any elderly woman of the family or a *dai*.

In the normal course every healthy woman has to deliver the child in the usual way. Has any abnormality been established in your case? If no, be assured that if you keep your mind fully relaxed, the pain at child birth will be at the minimum. Also be assured that amidst the pain of child birth there is much 'biological pleasure' and so be contented and calm.

DR. HAKIM AHMED HUSSAIN

Ayurveda

OIL BATH AND MASSAGE

INDIA IS a tropical country with extreme changes in temperature. To avoid the bad effects of the changing climate, application of oil on the head and body is recommended. Gentle massage after application of the oil is necessary.

By applying oil over the head and body daily or as often as possible, one can also ward off the symptoms of old age. In old age the skin loses the lusture and becomes dry. By daily application of oil this can be prevented. Oil bath reduces the aches and pains over the body, removes the tiresome feeling, gives good vision, shapely body, longivity, good sleep, healthy skin, and hardness to the muscles. Even if a person is unable to spend much time in applying the oil all over the body and massage, he should at least apply oil on the head up to the ear, and also to the soles of the feet.

When we move out, dust settles on our head and there is also dried up perspiration. When oil is applied to the head and gently massaged not only the dust and dirt are removed, but the hair become glossy and healthy. One can avoid dandruff and loss of hair on the head. By this simple process of applying oil, the hair roots are strengthened and nourished and the hair become stronger. The nerve endings on the surface of scalp are bathed with the oil and through this the nerves of the sense organs become stronger.

When the oil is applied to the body and massaged, excessive fat is reduced and the muscles become

stronger. The dried-up perspiration is loosened and sweat glands are stimulated. While there is massage, there is warmth on the surface of the skin and greater blood supply. Chipped and dry skin becomes smoother.

After the application of the oil and massage the oil should be removed by an astringent like soapnut powder or green-gram powder and washed off with warm water.

DR. V. NARAYANASWAMI, H.P.I.M.

Search for Immunity from Leprosy

LEPROSY still afflicts millions of people around the world and presents complex problems in its diagnosis and treatment. No vaccine has yet been devised to combat the disease. There are drugs to treat leprosy but they usually involve long years of treatment. The drugs are most effective when taken in the early stages of the disease, but in many cases the disease is not detected until the condition is well advanced. Immunology may eventually allow us to devise methods that can enable individuals to mobilize their own defences against this disease.

The great majority of people are naturally resistant to leprosy. Leprosy organisms appear to be relatively innocuous and even when within cells they cause damage only after extensive proliferation. Immunity protects against unlimited multiplication of bacteria and in most exposed individuals probably terminate the infection. Consequently, the spread of the disease in a population is limited.

The relative degree of resistance is indicated by a positive reaction to an extract of leprosy bacilli and skin from lepromatous cases, called lepromin. When this reagent is injected under the skin, most people give a positive reaction. At least 90 per cent of all adults are lepromin-positive. Persons whose reactions are lepromin negative are more likely to contract leprosy and to develop the lepromatous or malignant type than are lepromin-positive contacts.

Epidemiological studies confirm that there is relatively little transmission between husband and wife, and only certain children exposed to leprosy patients acquire the disease.

Using research centres throughout the world, the latest assigned being that of the Indian Council of Medical Research—WHO Immunology Research and Training Centre in New Delhi—WHO intends to test what appears to be a promising way of dealing with leprosy, namely, to find out if the factor which operates within the bodies of healthy individuals can be used to stimulate immune responses in those who have contracted leprosy. Results in the near future should supply the answer.

(WHO)

From page 13

of the youth for the development of the village. They organise sports and games occasionally.

The Koheda multipurpose cooperative society started with 70 members had already advanced an amount of Rs. four lakhs towards production loans and purchase of electric pumps, oil engines, etc. Nationalised banks came in a big way to help the farmers. The society hopes to bring all rural families under the cooperative fold. Besides, one labour cooperative society is also functioning successfully.

The village has undergone a radical transformation since 1963, when it was electrified. Indeed, provision of electricity was a boon to the villagers which enabled them not only to improve agriculture by erecting electric pumpsets but also develop rural industries. A saw mill, two shaftcutters, four huller rice mills, four flour mills, two oil grinders and chilli and turmeric grinders have been established in the village. Many other rural industries are in the offing.

Sri G. Narasimha Chary, a traditional carpenter who established a saw-mill by investing Rs. 6,000 is now having a flourishing business. He is supplying the rafters and other building material for the Harijan housing colony coming up in the village.

