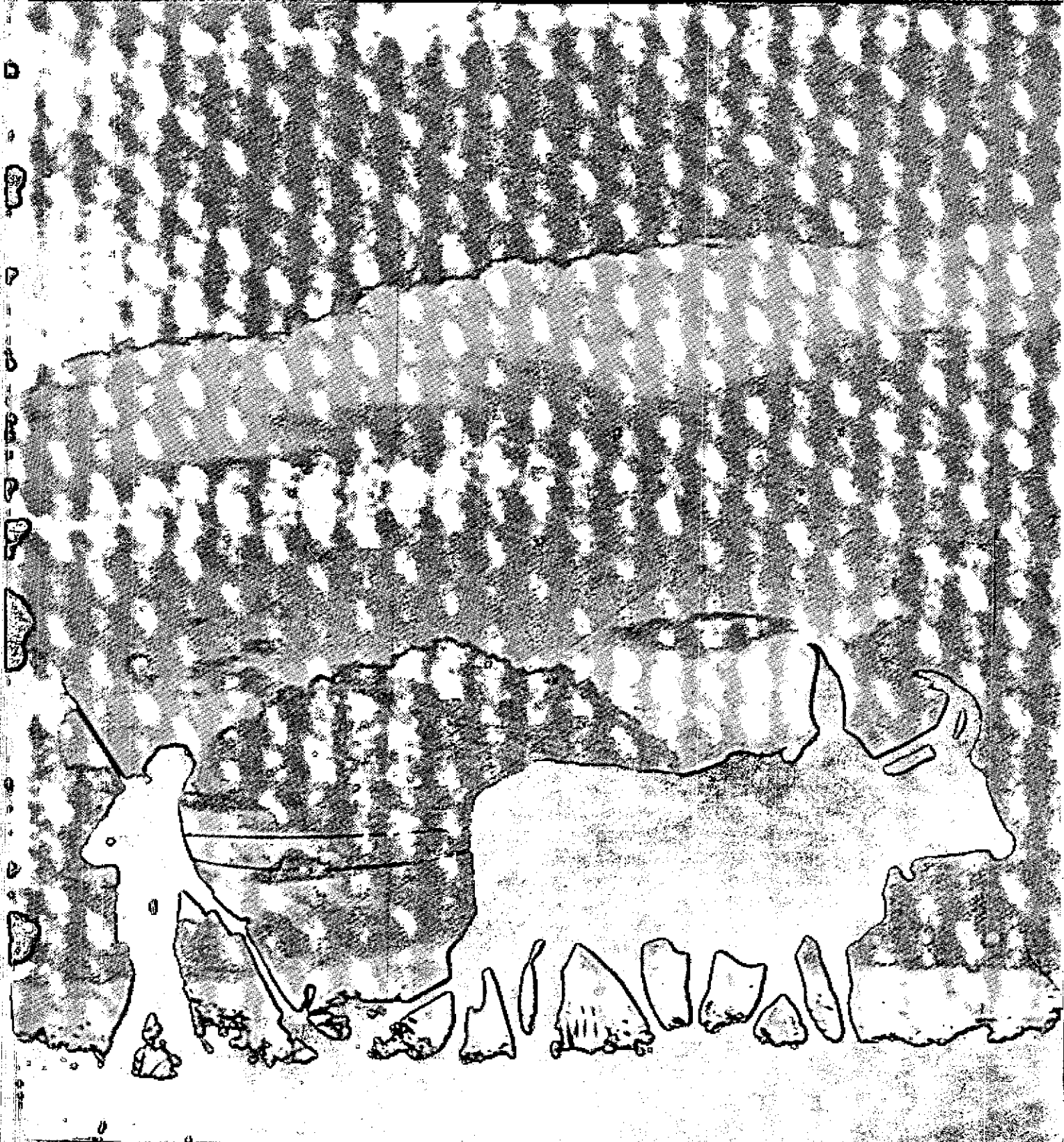


JULY 1, 1973

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



## Famine

## Eradication

## Project of Jalore

BALRAM DUTT SHARMA



*A road under construction*

JALORE district in Rajasthan with a population of 66,800, living in two towns and 608 villages is again in the grip of drought and famine. A Rs. two crore famine eradication project, sponsored by the Government of India has been undertaken in this district.

A master plan was chalked out to execute the project. Various works based on needs and priority are included in the project. 38 irrigation works have been provided with Rs. 90 lakhs. Under the forest development, 20 forest areas are being repaired and maintained at a cost of Rs. 40 lakhs. Eleven cattle grazing fields are being developed in the district. Plantation of trees on both sides of the road has been undertaken at a cost of Rs. 6.65 lakhs. Another Rs. 1.70 lakhs have been provided for grass collection centre. About Rs. 35 lakhs will be spent on six water supply schemes. Construction of various roads will be undertaken at a cost of Rs. 35 lakhs.

Earlier in 1968 when rains failed, the scarcity-hit people in the district had started migrating to

other places. This was checked by the Government through relief measures. At that time 1,157 new and 1,626 old pumping sets were put to work, 3,318 new wells were dug, 16,477 old wells were deepened and repaired. Works of 56 roads, 22 irrigation, 101 tanks, 11 soil protection projects and five works relating to forests were introduced. Five tanks and 53 wells for drinking water were built. 26 grass depots served the people to make grass available at fair price. Such efforts continued till 1970.

During this period, work on 56 road works continued, number of irrigation works increased to 57, soil protection works increased to 58 and works relating to forest reached nine. 36 new works were created.

Heavy rains in 1971 caused the closure of relief steps, but when in 1972 the rains failed again, the people and cattle of the district were again put to test. But the Government had prepared itself to face the problem through the Famine Eradication project.

### **COMPOST WEEK**

THE States have been asked to observe compost week during July 1973.

A sum of Rs. 58 lakhs has been earmarked by the Food and Agriculture Ministry towards the development of local manurial resources this year.

These activities are in advance of the Ministry's more ambitious Rs. 12 crore Fifth Plan proposal to raise the annual production of urban compost to 7.5 million tonnes and of rural compost to 350 million tonnes.

The compost week will be observed at all levels. All relevant government departments, municipal boards, panchayats, and villagers will be involved.

### **Girls Find a Way Out**

NEAR ALLEPPEY IN KERALA, the student participants—mostly girls—of the "Youth Against Famine" campaign found it difficult initially to establish rapport with the village women. They hit upon the idea of overcoming this difficulty by organising a cooking competition for the village women. The response was good.

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## GOD'S PEOPLE

**G**ANDHIJI called them Harijans or God's people. But their continuing misery would suggest that they are perhaps a God-forsaken people. The report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Tribes, repeats with dreary monotony, year after year, that there has not been any appreciable improvement in the conditions of these depressed classes who constitute one fifth of our population. It is a sad reflection on our freedom to hear, in this silver jubilee year of our Independence; that the system of bonded labour still exists in certain parts of our country. There are also periodic reports of crude expressions of prejudice against them in the forms of boycott, lynching and burning. The situation is fraught with danger as evidenced by the revolts in some tribal areas in the recent past. Violence has, of course, been curbed but its roots continue to exist.

It is true that the Government has taken many measures for the uplift of these classes, such as the ban on untouchability; reservation in the legislatures, services and institutions of technical education; liberal scholarships, etc. But these concessions benefit only a small proportion of these people. Their general improvement can be brought about only through agrarian reforms, curbs on usury and more facilities for starting subsidiary occupations like dairy farming. Further, the legal provisions intended for their benefit are not faithfully implemented because of the collusion between the exploiting classes and local officials. Both higher officials and popular representatives should exercise stricter supervision on this count. There is a greater responsibility on the part of the leaders of these communities in not exploiting them for political purposes but in serving them with dedication. The ordinary members of these classes should also realise that they stand a better chance of winning their rights if they organise themselves on economic basis in alliance with the other weaker sections of society. Individually, they should educate themselves more rigorously and work efficiently in the jobs which they might get. They should also exercise tact and restraint in struggling against the exploiting classes.

Last but not least, there is an urgent need for reviving the campaign for educating the general public. This task has almost been given up after Gandhiji. After all, all sections of our society have to learn to live together in peace and amity and this can be effected only through a change of heart.

# THE EDUCATIVE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS

INDIRA GANDHI

THERE IS no dearth of schemes in India, schemes which are on paper, some of them being implemented and many others in people's minds. With all this, only a very small area of the country has really been covered by the social service that is necessary in a country like India. Much of this responsibility is certainly that of the Government, but I entirely agree that the voluntary effort is very important and no work that the Government does can really reach down to the people unless the people themselves feel involved. And I think it is not only the task of the Central Board and the State Boards to do some work, but it is equally their task to continue to involve more and more of the local people in whatever work is being done or whatever scheme is being implemented. Today there is a great need for having a far greater sense of involvement, civic consciousness where a city is concerned and equally of course in the rural areas, consciousness of what kind of society we want to build, what kind of neighbourhood we want to have.

We know in our country that pesticides have helped a great deal to increase production, but now after steady use of pesticides over a number of years we find that some of the worst pests survived the poison whereas the lesser ones which helped in many ways are killed off. All the social workers have to look today not only to the schemes which are in effect, but also to the programmes of prevention of future harm to people and to the community and to nature. First we have to educate them to use chemical fertilizers. But there must be a judicious use of them and there must be a balanced use of the organic manures, compost and so on. Similarly, the question of health. Our health services are improving and expanding. The Social Welfare Boards also have various rural centres and the Mahila Mandals which look after some aspects of women's and children's health. But I think it is understood now that we can never provide health services to the whole population unless there is a very wide network of preventive work and consciousness. Further we have been able to contain some diseases, but others which are more dangerous such as leprosy, are on the increase that too at a time when it is a very curable disease. Today there is no reason why anybody with leprosy cannot be fully cured, but the difficulty

is that at the stage of infection or contagion, leprosy does not show. It is necessary to have education among ordinary people and try to create a demand in the public that there should be at least a yearly check-up in all institutions where large numbers of people meet. If we could have this once-a-year check-up, at least those who have it could have the treatment at an earlier stage and there would be greater chances of lessening suffering to them as well as to others.

Similarly, a short time ago the President of the World Association for the Prevention of Blindness was here and I was informed that blindness is on the increase in India merely because of lack of knowledge, mostly at the rural level, or rural parents or teacher. They said many babies would not be blind or have a bad eye sight if they had just a little bit of green in their diet. The green does not necessarily be a known vegetable. It can be any non-poisonous green leaf or anything that is tested and seen to be edible.

Similarly, there are certain small infections which if treated immediately by putting some eye-drop can be cured at that age and it will not recur. I am told that countries such as Egypt have tackled this problem merely through schools. That is the school teachers as well as the older children look after younger children. No extra doctor or machinery, equipment or personnel is needed. And they have been able to eradicate things like trachoma and so on thereby improving the general eye-sight of the people as a whole.

I have just given these two examples but I am sure you are fully aware of the need for cleanliness of the environment as well as in personal habits to future good health.

Fortunately none of these programmes really needs any money. If it is a question of physical check-up, of course it does need an expert medical practitioner. But it can be tied up with local health centres, local hospitals and so on.

There is also need to activate the ordinary citizen with regard to something like literacy. It does not take a lot of time, energy or money for one person to teach one or two other people and make them literate. If women take up this work, we could immediately make great strides in improving the standard of literacy in our country.

The village crafts are not only useful as an outlet for the personality and the individuality of our rural

*\*From the Prime Minister's inaugural speech at the 12th Conference of the Chairmen, State Social Welfare Advisory Boards, New Delhi, May 8, '73*

womenfolk and others. They are not only good for giving some slight employment, but they can be used for the sort of changes in society which we want. You all perhaps know how the Madhubani paintings have come on the world stage, for instance. Here was an art that uneducated rural women of one part of Bihar were indulging in on holidays and festivals. We have a good export trade now in Madhubani and if we could produce more, we would be able to export more because there is a great demand in the United States, Canada and Germany and so on. Now, similarly, I think there must be many things which our women are making either

just as part of their everyday life, of their worship or festivities, weddings and so on. So what I am asking the Social Welfare Board is not only to function in the field of actually doing things—I know their practical work is good and they are to be congratulated on it—but also to be equally active in the field of ideas, to be thinking out new programmes many of which may not need large funds or even much experience, and if we can get the whole country thinking in this way, I think that will be the major revolution and it will help us to go ahead in every other direction which we want. I have had a long conversation with the

## Nutrition and Employment through Animal Husbandry

## Nutrition and Employment through Animal Husbandry

PROF. SHER SINGH  
 WHILE the animal husbandry sector is making steady progress, it has to be realised that a considerable leeway has yet to be made up to advance towards the required targets of production for various animal products. The shortage of animal proteins is most serious in our country. Only about 12 per cent of the total proteins available come from animal sources. Standing as a testimony to the gravity of the shortage are the impairment of the growth and development of children and the widespread occurrence of deficiency diseases. The per capita per day availability of milk in India is only 105 grams with a protein content of 4.2 grams against 200 grams with a protein content of 8 grams recommended by nutrition experts. This figure of 105 grams is actually average of the nation but there is wide disparity in the availability of this in various strata of economic groups in our country. I doubt if majority of our people get even 50 grams of milk per day. Use of scientific knowledge and intensive animal husbandry practices can certainly enable us to attain higher animal production and thus provide better standard of nutrition to our population.

1972 compared to the growth of the order of Rs. 1,200 crores in 1971, due to various factors such as upon the banking system. In respect of expansion, weaker sections of the farming community. The possibilities of intensive poultry production opens out another area for providing occupation to agricultural labourers. Similarly, many other occupations such as raising of pigs, milch-goats and sheep-shearing and grading techniques, etc., can create considerable amount of work in the rural areas leading to a substantial increase in income for the rural community. The animal husbandry sector has great potential in helping to tackle the problem of rural unemployment and underemployment. Agriculture provides only seasonal employment to labourers and animal husbandry can supplement it in its income and employment aspects. Unemployment and underemployment in rural areas form a problem without solving which we cannot think of eradicating poverty. We have to produce all that we need for our people and in this process we have to make optimum use of our manpower resources.

An all-out effort in animal husbandry development is sure to pay rich dividends to farming community. On the recommendations of the National Commission on Agriculture, a programme for increasing milk production by introducing cross-breeding on a large scale, mainly on the pattern of Kaira District Cooperative Union, is being taken up. In many parts of the country, milch cattle is being maintained by agricultural labourers also as a subsidiary occupation. Similarly sheep are raised in the dry parts of the country by the

## BRITAIN'S EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

THE MOST radical change in the history of Britain's official employment service has got under way from May 23 with the opening of a new kind of centre to meet the needs of employers and job-seekers in the modern labour market. Known as a 'Jobcentre', it is the first of 40 to be opened over the next 12 months.

The "Jobcentres" will offer a swift, unfussy service in three tiers—a self-service, an interviewing service with specially trained employment advisers; and back-up services, including occupational guidance, special help for the disabled and advice on training.

\* Union Minister of State for Agriculture

# Nationalised Banks and the Rural Poor

A.K. MONDAL\*

THE RESOURCES of commercial banks are being increasingly utilised to meet the credit gap in the agricultural sector. Following social control and nationalisation, commercial banks have shown increasing interest in the agricultural sector and the volume of direct finance on agriculture by these banks increased from Rs. 50 million in 1966 to Rs. 2,360 million as on 30th June, 1971. There was a marginal fall of Rs. 43 crores in deposit growth in 1972 compared to the growth of the order of Rs. 1,209 crores in 1971, due to various factors acting upon the banking system. In respect of expansion, by June 1972, the banks have added 635 branches to those of 1,801 in 1971 and 2,141 in 1970.

The amount outstanding against agriculture remained steady at Rs. 395 crores between December 1971 and June-end 1972, when the number of accounts had fallen to over 10 lakhs.

It has been estimated that the recovery of agricultural advances in the first year after nationalisation i.e. the year ending June '70 came to about 64 per cent of the demand and that in the year ending June '71 about 58 per cent. The position did not improve in the year 1972 because of widespread drought in some parts of the country.

Speaking to bankers at a meeting held in Delhi during January '73, the Union Finance Minister, Shri Y.B. Chavan, said that the progress of our banking industry "has been less than satisfactory and certainly short of public expectations" in respect of lending to priority sectors. He pointed out that the small farmers, small entrepreneurs and the self-employed people with small scale operations "were edged out by the traditionally prescribed rigid conditions of credit-worthiness" and stressed on the imperative need for "a change in their mental make-up" in order to cater to the credit needs of the poorer sections. He also told the bank chairmen to be ready to extend bank finance to the people who would be benefited by the land reform legislation.

It is high time that the conventional and cumbersome procedure of advance is fully liberalised benefiting the conditions of different localities. If this is done, small farmers may not have to depend on

middle men who take the opportunity for exploiting them.

Another requirement is for extending rural banking facilities nearest to the farmers where deposit mobilisation and credit expansion can run side by side.

The commercial banks in most of the areas seem to lack immediate capabilities of qualitative and quantitative manpower for tackling agricultural and related activities in the rural areas. The District Development offices are yet to be set up even in the lead districts, not to speak of the other areas. The power for sanctioning loans of higher quantum and for taking decisions on policy matters are yet lying embedded in the files of the head offices. Until the powers and the authority of taking decisions are passed on to the district and the lower levels, prompt action cannot be expected.

A primary cause as to why bank advances have suffered setback even after four years of nationalisation is the poor repayment of the advances made so far. The bankers who are yet uncertain about the date of recovery, feel hesitant in further extending advances.

## Suggestions

In order to solve these problems and improve the situation a few suggestions are given.

1) Every potential area should be covered by the branch expansion programme. In these branches rural-oriented staff and field officers should function in constant touch with the weaker sections for making them economically viable.

2) Nationalised banks should have their respective organisations to deal with the agricultural sector right from head office to lowest levels. With decentralisation of powers at different tiers they should be able to implement schemes freely and promptly.

3) In order to improve the position of recovery of advances infrastructure should be created to overcome the problems caused by vagaries of nature by arranging irrigation and drainage facilities, etc., throughout the year so that crop failure may not stand in the way of recovery of bank finance.

4) The activities of SFDA and MFAL should be strengthened. Thus an environment may be created for economic development of the area.

\*Field Officer, United Commercial Bank, Uttarpara, Hooghly, West Bengal

5) The area of operation of different credit institutions should be demarcated in such a way as to avoid overlapping of activity.

6) Credits are to be provided on the basis of the total proposed activity rather than based on the size of the land held.

7) The National Commission on Agriculture has recommended that credit agencies should take direct interest in the supply of inputs and in arranging of

services to enable the borrowers to absorb the credit. The agencies should encourage and finance viable units of inputs, custom services, storage, transportation and marketing. These services can be rendered by forming Farmers' Service Society. There can be a union of Farmers' Service Societies at the district level which will coordinate and maintain linkage with the lead bank and the agencies (SFDA and MFAL).