In the cottage industries, wool weaving has developed to a considerable extent. Handloom weavers, potters, blacksmiths and leather workers were also given encouragement to better their lives. Radios and bicycles are common things in their homes. Some of the thatched roofs have been replaced by tiled ones.

Village industries increase rural employment potential. Mohd. Jamal, a cycle repairer, has now turned out to be a motor mechanic, and earns his livelihood by repairing electric motors, oil engines and electric motor winding. The installation of various machines and motors in the village provide him full-time job and an assured income.

About Rs four lakhs were spent towards the construction of school building, community hall, Mahila mandali, minor irrigation tanks, internal roads, drainage, etc. The local people also came forward with liberal contributions for the programmes. Besides, road works amounting to Rs. 52,000 were also sanctioned for this village under drought relief programme, which would provide employment opportunities to the agricultural labourers. Over 3,000 labourers have already been engaged on these rural works.

A housing colony for Harijans has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 52,000 which is nearing completion. House-sites also have been provided to other weaker sections of the society.

Koheda with its multi-faceted development, is a symbol of the new life that has come over the countryside since independence.

Do you know all about **FAMILY PLANNING?**

Then don't read this, unless you are one of those who don't practise what they know.

If you know only a little, and therefore don't practise, you may visit us. We are here to answer your questions, remove lurking doubts, resolve conflicts; in one word to help you.

The doctor will listen to your problems and offer suggestions that suit your needs. You can ask any question.



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BOOK REVIEW

EMERGING PATTERN OF RURAL LEADERSHIP

by Dr. S.R. Mehta. Published by Wiley Eastern Private Ltd., J-41, South Extension, Part I, New Delhi-49. First published 1972. Pages xii+156. Price Rs. 32.00.

IT IS a truism to say that the village community development programme in this country has resulted to a large extent in bringing about socio-economic and political changes in the rural social life. Consequently, the villagers are better aware of the handicaps and difficulties that they face. The task of village leaders has thus become more challenging as well as more difficult.

There is, however, another view that a number of factors have retarded the tempo of the development programme in our villages. These factors are mainly social, cultural, psychological and economic. Besides, the basic philosophy of the programme of involving all sections of the community for development activities has not been fully appreciated. It has been found that people's enthusiasm has been utterly lacking. In view of the conflicting views on the contribution and failure of development programmes in the countryside, it is in the fitness of things that the rural leadership pattern is examined and analysed in order to bring out a meaningful conclusion for future guidance.

The present study competently delineates the leadership pattern relevant to the changing village social structure of the country. Carried out in 1964, the survey took up three average sized villages in Punjab for the collection of empirical data on the basis of schedules. In the process, the ecological setting and the socio-cultural characteristics of the villages are also unfolded.

Of the nine chapters, the most enlightening one found in this book is on the issue of institutional leadership. It deals with the role of panchayats, cooperatives and schools in the creation of village leaders. "By and large, the institutional leadership in respect of the panchayat, cooperative and school activities is operating within the village social structure; the leadership positions in these organisations being still held by persons who generally belong to the higher caste groups."

The study also reveals that there is not much evidence to show of any relationship between occupation and leadership though occupational mobility among certain caste groups has shown an emerging pattern of leadership. The leaders representing the lower caste groups have come to occupy their positions by virtue of better occupational status or membership or ex-membership of the panchayat. This does indicate that leadership is tending to be achievement-oriented.

It is true that the village development activities have had their impact on the village social structure and consequently, there has been a change in the outlook of village leaders. The better developed villages have more modern oriented leadership that has affiliation with political parties and contacts with development block staff. The new attitude of leaders is manifest in their anxiety for overcoming the "barriers to change". This has made the author rightly conclude that the present leadership tends to be of an emerging pattern.

We might as well understand the problem from the other angle. The village social structure has been found to influence the leadership pattern but it may also be true that new leadership, in its turn, influences the village social life. This hypothesis could be analysed by treating leadership as an independent variable and the village social structure as a dependent variable. In this context, the present study unfolds a vast area for further research that could be fruitfully undertaken for making a deeper probe in the social structure of our villages as they are emerging.

All said and done, the fact, however, remains that leadership is a complex phenomenon built up of multi-variant factors. It is, therefore, difficult to determine the causal factors responsible for it. To a large extent, it is based on individual's characteristics like age, sex, personal qualities like education, occupation, wealth, income and so on. Even the numerical or economic dominance of a caste group and the economic domination of individuals within a caste group are factors to be reckoned with. The situations in which individuals and the groups are placed in the community in terms of distribution of these characteristics are responsible for the present leadership pattern. Over these years, many new forces have appeared in the village social life. The increasing contact with the development blocks and the satellite industrialised towns have ushered in the new social, economic and political goals. It is hoped that in future, because of the increasing modernisation of these villages, the social structure will change considerably and the leadership pattern will become modern whatever it may mean in the changing context.

The book contains valuable economic data and an exhaustive bibliography. It must enthuse researchers of the rural sector of our national life.

NAVIN CHANDRA JOSHI


I had to depend on relatives for food, clothes, schooling... everything.
My children shall never face this fate!
The Multi-Purpose Policy
Ideal for a young man, with less income, greater responsibilities.
"At 27, I took this Policy for Rs. 12,000 for a term of 25 years. The monthly premium is only Rs. 42.50.
"If anything happens to me, LIC will pay my family: (i) Rs. 1,200 immediately, (ii) A monthly income of Rs. 240 for the next two years, (iii) A monthly income of Rs. 120 for the remaining years of the term, and (iv) A lump sum of Rs. 10,800 at maturity of the policy.
"On the other hand, if I live till the policy matures, I get Rs. 12,000 in hand or an annuity to serve as retirement income or a free paid-up non-participating assurance for an increased amount payable at death."
How about you? An LIC policy can guarantee your family's future too. No other form of saving protects your dependents from life's uncertainties.
LIC has 37 other types of policies to suit your every requirement.
Secure their future through LIFE INSURANCE
ASP/LIC/Z.97D

WB Scheme for Rural Judicial Service

A SCHEME for starting a rural judicial service is reported to be under the consideration of the West Bengal Government. The establishment of a network of village courts—a court for a group of 100 villages—is stipulated under the scheme. This is to make justice available to the poor rural people more easily, expeditiously and cheaply.

Development Officers for Tamil Nadu

THE CHIEF MINISTER, Shri Karunanidhi, announced in Madras on December 17 that the Government has accepted in principle the creation of posts of District Development Officers and Divisional Development Officers to assist the Collector in executing development activities. The Collector would coordinate the activities of the revenue and the development departments. The Block Development Officers would be given gazetted rank.

The Chief Minister said the pension scheme enjoyed by Government servants would be extended to employees of Panchayats and Panchayat Unions. Other concessions announced were uniform scales of pay for managers and extension officers, additional monetary relief of Rs 15 and Rs 10 to first and second grade executive officers respectively and grant of fixed travelling allowance of Rs 20 to maternity assistants and sewing mistresses and eligibility for promotion of social workers to Grade II Gram Sevaks.

From *The Hindu*

Preventing Grain Loss

THE INDIAN COUNCIL of Agricultural Research (ICAR) will soon set up an institute whose main activity will be to prevent loss in foodgrains.

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, ICAR's Director-General, said this on December 23, at the closing session of the three-day national seminar on "post-harvest technology."

The ICAR chief said the task of reducing loss of foodgrains in the post-harvest phase would receive high priority in the Fifth Plan.

According to Dr. K. Krishnamoorthy of the Indian Grain Storage Institute, about 19 million tonnes of foodgrains-almost one-fifth of the yearly production-are either lost or damaged.

From *The Times of India*

National Institute of Homoeopathy

GOVERNMENT PROPOSES to set up a National Institute of Homoeopathy, with the aim of laying down standards in homoeopathic medical education and research, the Union Minister for Health and Family Planning, Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit, said in the Lok Sabha on December 18.

The Institute would also act as an examining body for the award of graduate and post-graduate degrees. The scheme was expected to be taken up during the Fifth Plan period.

Water for Villages

ALMOST ALL VILLAGES in the country will be covered by the scheme to provide an assured source of drinking water "within a reasonable distance" before the end of the Fifth Plan, Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit, Minister of Works and Housing told the Rajya Sabha on December 20.

More Money for Job Schemes

A FURTHER provision of about Rs 200 crores is proposed to be made next year on schemes for employment generation as a follow-up to recommendations contained in the interim report of the Bhagwati Committee on Unemployment.

The government has, in recent times undertaken some special measures entailing massive investments for job generation. The outlay in the current Plan for these schemes include Rs 67.50 crores for small farmers' development agencies; Rs 47.50 crores for marginal farmers and agriculture labour, Rs. 20 crores for dry farming, Rs. 100 crores for rural works programmes in drought-prone areas and Rs. 150 crores for crash schemes for rural employment.