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## Farmers and Information Sources

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A.S. SANDHU\*

DARBARI LAL\*

A PLANNED AND calculated communication strategy for extending agricultural technology among the farmers is necessary in order to increase agricultural production in India. There are many sources of information for the farmers to know about the new farm technology. It has been noted that some farmers are exposed to a relatively larger number of information sources than others. It has also been noted that some farmers discuss the information received by them from different information sources, with other farmers more often than certain others do. It is also seen that the extent of farmers' exposure to different information sources affects their attitude, knowledge and adoption of improved farm practices.

In this context an effort was made to determine the differential use of agricultural information sources by the farmers for the cultivation of high-yielding varieties of crops.

Rurka Kalan Block (Goraya) from out of the total 12 blocks in Jullundur district, Punjab, was selected for the purpose of a study by random sampling. Seven out of 59 villages in the block were selected at random. About 25 per cent farmers from each selected village, forming in all 150 farmers constituted the sample.

As many as 18 information sources, which are used mostly by the farmers were selected on the basis of a pilot study.

The communication behaviour of the farmers was operationalized "as the degree of an individual farmer's exposure with the various information sources through which the technologies are transmitted". In order to assess the farmers' degree of exposure with the various selected information sources, the farmers were asked to indicate the

frequency of contact with the various information sources through which they received as well as passed on the information on high-yielding varieties. The data were collected through personal interview with the respondents on a structured schedule.

### Findings

The findings of this study revealed that 36 per cent farmers had low, 43.33 per cent had medium and 20.67 per cent farmers had high communication behaviour in respect of farm technology. Thus a majority of the Punjab farmers i.e. 79.33 per cent, had low to medium communication behaviour which means that the exposure of the 79.33 per cent farmers with the various information sources ranged from low to medium.

The study showed that in order of importance, farmers frequently received information on farm technology from sources like family members, friends/relatives, V.L.Ws, neighbours, cooperatives, fellow cultivators, radio farm broadcasts and fertilizer/seed stores to which they are relatively more exposed than sources like farmers of outside villages, A.E.Os and market committees. It is interesting to note that B.D.P.Os, P.A.U. scientists and agricultural extension training programme through which farmers received information on farm technology are the least utilised sources.

In the case of high communication behaviour farmers, the use of sources like extension agency, farm literature, demonstration and extension training programmes is considerably higher in comparison to those farmers with medium and low communication behaviour, who mostly used web-of-word of mouth, radio and infra-structure as their important sources of information for getting information on farm technology.

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# ERADICATING ILLITERACY

services to enable the borrowers to repay the credit. The State of operation of district credit institutions should be based on the basis of the total proposed activity rather than based on the size of the land held. The National Commission on Agriculture has advised in the interior villages children from farmers' families are withdrawn sometimes to work in the field. The missionary zeal that we had during the days of independence struggle is missing. It is here that our universities or schools can play their due role. It is heartening to learn that the Ministry of Education has taken some steps in this direction through the N.S.S. Scheme. Through such projects our youth can be gainfully employed to introduce the three R's in the villages.

PRANAB MUKHERJEE

THE LITERACY drive programme is a gigantic challenge. The progress during the last ten years has not been so bad against the background of total population rise in the vast sub-continent. Whereas in 1961, the percentage of literacy in the country was 24, in 1971 it was 29.45. For a vast country like India, a five per cent rise is not so bad a progress. Yet it is an unfortunate fact of history that India has the largest number of illiterates in the world. It is an alarming situation.

Darkness is dangerous to progress. That one of the main reasons for the slow growth rate of our national economy is the high rate of illiteracy, none can deny. These less fortunate members of society, instead of being assets, are becoming liabilities to community and to themselves. But why? Who is responsible for their present condition? We cannot riggle out of the responsibility just by saying that education is a state subject, as such, it is the task of the Government to introduce the three R's to all countrymen. I have been directly associated with the literacy movement in West Bengal for the last few years and I am convinced that the movement has not received the attention it deserves from each individual in our country. It is true in a welfare state, the Government is bound to spread education among the masses.

## People's Participation

People's participation in this new big project is the most important factor. Without that, mere investment of the entire treasury of the Government of India cannot help the project. It is not only the task of individuals or societies or Government alone to introduce the three R's to members of society but it is an urgent responsibility of the international bodies to take up the challenge, and share the responsibility equally.

It is true that the Ministry of Education is operating a scheme to eradicate illiteracy among the adult population. It is an effort to improve their lot and create in them an urge for change from traditional to progressive society. There has also been an honest effort and experiment by a joint integrated programme of the three Central ministries, e.g. Education, Agriculture and Information and Broadcasting in their Farmers Functional Literacy Programme. It aims at helping the illiterate farmers to acquire not only literacy but also agricultural know-how which could be used by them. At Indore and Nagpur, experiments are being made to spread literacy to industrial workers and their families through institutes provided by the Ministry of Education. But against the background of the huge backlog of the past accumulation of retarded progress, these schemes are not even drops in the ocean. Our industrial concerns can gainfully start adult education centres attached to their industries; as a matter of convention, factory workers can get introduced to the three R's in their spare time. This will bring two good results: Firstly, the factory workers will be gainfully employed outside the working hours. They will add to their efficiency. Secondly, there will be industrial peace. A spirit of harmony between the employees and the employers will, I am certain, add to the total production in our factories.

**Social Obligation**

The study showed that in order of importance, it is equally true, we, the more fortunate and enlightened people, have been quite indifferent in spreading the message of literacy. We should not forget that it is the moral obligation of each educated countryman to transmit knowledge to his fellow countrymen. We cannot afford to deny that we are all getting our education at their cost. After all, try to recollect the amount that you or I spent for our post-graduate education. It was hardly fifteen to twenty rupees per head. Can you get it without social subsidy? Are we not denying the rest of their right of education? Are we not usurping their share of progress which they genuinely deserve to get? After all they are also tax payers. They all pay their equal share of tax. Why should they not get the benefit? But they do not know about their rights. Unfortunately some of them even resist being educated.

*From the speech delivered by the Deputy Minister for Industrial Development and the Convener of the National Convention Against Illiteracy, at the Convention held in New Delhi in May.*

# Drinking Water in Assam Rural Areas—A Survey

K. GOGOI\*

PROVIDING DRINKING water to people in rural areas is a major problem in India, particularly in Assam. The programme of rural water facilities, excluding the programme of piped water supply, has been launched in Assam through the C.D. Blocks which are implemented by the Gaon Panchayats. The Gaon Panchayats spend a substantial amount on this programme.

To assess the availability of drinking water in the rural areas of Assam, a survey was conducted in a Gaon Panchayat Holoiphukan, 24 km. away from Sibsagar, the district headquarters. This panchayat covers eight villages with an area of 5,428.6 acres. It has 920 households and a population of 5,745 as per 1961 census. The findings generally hold good for almost all the rural areas of Assam.

The main sources of water in these villages are tube-wells, ring-wells, ponds owned by individuals, common ponds, old tanks and rivers. There is no piped water supply scheme in or near the villages at present. Though the resources of the Gaon Panchayat are limited around Rs. 4,000, it is spending a considerable amount on improving the facilities for drinking water. So far it has installed 23 tubewells and two ring-wells. It has given cash assistance for improvement of 14 common ponds and five old tanks. These are not at all sufficient.

The survey showed that in summer 46.5 per cent of the households take water from their own ponds, 20.8 from common ponds, 14.0 from tubewells, 8.8 from tanks, 7.3 from rivers and 2.6 from ring wells. In winter 35.9 per cent households take water from common ponds, 19.8 from tube wells, 15.6 from own ponds, 9.2 from rivers and 3.0 from ring wells. Tube wells and ring wells form the main sources of drinking water in the rural areas. Hence most of the people in the panchayat are not getting hygienic water.

A comparative study of water from different sources indicate that pond water is not safe for drinking in summer because frequent floods submerge these ponds. This spreads water-borne diseases. As the level of water in the ponds falls in winter it becomes very dirty. The rivers in the area are not deep. Their water is also not clean. It is not fit for drinking purposes. Comparatively the water in

tanks remains very clear in both seasons and people like to utilise it for drinking purpose.

It was found that on an average there is one tube-well/ring-well for every 37 house-holds and 230 persons in the Panchayat area. These are not equally distributed. One village has one well among 104 households and 685 persons compared to one for only 13 households and 120 persons in another. In one village there is no well at all. Therefore, it is suggested that more tube-wells should be installed to serve the rural people.

More funds should be made available to the Gaon Panchayats to install tube-wells and to preserve and improve old tanks and big village ponds.

To prevent the spread of water-borne diseases the habit of using hygienic water should be inculcated among the villagers.

## LITERACY PLAN CATCHES UP

THE FUNCTIONAL Literacy Programme for farmers, which is now implemented in 65 districts will eventually be extended to all 100 districts selected by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The progress made by the programme was discussed recently at a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Education. The report of the Ministry said that during a four-year period from 1969, not only did the programme result in making 1.08 lakh farmers functionally literate, but also made them aware of the benefits of a better environment. The farmers began to react favourably to social amenities like sanitation, access roads, drainage, drinking water and irrigation.

The Central Advisory Board of Education has approved a three-fold strategy for the Fifth Plan programme of adult education. It consists of the liquidation of illiteracy in the age group 15-25, linking of literacy programmes with employment programmes and the development of literacy programmes among adults through voluntary services.

Members of Parliament have been told that a scientific evaluation of the programme carried out in one of the districts of Uttar Pradesh showed that the programme had developed literacy skills, disseminated knowledge of improved agricultural practices, speeded up the adoption rate of these practices and also effected certain attitude changes.

(From THE INDIAN EXPRESS)

\*Junior Research Investigator, Agro-economic Research Centre for North East India, Jorhat

# Best Panchayat Union in Tiruchi

THIRUMANOOR Panchayat Union has the unique distinction of getting the rolling shield for the best Panchayat Union in Tiruchirapalli district during the years 1968-69, 1970-71 and 1971-72. The rolling shield is being given to the Panchayat Union which achieves the highest progress in all the developmental activities in the district.

This panchayat union has made spectacular achievements in the field of agricultural production, education, cooperation and other social welfare activities. 87 per cent of the families in the panchayat union area have been brought under the agricultural production plans. The technical know-how required for the same was taken to the very doors of the farmers. The response was also very encouraging.

Forty-two per cent of the children in the schools were covered under the mid-day meals programme. Contributions in kind and cash were collected from the public to meet the expenses. 84 per cent of the schools were provided with good buildings. Wherever the panchayats were not in a position to construct their own school buildings, the Union came with financial assistance. 35 social education centres are functioning within the Union area. Books, magazines and newspapers were supplied to these centres. With a view to making the farmers receptive and responsive to the new farm techniques, the farmers were persuaded to listen to the agricultural broadcasts.

Pre-broadcast briefing and post broadcast discussions were held with the help of the convenors, and doubts raised by the ryots were got cleared. This has helped to bring modern scientific research and results obtained thereon to the very doors of the ryots residing in remotest corners of the villages. The activities of the Rural Radio Forums have also helped to introduce modern agricultural practices and in augmenting food production.

Fifty-four schools had taken to kitchen gardening during the year 1971-72. The produce from these gardens were used for mid-day meals.

Mahalir Mandrams are functioning in all the villages. Apart from giving training for women in embroidering, sewing, dress making and gardening these Mandrams were engaged in family planning propaganda and collection of funds for the small savings scheme.

As regards cooperation 80 per cent of the credit needs of the ryots were met by cooperatives. Apart from giving loans, cooperatives were engaged in

distribution of fertilisers, sugar and other essential requirements of ryots.

The Union also undertook distribution of chemical fertilisers. 316 tonnes of fertilisers were distributed. This has helped the farmers to keep away from black marketeers and other exploiters.

All the villages in this union have been provided with link roads except Ramanallur, which is a small hamlet situated like an island in the midst of Colebrook river. Even in this hamlet one higher elementary school is functioning. All children of school-going age have been got admitted in this school.

During the year no meeting of the council was adjourned for want of quorum and all decisions were taken unanimously after mature and lively discussion.

F.P.O. Tiruchirapalli

## New Project for Curing Cataract

SCIENTISTS in Boston, Massachusetts, are developing a new surgical procedure for India that promises to benefit people everywhere whose sight is threatened by eye cataracts—an abnormality of the eye in which the lens becomes opaque.

Dr. Charles Schepens, Boston ophthalmologist, hopes to have a pilot project using the new technique under way in India before the end of this year.

Actually, the "brain" behind the project is Dr. G. Venkataswami, Head of the department of ophthalmology at the Madurai Medical College, Tamil Nadu. He had discussed the need for such a project with Schepens during a visit to Boston in 1972. Schepens had visited Indian villages a year earlier.

The new instrument named "cataract fragmentator" makes possible the pulverizing of the cataract inside the eye before it is removed.

With the new procedure, the cataract would be removed from the eye after making a small incision—one-fifth the size of the 32 millimeters normally required for such surgery.

The Boston "fragmentator" is a small hand-held instrument. It is powered by compressed air fed through a hollow cable. Any village, which has instruments to inflate an automobile tyre, has the means to power the instrument.

When the Boston specialists complete their clinical tests in the United States, the new instrument will be brought to India and its use demonstrated by a team of doctors. The project then will be in the hands of Indian physicians.

From THE AMERICAN REPORTER

# Leather Industry

LEATHER INDUSTRY occupies the pride of place in the industrial development of India. With an estimated output of over Rs. 200 crores per annum, its export is of the order of Rs. 90 crores. It provides full-time and part-time employment to over 8 lakh persons. This industry is predominantly operated on small and cottage scale basis. This sector alone accounts for nearly 85 per cent of the country's total production.

Leather industry is a traditional craft with a large number of small units spread all over India. Till recently, most of the exports were in the form of raw skins, semi-tanned and tanned leathers. In order to earn more foreign exchange, it is necessary for us to diversify production and export more of finished leather and leather products. Annual production target of 20 crores pairs has been envisaged by 1973-74. The export target for the same period has been placed at 1.20 crore pairs valuing Rs. 20 crores. As leather footwear item has been reserved exclusively for production in small scale sector, the Small Scale Industries Development Organisation (SSIDO) has fixed a target of setting up 150 mechanised leather footwear units with a capacity of 300 to 400 pairs each per day. Satisfactory progress has been made already in this respect and both production and export targets are likely to be achieved by the end of the Fourth Plan period.

The SSIDO is rendering assistance in mechanisation of small scale units for fabrication of finished leather, footwear and leather goods.

The SSIDO has a network of Small Industries Service Institutes and Extension Centres. Of the 12 Leather Extension Centres, one each is located at Madras and Agra and these two centres render advanced training in footwear manufacture. During the last decade over 1,400 persons have been trained in these centres alone. Two Extension centres at Erode and Tangra (Calcutta) are providing common facility and training in manufacture of finished leathers. These centres are being modernised to impart qualitative and up-to-date technical service to the industry. Two other Extension centres at Meerut and Jullundur are devoted to improving the production techniques of sports goods industry and are meeting the needs of training and common facility. The Extension Centres at Trichur, Ranchi, Rewari, Jodhpur, and Manicktola in Calcutta train the workers and provide common facilities to the footwear industry.



*Trainees working in their own manufacturing unit.*

In order to accelerate indigenous fabrication of machinery required for this industry, the National Small Industries Corporation has decided to set up a production-cum-training centre for leather machinery during the current plan period. The prototypes manufactured by this PTC will facilitate manufacture of the required machinery indigenously.

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## A LIGHTER WITHOUT FUEL

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*A new German cigarette lighter needs no fuel and owes its flame to energy taken from the sun. The "Solartronic" lighter is equipped with special solar cells which transform light into electric energy. A small steel accumulator stores this energy and when fully charged, the lighter can be used 1,500 times. To be charged again, the "Solartronic" has to be kept out in the sunlight for a short while and it is ready again to light up more cigarettes.*

*(GERMAN NEWS)*

# Panchayati Raj in Kerala

M.A. KURUVILLA\*

PANCHAYATI RAJ as visualised by the Balwantrai Mehta Committee has not been introduced in Kerala. The legislation for Panchayat Samithies (Panchayat Union Councils) and Zilla Parishad is yet to be passed. But village Panchayats, the basic units in the three tier system of decentralised administration, are functioning very effectively in Kerala.

## Century-old History

It will be interesting to trace the century-old history of local self-Government in Kerala. The State was formed after the Re-organisation of States on November 1, 1956, by the integration of the erstwhile Travancore Cochin State and the Malabar area of the former Madras State. Some system of local administration was in existence in all the three areas. The earliest step of local administration in the region now comprising Kerala was the constitution of Local Fund Circle in 1871 by the Madras Government in Malabar area. This was followed by the formation of Village Unions in 1884 and the Village Panchayats in 1920. The Madras Village Panchayat Act was repealed by the Madras Local Board Act, 1930, and this remained in force till a new Panchayat Act was brought into being in Kerala.

So far as Cochin area was concerned, Sanitary Boards were constituted in 1880 which were changed as Town Councils in 1910 followed by the Cochin Panchayat Act of 1913. This Act was in force till the integration of the State with Travancore and Malabar to form Kerala.

In the Travancore area Sanitary Committees were constituted in 1878. They were replaced by the Town Improvement Committees in 1894, followed by the Travancore Panchayats Act of 1925. By another Act of 1940 known as Travancore Village Unions Act the Government constituted Village Unions in areas where there were no Panchayats. They were not much different from Village Panchayats.

According to the Panchayat laws then in force, members were elected to the Panchayats functioning in Malabar area and were nominated to the Panchayats in Cochin and Travancore areas. The Panchayats in Cochin area were given powers to

deal in matters connected with rural development and rural life.

After Independence steps were taken for the re-constitution of Panchayats. In 1950 the existing Panchayat Acts were repealed and a new Act known as Travancore-Cochin Panchayat Act, 1950, was passed. But in the Malabar area which was then part of Madras State, the Local Board Act of 1957 as amended, was in force. After the formation of the State of Kerala the then existing Acts controlling the working of the local bodies were rescinded and a new Act called Kerala Panchayats Act, 1961,



came into force. This new Act is very progressive compared to the previous Acts governing the functions of Local Bodies. The new Act stipulated that the President and members should take oath of secrecy before taking up office and that in a Panchayat there should be at least one female member. The powers so far vested in the Government were transferred to Panchayats. They were also given powers to collect taxes and to undertake greater public responsibilities.

At the time of the formation of Kerala State there were 892 Panchayats. The number of villages covered was only less than 50 per cent in the Malabar area, while in the Travancore-Cochin area except

\*Information Officer, Press Information Bureau, Trivandrum

in the case of 6 or 7 villages, there were Panchayats covering all the villages.

The Government appointed a one-man commission in June 1959, for the delimitation and formation of new Panchayats. One of the recommendations of this commission was that as a general principle a Panchayat should be contiguous with a revenue village. It also recommended that wherever necessary two or more villages can form a Panchayat, but the jurisdiction of a Panchayat should not fall within two development blocks. The population of a Panchayat should not exceed 25,000 or go below 10,000. The recommendations of this commission more or less form the basic principles under which Panchayats are functioning in Kerala.

### Special Features

The Panchayats in Kerala have several special features. The geographical condition of the State and the living habit of the people are the main causes of these features. While villages in other States are isolated pockets, in Kerala they are a contiguous area uniformly inhabited which makes demarcation difficult. It is difficult to say where a village begins and where it ends. This has enabled the formation of bigger Panchayats which are economically viable. While in other States the population of a Panchayat is between 1,000 and 5,000, in Kerala it is between 10,000 and 50,000. This difference in area and population has helped formation of Panchayats in Kerala with added responsibilities and powers, as the basic units of administration.

There are 1,658 villages in Kerala which are now constituted into 966 Panchayats, some Panchayats covering more than one village. These Panchayats are again classified into four categories. They are: (1) special grade with income over Rs. 1 lakh, (2) first grade with income ranging from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh, (3) second grade with income ranging from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 50,000, and (4) third grade with income less than Rs. 20,000. There are 29 special grade Panchayats, 129 first grade, 554 second grade and 254 third grade, making a total of 966 Panchayats.

When elections were held in 1953 to the Panchayats in the Travancore-Cochin area there were only two or three women Panchayat-members in the entire State. The next elections were held in 1964 after a period of 11 years, under the Kerala Panchayat Act of 1961. In order to ensure adequate representation for women, a woman member was nominated to all the Panchayats. But this provision was subsequently amended and women members were elected by creating double member wards in all Panchayats.

Provision was also made for the representation of scheduled castes by election, again by creating double member wards in Panchayats. For elections to Panchayats the Assembly electoral rolls were used and the delimitation of the wards on the basis of 1,000 to 1,200 voters. As a general principle there should be a minimum of eight members in a Panchayat including one woman and one Harijan and a maximum of 15 members on the basis of one additional member for every 4,500 voters. The term of membership was raised from three years to five years and an elected Panchayat will have a President and a Vice-President elected by the members from among themselves.

The executive functions of the Panchayats are carried out by an Executive Officer appointed by the Government. There are administrative provisions enabling the President to have some supervisory control over the Executive Officer. The President and the Vice-President should not accept any remuneration for the services rendered except the sitting fees approved by the Government.

The Panchayat Act of 1961 bestows on the Panchayat great responsibilities and powers. When Panchayati Raj was introduced it became necessary that these Panchayats should be effective units for the development of rural areas. Along with the powers relating to local administration, several other duties and responsibilities under the various State Acts were assigned to the Panchayats for execution. The duties of the Panchayats were divided into three categories, viz. obligatory, discretionary and as agency. Under the Panchayat Act the Government can transfer any administrative function to the Panchayat. The existing Act and the amendments are very progressive in nature.

### Financial Resources

The powers regarding local administration so far vested in the Government were divested and given to the Panchayats. There are also provisions in the Panchayat Act to collect funds for the increased responsibilities vested in them. Powers to collect taxes are given to the Panchayat. They include property tax of various kinds, profession tax, market fees, building tax, vehicle tax (other than motor vehicles), entertainment tax, show tax, etc. The total income to the Panchayats in Kerala under various heads will come to Rs. 4.5 crores. The Government also gives a grant of Rs. 1.4 crores.

Under increased responsibilities the provisions of the various State Acts were implemented in the Panchayat for which separate rules and regulations were framed. Among the Acts administered by the Panchayats are the Public Health Act, the Cinematography Act, the Entertainment Act, the Cattle

Tresspass Act, the Kerala Loans Act and the Food Adulteration Act.

### Panchayati Raj

The Panchayati Raj which is yet to be implemented in Kerala has visualised decentralisation of powers through a three tier system of local bodies. The Panchayats at the village level, the Panchayat Samithies or union of Panchayats at the Block Level and the Zila Parishad at the district level. Under the Kerala scheme, the decentralisation is with a view to making Panchayats the most viable units of administration. But the passing of the law relating to the formation of Panchayati Raj was delayed due to various reasons, both administrative and political.

But as an interim measure, during the second Five Year Plan, District Development Councils were constituted with members of Parliament and State Legislature and other representatives of Local Bodies and institutions connected with rural development. The District Collector presides over the Council meeting. The setting up of District Development Councils was a big step forward in the participation of the people in the development programmes. The officials who were carrying on Governmental administration, independent of the people, got an opportunity to explain to the people as well as inform them about the development work going on in their respective districts. While these Councils helped to fill a gap between the Government and the people, they did not go very much in the decentralisation of powers. The working of these Councils encouraged the Government to think in terms of delegating more powers to local bodies and decentralising the administration.

Various theories were advanced as to how the transfer of power from the officials to the people's representatives should be effected. After detailed consideration steps were taken for the introduction of a Bill in the State Assembly in 1964 for the formation of Panchayat Union Councils and the Zila Parishad. It was a three tier Bill. The Panchayats which were the basic units in rural administration were already there. What was needed was the constitution of Panchayat Union Councils at Block levels and Zila Parishad at the District level. The Bill could not be pursued further as the Ministry went out of office. Again steps were taken in 1967 for the introduction of a Panchayati Raj Bill. The Bill contained several revolutionary provisions to improve the financial resources of the Panchayats and to vest them with greater executive powers. But one of the important aspects of the three tier system envisaged in Kerala was that the Panchayat Union Councils should be only advisory in character and the Panchayat and Zila Parishad should share the decentralised powers. The Bill is yet to be presented before the Assembly in a final shape.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### PANCHAYATI RAJ IN TAMIL NADU

Sir,

Under the caption 'Panchayati Raj in Tamil Nadu' in the April 16th issue of *Kurukshetra*, Shri A.S. Ramasamy has taken pains to explain the activities and achievements of Panchayati Raj institutions in Tamil Nadu. To a certain extent what he says is correct, but he is not correct when he says that not all Panchayats have levied compulsory taxes. In Tamil Nadu all the panchayats including village panchayats have levied the compulsory or mandatory taxes and they are being collected in a regular way. There are arrears of recent years but not heavy arrears.

High-yielding variety programme, applying of modern techniques in agriculture, communications, transport, changing the outlook of villagers, women welfare, small savings, family planning and many other common programmes are implemented by Panchayati Raj institutions which have succeeded in one and all the programmes, and so there is no justification in the author's observation that people or officials do not recognise any relationship between the Panchayati Raj and the Community Development programme.

It is also not correct in majority of the cases that political leaders are trying to act as administrators and administrators are trying to act as political leaders. Such cases will be negligible in number. The Community Development activities in Tamil Nadu are very strong both in spirit and in letter.

In Tamil Nadu the family planning programme is conducted in an effective and realistic manner in recent years because of the awareness on family planning created by the past fifteen to twenty years of slow but steady propaganda done by the Panchayati Raj and other institutions of Tamil Nadu Government. There is no snag in this programme.

His suggestion that the Panchayat should cover 20,000 to 25,000 population is fantastic and also could not be imagined in Tamil Nadu as there are hundreds and hundreds of village units from the ancient period of the Cholas. Further, the units suggested by him will be rural municipalities which the village folk cannot contemplate.

*Yours etc.*

S. MUNIYANDI

Commissioner, Panchayat Union  
Tiruvannamalai

# SIMPLE REMEDIES

*Ayurveda*

## PEPTIC ULCER

STOMACH ache is a common term to indicate pain in the abdomen. Young and old suffer from abdominal pain due to various causes, sometimes due to growth and inflammation and sometimes due to indigestion and bad food. The abdominal pain is due to a variety of physical and emotional causes and unless treated early, it may lead to surgical operation. In middle age or even after 30 years a mild burning sensation will be felt in the chest when the stomach is empty. The person may feel that he is hungry and will take some drink or snacks. The burning sensation abates temporarily. This condition is called hyper-chlor hydria, meaning excessive secretion of acid in the stomach fluids. If this condition continues for some time untreated, pain starts two to three hours after taking food and continues till the food is digested or vomitted. In this condition an ulcer is formed in between the stomach and duodenum. Some of the causes for this condition are alcoholic drinks, smoking, irregular habits and emotional stress and anxiety.

When the cause is known, the treatment becomes easy. Avoid the cause. Smoking and alcoholic drinks should be avoided. The person should regulate his food habits and relax physically and mentally.

He should have balanced diet, take more milk and butter-milk and avoid condiments particularly tamarind and chillies. Excessive drinking of coffee and tea should be avoided. There are a number of medicines to neutralise and prevent excessive secretion of acid. A preparation called *Sankha Vati* is good, so also is *Narikela Lavana*. *Sukumara Ghrita* or *Indu-kantha Ghrita* on empty stomach will result in permanent cure.

DR. V. NARAYANASWAMI

*Homoeopathy*

## DENTITION TROUBLES

DIARRHOEA is one of the frequently occurring troubles during the period of dentition. The infection starting from the gums due to eruption of teeth, spreads to the gastrointestinal tract when the child drinks milk and swallows saliva. Then the symptoms of pain in the abdomen, distension, and diarrhoea develop with severe irritability. These

troubles are common between 6th and 10th month of the first year of the child.

The feeding of the child should be at regular intervals and equal quantity of water should be added to the milk. The following drugs are frequently useful for controlling diarrhoea and other complications.

CHAMOMILLA is given when the child feels irritated and desires to be carried about and has frequent loose motion with greenish watery stools giving offensive smell.

CALC. CARB is useful when diarrhoea starts in children with large size head and the head sweats profusely. The stools are white and sour smelling.

IPECAC is indicated when there is great nausea and vomiting, with greenish stools.

MERC. SOL. is given when there is itching and redness of the gums with excessive salivation. Stools are green in colour. Diarrhoea is more severe during nights associated with restlessness and weeping of the child due to pain in the abdomen and rectum.

NUXVOMICA is indicated when there is frequent loose motion with small quantity of stools with great urging and straining.

DULCAMARA is indicated when stools are greenish during dentition period. The complaints start generally during damp cold weather.

The above drugs can be used in 30th or 200th potencies.

DR. M. KUTUMBA RAO

## DAIRY CATTLE IN HOLLAND

THE CENTRAL milk recording service has processed statistical data about the cows which have been dried off the period July 1971 to June 1972 and which have a milk record showing 200 or more milk days.

The data reveal that the average daily yield is higher than ever before, at 15.54 kilos of milk, 618 grams of fat, 520 grams of protein, and that an average yield of 5,000 kilos of milk with four per cent of fat is gradually coming within reach, and has already been well exceeded for the province of Noord-Holland.

From Holland

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# Attention

## COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

### ESSAY COMPETITION

Essays in English or Hindi are invited from bonafide students of any college/university in India for the **Second All-India Essay Competition** under the **Basic Literature Scheme**.

**SUBJECT :** The essays should deal with **Panchayati Raj Bodies as Democratic Institutions in the Eyes of the Younger Generation.**

**LENGTH :** The essay written on one side of the paper, preferably typed, should not exceed 2,000 words.

**HOW TO ENTER :** Entries, bearing full postal address of the competitor in capital letters, should be submitted in duplicate along with a 'bonafide student' certificate from the head of the institution where the competitor is studying or, alternatively, an affidavit to that effect.

Those interested are advised to procure a copy of the rules of the competition from and submit entries to :

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Director (Basic Literature),  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Government of India,  
(Departments of Community  
Development & Cooperation),  
Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi-110001.

**LAST DATE FOR  
RECEIPT OF  
ENTRIES : 30.7.1973**



# Book Review

popular instruction and education.—More than that, the objective was to arouse the common man to a new sense of urgency and a new pattern of personal, individual duty to the community.'

**MASS COMMUNICATION** by R.K. Chatterjee, published by National Book Trust, India, pp 222, Price Rs. 6.75

THERE WAS A time when criticisms were heard that our cricketers, unlike British or Australian, had not started writing their own experiences in the game of cricket. Similar is the feeling against our information experts who have not even bothered, unlike their counterparts in U.K. or U.S.A., to jot down their approaches to information and public relations and thus help, among others, the budding journalists. The book under review tries to fill in this communication gap.

The author is a former member of the Central Information Service and had wide and varied experience in the field of mass communication. His tenure as an Information Officer of the Colombo Plan brought him in touch with communication experts in both developed and developing countries, and he has utilised that experience fruitfully in preparing the book. To quote him: 'The activities of the mass media follow closely the developments in various fields informing people, reacting to policies and creating the social climate in which development and nation building programmes can take place. They cannot operate in a social and political vacuum nor do they deal with abstract philosophies.' In that perspective, he has discussed the importance of various communication media like press, radio, television, films, advertising and general public relations. He has not only focussed the importance of the role of mass communication in a developing country like India but has highlighted its role in sensitive areas like the border, particularly after the Sino-Indian conflict, and national problems like national integration, etc.

Defining the objective of the information media available with the Government, the author states: 'It must never be forgotten that the target of the news is the average person.' He continues: 'With the formulation of the First Plan, the need for making the Plan known to the people and to generate people's responsive cooperation in Plan projects and programmes became imperative. Since the acceptance of the First Five Year Plan by the Government of India it was essential that the people, to make them partners in exciting nation building programmes, as Nehru visualised, had to be taken into consideration. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry also felt that the accelerated tempo of various development activities in the country called for greater attention to publicity as an instrument of

That was in 1953. What is the picture now? How far have we been able to reach our target? Or in other words, have we the means to reach the common people? Is anybody listening? In a neat little recent compilation pointed out that on an average a film unit of the Government of India visits an Indian village once in four years. The Song and Drama Division takes longer time to reach. Materials of the Directorate of Advertising and Visual publicity take even longer time to reach the destination. In spite of Government's best efforts a majority of rural and urban homes in our country do not still have radio. But that is not the author's fault. He has done a good job in telling the public about the availability of not only the Government means of communication system with all its paraphernalia but also of the Press as it is functioning in the country. He has raised important issues involved in the all powerful mass communication system in the context of our talks on social objectives. It is necessary to know all tools of communication that we have in the country and how best to utilise our slender resources for the benefit of the people.

The question of social objective leads us to certain important issues which would require a much bigger publication for detailed study. And that is worth doing. For example, what should be the role of say, advertising? If a product is good for the farmer, be it fertiliser of a particular type or of an agricultural implement, should Government through the media of advertisement bring that to the notice of the cultivators? Or should vested interests manufacturing certain types will enjoy the monopoly through the lure of advertisement? Gandhiji did not take advertisements in his journals and seldom failed to bring to the notice of the dumb millions useful products. Professor Arnold Toynbee agrees with the view of Gandhiji and calls the whole game of modern advertising as 'unchristian'. 'Christ would have rejected, he said, this skillfully engineered publicity temptation.'

The book is neatly produced. The price is low in spite of the mine of information it provides, together with numerous illustrations. Anyone would like to possess the publication for, among other things, a ready reference of mass communication machinery operating in our country. A short bibliography could have helped public relations and publicity men.

S.N.B.

# SPECIAL NUTRITION PROGRAMME

NUTRITION PLAYS an important part in the proper physical, mental and emotional development of a person. Malnutrition and under-nutrition constitute a serious hazard to the growth and development of people, particularly children. The most critical malnutrition damage is suffered by the very young children in the period from the late pregnancy (last trimester) to the age of six. This is more conspicuous among the poor families residing in urban slum areas and tribal areas. Various surveys have revealed that out of about 80 million children in the age group of 1-6 years about 38 per cent to 40 per cent suffer from protein and caloric deficiency. At least 60 per cent of all young children in the country have nutritional anaemia. 50 per cent of the children have less than normal Haemoglobin levels. Children of the upper classes have an average birth weight close to 3,100 grams whereas children of the poorer classes have weights below 2,800 grams which is attributed to malnutrition. The foundations of health for the adult age are laid during this period and any serious damage sustained at this stage of a child's life would produce irrecoverable effects. Recognising the urgent need for special measures to tackle the problem of malnutrition and under-nutrition among children belonging to the lower socio-economic strata, the Prime Minister while presenting the budget for 1970-71 in Parliament announced the Special Nutrition Programme for children as one of the important measures to be undertaken by providing supplementary nutritious food initially to children in the age-group 0-3 years on a provision of Rs. four crores to begin with. In 1971-72 the benefits of the programme were extended to include children upto 6 years of age and expectant and nursing mothers in urban slums and tribal areas. Last year the programme was extended on an ad-hoc basis to cover the beneficiaries in scarcity, drought and flood affected areas. The provision during 1971-72 and 1972-73 was Rs. 10 crores and Rs. 20 crores respectively.

The object of the Special Nutrition Programme is to remove the nutritional deficiencies among children, expectant and nursing mothers. The scheme provides one supplementary meal to the children and expectant and nursing mothers covered by the programme. This meal is rich in proteins, vitamins and other essential elements and together with the normal food available to the beneficiaries at home it will meet all the requirements for full physical and mental growth. For small children below the age of

one, the supplementary food is mainly milk, and for older children it is partly milk and partly in some other form like C.S.M. (made of Corn-Soya and Milk etc. by CARE), fortified bread, *balahar* which is prepared from admixture of wheat, groundnut flour, Bengal gram fortified with vitamins and minerals, and other special foods.

The programme is implemented through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations and the entire expenditure is reimbursed to them by the Central Government, as grants-in-aid. At present, there are about 25,000 centres where children get their supplementary food every day. These centres are run by Corporations, Municipalities, voluntary bodies and schools etc.

The programme is run for 300 days in a year. The children are weighed to watch the improvement. The State Governments and Union Territories have also been requested to initiate measures to immunize and deworm the children. The studies so far completed indicate that children covered under the programme maintain better standard of health; the incidence of protein-calorie malnutrition is also considerably low; and they have improved in height and weight.

The number of beneficiaries covered from the beginning of the programme are given below:

	Figures in lakhs		
	Urban Slums	Tribal Areas	Total
1970-71	3.31	3.24	6.55
1971-72	10.56	10.82	21.38
1972-73	16.01	17.01	33.02

## Programme in Balwadis

Supplementary nutrition is also provided to pre-school children in the age group of 3-6 years through Balwadis. This programme through Balwadis forms the basis for the development of other services such as minor health care, pre-school education and welfare. Satisfactory conditions of health and hygiene, environmental sanitation and immunization are ensured in addition to facilities for socialisation of habits of children through recreational and other informal educational activities.

The programme is being expanded progressively from year to year. Under the fifth Five Year Plan, Rs. 200 crores is tentatively proposed to be provided for the Special Nutrition Programme so as to cover about ten million beneficiaries by the end of the Plan.