Similarly special programmes for relief of the educated unemployed were started last year and are continued this year with a step-up under Rs. 125 crores provision in the current year's budget.

From *The Times of India*

Backward Areas

THERE ARE SOME isolated pockets in the country where people are still living in a primitive manner.

It is proposed to take up in the Fifth Plan integrated area development programmes for specially backward areas and communities. The government of Madhya Pradesh has already been directed to prepare a plan for Abuihmarch, a tribal area in Bastar district. This information was given to Rajya Sabha on December 20 during question hour.

Controlled Cloth Sale in U.P.

THE U.P. PRADESH Cooperative Federation (PCF) will open about 1,000 controlled cloth shops in the State this month to distribute controlled varieties of cloth for the low-income group people. The group includes those drawing up to Rs 500 a month.

Attempt will be made to have one shop in each block in rural areas. The sale will be on ration cards in towns and on slips issued by pradhans in rural areas.

Controlled Cloth Sale in Rajasthan

DISTRIBUTION of controlled cloth started in Rajasthan in November. The Rajasthan Rajya Sahkari Upbhokta Sangh has set up 32 wholesale distribution centres in the State for this purpose. Besides, retail distribution centres have also been set up including 124 service cooperative societies and private shops where such societies were not in a position to undertake distribution.

Indo-Soviet Accord on Cooperatives

THE CENTRE of consumer cooperative movement of the Soviet Union

(Centrosoyus) and the Indian National Cooperative Consumer's Federation have signed an agreement for the development of friendly and business relations between the cooperative organisations of the two countries.

From *The Times of India*

Medical Aid to Tribal Areas

HIGHEST PRIORITY will be given to the establishment of rural hospitals in the tribal areas of the country while upgrading 200 primary health centres to 30-bed hospitals in 1973-74. Top priority would also be given to the provision of medical facilities in these areas. The Deputy Minister for Health and Family Planning, Prof. A. K. Kisku gave this information at a meeting of the Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament attached to his Ministry.

From *The Hindustan Times*

Loan for Bareilly Farmers

THE AGRICULTURE REFINANCE Corporation has launched an ambitious scheme to sanction loans to agriculturists for private irrigation projects in Bareilly district (U.P.).

Under this scheme, Rs 3.80 crores will be distributed as loan to farmers in the district for constructing wells and guls and for purchasing pumping sets etc.

Water for Punjab Villages

OF ABOUT 3,100 villages facing acute shortage of drinking water in Punjab, as many as 836 will have piped water supply by the end of the current financial year. This was stated by Shri Pritmohinder Singh, Financial Commissioner (Health), on December 29.

Rural Housing in Punjab

THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT has sanctioned Rs 40 lakhs for loans to rural people in various districts under the village housing project during the current financial year. A villager has to meet at least 20 per cent of the construction cost (inclusive of the value of land) to be eligible for loan.

PG Course in Rural Studies

THE SOUTH GUJARAT UNIVERSITY, Surat, started a new course of Master in Rural Studies from the academic year 1970-71. The syllabus covers all the important aspects connected with rural development and attempts at harmonious blending of different faculties.

Applications for admission to this course are invited from graduates during the month of July every year. At present only 20 students are admitted to this course.

For this two-year course, the teaching is highly intensive and time table highly compact.

STEP BY STEP



A Pioneering Priest

"NOT A SINGLE grain of sand on God's earth is uncultivable; the only thing is that one should choose the fittest crop", says Rev. Father L.M. Zukol of Pattuvam in the Taliparamba block, Cannanore district, Kerala. He won second prize in the last competition for mango cultivation conducted by the Indian Agricultural Research Council. He was awarded the title of Udyan Pandit and a cash prize of Rs 500.

Rev. Father Zukol belongs to Italy where mango is not raised. It has, therefore, a great fascination for him and he began to raise a mango grove at the rocky land of Pattuvam as early as 1963. He collected mango saplings from Taliparamba, Mangalore, and Bangalore. Now he has in his orchard 400 mango trees aged between seven to nine years. Among them are to be found varieties like neelam, kalappadi, malgoa, himam, pasanth, etc.

V.K. MOIDEEN KOYA

Bombay Students' Constructive Work

A GROUP of 20 enthusiastic students of the Government Law College, Bombay, have shown how the youth can render their best in works of constructive nature.

The group led by Prof. S.D. Balsara held a 10-day camp from November 19 at Saiwan, a village in Thana district under the auspices of the Smt. Vinatadevi Tope Social Service League.