## Step by Step

### Jobs for Policemen's Wives

AN IDEA DRAWN from Ludhiana, Punjab, is now a paying venture at Avadi, Tamil Nadu, in the form of a cooperative cottage industrial society. Police Constables' wives are the members of this socks and hose-tops knitting society which started production in 1970. The members received training in making socks and hosetops from an instructor brought from Ludhiana. The society has now 55 members, who handle the entire process—spindling, knitting, bleaching and marking.

Besides a minimum monthly wage of Rs 125, the worker-members of the society are entitled to bonus commensurate with their performance. In the first two years of operation, a sum of Rs 35,000 was distributed as bonus to the worker-members.

The society has become a full-fledged commercial venture with a share capital of Rs 10,000. It meets the bulk of the requirements of socks and hosetops for the State Police and the Home Guards. In 1970-71 it sold goods worth about Rs 4.4 lakhs and the following year improved the sales to over Rs 5.5 lakhs.

### Women and Jobs

AN EMPLOYMENT MARKET STUDY conducted by the Kozhikode Divisional Employment office of Kerala reveals that about 24 per cent of the jobs are being held by women. The study was for 1971-72 and covered a total of 1,117 establishments, including 442 public sector institutions. Smaller establishments situated in the area with less than ten employees were not taken into account.

Most of the women employed in the public sector were educated persons, employed as teachers, medical personnel and office staff, while 49 per cent of the women holding jobs in the private sector were unskilled plantation labourers,

mainly in tea, coffee plantations and their processing units.

### A Novel Experiment

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT of Kerala has tried to involve the students in some constructive work. Instead of giving the work of annual repairs of schools, which included petty construction, white-washing, etc., to the contractors, the Department supplied materials to a group of students who will execute the work with the help of 2 or 3 skilled labourers. Thus about 60 per cent of the total cost of the work goes to the students of the same school.

A student engaged in a constructive work like this can never think of destroying public property which usually is exposed to their anger and dissatisfaction.

This scheme has provided each student an opportunity to earn upto Rs 45, that too in summer vacation. To some it is a boon because this time they can buy their books during the first week of the new academic year.

In Kerala 30 educational sub-districts were selected for this experiment and it was successful. Next year the Department is going to augment this experiment to more areas.

*F.P.O. Kozhikode*

### Self-employment for Technical men

A SCHEME TO HELP technically qualified men seeking employment will soon be implemented in Kerala. The proposal is to start four cooperative societies, two for carpentry and two for fabricated steel products. Each society will have fifty members. Certificate holders in carpentry, welding, fitting, blacksmithy, etc., will be admitted as members. Help from banks will be available to the societies.

*V.K. Moideen Koya*

### No Waiting for Job-call

SHRI PRAVINKUMAR RAMANIKLAL Ajavalia, aged 22, began work soon

after appearing for examinations from Shamaldas College, Bhavnagar. He moves from one street to another, pushing his lorry, loaded with vegetables and seasonal fruits.

He is proud of his business. He gets up early in the morning, goes to the wholesale market, purchases vegetables and fruits and starts roving. "Instead of applying for a job and then to wait for a long period for a call, I started this business", he said. Today he is earning, perhaps, more than a government-employed clerk.

*F.P.O. Bhavnagar*

### A Great Lesson

IN GUJARAT, 47 camps are being run, as part of the "Youth Against Famine" project sponsored by the Union Government in collaboration with universities and social welfare organisations. Of these, three camps are exclusively for girl students. In one of these camps at Gundi in Tehsil Dholka, the girl students said they were overwhelmed by the affection of village people. Joining the camp was to them a great lesson in life.

### Cent per cent Tax Collection

SHRI V.K. SRINIVASAN, District Collector, disclosed at the District Coordination Committee meeting recently that 83 Gram Panchayats of Karimnagar district had collected cent per cent taxes during the current year.

Jagtiel Block topped among the 14 Blocks in the district with 19 Gram Panchayats of the Block collecting 100 per cent taxes, he added.

### Dam in a Week

ACUTE FOOD CRISIS in the district worried young people in Isabpur village of North Tripura. They wanted it to be certain that the 'boro' paddy would not suffer from lack of water. It was decided that a dam across the local stream at Lakhi-charra would store adequate water for the 'boro'. They worked in shifts twenty-four hours a day. It took the determined youngster a week to construct the dam.

## Trends

### Job Opportunities in Ludhiana

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES for self-employment to about 13.4 thousand persons could be created in the rural areas of Ludhiana district, Punjab, according to the area skill survey conducted by the Directorate General of Employment and Training in 1972. This is possible through modernization of agriculture, local produce, other resources and expanding need for maintenance and other services.

Industrially, Ludhiana, with its large industrial complex, occupies a place of distinction in Punjab. The report says that because of rapid industrialisation of the area, the incidence of unemployment is not marked among craftsmen and technical categories. On the other hand, a keen shortage of unskilled labour is being felt in the area.

### Special Employment Scheme

SRI NARENDRA LUTHER, Director of Industries, Orissa, said recently at Etcherla (Srikakulam district) that there were 6,500 educated unemployed in the district and the Industries Department would help at least one-fifth of them by providing suitable jobs through industries this year with the cooperation of Andhra Bank and State Bank of India and a capital of Rs. 6 lakhs. This programme would be extended to the educated unemployed in taluks also, he added.

### Job Chances in Gorakhpur

THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES of fresh self-employment opportunities for 69,700 persons in the rural areas of Gorakhpur district in Uttar Pradesh, according to an area skill survey. The survey, conducted by the Director-General of Employment and Training, points out this would be possible in view of the modernisation of agriculture, local produce, other resources and expanding need for maintenance and other services.

The survey finds considerable scope for self-employment in such allied agricultural fields as dairy, poultry farming, fishery, rearing of pig and sheep, oil expelling and khandsari and gur making. Self-employment opportunities can be developed in pottery work, leather tanning and shoe-making and in jobs as electricians, blacksmiths, carpenters, mechanics, etc. It is also possible to create jobs for the disabled.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT G. S. PATHAK, said on May 28 that the Union Government was considering the possibility of enacting legislation which would make it obligatory upon employers in all sectors of the economy to reserve a percentage of vacancies for the disabled, including the deaf.

He stated this while opening the fourth congress of the All-India Federation of Deaf in Gauhati.

### Haryana Plan for Rural Growth

THE HARYANA GOVERNMENT proposes to form a Rural Development Corporation to create an infrastructure in the rural sector for agro-based industries.

This was announced by Shri Shyam Chand, Haryana Minister for Development and Panchayats.

### Best Gram Panchayat in A.P.

RAJAMPET GRAM PANCHAYAT in Cuddapah district was adjudged as the second best gram panchayat in Andhra Pradesh, according to Sri V. Chandramouli, District Collector. The Prize amount of Rs. 500 would be distributed at Machilipatnam at a special function.

### Loans to Weavers

THE SCHEME of providing loans to individual weavers by nationalised banks will be implemented in all the districts of Andhra Pradesh. Sydi-

cate Bank, Indian Bank, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of Hyderabad, Canara Bank and Bank of India have agreed to finance weavers to enable them to purchase yarn. Some of the banks have already extended financial assistance.

### Artisan Training in Tirunelveli

THE RURAL ARTISAN training programme as part of the Small Farmers' Agency will be implemented in 29 centres in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu. In these centres located in different parts of the district, young men will be trained in rewinding and recoiling electric motors, repairing diesel engines and tractors, toy making, etc. A sum of Rs. 14 lakhs has been set apart for this programme.

### Committee on Nutrition

A 22-MEMBER COMMITTEE has been appointed by the Union Government to advise on the implementation of the special nutrition programme for children and expectant and nursing mothers. Shri P.N. Luthra, Additional Secretary in charge of Social Welfare is the Chairman of the committee. It will advise on policies and plans for the nutrition programme and review its working in the tribal and urban slum areas.

### Harijan Colony

THE COOPERATIVE HARIJAN COLONY at Payakaraopet, the biggest Harijan Housing Colony in the Visakhapatnam district comprising of 128 houses, put up at a cost of Rs. 2.30 lakhs was declared open on May 29 by Shri H.C. Sarin, Adviser to the Governor of Orissa.

The Adviser also inaugurated a cycle rickshaw pullers cooperative society organised for the colony as an economic project.

### Cow-dung Gas Plants

IN MACHILIPATNAM of Andhra Pradesh, three cow-dung gas plants have been established. Each plant costs about Rs. 4,000 and the gas produced is being utilised for cooking and lighting purposes.

## Press Comments

### Prices

NET BANK credit to the government—always a good index of deficit financing—has expanded in five weeks since the end of March by as much as Rs 477 crores; compared to only Rs 94 crores in the corresponding period last year. Clearly it will be impossible to hold the price line unless selective controls on bank lending are combined with an all-out drive to check wasteful governmental expenditure.

*The Times of India*

IT IS THE vast hoards of black money that need to be unearthed and neutralised to hold the price line and in this the Reserve Bank's credit squeeze can obviously be of little help. Nor does it obviate the need for physical controls and distribution of at least essential commodities through a network of fair price shops.

*The Patriot*

THE KEY to prices in India is not the interest rates which an inflationary economy can take in its stride but the printing of paper money in the vain hope of expanding the economy.

*The Motherland*

WHETHER ALL these measures do contain credit expansion remains to be seen. As stated by the Reserve Bank Governor, as a solution to the problem of rising prices, these measures are of limited relevance in a context in which budgetary deficits and unrequited public spending are proceeding apace.

*The Hindustan Times*

APART FROM monetary measures, steps are necessary to relieve the inflationary measures on the economy. The huge amount of black money in circulation, for instance, feeds inflation, and the efforts of the Government to unearth this type of illgotten wealth have hardly succeeded. Again, speculative exercises

like those going on in futures trading strengthen inflation.

*The National Herald*

### Legal Aid to the Poor

DOUBTS MUST necessarily persist whether the elaborate and comprehensive scheme now proposed by the Committee will yield any better results. It is very easy to preach to the lawyers and doctors that they must develop a commitment to the poor, but difficult to make them practise it.

*The Tribune*

IT IS ABSURD to point out and bemoan the high cost of litigation and yet do nothing, about the continual increase in court fees, stamp duties and related expenses. Even if these costs cannot be drastically cut down, there should be no hesitation in setting aside part of the earnings for providing legal assistance to the poor.

*The Indian Express*

### Job Schemes

AS THE PRESENT job opportunities are linked with certain specific projects, they can be temporary only. A more enduring programme is possible only through proper planning in the agricultural sector and in a number of subsidiary industries.

*The Tribune*

A MORE ENDURING solution can be found only in the plan for agricultural self-sufficiency, on the basis of multiple cropping, as also a network of subsidiary industries. Seen in this light the West Bengal State Government's comprehensive area development programmes as also the Centre's integrated agricultural programmes have a special importance.

*The Amrita Bazar Patrika*

### Food Front

IT WILL be hoped that rather than stand on false prestige, the Government would arrange to rope in all the wheat supplies it can from abroad

as speedily as possible and also stay any plans it may still be harbouring for a take-over of the wholesale rice trade in the coming season. And priority in the deployment of available resources and energies should go to stepping up production and securing all the inputs, especially fertilizers (very much in short supply) and quality seeds in time.

*The Hindu*

A CLOSER LOOK at the detailed components of the strategy suggests that the Ministry's approach to this year's kharif programmes is rather similar to the unrealism associated with its proposed 15 million tonnes 1972-73 rabi programme.

...When Central teams visit State capitals in the next few days to work out the programmes they must first evaluate the results of the 1972 crash programmes and allocate funds and resources only to those areas which have shown some results from the large investments made last year.

*The Statesman*

APART FROM bungling on the food front, the Union Agriculture ministry has driven the vanaspati industry—and the consumer—to the wall... The government cannot claim, that the gap between supply and the normal demand developed suddenly and that it had no time to take remedial action.

....The only way out now for the government is to import at least 200,000 tonnes of cheaper soyabean, rapeseed and palm oils during the next six months. ...As for the future, it must speedily evolve a viable long-term plan to raise the production of edible oils at home and implement it vigorously.

*The Times of India*

### Sunflower

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to encourage the cultivation of sunflower on a larger scale in the forthcoming kharif season is most welcome. It is the first important step towards placing the production of edible

oils in this country on a sound footing.

...But the question remains as to whether its potential will be properly exploited. ...In spite of their bumper yields the enterprising farmers who grew sunflower last year were disillusioned because they were unable to sell their output.

*The Times of India*

### Urban Waste

KRISHI BHAVAN has at long last prepared a comprehensive Rs 12-crore scheme to produce 350 million tonnes of organic manures and compost based on an assessment of farmyard and urban waste materials. By far the most noteworthy aspect of the scheme is that for the first time it envisages the planned collection, transportation, conversion and distribution of urban sewage on a national scale.

...It must be hoped that the Planning Commission will not take a short-sighted view of the problem and restrict the funds allotted to the scheme only to the amount needed to tide over the immediate crisis. The scheme should be placed on a sound commercial basis, which in the long run may well turn out to be an ideal answer not just to the problem of soil fertility conservation but to that of urban waste disposal as well.

*The Times of India*

### No-Birth Bonus

IT IS ALL the more welcome to come across the kind of imaginative effort being made by the United Planters Association of South India through a no-birth bonus scheme introduced as a pilot project in three tea estates in the Nilgiris.

The principle of a no-birth bonus with suitable variations, could be applied to certain categories of factory workers and office and government employees, the funding being done through a special insurance-cum-contributory scheme. ...The combination of the direct incentive of the bonus plus the benefits of the

comprehensive welfare package is attractive.

*The Hindustan Times*

### Small Industries

IT CAN HARDLY be gainsaid that the main purpose of the small industry movement is still proving difficult of realisation. The idea behind the movement is that the small factories should be used as the instrument of rural industrialisation. Thus, their coverage of the countryside is what matters most. But the twin programmes for setting up rural industrial estates and for organising new types of village industries have not made the expected headway.

...For one thing the rural area should offer sufficient custom for the goods produced there if the manufacturer is to be saved the hardships in getting his product moved to a distant town. The development of agro-based industries will help to meet this problem.

*The Hindu*

### Nutrition Aid

THE COMMITTEE on self-reliance is mistaken if it thinks that acceptance of foreign contributions to crucial nutrition programmes casts a slur on India's image abroad. The need for special nutrition schemes is keenly felt all over the world, even in countries which are net exporters of food. In any case, there is no hiding the fact that assistance is sorely needed here.

*The Times of India*

THERE IS NEED for positive action to allocate or create the funds and supplies to keep these nutrition programmes going and in fact to enlarge their scope and coverage. Merely to phase out CARE and other assistance by cutting down or altogether eliminating the feeding programmes would be a retrograde step.

...One way of doing this would be to get schools, especially in rural and suburban areas, to develop kitchen gardens, poultry units, fish ponds and the like.

...Each panchayat could also be encouraged to set aside some com-

mon land, the produce of which could either be used directly or sold and the proceeds given over to nutrition programmes covering school and pre-school children and nursing and pregnant mothers.

*The Hindustan Times*

### Sugar Industry

IN THE LONG run the consumer can look forward to a steady supply of more sugar at a lower cost per kilo than today only if a major part of the country's output is obtained from western and central India. This inevitably implies a gradual phasing out of the industry in the north, together with improved canal and groundwater facilities to enable northern cane-growers to switch to equally remunerative high-yielding cereal and pulse crops.

*The Times of India*

### Bank Loan to the Farmer

SHRI V.R. PALANISAMY Gounder of Coimbatore district in Tamil Nadu had been eking out a hard life in spite of being the owner of 8.5 acres of land. He had to depend on the vagaries of the monsoon for farming. In 1965, he secured from the Panchayat Samiti a loan of Rs 5,000 for sinking a well in his dry land. But the amount was not enough to meet the full expenditure.

The bank nationalisation came as a boon. He secured a loan of Rs 9,000 from the Indian Overseas Bank and completed the well. Because of the sinking of the well and other concerted efforts that he took, the dry land has been converted into a smiling garden. Without waiting for the rains, he now cultivates thrice a year, where he was unable to get a successful crop even once. He cultivates now hybrid paddy, sugarcane and hybrid cotton. He earns an income of Rs 7,000 to Rs 10,000 per year. He has repaid 75 per cent of bank loan without any difficulty.

*FPO, Coimbatore*

# Nutrition in Rural India

RAJAMMAL P. DEVADAS\*

INDIA, with one-seventh of the global population and one-fortieth of its area is the largest democracy on earth. Her ancient history and cultural heritage are unique. However she is constantly afflicted by hunger and famine.

Diet and nutrition surveys carried out in the different rural regions of the country show that the diet in general is composed mainly of cereals and is deficient in protective foods such as milk, eggs, meat, fish, vegetables and fruits. Therefore the diets of a large majority are ill-balanced, lacking in calories and essential nutrients. This has resulted in widespread prevalence of malnutrition, particularly among the poor socio-economic groups. The vulnerable groups comprising expectant and nursing mothers and children are severely affected by malnutrition. The ever-increasing population, the shrinking purchasing power which is already low, and the shortage of protective foods in the country continue to aggravate malnutrition.

Nutritional deficiency diseases such as anaemia, xerosis of conjunctiva, night blindness, angular stomatitis are common due to deficiency of iron, vitamin A and vitamin B group in certain parts of the sub-continent. Vitamin A deficiency contributes to a considerable amount of preventable blindness. It is believed that in India alone there may be over one million cases of blindness arising from vitamin A deficiency.

Children, one to five years old, constitute more than 13 per cent of our total population. This population segment is not only unproductive, but also nutritionally most vulnerable. Calorie protein malnutrition among the growing children is a major public health problem.

Incidence of severe forms of calorie protein malnutrition, such as kwashiorker and marasmus, has been estimated to be around one to two per cent of all children between the ages of one and five. The number of children with mild and moderate forms of malnutrition would be even greater. Long-term effects resulting from malnutrition, such as, reduced physical development, sub-optimal intellectual development and low productivity are national liabilities.

Of even greater magnitude is the number of child deaths occurring not directly as a result of severe

malnutrition, but due to other non-nutritional diseases, which but for the poor nutritional status would not have developed at all or would not have ended fatally. Some examples of such diseases are gastro enteritis, measles, whooping cough, smallpox, chicken pox and tuberculosis.

A large proportion of expectant mothers in poor communities live on diets which are grossly inadequate. As a result, the incidence of prematurity, low birth weight of the new born and the consequent high neonatal mortality is very high. These are mainly attributable to maternal malnutrition. That in spite of their poor nutritional status, mothers manage to breast-feed successfully their children is a miracle. However lactation imposes considerable nutritional demands on the mother, and if these demands are not met, the health of the mother and the quality of her milk suffer.

The condition of the other members in the family is equally sad. Although importance is given to the head of the family in feeding as he happens to be the bread winner, since the food available in the family is ill-balanced, the quantity he gets may be adequate, but not the quality.

Thus nutrition in rural India is inadequate with respect to both quality and quantity. Consequently much money is wasted on drugs, hospitalization and transportation. Due to these expenditures the income of the family is drained. Ultimately all the money spent on the sick child becomes a waste; when the child dies.

The nutritional status of the people influences not only their health, but also the economy of the country ultimately. Therefore expenditure on nutrition programmes aimed at building up the nutritional status of the vulnerable sections in the rural areas should be considered as necessary investments from both the human and economic points of view.

Many programmes have been planned and carried out and are in operation to improve the nutritional well-being of rural people. Well organised feeding programmes can alleviate malnutrition to a great extent. During the third and fourth Five Year Plan periods, several feeding programmes have been launched all over the country, under the auspices of many ministries and departments of the Central and State governments and voluntary agencies. The sup-

\*Director, Sri Avinashilingam Home Science College for Women, Coimbatore

plementary feeding programmes which are currently in operation are:

**Under the Department of Social Welfare:**

1. Balwadi programmes
2. Integrated child welfare demonstration projects
3. Family and child welfare projects
4. Special nutrition programmes
5. The feeding programme assisted by CARE

**Under The Department of Community Development**

6. Demonstration Feeding Programme
7. Applied Nutrition Programme
8. The composite Nutrition Programme

**Under the Ministry of Labour**

9. The Industrial Nutrition Programme

**Under the Ministry of Education**

10. The Mid-day Meals Scheme for Elementary School Children.

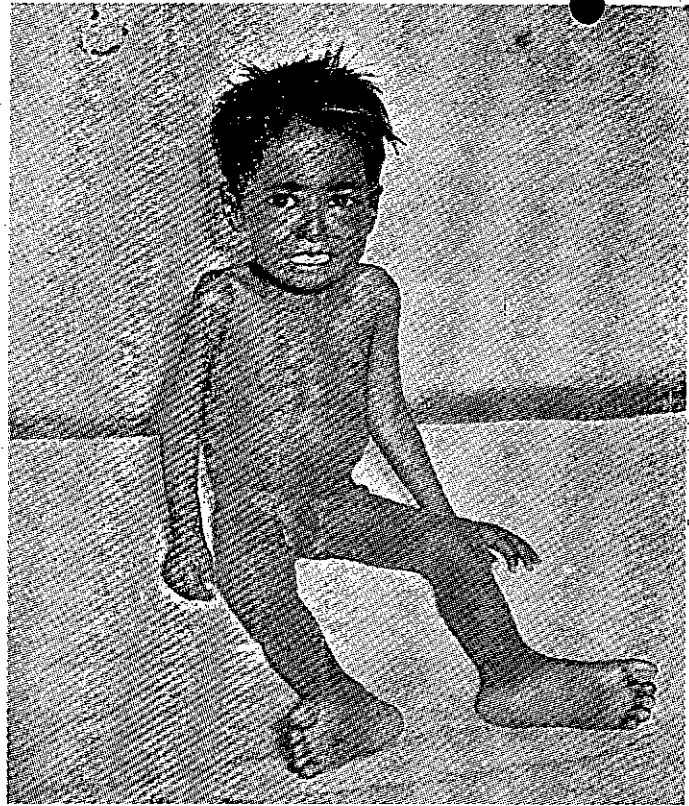
All the programmes for pre-schools aim at providing approximately 300 calories and 15 g. of protein per day during 250 days of the year. Except the Special Nutrition Programme, all the feeding programmes are 'On the spot feeding' efforts in the sense, children are physically required to be present to consume the food supplements at a centre.

The Mid-day Meals Scheme is for school-going children. The Applied Nutrition Programme, the CARE Demonstration and Composite Nutrition Programmes are for selected expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children in selected community development blocks. All the other programmes are for pre-schoolers.

The Balwadi Programme takes care of the children between 3-5 years in Balwadis and Day Care Centres. The Special Nutrition Programme for pre-school children caters to children between 0-3 years. During 1970-71 the Balwadi programme covered about 19,000 children and the Special Nutrition Programme over 6.5 lakh children.

**ANP**

The Applied Nutrition Programme taken up in collaboration with the U.N. International agencies UNICEF-FAO-WHO has been a major effort in the field of nutrition education since 1963. It represents the first systematic attempt on a significant scale to develop a coordinated and comprehensive programme of nutrition education and training in production, preservation and consumption of nutritionally valuable foods such as fruits, vegetables and fish. The primary purpose of ANP is educational, enabling people to realize the importance of balanced diets. The State Government provides the extension services, infrastructure and inputs which help in the production efforts at the rate of Rs. 51,000



*Child afflicted with a severe form of caloric protein mal-nutrition*

per block per annum over a period of five years. In addition they arrange for the training of beneficiaries and staff. The UNICEF assists in meeting the cost of stipends for trainees and supply of equipment. The Central Government gives Rs. 34,000 per block per annum. By the end of fourth Plan 1,189 blocks would be covered by this programme.

Two studies, one undertaken by the Government of Maharashtra and another by the Directorate General of Health Services indicate that as far as nutrition education is concerned, ANP has made a significant attempt in creating awareness of nutrition in the community.

To supplement and strengthen the efforts in nutrition education, the Composite Nutrition Programme for women and children was organised in the fourth Plan in 375 selected community development blocks where the ANP had not been introduced. The CNP is aimed at creating the necessary climate for the ANP and other nutrition programmes to be implemented in these areas in the future. It is envisaged that about 18,000 voluntary women workers would be trained to undertake these activities by providing incentive awards. Supplementary Demonstration Programmes would be organised in about 576 Balwadis benefiting 45,000 beneficiaries per day. There is no productive component to the CNP. There is no information on any evaluation done so far on CNP.

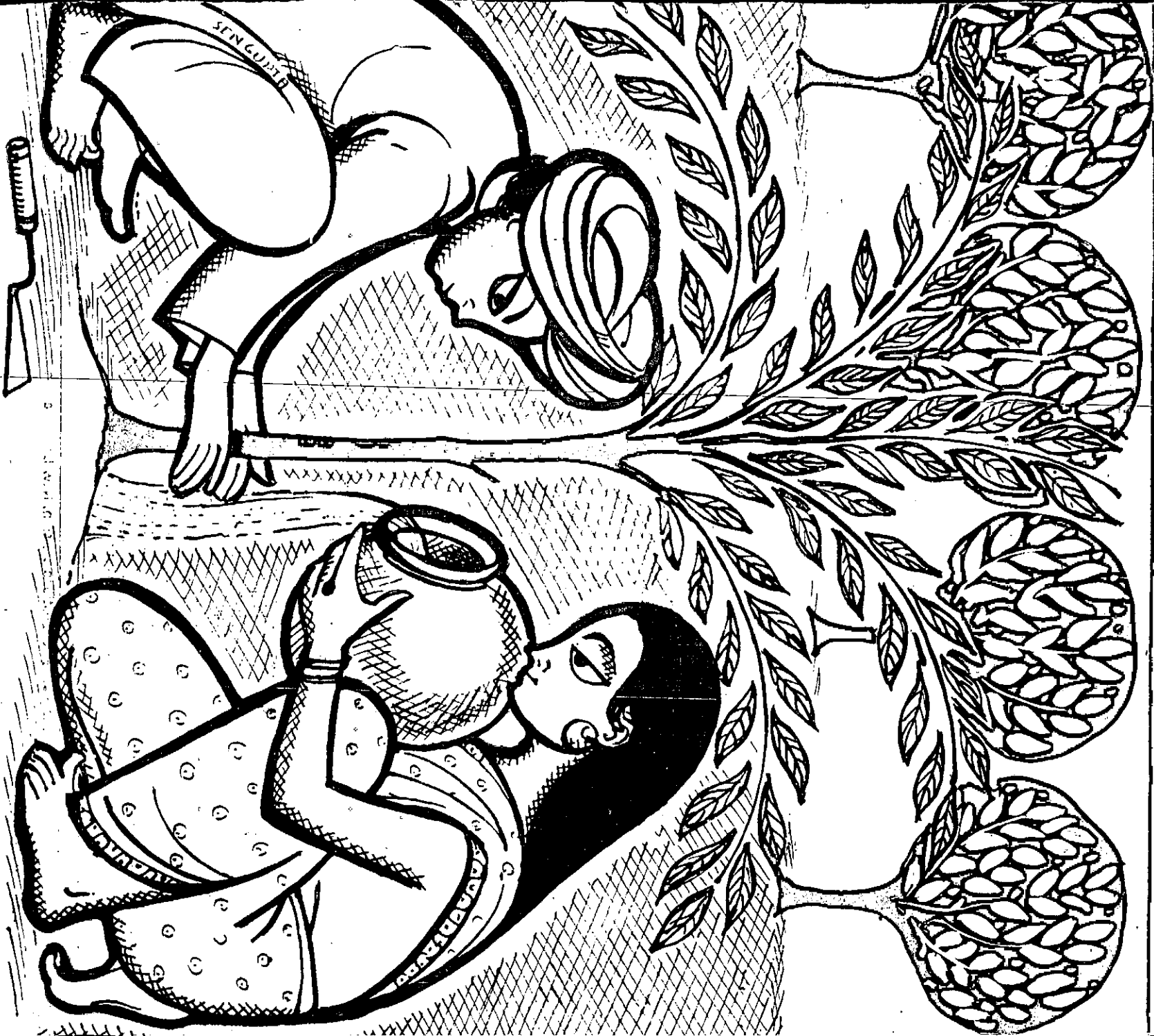
**(To be continued)**

JULY 16, 1973

25 Paise

# Kurukshetra

JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND VILLAGE DEMOCRACY • INCORPORATING PANCHAYATI RAJ

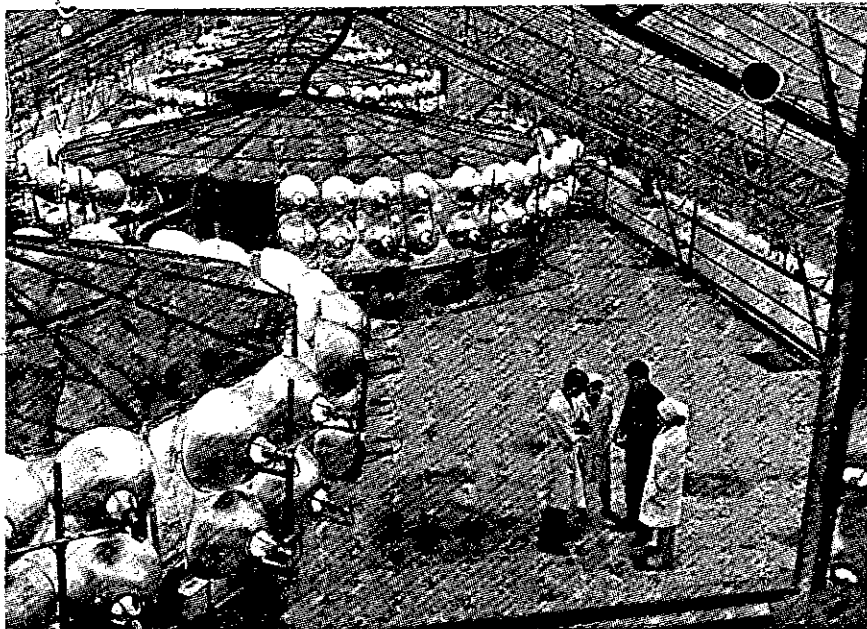


## CHLORELLA:

## EXCELLENT

## FODDER

## FOR CATTLE



A COLLECTIVE farm in the Tbilisskaya village on the river Kuban (the South-European part of the USSR) has completed the construction of a factory for growing chlorella, a monocelled alga species containing 17 out of the 18 amino acids known to man.

The chlorella is an excellent means of stimulating the productivity of cattle. It surpasses all agricultural

crops in yield, nutritional value and effectiveness as a fodder. Chlorella used as an additive to coarse fodders improves the assimilation of the latter and accelerates the fattening of animals.

The factory is located in a large hot-house on the out-skirts of the village. Looking through the glass walls one can clearly see five trans-

parent spherical vats where the chlorella is cultivated under bright electric light.

The hot-house is serviced by a staff including a microbiologist, electricians, laboratory assistants, production technicians and engineers.

According to experts, the expenditure on the factory construction will be returned after a year's operation.

## Youth Against Famine

### **At Vinobagram**

IN AN INTERIOR VILLAGE, Vinobagram of Coimbatore district a camp under Youth Against Famine campaign was organised, in which students from four colleges of Vellore participated.

About 150 students and 50 local youths constructed a check dam 90 metres long, 1.5 metres wide and 3 metres high.

The presence of engineering students was very helpful in dealing with the technical aspects of the construction. After the construction of the check dam, the stored water will percolate the surrounding 150 acres of fallow land and thereby bring it under cultivation. In due course, 622 acres of Bhoodan land, around the site of the dam will become fertile.

As non-project works, the campers conducted adult literacy drive for the 50 Vinobagram harijans. They

also propagated small savings, nutrition education, family planning and measures to be adopted in the drought prone areas in the nearby villages.

The camp has not only helped the Bhoodan Board to develop 622 acres of barren rocky land but has also helped students to understand the conditions prevailing in very remote villages and the attitude of the villagers.

*F.P.O., Coimbatore*

### **Land Reclaimed**

THE 'YOUTH AGAINST FAMINE' project in Broach district of Gujarat has helped in reclaiming a large part of land in Wagra Taluk, which had been made uncultivable and saline by sea water.

Hundreds of people and student volunteers from nearby universities helped in the construction of a 6.3 metres wide and 3 metres high earthen bund. Monsoon rains would drain

away salinity from the soil. As a result about 2,000 hectares would be made available for agricultural operations which would help produce an additional quantity of about 7,500 quintals of jowar or 3,600 quintals of cotton.

*R.O. (DFP), Ahmedabad*

### **Tank Widened**

ABOUT 1200 students and non-student youths from different colleges, schools and voluntary organisations participated in eight 'Youth Against Famine' camps organised in Tamil Nadu.

In a 30-day camp held at Ariyavoor near Tiruchirapalli about 120 students of a local college and 30 other volunteers participated. Students deepened and widened the tank at Ariyavoor. They also helped in making old and neglected tanks in the villages, useful for irrigational purpose.

*F.P.O., Tiruchirapalli*

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## MORE JOBS IN VILLAGES

THE REPORT recently submitted to the Government by the Expert Committee on Unemployment headed by Shri B. Bhagavati once again brings into sharp focus the prevailing unemployment and consequent poverty in the country, especially in the rural areas where the vast majority of our people live. During the last twenty five years the country has no doubt made rapid strides towards economic self-sufficiency but, as the report points out, the labour force is increasing at a faster rate than the growth of gainful employment opportunities. It is a matter of great concern that unemployment and underemployment are more acute, particularly in the backward areas and among the poorer sections of the community.

The factors inhibiting rejuvenation of the rural economy and the expansion of job opportunities are the prevailing tenurial system based largely on feudal relationship and the existence of outmoded production practices in the traditional arts and crafts. Added to this is the shrinkage in employment potential in the overcrowded metropolitan cities.

Various measures will have to be taken to create more jobs in the villages themselves. Of utmost importance is the effective implementation of land reforms. Security of tenure will inspire the small and marginal farmers and the share-croppers to undertake innovations in agricultural techniques. The institutions providing credit should be able to give them a package of services. It is heartening to note that the nationalised banks are undertaking such a programme on a massive scale by organising farmers' services cooperatives. The programme for rehabilitating the traditional, village and small industries is also of critical importance. Steps will have to be taken to make these industries economically viable in reasonable time.

Though the special job-schemes now being implemented have helped much, a lasting solution to the problem of unemployment can be found only in the balanced development of the rural infrastructure. Once we succeed in reactivating the productive tempo of rural life, the rural folk will not be required to depend solely on special job-schemes for their livelihood.

A complaint often heard is that the benefits of schemes to help the poor do not percolate to the lowest strata of the rural population. This is disquietening. With a view to remedying this situation the poorer sections can form their own organisations as suggested by the Committee. Also the watchful eyes of the Government should ever be vigilant to protect them from the grabbing techniques of the well-to-do.

# A New Approach to Farm Development

M.S. SWAMINATHAN

I BELIEVE that we have reached a stage in our agricultural evolution where further progress will depend upon a new approach and orientation to agricultural planning and implementation. Historically, a rise in standard of living has taken place only when agriculture has been developed in a manner that it will release manpower for more industrial pursuits. Such industries obviously need to have an agricultural base and thus the integrated development of agriculture and industries provides the basis of agrarian prosperity. We also know now that technological advance may not in many cases be an unmixed blessing and that the very tools of modernisation of agriculture such as irrigation, fertilizer and pesticides could also have harmful effects if they are used unscientifically and indiscriminately. Developing technologies which can help to continuously improve agricultural productivity without ecological harm and without damaging the long-term productivity of the soil is the most important problem requiring attention and solution by our Agricultural Universities.

I feel that in every State we should develop through discussion among agricultural scientists, extension workers, administrators, farmers and political leaders a blue print for agricultural growth and survival. The major aim of this blue print should be to develop detailed land and water use plans for each agro-ecological and socio-economic area. We should classify the cropping patterns in each Block into high-yield potential—low risk crops, high yield potential—high risk crops, low yield potential—high risk crops and low yield potential—low risk crops. If we make such an analysis, we will find that in many cases the existing cropping pattern developed as a product of a subsistence agriculture is not the most appropriate one. We will also be able to find in the case of high yield potential—high risk crops, whether the risk factor can be minimised or eliminated through appropriate action.

Let me outline to you in brief my concept of implementing the blue print of agricultural growth and survival. In every State, we will need a "Crop and Varietal Planning Committee" which, on the basis of the kind of analysis I mentioned, would be able to indicate to the farmers of each block the most appropriate crops that ought to be grown during the different seasons and also the varieties of

each crop that should be preferred. In this connection, I wish to emphasise that generalisations have no place in crop and varietal planning. We must tailor our recommendation to suit each agricultural situation.

Within the same village different farming situations may exist which require differential attention and recommendation. Therefore, the State Crop and Varietal Planning Committee will have to derive from the field extension staff and farmers detailed information on the ecological and growing conditions of every block. On the basis of such a feed-back mechanism, the Crop and Varietal Planning Committee could work out the precise requirement of seeds of different crops and varieties for the succeeding year. Once the seed requirements have been spelt out, the responsibility for producing the nucleus, foundation and certified seeds should be fixed precisely. The Agricultural University obviously has to take the responsibility for providing the nucleus seed. We do not yet see in our country a clear delineation of responsibilities in the production of high quality seeds and unless this is done, one of the basic requisites for agricultural progress will not exist.