The campers dug in the village three wells. They are going to instal 211 engines, too, on these wells when they are ready.

The villagers who helped the students in the work were provided with foodstuffs, clothes and medicines worth Rs 5,000 by them.

Among other camp activities, the students taught the art of sewing on machines to a dozen of the villagers and organised sports competitions for the children and gave them prizes. Ten more items such as latrines, fireplaces, etc, were also constructed for the use of the villagers with the help of Shri Krishnadas Shah, a social worker.

Small Help : Big Change

THE POOR weavers of Mandra village about five miles from Chityal in Mysore State approached the Chityal branch of the Canara Bank for financial help. The bank readily agreed to finance these self-employed people and disbursed Rs 300 per loom, repayable within 12 months. These weavers numbering 21 had been hitherto exploited by the middlemen in many ways. These weavers

had only small handlooms worth Rs. 1[illegible] each.

With the bank's loan, these weavers now do not have to depend on a middleman for supply of raw material and they are able to buy the raw material at a cheaper rate and sell their cloth at a higher price. Now they have all opened Recurring Deposit accounts for 72 months with a monthly deposit of Rs five to save for future.

Dedicated Cooperative Officer

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICER Bhanwar Lal Maheswari of Barmer Panchayat Samiti, has been granted a cash reward of Rs 200 by the Rajasthan Government for showing an exceptionally high devotion towards his duty.

Shri Maheswari recovered Rs 2,24,379 out of a total bank loan demand of Rs 2,65,756 against the cooperative societies of the Panchayat Samiti.

He was also given a similar reward earlier for effecting 100 per cent recoveries of loans amounting to Rs 5,20,455 in Chittorgarh Panchayat Samiti.

Bank Help Transforms a Village

KILATHIVAKKAM in Acharapakkam (Chingelput district, Tamil Nadu), is a shining example of a village going through farming revolution with the financial assistance from a nationalised bank, in this case the Indian Overseas Bank.

Kilathivakkam is a small village inhabited by 1,000 people. 200 households are engaged in farming. Some of them are even landless labourers, and most cultivators have holdings below five acres. About 240 acres of wet land, 140 acres of dry land and 35 acres of garden land are under cultivation, paddy being the principal crop here.

The village is well endowed with water resources—three tanks, 117 wells and 60 pumpsets. However, shortage of funds prevented the farmers from exploiting the resources adequately; hence only one crop.

The Indian Overseas Bank's association with the farmers of the village, which began in mid-1970, brought about a change. The bank's branch at Acharapakkam, eight miles from the village, adopted an 'area approach' to solve the problems. The farmers were persuaded to go in for modern inputs such as hybrid seeds (IR 8, IR 20, and IR 22) and chemical fertilisers. In September 70, crop loans to the tune of Rs 40,000 were granted to 60 cultivators for purchase of scientific inputs. The entire loan amount was repaid from the proceeds of the harvest. Encouraged, the branch widened its scope of operation by granting credit for purchase of pumpsets and for digging and deepening of wells.

As a result three crops are now being raised here. Besides paddy, groundnut, gingili, sugarcane, ragi and pulses are grown. There has been a 325 per cent increase in the income of farmers of this village during 1971-72. The average present yield per acre of paddy is 35-40 bags as against 20 bags, and of groundnut 20 bags, as against 10 bags, previously. The per acre net additional income accruing to the farmer is Rs 400-600 in respect of paddy and Rs 300 in the case of groundnut.

Chengam Farms' Impressive Progress

ENTERPRISING farmers in Chengam and surrounding areas in North Arcot Tamil Nadu, are no longer resigned to the vagaries of seasons but raise new crops like CSH-3 Cholam, sunflower and ragi. They are adopting improved practices in dryland farming, thanks to the lead given by the State Agricultural Farm, constituted by the State Farms Corporation.

A total extent of about 1,500 acres are now under crops in the Chengam Farm, out of 2,000 acres reclaimed in a short period of seven months. Cotton, ragi and sunflower which are newly introduced, have proved to be a success.

The cropping programme in this fully mechanised farm will be spread over three seasons and during the monsoon season, between June and November, the whole area will be under plough. During *Rabi* season crops including groundnut, vegetables, blackgram and cholam will be sown.

A special feature of the Farm is that it will provide the infra-structure for integrating farming with animal husbandry to achieve mixed farming in the State. Sheep rearing and development of fisheries will be attempted on a large-scale in the farm in its second phase.

From *The Hindu*

Wheel Hand-Hoe

WHEEL HAND-HOE is a handy and labour-saving implement useful to carry out intercultivation in crops sown in lines like groundnut, say the Agricultural Engineers of the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.

It is easier to work with this implement than the commonly used hand-hoe (Khurpa).

Costing only Rs 45, the wheel hand-hoe is useful to eradicate the weeds and also in loosening the soil, facilitating easy peg penetration of groundnut (FIU).

Ayurvedic Hospital for Rural Delhi

THE DELHI MUNICIPAL Corporation has set up an Ayurvedic hospital at Haiderpur village for the rural population.

Built at a cost of Rs. 10.4 lakhs, the hospital has 24 beds for males and 16 beds for women. It looks outdoor patients as well.

PRESS COMMENTS

The Ruling Party

THE POORER the performance of the ruling party the richer is its rhetoric. But judging from the undercurrent of anxiety in the speeches at Salt Lakes some of its leaders have at last begun to sense that this cannot serve as a cover for its failures for too long.

...The party says outsiders are preventing it from carrying out its programme? ...It will be far more rewarding to look for those who are frustrating overdue land reforms in the ranks of the Congress itself... With its solid majority in the Lok Sabha and in the State assemblies, why should the party worry too much about its critics. It has all the powers it needs to carry out its programmes.

The trouble is that such programme as it has framed is still somewhat cloudy.

The Times of India

IT IS time that the Congress leadership realised that the bogey of reaction ganged up against and obstructing the radical policies that the Government wants to pursue impresses the people less and less and blame is rightly being placed upon lack of will and determination of the Congress leaders and the party in general for the failure.

The Patriot

IT APPEARS to have been the done thing in Bidhan Nagar for almost everyone to have a fling at "bureaucracy" at whose door the larger part of the responsibility for all that has gone wrong has been firmly laid.

A helpful factor for the party is that the bureaucrats can seldom answer back. If they were to do so they would surely make the point that the Minister is finally accountable for both shaping policy and carrying it out; and that vague charges against bureaucrats do not absolve them of a responsibility that is inseparable from Ministership.

Clearly, an administrative structure that served British colonial needs is no longer relevant; and there is indeed no call for Congress politicians to continue to make this obvious point. If the system has not been appropriately readjusted or if the administrative reforms committee's recommendations have been ignored that is no business of the bureaucrat although it certainly is of the politician who never tires of sniping at him.

The Sunday Statesman

Foodgrains Trade

WHILE ALL State Governments remain committed to the ideal of a take-over, they are considerably more realistic than is the Union Government in assessing the massive problems of dislocation of supplies, availability of funds, storage capacity and alternative employment for private traders which must be solved if Shri Ahmed's proposed cure is not to prove more drastic than the disease.

...The Government should easily be able to meet demand and regulate prices if only it will streamline an inadequate public distribution system.

The Statesman

IF THE State governments do not act with alacrity to restrict the activities of the private trader, the surpluses from the rabi harvest, which alone can help them in tiding over the next year, will disappear into private hoards all over the country. Unfortunately by chasing the will O'-the-wisp of a takeover of the grain trade, the Centre and the States run the risk of failing to take more orthodox steps, such as the reimposition of single State zones backed perhaps by a compulsory levy on the better-off producers, which will more or less ensure adequate supplies for the public distribution system.

The Times of India

STATE FOOD MINISTERS have reaffirmed their commitment to socialisation of this trade together with strengthening and streamlining the public distribution system at the retail level. But they must move forward and enter into time-bound commitments. Practical administrative difficulties have been pointed out by State ministers. They may be genuine difficulties, but they should not be an excuse for going back on policy commitments or delaying their execution.

The National Herald

DOES NOT wisdom lie in exercising more flexible controls over the wholesale trade to prevent hoarding and profiteering while at the same time intensifying procurement through higher levies if necessary, supplementing the stocks with judicious imports and maintaining the tempo of releases through fair price shops?

The Hindu

THE BIGGEST problem will be that of administration and the experience of public sector undertakings should make the Government extra-cautious in the venture involving as it does the food of the people.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika

Fertiliser Shortage

THE POLICY on the fertiliser industry is a case study of expensive lost opportunities, including those for fruitful international cooperation, as with Iran. It is, therefore, reassuring to be told by the Planning Minister, Shri D.P. Dhar, that vigorous steps are being taken to fill the anticipated gap during the Fifth Plan by setting up newfertiliser plants and expanding existing capacities. Priority is to be accorded to a dozen new projects.