At the village or block level, an integrated input supply unit on the lines recommended by the National Commission on Agriculture needs to be set up. In this unit, credit should be made available for the specified cropping patterns and in the same building, credit should be converted by the farmer into the needed inputs so that it is ensured that the credit is really used for the purpose for which it has been given. The other requirement at the village level is the availability of a custom-cum-extension service unit which could make costly inputs available on hire and which could undertake pest and water control on a whole village basis in a scientific manner. The custom-cum-extension service unit should have four principal wings—one dealing with agricultural machinery and implements, another with soil health and fertility, the third with pest management and control and the fourth with water management. The way in which these services are best organised may depend upon local conditions. Whether it should be done solely by Government or through a cooperative organization is a decision which should be taken on the basis of the feasibility of implementation. What is impor-

tant is that we should provide to our farmers without further loss of time:

- (a) Crop and varietal planning advice tailored to the conditions of his farm;
- (b) Advice on soil fertility and health care;
- (c) Assistance in pest management and water control; and
- (d) Appropriate post-harvest technology.

It would be clear that if we are to provide all this assistance to the farmer, we need a large army of technically competent and socially-motivated individuals. This is where the Agricultural University assumes such significance in our overall strategy for eradicating hunger and malnutrition and for using agricultural development not only for providing more food but also for creating more jobs and income.

(Excerpts from the convocation address of the Director-General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research at the Assam Agricultural University on April 24, 1973).

### **Sarva Seva Farm of Vinobagram**

The Vinobagram Sarva Seva Farm near Vadugapatty in Coimbatore district is one of the four farms to develop the Bhoodan lands. The farm covers 622 acres of rocky soil with a hillock at its centre. The whole uncultivable area is slowly being converted into cultivable land.

In 1954, the Mandradiyar families donated 622 acres of land to Bhoodan movement. About 82 farmers were allotted the land. Due to water scarcity in the area they abandoned and left the place.

Later the Bhoodan Board and an Italian Peace Movement (Movimento Sviluppo E Pace) which had done commendable work in the farms of Ramnad and Madurai districts were invited to reclaim the lands and all help was offered to them.

The Italian Peace Movement Sanctioned Rs. 50,000 for the reclamation. As there was shortage of labour, the Bhoodan Board brought 22 families, mostly harijans from other places and allowed them to settle in the farm.

Four wells have been sunk in the farm. There is a canal nearby. Pump sets have been installed. Enough water is available for irrigation. Paddy, Ragi, Bajra are being grown in reclaimed lands. Loans taken for land reclamation are being repaid simultaneously. One fourth of the total land was reclaimed slowly and steadily. With the construction of a check dam by 'Youth Against Famine' campaign of Madras University campers, another 150 acres will be made suitable for cultivation. The whole farm is expected to be made cultivable in five years.

## **Lucknow Project Goes into Action**

THE RURAL INDUSTRIES PROJECT, LUCKNOW, is one of the five new projects taken up in 1971-72 in Uttar Pradesh in areas where pilot rural electrical cooperatives have been set up. It covers the entire district excluding towns with a population of more than 15,000. Its main objective is to make people industry-conscious through intensive promotional efforts which include provision of training facilities, technical guidance, finance, raw materials and marketing facilities. Through these efforts it is proposed to stimulate the growth of clusters of modern type small-scale industrial units which while utilising local skills and raw materials will create non-farm employment.

The pattern of resources and existing industries in Lucknow indicate possibilities of starting a large number of small industries, like aluminium utensils, porcelain items, builders' hardware, water lifting handpumps and umbrella assembly.

A techno-economic survey in the district has been conducted to assess the resources and chalk out schemes.

The base of the existing small-scale units is being strengthened through technical assistance and through efforts to solve their difficulties. During the current financial year, it is proposed to upgrade the skills of the local artisans by setting up training centres. Apart from imparting training in the departmental centres, inplant training of skilled hands is also being arranged in and outside the district. Some of the prospective entrepreneurs are being taken on a study tour of various units in major industrial towns.

The Government of India has earmarked 10 per cent of the scarce and imported raw materials for the industrial units situated in rural industries projects. As such new entrepreneurs will find it profitable to start their industries in the Lucknow Project. Apart from loans from the project nucleus funds, institutional loans are granted by the State Bank of India, and Uttar Pradesh Finance Corporation. Machinery on hire-purchase is made available through National Small Industries Corporation and the U.P. Small Industries Corporation. The entrepreneur has to deposit only 10 per cent of the value of indigenous machinery, and the remaining 90 per cent is paid by the concerned corporation which is recovered from the entrepreneur in easy instalments spread over a number of years. A technician entrepreneur is required to deposit only five per cent of the value of machinery. The Project organisation assists and guides entrepreneurs in getting these facilities as also the special incentives announced by the Central and State Governments.

# Panchayati Raj in Mauritius

CHITTURMUN DUKHIRA

LOCAL GOVERNMENT in Mauritius in its various forms, dates back to the early days of the French occupation. In 1790, following the revolutionary changes in France, elected municipalities "comites de municipalites" were set up in all districts. These local councils functioned until 1802, when they were all dissolved by a consular decree.

When, in 1810, the British conquered the island, local democracy, at least for about half a century, was not given proper encouragement. Following petitions for elected municipalities, on 27th December, 1849, was passed Ordinance No. 16 creating a Municipal Corporation for Port Louis. In 1890, a Board of (nominated) Commissioners was created for Curepipe. Similar Boards were set up in 1896 in Beau Bassin/Rose Hill and Quatre Bornes. Branch Road Boards, presided over by the elected members for the (rural) districts concerned, were appointed in 1900 to supervise communications and public works. The District Boards were abolished in 1939. The two-tier structure for rural local government was introduced in 1951, when were established Village and District Councils. Following the general legislative elections of 1959, the Ministry of Local Government was established. Subsequently on 30th June, 1962, the famous local Government Ordinance No. 16 was enacted, consolidating the laws relating to Village, District and Urban Councils.

From 1962 to the present day, some quite important changes have taken place in both urban and rural administrations. On the urban scene, on the occasion of the Independence Day, 12th March, 1968, the four Town Councils of Plaines Wilhems were made Municipalities with Mayors at their head.

In September, 1971, the Local Government Financial Relations Commission was appointed. Its report is being awaited.

## Present Structure

About two-thirds of the territory of Mauritius are under the jurisdiction of rural councils, structured on a two-tier basis. Over the 98 Village Councils are superimposed three District Councils. District Councils are empowered "to acquire, hold and dispose of property, movable and immovable".

*Extracts from a paper prepared by the author, who is treasurer-cum-deputy secretary of the Pamplemousses/Riviere du Rempart District Council in Mauritius.*

Apart from the many functions it discharges, the District Council can "undertake works generally for the welfare of the inhabitants of the district". Village Councils too have the same powers as, if not even more than (though without adequate funds and without the proper administrative machinery), District Councils. Their additional powers are connected with public markets and places of auction, works of afforestation, terracing and tree-planting and removal. The concurrent powers are in respect of roads, water supply, cemeteries, schools, public health and sanitation.

The Village Councillors of a District Council area which comprises 5 divisions each grouping several village council areas choose from amongst themselves 15 representatives, or 3 for every division. This number of 15 District Councillors is increased to 18 after the appointment, by the Minister of Local Government, of 3 nominees. Each District Council, just as each Village Council, has a chairman and a vice-chairman. But as regards the Village Council, it consists of only 12 members—9 elected and three nominated. Each District Council has on its permanent establishment a Secretary and a Treasurer as well as other officers and workers. The Village Council, however, has no permanent staff of its own. The national advisory body grouping representatives of the three District Councils is called the Association of District Councils.

Indirect representation, whereby District Councillors, are elected, on a division basis by Village Councillors, precludes all sense of accountability to the district population. This device of indirect election, often resorted to by the opponents of popular rule, is most typical of the undemocratic character of representative government. To remedy this situation, the 98 existing Village Councils could be altogether scrapped. These authorities, although empowered to discharge certain functions, practically do nothing, or serve as mere agents of the District Councils, being greatly hampered because of the dire lack of funds. In the wake of the local elections, several factions spring up, and harmony becomes a far cry for at least some time. To avoid frustration amongst members as well as to curb dissensions and factionalism in the rural areas in the wake of local elections, Village Councils themselves could be abolished. The rural districts then could be divided into four units, each under the jurisdiction of a

District Authority. The area of each District Authority would be made up of five wards, on which elections would be based.

In a small country like ours covering only 720 square miles, of which almost all the habitable regions are already electrified and provided with piped water-supply as well as with motor-worthy roads, not to mention an efficient telephone network, most villages look progressive, if not sophisticated. No fundamental difference is discernible in the accent, culture and other traits of a municipal-administered and in those of a citizen residing in the area of a District Council. All this taken into consideration, it is found that there could easily be in Mauritius nine local government units—five Municipalities and four District Authorities—all having more or less the same powers and involved in quite identical services.

### Functions

The rural authorities carry out comparatively fewer functions than the municipalities. Village Councils, as a result of the centralization at the district level of such services as refuse collection and disposals, running of needlework and handicraft classes, roadworks and public lighting are reduced to the role of serving as agencies for the District Councils. Lack of funds, which is a great limitation upon the activities of the District Councils, act as a serious deterrent on Village Councils which, although composed of democratically-elected representatives, are confined to a mainly, though not exclusively, advisory role.

As for the District Councils, which are made up of a more selective membership and to which is attached a permanent and qualified personnel, they look after the public beaches within their jurisdiction, offer scholarships for the pursuit of secondary education, run fairs, do repairs to, and maintain roads and bridges, run needlework and handicraft classes, perform scavenging service, keep up cemeteries, undertake capital projects for Village Councils and on its own behalf, as well as issue restaurant licences and permits for some trades. Furthermore, there is close collaboration between the District Councils and the Ministry of Youth and Sports for the organisation of sporting and cultural activities in the districts. Close cooperation is also manifest with the Social Welfare Department.

With the elimination of Village Councils the same functions—in fact more functions might be envisaged—could be discharged, provided more revenues are made to accrue, by the District Councils as those of their urban counterparts. However, depending upon the special needs of its localities, a particular council's functions may differ from those of another. Apart

from the combined list of functions enumerated in respect of Municipalities and District Authorities some additional functions could be entrusted to the Municipalities, District Authorities and the Island Council of Rodrigues. To begin with, education at pre-primary level, instead of being provided by private individuals, could be the concern of local authorities.

Although the local government legislation provides that elections should be held every three years, it is noticed that in practice this is not adhered to. Now and then, Government utilizes its legislative weapon. Amendments are made to postpone the election from one year to another. It may be underlined that the absence of periodic elections deprives the citizens an opportunity to pass judgement on their representatives, many of whom are afraid to face the electorate to renew their mandate.

Upon the abolition of Village Councils, advisory bodies known as Village or Regional Boards could be constituted to look locally after the welfare of the inhabitants of specific areas with populations of 10,000 to 12,000. These sub organizations, under the control of the local authorities, would be conferred some delegated powers. They would be agents of the District Authorities and Municipalities.

Undeniably, the national government should have the ultimate control over the local councils which are, after all, creatures of Parliament. Yet, at the other extreme, if local authorities do not have a wide measure of latitude to exercise their functions within the prescribed ambit of the law, they would cease to be local government at all. What is, therefore, needed is to have a balance of control and independence.

At the national level the ten local government bodies, could federate under the banner of the Local Authorities' Association. This central organization, with a permanent full-time secretary and a reasonable number of assistants, would have a fixed office. Its main object would be to speak as a united voice when dealing with the central authorities in respect of local government. The office of this national body would serve as a Central Information Bureau, where local government literature would be available.

To provide additional services, let alone to intensify the existing ones, and render them more efficient, local government units should have the necessary financial strength. The total grant from Government accounts for not less than 85 per cent of a District Council's revenue. As for its direct revenue, it is chiefly derived from entertainment tax,

including advertisement fees. Other fees accruing to the District Councils include burial and related fees. Most of the funds of the local authorities could be locally raised, though a good amount may come as well from Government coffers.

### Funds

Both in the municipal areas and in the rural districts, the rates on the immovable property may be levied not on the net annual value, as is the current practice both in England and in urban Mauritius, but depending upon the capital value. Furthermore, a lump-sum land rate could be imposed by both urban and rural councils. Another source of revenue could come from the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund, which has been set up to work for the welfare of all those engaged directly or indirectly in the production and export of sugar.

To uniformize and rationalize the government grants to local authorities, a new formula might be adopted. Every authority, be it a Municipality or a District Authority or the Island Council of Rodrigues, could receive a reasonable fixed (say Rs. 10) per capita grant together with the total refund of expenditure incurred on the payment of salaries, retirement pensions and passages of the holders of all Ministry-approved posts. Special grants, on top of the capitation and administrative grants, could be made to those local authorities which have particular needs. Government, moreover, could make a percentage grant of 50 per cent to the local authority, which would embark itself upon solid, capital projects.

As in the United Kingdom, cooption on the Committees could be possible over here. People with special interest in, or with specialist knowledge of, certain subjects, can be invited to form part of the membership of appropriate committees. Their contributions can be of great value, although they may not vote.

At present each local authority appoints its own officers, who can be dismissed on flimsy pretexts, at the discretion of the councillors. To ensure a high-quality and fair recruitment of personnel in respect of local government bodies the responsibility could be entrusted to the Public Service Commission.

As bureaucratic efficiency can only be related to holding real expertise, the training of local government officers, either locally or in foreign, advanced countries, might be increasingly encouraged.

Now, more than ever, local government must be regarded as a form of local public administration with a well-defined structure, consisting of elected local authorities, each carrying out a range of services and financing itself partly from its own local

tax. No doubt, in Mauritius local government can be given a more comprehensive purpose in the post-independence era. Real economic progress depends considerably upon increased local self-government. In this respect Dr. A.B. Lewis stated "if an underdeveloped nation wants to achieve economic development, it must first change its government structure so as to provide local self-government for its villages and rural districts". Local government bodies, elected periodically and endowed with an efficient bureaucracy, as well as with the necessary statutory powers, can live up to their roles.

## LEGAL AID TO THE POOR

*The Committee for Legal Aid to the poor headed by Mr. Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer has recommended a sensitive and specialised mechanism of legal assistance for the working class, peasantry, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, Jawans in the Armed Forces, and other minority groups. A specialised legal service has also been suggested for women and children in view of their peculiar legal problems, as well as for the people living in far-flung mountainous regions and inaccessible islands.*

*Poverty and backwardness as well as the special social conditions prevailing in India have been the criteria for determining the type of legal assistance recommended in the report, submitted to the Union Minister for Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri H.R. Gokhale, on June 3.*

*The Committee has also recommended that the legal profession must develop a new awareness of its commitment to the poor and backward people and give expression to it concretely. The recommendations cover not merely legal assistance in litigation but also advice, as a preventive legal service, to avoid litigation. The legal aid, as recommended in the Report, embraces civil, criminal and even administrative proceedings. Recommendations have also been made for legal education and research, student-run legal aid clinics, as part of clinical legal education, and the socio-legal research.*

*A competent training programme for lawyers, judges and social workers in the legal aid programme has also been recommended.*

*The comprehensive coverage of recommendations will be implemented in a phased programme. The first phase of implementation on a nation-wide scale is estimated to involve an outlay of about Rs. four crores.*

# Haryana—'White Revolution' in the Making

R.P. KATARIA\*

BEFORE THE formation of Haryana, dairy development in the region remained neglected. Despite the fact that Haryana cows and Murrah buffaloes are famous in the country, there was only a small pasteurising plant at Hissar with installed capacity of less than 4,000 litres of milk per day. With the formation of the new State of Haryana, the State Government created a separate department of Dairying and Milk Supply. This department has been converted into an autonomous corporation.

In order to bring 'White Revolution' in the State, special milk schemes have been formulated. The State Government sanctioned three projects, namely Jind Milk Project, Bhiwani Milk Project, and Ambala Milk Project. There is a proposal to expand the existing dairy at Hissar by the setting up of a cheese plant at an estimated cost of Rs. 7 lakhs after its transference from Punjab Dairy Development Corporation. In addition to these four plants, plans are being drawn up for the setting up of four milk plants.

The milk plant at Jind was commissioned on 5th December, 1970. During the year 1972, this milk plant processed 88,45,006 kgs. of milk into butter, ghee, whole milk powder, and skimmed milk powder. The quantity of milk processed at milk plant, Bhiwani, was 1,52,000 kgs. The milk plant at Ambala, which is primarily being set up to provide liquid pasteurised milk to the twin towns of Ambala City and Cantonment is likely to be commissioned within the next three months. The initial capacity will be 20,000 litres expandable to 50,000 litres per day.

To facilitate collection of milk and avoid deterioration in its quality before reaching the reception dock at the plants concerned, 12 chilling centres at different central places have been established. Three more are proposed to be established in the near future.

## Lucrative Procurement Price

To improve the milk yield, a lucrative procurement price is paid to the producers. A quintal of milk containing 6.2 per cent fat is paid about Rs. 96, and the price varies with the percentage of fat content from Rs. 96 to about Rs. 130 per quintal. In the case of milk supply cooperative societies, a commission of 4.5 per cent is paid to each society besides 3 per cent for transportation charges. This price

incentive helps in preserving the cattle wealth which was being depleted by the sending out of cows and buffaloes to slaughter-houses.

To encourage public response to the various milk schemes, medium and short-term loans for the purchase of buffaloes and cows are given. Under the Milk Plant Projects at Jind, Bhiwani and Ambala, a sum of Rs. 2.16 crores would be advanced as medium-term loans to the members of the milk supply cooperative societies. The Agricultural Refinance Corporation has already sanctioned assistance for the implementation of Jind Milk Supply Scheme. Under this scheme, 90 milk supply societies have been organised with a membership of 6,405; medium term loans of Rs. 30.05 lakhs and short term loans of Rs. 31.02 lakhs have already been advanced. These societies are supplying 15,100 litres daily to the Jind Chilling plant.

Emphasis is also laid on improving the breed of cows and buffaloes. Improvement of quality by cross and controlled-breeding has been going on in the State since the beginning of the plans. In 1962, a new strain of dairy cattle, Karan Swiss, has been developed at the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal. On an average, Karan Swiss cattle produce 60 per cent more milk than the Sahiwal per lactation and more than twice when total life time production is taken.

Under the Fourth Five Year Plan two Intensive Cattle Development Projects at Jind and Pehowa have been established. These projects aim at cattle improvement through modern and scientific technique of artificial insemination with superior, indigenous as well as exotic bulls. Similarly the Jersey Cross Breeding Station, Jagadhri, has been strengthened with the opening of 12 sub centres attached to it so as to cover more indigenous cattle under systematic breeding.

Better and more fodder is the first prerequisite to increase milk production. Several fodder-cropping programmes were tried at the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, to step up the fodder yield and to increase the number of high yielding dairy cattle. Two programmes which gave best results were developed.

## Future Plans

Under "Operation Flood", plans are ahead to start two more chilling plants for which Rs. 3.92 crores have been earmarked. Out of this, Rs. 1.48

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crores would be spent for establishing a Feeder Balancing Plant at Rohtak with a capacity of handling one lakh litres of milk per day. The new chilling plants will have a capacity of 20,000 litres each and expandable upto 40,000 litres. Steps are being taken to set up 12 more chilling centres. After the completion of these centres, Haryana will have a network of 24 chilling centres of its own besides the chilling centres already set up by the Delhi Milk Scheme in the districts of Gurgaon, Karnal and Rohtak.

The Government of Haryana proposes to set up milk plants in all the districts in the State and even in parts of districts where the milk potential justifies it. In the draft Fifth Five Year Plan of the State,

milk plants are proposed to be set up at Rewari, Faridabad, Sirsa-Fatehabad belt, Jagadhri, Panipat and two rural dairy-cum-distribution centres at Narnaul and Kaithal. It is estimated that after the implementation of more projects under the Fifth Plan, a network of dairy plants would be set up throughout the State and a milk grid would be created.

The success of the 'White Revolution' however, will depend on the rapidity with which the facilities of artificial insemination are provided in the villages. To achieve further success it is suggested that hybrid cows and buffaloes are auctioned in large numbers. Villagers should also be trained in the rearing of cattle and in the production of different crops and fodder having high nutritive value.

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## ADOPTION PROBLEMS OF SMALL FARMERS

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NIRMAL KANTI SAHA

THE SMALL farmers constitute the vast majority among the cultivating households in the country. They are handicapped in introducing new technology in the means of production. As a whole, they possess a low socio-economic status and are educationally backward. They are exploited by the institutions, big farmers and the local money-lenders. Due to economic backwardness the small farmers are not able to avail the benefits of new technology in agriculture. The extension agency also by-pass the small farmers and pay more attention to the big cultivators. Thus the disparity between the big farmers-landlords and the small farmers has been increasing day by day. The former group is getting the major benefits of all the programmes and planning.

The small farmer is characterised by small and fragmented holding, lack of assured means of irrigation, and household expenditure involving more than 75 per cent of the receipt. Double or multiple cropping has not been adopted by small farmers to the desired extent. The small farmers are also handicapped financially and they have no capacity and/or will to take to new technology.

A number of factors stand on the way of small cultivators adopting agricultural innovations. Some techno-economic problems followed by social problems influence the rate of adoption of new technology by the small farmers.

Fragmentation of land is an acute problem at this stage. Hence cultivation using modern technology is very difficult. In small plots of land the introduction of improved agricultural techniques is

impossible. Our field data (Saha 1972) reveal the positive association between the size of holding and adoption of agricultural innovation. It was noticed that 79.6 per cent of the farmers having more than 10 acres of holding had adopted improved seeds, whereas it had decreased to 75.3 per cent, 62.9 per cent and 43.2 per cent among those having 7-10 acres, 3-7 acres, and below 3 acres of land. This was due to the fact that the farmers having large size of holdings are able to afford finance which is essential for any innovation. Another reason is that acceptance of any new idea is a matter of risk and the farmers having small holdings, do not want to bear that risk as they have no sufficient money.

There is positive relationship between ownership of land and adoption of innovations. It was found that more than 65 per cent of the farmers who had their own land, adopted improved seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, etc. This figure comes down to 20 per cent in the case of the farmers who cultivate the land on rent basis. This is due to the fact that the farmers who possess small holdings are compelled to hire the land from the fellow farmers. Facilities for loan are extremely limited for such cultivators. As a result it becomes difficult for them to make investments to improve their agriculture.

Due to low income a large number of small cultivators possess no bullocks or only one bullock. They have to hire bullocks during cultivation of their lands. So they are not willing to take to innovations.

The main problem of small cultivators is the lack of adequate irrigation facilities. Our study on

"Adoption of H.Y.V. paddy and wheat, in West Bengal" reveals that large number of small farmers do not grow high yielding varieties due to lack of irrigation facilities. The high price of H.Y.V. seeds also discourage small farmers. Prasad (1967) reported that 42.2 per cent of the non-adopters of improved seeds did not adopt it due to high cost. It was also observed that supply of the seeds had been inadequate and not timely. Sometimes, the small farmers do not get the fertilizers when it is needed. It was reported from the study that high cost and lack of money were main reasons given by the majority of non-adopters of fertilizers. Insecticides are rarely used by the small farmers. High cost of insecticides, equipments as well as small and fragmented holdings were the main reasons for non-adoption as reported by the majority of the non-adopters.

It has been observed that higher the income of the farmers, greater is the adoption of the innovations.

## MULTI CROP SYSTEM IN TODA BHIM

BALRAM DUTT SHARMA

WITH THE assistance given by the Union Government, the Rajasthan Government has introduced a multi-crop system in the Toda Bhim Panchayat Samiti of Sawai Madhopur district in the State. The farmers of this panchayat samiti appreciate the steps taken by the Government.

An official of the State Agriculture department works out the system practically in the fields. He chalks out a plan for the whole crop season, and suggests the farming techniques.

The department spends Rs. 30,000 every year to meet the expenditure incurred on fertilizers, improved seeds, and irrigation facilities.

Under this multi-crop system, four specialists of different subjects guide the agriculture assistants. They also investigate the requirements, methods and scopes of such system, keeping in view the climate and environment of the area. The research is being done in ten villages of the panchayat samiti. The findings of the specialists are demonstrated by the agriculture assistants in the selected farms. The Union Government also gives Rs. 10,000 every year for these demonstration purposes.

To educate and train the field workers as well as farmers an amount of Rs. 3,000 is spent every year.

Education and social status are the two important social factors which affect adoption of agricultural innovations. It was found that the adoption of innovations increased with the increase in the educational level of the farmers. The small farmers cannot afford higher education for themselves as well as for their children due to poor means. So they are left behind the educated farmers who develop more contacts with the extension agencies and get knowledge about innovations.

It was also observed that the membership of rural institutions or organisations affect the adoption behaviour of the farmers. The members of such organisations are well aware of improved technology to be applied in farming. The small farmers generally have low social status in the society and their representation in formal organisations, like panchayats, cooperatives, etc. is inadequate. Due to this the small cultivators are not able to get information about new technology which affects their adoption practices.

Exhibitions and demonstrations were organised in the various villages in 16 fields last year. Potato, rice, groundnut, wheat, bajra and mustard cultivation were conducted on an experimental basis. The fast growing "chandarmukhi" potato sown between the *Rabi* and the *Kharif* season was the most remunerative operation of the last year. The farmers have gained much from their fields by this multi-crop experiment.

## AERIAL SPOTTING OF CROP DANGERS

A TECHNIQUE of aerial photography that was developed during the world war to help the Royal Air Force detect camouflaged enemy tanks is being used in Britain by the Ministry of Agriculture to warn farmers of the disease in their crops.

The Ministry's aerial photography unit has already shown that black-and-white photographs with infra-red equipment can detect the source of potato blight. It is now using colour photographs to help it identify crop disease even more quickly.

In this way it is possible to detect signs of stress experienced by the interior of the leaves of a plant which has recently contracted a disease long before the green colour of the plant begins to fade and is seen on a normal colour film.

Trials by the Ministry have already shown that the new technique can detect the presence of yellow rust in a field of wheat about 14 days before any symptoms are obvious from the ground.

(BIS)

# Nutrition in Rural India\*

RAJAMMAL P. DEVADAS\*\*

THE INDUSTRIAL Nutrition programme aims at improving the nutritional status of the vulnerable groups among industrial labourers, namely, the expectant and nursing women and their young children. CARE is assisting the programme with large donations of food commodities.

The Midday Meal's programme was first started in Tamil Nadu in 1958. Several state governments and local committees meet the expenses. CARE gives Bulgar wheat, CSM and oil for the purpose. In Tamil Nadu alone, more than 32,000 elementary schools provide midday meals to over 1.8 million pupils for 200 days in a year.

Many efforts have been taken by Sri Avinashilingam Trust Institutions towards improving the nutritional status of school children in the community through organising school lunch programmes. The results of the studies on the midday meals scheme conducted in our Basic school are very encouraging, evidencing remarkable changes in the heights, weights and over-all nutritional status and nutritional knowledge of children participating in midday meals programmes.

## Rural Problems

The various feeding programmes in the rural areas are functioning under many handicaps which restrict their efficiency. Studies conducted by Sri Avinashilingam Home Science College reveal the shortcomings listed below:

- 1) Absence of nutrition education.
- 2) Irregular and inadequate feeding.
- 3) Difficulties in the transport of food to the feeding centres.
- 4) Lack of kitchen facilities for cooking and storage of food in the Centre.
- 5) Lack of cooperation from parents and the public.
- 6) Unhygienic and scarce water supply.
- 7) Irregular and inadequate supply of funds for buying fuel and other for contingent expenses, and
- 8) Absence of guidance and evaluation of the programme.

The food ingredients used in the feeding programmes should be local, so that overheads in

transport and storage can be reduced to a minimum and the eventual continuation of the programme through the community's own efforts will become possible.

The average caloric deficit in the dietaries of pre-school children in the poor communities is of the order of 300 to 400 calories per day. The minimum quantity of food supplement needed to meet this caloric gap would be around 75 g. of cereal-legume-oilseed mixture. On this scientific basis, formulations of the supplements, with the necessary calorie-nutrient composition can be achieved with local foods. It should be ensured that these supplements do not become replacements of home diets. For this purpose nutrition education must form part of all supplementary feeding programmes.

Several experimental and epidemiological studies have established synergism between nutrition and infection. Therefore feeding programmes have to be integrated with health and welfare programmes to form a composite package programme, which will include, apart from feeding, nutrition education, immunisation and improvement of environmental sanitation. Mutual reinforcing effect of each of the components of this package, will ensure an impressive total effect on the community.

Feeding programmes must be looked upon as an important tool of nutrition education. The failure of many feeding programmes may be directly traced to the neglect of the educational aspect. Nutrition



*A Feeding Programme In a Village*

\*First part of the article was published in Kurukshetra dated 1.7.73

\*\*Director, Sri Avinashilingam Home Science College for Women, Coimbatore

education can ensure better community participation also.

Involvement and cooperation of the mother is of vital importance for the successful operation of feeding programmes for children.

The economics, nutritional adequacy, hygienic and educational factors should be kept in view, while planning feeding programmes. Nutritional adequacy can be ensured by feeding adequate quantities of foods regularly. Regularity in timing and the pattern of feeding is essential for promoting growth and maintaining the health of the children, inspiring them with confidence and developing good food habits.

Feeding programmes in pre-schools and other educational stages should be utilised as tools for teaching nutrition in a practical manner.

Many feeding programmes have failed because of lack of specifically defined goals and proper evaluation from the goals and proper evaluation from the beginning. Therefore, evaluation should be an integral part of feeding programmes from their inception, to give a sense of direction towards the desired goal. Evaluation should be built into the operation of the programme to ensure its lasting success.

#### **Take Home Scheme**

The author and her colleagues conducted diet surveys and nutrition education every year in the nearby rural communities to find out the present nutritional status and improve it through nutrition education. Studies have been carried out to evaluate the ANP and suggest methods to improve it. One project has been recently completed on the "Take home food systems approach" on behalf of the Government of India, Government of Tamil Nadu and USAID. The basic objective of this 'Take home' food project was to test the hypothesis that mothers will feed their children with nutritious food if it was made available to them. The results proved conclusively that mothers were feeding their children with nutritious food given free of cost to them. This would reduce unnecessary expenditure of money for organising on-the-spot feeding programmes.

It is hoped that intensification of integrated nutrition programmes on 'Take home' food approach in different parts of India, will contribute to the improvement of the nutritional status of rural communities. Such programme should emphasise overall development of the rural communities with nutrition education as the medium and nutrition supplementation as tool for development. Simultaneous effort must be made to improve adult literacy and to produce literature for functional literacy in regard to nutrition and welfare.

(Concluded)

## **Make Wealth out of Waste**

*EACH DAY, an untold quantity of both human and animal waste goes waste in our country. This, if used as a compost, would not only enrich the soil with organic matter but also improve the soil structure so necessary for continuous good yields.*

### **What Is Composting**

*Organic waste such as crop wastes, straw wastes, husks, stubbles, leaves, green weeds, cattle-shed sweepings, etc., are converted into valuable manure by the process of biological fermentation, popularly known as composting. So, what is normally thrown out as 'waste' can be converted into a rich compost manure which is superior to ordinary farmyards manure.*

### **How To Prepare**

*Where the sub-soil water level and the annual rainfall are high, it is always better to adopt 'heap system'. Otherwise, 'pit system' of compost making can be adopted successfully.*

*Dig pits of 4.5×1.50×1 metres (15'×5'×3'). The number of pits you should dig will depend upon the number of cattle you keep.*

*Better fill the pits in compartments. For this, make, partition of bamboo sticks, dry stalks of jowar or maize or some such material in the pit.*

*Collect cattle dung daily from the cattle-shed. Mix it thoroughly with urine soaked litter and place in the compartment in 25 to 30 cm layer. Sprinkle soil over it. Put the second day's collection over the first day's layer in the pit. Repeat this till the pit is filled and the heap is raised a foot above the ground level. Cover it with a two-inch layer of soil and see that no air gets into it.*

*Farm wastes such as waste fodders or weeds, farm sweepings, etc., are spread on the floor of the cattle-shed to form a good bedding for the animals. This will absorb urine. Afterwards, mix this urine soaked litter with cattle dung and put in the pit in layers as described above.*

*Waste materials such as sugarcane-trash, paddy husk, forest leaves, water hyacinth, etc., can successfully be converted into a rich compost manure. In places where the rainfall or sub-soil water level is very high, adopt the 'heap system' of composting.*

*Select a high-level plot and raise on it a small platform of 3.5×2.5 metres (12'×8') with stone pieces or bricks, 6 inches (15 cm) higher than the surrounding ground level. Mix the day's collection of urine-soaked refuse and dung properly, and spread layer of 15 to 20 cm (6 to 8 inches) on the platform regularly. Cover that with dry earth or dry refuse in a 5 cm (2 inches) layer. Go on adding each day's collections till the heap reaches a height of 1.25 to 2.5 metres (4'×6'). Plaster it with a paste of dung and earth. All the matter is converted into a fine compost in about four months and is then ready for use.*

(FIU)

## BASIC LITERATURE COMPETITION IN INDIAN LANGUAGES

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Entries in the form of manuscripts/books (including drama) on any of the subjects listed below are invited from Indian authors for the 10th All-India Basic Literature Competition.

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Success Stories of Innovations Adopted by Rural Communities in Solving Local Problems.

Building up of Leadership in Rural Communities (Cite success stories.)

Better Sanitation for Happier Villages.

Marketing and Processing of Agricultural Produce—Co-operative Approach.

Role of Co-operatives in the Development of Tribal Areas.

Role of Co-operatives in the Service of Weaker Sections.

Co-operatives in Aid of Agricultural Production.

Youth in the Field of Co-operation.

White Revolution Through Co-operatives (Dairy Co-operatives).

Role of Co-operatives in Public Distribution System of Foodgrains and other Essential Commodities.

### LANGUAGES

ASSAMESE • BENGALI • GUJARATI • HINDI • KANNADA • KASHMIRI  
MALAYALAM • MARATHI • ORIYA • PUNJABI • SINDHI • TAMIL • TELUGU • URDU

### STYLE

The subject-matter should be dealt with in simple and lucid style which can be easily understood by and appeals to the workers connected with the Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation Programmes for whom this literature is meant.

### SIZE

The manuscript/book should contain approximately 10,000 words. It should be suitably and adequately illustrated.

### PRIZES

A cash prize of Rs. 1,000 will be awarded to the entry adjudged best in each language.

### COPYRIGHT

Copyright of the prize-winning entries shall be transferred to the Government of India, free from all encumbrances.

In lieu of which an additional sum of Rs. 1,000 will be paid to the author.

### HOW TO ENTER

Entries (in duplicate) accompanied by a crossed Indian Postal Order for Rs. 3 for each entry, payable to 'The Departments of Community Development and Co-operation' at New Delhi Post Office should be sent to the undermentioned address by Registered Post (acknowledgement due). Detailed particulars regarding rules and instructions about the Competition can also be obtained from the undermentioned address:

Director (Basic Literature),  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Government of India,  
(Departments of Community  
Development & Cooperation),  
Krishi Bhavan,  
New Delhi-110001.

**LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF ENTRIES: 16.8.73**

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# Official—Non-official Relationship in Community Development Administration

HARIPAD R. SUBRAMANIA IYER\*

ONE OF the requirements for the success of panchayati raj is understanding and harmony between officials and non-officials. Panchayati raj is an attempt to build political, economic and social democracy below the state level based on democratic decentralisation of power and responsibility through statutory local bodies. The problem of official—non-official relationship is not peculiar to the panchayati raj alone; it also exists at the state and national levels. But it is only at the local level that it adversely affects the administration of rural community development and welfare programmes.

One of the assumptions of panchayati raj has been that both officials and non-officials would adjust themselves to the changing situation as a result of the transfer of power and responsibility to popular representatives in the field of community development, welfare planning and administration. Unfortunately this change has not taken place fully as anticipated. On the one hand, the non-officials are keen in assuming power and responsibility from the officials and on the other hand the officials are not willing to transfer initiative and leadership to the elected representatives of panchayati raj. This is the position facing panchayati raj which is an attempt to devolve power and responsibility pertaining to rural development and welfare from bureaucratic to democratic administration.

The old system of dual control over the extension officers has resulted in conflict between them and the generalist. This has been one of the problems of community development administration since the extension officers are under the administrative and operational control of the B.D.O. as well as under the technical control of the concerned district level technical departments. And now the present system of triple control—administrative, technical and political—has resulted in the problem of interpersonal relations not only between the non-officials and the B.D.O. but also between the B.D.O. and the extension officers.

The introduction of panchayati raj has brought the political or democratic machinery and the administrative machinery more or less on equal position

and status without any clear definition of their roles, position, powers and functions in the Panchayati Raj Acts, Rules and Regulations. This is one of the causes of tension between officials and non-officials. The other is the principle of separation of powers between the deliberative wing and the executive wing of panchayati raj administration according to which the non-officials are entrusted with policy making and decision taking while execution and implementation of policies and decisions are the responsibility of the officials assigned to panchayati raj. In other words, non-officials have power, and officials responsibilities pertaining to rural development administration.

Although in theory the formulation and implementation of rural development are entrusted to the non-officials of panchayati raj, in actual practice both the formulation and implementation are by the officials. This also causes conflict.