The Hindustan Times

Water Conservation

INDIA LOSES a large quantity of water through evaporation. Nearly 135 crores acre feet of water runs on the surface and the rest soaks into the ground. The total quantity of usable water is estimated to be 90 crore acre feet. The loss, it is stated, can be reduced by spreading

chemical films over the surface of water. Strong winds cause heavy evaporation but this can be partly prevented by undertaking a programme of afforestation. All these problems await practical study.

The Indian Express

Drought

THE DROUGHT problem is human, economic and political, and essentially exposes the stark reality of poverty. The scarcity relief programme should be conceived of as part of a wider and continuing programme of economic opportunity. This would be a true beginning of "garibi hatao".

The Hindustan Times

Irrigation for Small Farms

IT IS common knowledge that the benefits of the green revolution have not reached the small farmers in the expected measure. While analysing why this has been so, Shri B. Sivaraman, Vice-Chairman of the National Agricultural Commission, has blamed it all on the anti-social practices of big farmers. According to him, not only are they able to grab the lion's share of available irrigation supplies but they also cause water-logging in the small farms in the process of draining their own big plots.

...Shri Sivaraman's suggestion that the Government should set up "a machinery to enforce the irrigation routine and take punitive action against those inclined to harass the small and marginal farmers" deserves competent trial.

The Hindu

Crash Schemes

SINCE THE general recovery of the economy on a sound and stable basis is claimed to be in the offing, it is not easy to make a case for special or crash programmes which are not built into the overall strategy and programme of development. A multitude of such crash schemes, including those for increasing employment have been attempted in the past few years. They have failed to make much impression.

The Indian Express

For More Milk

THE MAIN constraint is in providing adequate transport with refrigeration facilities and the organisation of collection of milk supplies from the villages to central transit points towards the cities. It is time that vigorous efforts were made to solve these problems because the momentum of any such improvement generated on the right lines will induce the urge to tone up the existing methods of production and distribution of milk and milk products.

The Hindu

Panchayat Raj

THE RAISON D'ETRE of panchayat raj lies in popular participation in development projects, bridging the gulf between the villagers and the elite-tent.

The men and women packing the panchayat bodies mostly belong to the wealthy and influential groups and have managed to corner the bulk of rural development funds for their own benefit and that of their supporters. Their main interest is not how to make panchayat bodies more and more responsive to the needs of the have-nots but how to squeeze more funds out of the government. This calls for a drastic overhaul of the election machinery to ensure that poorer members of the rural community get due representation on panchayats and panchayat samitis and their due share of development funds.

The Times of India

Youth and Rural Service

THOUGH RURAL prosperity is much better than what it was before, it is not sufficient to keep the younger generation in the countryside. Nor are urban areas industrially well-developed to absorb the exodus from the villages. It is in this setting of unbalanced growth that the subject of participation of the youths in the development process has to be approached.

The Hindu

Super Bazars

EVERY YEAR, with unfailing regularity the Lok Sabha's Public Accounts Committee sees fit to pass strictures against New Delhi's super bazar which has little to its credit besides making super losses.

...To a greater or lesser extent, similar ills afflict nearly all the other 80-odd super bazars in the country. But the success of the few, such as Sahakari Bhandar in Bombay and Chintamani in Coimbatore, shows that the most effective antidote is efficient management.

The Times of India

Sugar Policy

THE BASIC problems of the sugar industry are political. The most important is the competition from the *gur* and khandsari industry, which being unencumbered by price controls or taxes, is able to offer to the cane grower a higher price than the mills. The government is afraid of putting any curbs on this industry because these will be highly unpopular. This is not all. The routine way in which the demand for nationalisation of the sugar industry is pressed year after year by certain sections of the ruling party provides the millowners with a convenient alibi for not doing anything by way of modernising their plants.

The Times of India

Harijans' Lot

FOR FAR too long have we talked about the emancipation of the Scheduled Castes constituting 14.6 per cent of the country's population, but it would seem that their condition is very much what it has always been.

...The gruesome tally of people burnt alive, houses set on fire, forcible occupation of land and insults in other ways would appear stranger than fiction 25 years after independence.

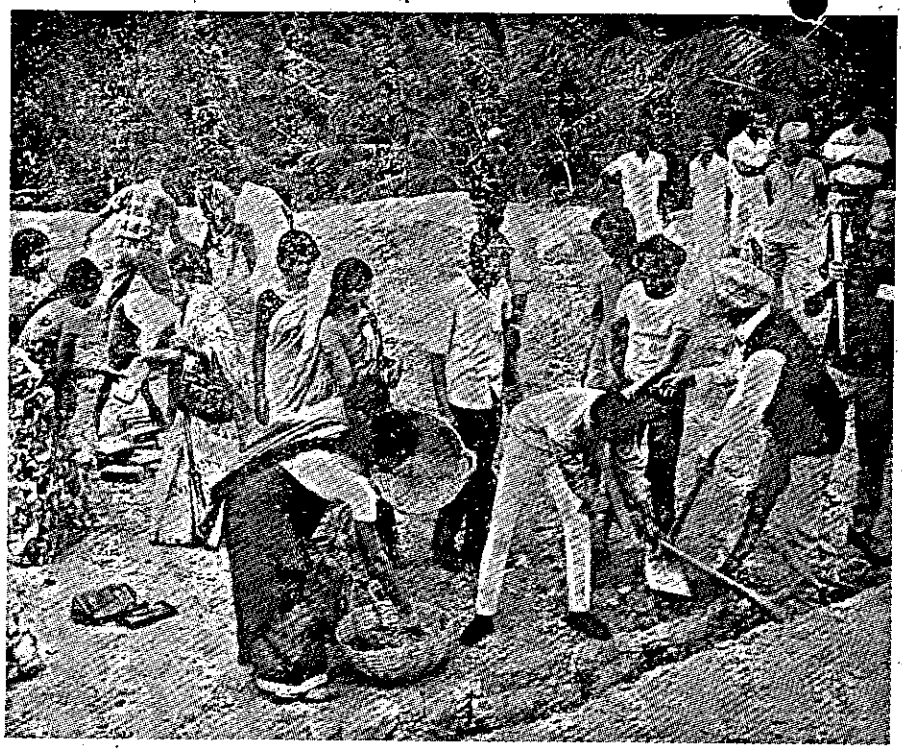
...The Government itself has a lot to explain why, for instance, it has not informed Parliament for the last five years about action taken on the reports of the Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Stiffer penalties and punitive fines will, no doubt, help, but much more important is public opinion which has yet to be mobilised.

The Indian Express

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Kerala's Massive Housing Programme

M.A. KURUVILLA*



Students from different universities participating in the one-lakh housing scheme

THE MASSIVE time-bound programme to provide one lakh houses in Kerala by January 26, 1973, as part of the 25th Independence Jayanti, is the first of its kind in India.

The Central Government contributed Rs 6 crores—one-third in the form of cash and the rest by way of bonds—for purchase of house sites in rural areas. The Central Government also provided Rs 75 lakhs for improvements. The programme is to build 100 houses each in each of the 960 Panchayats in the State. Although the total number of houses to be constructed is 96,000, the scheme is popularly known as "one lakh housing scheme".

A small tiled house on four cents of land with cemented floor of two rooms and a kitchen is the design selected for the housing scheme. In an acre there will be 20 houses, four cents per house and the remaining 20 cents for common amenities.

The allottees for these houses were selected by involving all political parties, Government officials, Panchayat members and local leaders, from among those without any particular income, house or land of their own. The present efforts, however, will only satisfy about one-third of the total housing requirements of the State.

According to the scheme the necessary materials for the construction of a house will be supplied by the State Government and the entire expenditure on construction will have to be met by the Panchayats and from public donations. The Kerala Government is spending Rs two crores thirty lakhs on cost of timber and another Rs. one crore for sawing, transport, etc. It is estimated that Rs three crores will have to be paid for skilled labour. Labour of the order of 67 man-days is needed for each house; of which 26 are skilled labour while 41 are unskilled. The unskilled labour is planned to be organised on a voluntary basis with the active help and support of youth and student organisations.

Central and State Government employees and employees of private sector organisations have been requested to donate one day's salary for the scheme. The trade unions and business houses are actively cooperating. Service cooperatives in rural areas, educational institutions and voluntary organisations are coming forward with massive support. Cash donations are pouring in. Even the inmates of a leprosy sanatorium in Noornad contributed Rs 2,001, being the cost of one house, although they know that none of them will be entitled for a house under the scheme.

The scheme has great employment potential. Six crores of tiles will be required for the one lakh houses. Forty crores of bricks are necessary and these would give employment to several thousands of workers. The wages alone on skilled labour comes to Rs. one crore. The entire scheme, on cost basis, is estimated at Rs. 30 crores.

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