The theoretical image of panchayati raj is that panchayati raj institutions are organs of self-government at their own levels. But the operational image is that they are agents of the state government. This gap between theory and practice of panchayati raj is also responsible for conflict.

## Need for Mutual Understanding

Under the existing Panchayati Raj set up, the non-officials have to approve the plans and projects decided on by the state and central governments and hence enjoy only a limited role. Since there is no genuine decentralisation of administrative and financial power and responsibility below the state level, and the process of democratic decentralisation has not been fully established, the officials have to assist in the education and training of non-officials so as to enable them to man the panchayati raj bodies efficiently and effectively. This indicates a genuine need for mutual respect, trust and understanding between officials and non-officials.

Both the officials and non-officials should know what precisely are their respective roles that they are supposed to play in Panchayati Raj administration as well as their respective place or position in the Panchayati Raj organisation. In addition, the non-officials must know how the officials perceive their roles and what officials expect of non-officials and

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*vice versa*. In the absence of mutual understanding and agreement between officials and non-officials with regard to their allocated roles, which are different, there is bound to be conflict. In short, both the officials and non-officials should understand not only their respective roles and the roles of others, but also appreciate the role-expectation of each other. There is need for vertical and horizontal coordination between different roles and hence the roles of officials and non-officials have to be linked from top to bottom and *vice versa* by cooperative roles.

Another form of conflict is power conflict. Theoretically there is an indispensable connection between power and conflict; the exercise of power necessarily creates conflict. This becomes obvious when the Block Development Officer and the district level technical officers are competing to control the behaviour of the block extension officers. There is an internal conflict between the B.D.O. and the district level technical officers, and in their attempt to exercise control over the block extension officers, they evoke an internal conflict for the extension officers. The same is the case when the president of the panchayat samiti and the B.D.O. compete with each other in exercising control over community development personnel at the block level.

If there is perfect agreement with regard to the goals of Panchayati Raj system and the means of attaining them among the officials and non-officials, power conflict could be kept to the minimum.

In short, both officials and non-officials are the two sides of the same coin of community development administration and their relationship should be of copartnership, equality and interdependence which is responsible for the smooth functioning of Panchayati Raj institutions in India.

## Protein from Cotton Seed

*Two American food scientists have made highly nutritious food products with cottonseed flour.*

*During their research, the scientists developed recipes and made a study of the consumer acceptability of cottonseed flour products. They altered the recipe of conventional bread to replace 18 per cent of the wheat flour with processed cottonseed flour. The resulting bread's protein content was about 25 per cent.*

*According to one of the scientist, a significant feature of cottonseed products, is that it is 71 per cent protein, compared with 10 to 14 percent in wheat flour.*

*(The American Reporter)*

## Agricultural Cooperatives

COOPERATIVE Movement in the South is being geared up to meet the new challenges of the takeover of foodgrain trade and to arrest the rising spiral of prices. At a meeting organised by the National Cooperative Development Corporation and attended by officials of the four States—Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Mysore and Tamil Nadu, various problems that the concerned agencies were facing in implementing schemes of cooperative development financed by the Corporation were discussed. Among the subjects discussed were revitalisation of marketing societies, providing consumption credit to the farmers, preparation for the proposed State takeover of the wholesale trade in paddy from the next kharif season, completion of cooperative rice mills financed by N.C.D.C. in Andhra Pradesh and Mysore and setting up cooperative units for processing sunflower and coconut in Tamil Nadu and rubber in Kerala.

### Maharashtra's Sugar Cooperatives

WHILE the production of sugar in U.P. and Bihar fluctuates, it is steady in Maharashtra. Maharashtra owes its "growth with stability" to the cooperative sector.

Maharashtra has 51 of the 127 cooperative sugar factories in India. These cooperatives produced 7.83 lakh tonnes of sugar in 1971-72 compared with 0.6 lakh million tonnes in 1950-51. Maharashtra utilises 63 per cent of its sugarcane for sugar, compared with the all-India average of only 30 per cent. In the early years of the industry, before the development of the cooperative sector, the state utilised barely 20 per cent of its cane.

Maharashtra partly owes its unique success to a bountiful nature. The sugar content of its sugarcane is the highest in India and compares favourably with some of the most important sugarcane growing countries in the world. The yield per acre is also the highest in the country. Most of the credit, however, goes to the pattern of organisation of the sugar cooperatives. The cooperatives are representatives of the whole farming industry in the State. More than 87 per cent of their members have up to three acres of land under sugarcane cultivation. Statistics reveal that in 15 factories the percentage of Directors with less than 5 acres of land under sugarcane is between 75 and 100. In 13 factories the percentage is between 50 and 75 and only in two factories is their proportion less than 50 per cent.

The cooperatives have also provided financial help in digging wells, organising lift-irrigation and providing for the all round development of the people in their areas. Ancillary industries like dairying and poultry farming have been started by various factories. The Krishna Sugar Factory in Satara has earned Rs 60 lakhs in five years by selling eggs. The Shri Ram Cooperative Factory in the same district has adopted 123 small farmers to give them all help in increasing production.

# SIMPLE REMEDIES

Ayurveda

## URTICARIA—SHEETA PITTA

URTICARIA IS A VERY TROUBLESOME DISEASE. It is characterised by sudden itching sensation all over the body accompanied by burning sensation. When scratched, rashes appear on the body, which look like mosquito bites (*udarda*). Sometimes they are long and elevated (*kota*). They are due to being allergic to some animal or vegetable. It is often difficult to find the cause. In some cases it is also due to emotional disturbance. Persons who suffer should try to remember what they ate. It may be some variety of fish or some vegetable or at times it may be due to reptiles like lizard falling or even due to stings of centipides. Children suffer from it generally due to bad food. According to ayurveda it is due to the vitiation of *pitta* and *kapha*.

It is not easy to treat urticaria for, very often the cause is unknown. Hence, to eliminate poison from the body, mild laxatives are necessary. Decoction of Senna-leaves once or twice a week is good. When there is intense itching do not scratch but apply cow-dung ash (*Vibhuti*) and turmeric powder. *Gairikan* (redmud) can also be smeared. Before bathing apply the paste of *Doorva* grass.

Avoid tamarind and any sour thing. Vegetarian food is preferable in acute condition, but curds should be avoided. Buttermilk can be taken. A preparation called *Haridra Khanda* is good. Preparations containing *guggulu*, like *Navaka Guggulu*, *Sudarsana Churnam* can also be tried.

DR. V. NARAYANASWAMI

Homoeopathy

## BURNS AND SCALDS

MINOR BURNS AND SCALDS, without complications, can be treated at home. Apart from the medicinal treatment, care of the wound such as cleaning and dressing is of vital importance. The wound should be cleaned and if any blebs are present they may be pricked and the dead layers of the skin removed with a pair of sterilized scissors. *CANTHARIS Q* is the principal drug for cleaning the wound. 10 to 15 drops of tincture may be added to water for dressing purposes. Application of *CALENDULA* ointment and bandaging with gauze and cotton will protect the wound from external infection. The following drugs, to be given orally, are useful

for controlling pain sepsis and promoting recovery. *ARS. ALB* is indicated for conditions like pain, anxiety, burning with restlessness. It controls pain and burning sensation. *CANTHARIS 200* to be given orally will also be highly beneficial when burning pain is very severe. *MERC SOL* is indicated when there is a tendency of pus formation with itching and fever. For chills, fever, pain and restlessness *RHUSTOX* is a good drug. *HEPAR SULPH* will combat septic condition, severe pain, sensitiveness, fever and chill.

30th and 200th potencies of the drugs are generally useful.

In addition to these the wound should be dressed daily.

For speedy recovery, good nutritious diet should be given during the course of the treatment.

DR. M. KUTUMBA RAO

## BULL-CALF FROM THE DEEP FREEZE

A HEALTHY Hereford bull calf born in England on June 7 after being kept in suspended animation in deep freeze as an embryo, is regarded by scientists as living proof of a technique which could be of great value to livestock breeders.

The scientists at the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) unit of Reproductive Physiology and Biochemistry in Cambridge had taken fertilised eggs from a Hereford nine months ago and slowly frozen the eggs to  $-196^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Six days later, the eggs were thawed and two were transferred to the uterus of a host mother, a Friesian Hereford Cross. Only one of the eggs developed.

According to the ARC, the technique is a long way from commercial application, but it could eventually prove to be of great value. By using this technique valuable livestock could be transported easily as frozen fertilised eggs from one part of the world to another and stocks of fertilised eggs of exceptionally good parents could be kept for use long after the parent animals were dead.

The ability to store frozen embryos would also overcome the danger of losing valuable genetic factors in breeds at the moment not of commercial interest and therefore likely to become extinct.

Although the calf was born normal, the ARC said it was too early to say whether the technique was likely to cause genetic change.

B.I.S.

# BOOK REVIEW

**INTRODUCTORY RURAL SOCIOLOGY** by J.B. Chitambar. Published by Wiley Eastern Private Ltd.; J-41, South Extension, Part I, New Delhi-49; 1973. pages 369, price Rs. 28.00.

IMPLICIT in the concept of social problems is the belief by society that something can be done through collective action to eliminate social problems or to reduce them. Some societies believe that problems and difficulties faced are the inevitable and unchangeable will of God, and social behaviour is moulded and adjusted on the basis of such beliefs and values. With rapid change everywhere, social problems are by no means decreasing but increasing in number and perhaps also in severity of their effects. This may not necessarily indicate symptoms of a world that is worse than before. Rather, we are rapidly moving into a different world with possibly different values and different approaches to group living in society than have hitherto existed. To operate with increasing effectiveness in this rapidly changing world, is today's greatest challenge for the rural sociologist.

The book under review presents a panorama of complexities and answers to the various challenges. Its 20 chapters are primarily meant to initiate readers to the subject of sociology and as such, it is designed as a textbook of some standard. The author, Dr. Chitambar, has abundant practical experience to his credit. He believes that as a subject, rural sociology comes in the realm of science and he argues the point to its logical conclusion. Sociological concepts developed over time have been analysed thread-bare in the chapter on tools of rural sociology.

On the question of rural organisations, the author remarks that in rural areas of developing countries the number of and the membership in organisations are increasing, fulfilling the rapidly expanding interests of individuals. Groups will undoubtedly continue to grow, both in numbers and in influence on rural social structure and society. Studies of participation in various organisations (as have been conducted in the U.S.A.) can provide important insights into human behaviour of rural people.

An interesting chapter on social change confines itself to a study of the various ramifications of change, in theory and in its application, to the rural society. Observes the author, "With increasing breakdown of isolation of villages, industrialisation

and movement of population to urban areas of greater economic opportunity in developing countries, very significant changes are taking place with varying tempo in rural society." Consequently, the gap between rural and urban societies is narrowing with increasing rapidity and along with the relatively swift emergence and spread of urbanisation.

The author traces the metamorphosis in the conceptual connotation of the term 'leadership'. His analysis shows that the concept has moved from the myth of the born, inherited and the acquired traits and characteristics of individuals. Ultimately, came the emergence of what might be called democratic leadership. Characteristics of rural people and the physical structure of rural society are the other topics elaborately explained in the book. The role and scope of social psychology has also been brought home to the readers in easily understandable terms.

The book must serve as a good textbook for students of sociology in our colleges and universities. The social scientist will also be enthused to learn the techniques of the practical application of sociological concepts as also the methods of scientific survey.

NAVIN CHANDRA JOSHI

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## 1,50,000 Villages to be Electrified

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THE Planning Commission's task force on rural electrification has suggested an outlay of Rs 1,900 crores for energising 28.5 lakh pumping sets and electrifying 1.5 lakh villages during the fifth Plan period.

It has stressed the need for provision to back-up transmission lines in backward States and reducing transmission and distribution losses.

A special provision of Rs 150 crores has been suggested for installation of corrective capacitors, additional distribution transformer centres and sub-stations.

A separate provision of Rs 50 crores has been suggested for underdeveloped hill, desert and tribal areas. A provision of Rs 20 crores has been suggested to sustain the programme for electrification of Tribal and Harijan *bastis*.

In accordance with the guidelines set in the fifth Plan Approach Paper, the target for the year 1974-79 is to extend the benefits of electricity to at least 40 per cent of the rural population in the States.

The proposed programme of rural electrification is expected to double the project achievements attained at the end of the fourth Plan period.

### Modern Bhagiraths

THOUGH ONLY a few yards away from the Narmada, not a drop of the river-water could be utilised to irrigate the drought-hit farms of the village Achaleshwar in Broach District. All the crop that was sown in the farms withered; the villagers had given up all hopes.

However, no obstacles could stand before a determined people. Hundreds of farmers from the surrounding villages together with a band of student-volunteers (who had forgone their summer holidays to fight the famine under the "Youth Against Famine" project) mustered their mite to dig a canal to the aid of the distressed humanity. They dug a channel, 3,600 ft. long, 3 ft deep and 2½ ft. wide and took the waters of the Narmada to a convenient site. From there the water was lifted through a pipe to a storage tank on the top of the river bank. The stored water was then taken through channels to all the parched fields in its command area. Not only they celebrated the day with festivity, but also they undertook immediately sowing operations.

Today, a lush green maize-crop covers the face of these fields. Agriculturists of Achaleshwar feel thankful to all who had helped—especially the "young men from colleges" whom they fondly remember as the "Bhagiraths of our time".

*H.D. Mehta*

### Universal Primary Education

THE UNION EDUCATION MINISTRY has redrawn the fifth Plan education programme in which universal primary education for the 6-11 age-group is now envisaged only by the Plan-end (1978-79).

The Ministry felt that the target of 100 per cent enrolment for this age group by 1975-76 worked out in the earlier blue print, was not feasible under the outlay for education pro-

posed in the Planning Commission's "approach" document.

The Planning Commission proposed Rs 2,200 crores for education against the Rs 3,200 crores plan approved earlier by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE).

While the salient features of the earlier proposals have been retained, the new Plan apart from revisions in outlays under different heads, spells out in clearer terms a few of the changes in educational system contemplated during the fifth Plan.

### Education in Hill Areas

A TOP LEVEL committee has recommended a "deliberate and intensive effort" during the fifth Plan to break the educational isolation of hill areas.

The committee set up by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) to study the educational problems of hill areas says, the Plan should give priority to the educational development in these areas which have for long remained backward.

It has suggested a programme for exchanges of teachers and students and establishment of suitable links between educational institutions in these areas and other parts of the country. This would help promote national integration.

The committee says the problem of making primary education universal in the hill areas should be tackled through special measures, including establishment of ashram schools, mobile schools and use of modern educational technology.

### Easier Bank Loans

THE WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT has undertaken a new programme under the subsidised scheme to provide employment to educated unemployed youth. Under this scheme, they may be provided with "easy" bank loans.

Under the subsidised scheme, private firms which employed engineering graduates at a monthly

salary of Rs 400 and diploma holders at Rs 250 would get 50 per cent subsidy from the Government towards their salaries. The subsidy would be available for one year.

If the educated unemployed youth wants to run any trade on a cooperative basis, they would get 10 per cent financial assistance from the Government and the remaining 90 per cent from the nationalised banks under this scheme.

### Co-op Milk Societies

THE SMALL FARMERS' development agency is organising 400 cooperative milk societies in Gurgaon district, Haryana.

These milk cooperative societies would supply daily 20,000 litres milk each to three milk chilling centres to be started soon in Hodal, Nuh and Rewari in Mahendergarh district.

### Four 'Birthless' Villages

FOUR VILLAGES—two each in Birbhum and Murshidabad districts of West Bengal—have earned the distinction of being "birthless".

Mahubuna, a small hamlet of Birbhum district, set up an exemplary record of "no birth" in the past four years while Pasiyala, a predominantly tribal village of the same district had "no birth" during 1972-73.

This followed acceptance of sterilisation by all the 37 couples in the reproductive age about six years ago and regular use of conventional contraceptives by those having less than three children in Mahubuna village.

Alankar and Ramchandrapur villages in Murshidabad district recorded 'no birth' for the past two years.

### Girls at 'YAF' Campaign

OF THE SEVEN CAMPS organised as part of the "Youth Against Famine Campaign" in Himachal Pradesh, one was exclusively for girls. 70 girls from different colleges, State homes and volunteers from various blocks of Simla district undertook desilting operation in a tank in a village near Mashobra, about 17 km from Simla. Some of the girls dug

the pond and others carried the silt away in tin pans. The pond serves about 200 cattle of five villages during off season.

Besides three hours of manual work each day, the campers visited villages in the afternoon for two and half hours for socio economic survey. The girls also completed a retaining wall under the soil conservation programme.

*The Tribune*

## MANGO RICH SOURCE OF VITAMIN A

*Mango is the richest source of carotene with 2,743 micrograms in 100 grams of the edible fruit. The carotene determines the quantum of available vitamin A.*

*The vitamin A content of mango however varies with varieties. Alphonso tops the list with 100.1 international units per gramme of the pulp. Following it are Raspuri (78.8), Dusehri (55.5), Kalepad (55.1), Neelam (39.4), Mulgoa (17.1), Rumani (17.1) and Desi varieties (12.0). A south Indian variety Padiri is reported to approach Alphonso in this quality but the record for vitamin A content of 259.4 I.U. has been established with the Mankurud mango from Goa.*

### Rural Job Scheme

ACCORDING TO FIGURES available till June 30, 1973, an amount of Rs. 183.21 lakh has been expended in projects under the Crash Scheme for Rural Employment, during April and May in 1973-74. This has resulted in the generation of 50.85 lakh man-days of employment.

An outlay of about Rs. 47.46 crores is provided for the implementation of the Crash Scheme for Rural Employment in 1973-74.

### Tribals and Students Excavate Tank

FOR THE FIRST TIME in the history of Khakrapra, a tribal village in the

hill tract of Singbhum district, Bihar, a group of students and others have joined hands in excavating a tank on voluntary basis.

A camp with 180 volunteers was organised in the village under the "Youth Against Famine" programme, sponsored by the Union Ministry of Education in collaboration with voluntary agencies.

### Water Supply in M.P. Villages

AT THE BEGINNING OF the plan period, there were only 598 villages with drinking water facility in Madhya Pradesh. Now the number of such villages has reached 3,636. By March next, another 2,364 villages are expected to be provided with drinking water facility.

Madhya Pradesh has about 7,000 problem villages. An allocation of Rs 8.5 crores was made on rural water schemes during the fourth Plan, besides a provision of Rs 10 crores on urban schemes.

In tribal areas, Rs 3.04 crores scheme on 100 per cent Central assistance for 11 districts has been sanctioned to provide drinking water facility in 836 villages by March next. For implementation of the scheme, seven fast drilling and 20 slow drilling rigs are being obtained. Efforts are also being made to obtain five fast drilling rigs from the UNICEF. It is expected that the fourth Plan expenditure on rural drinking water supply would increase from Rs 8.5 crores to Rs 10.55 crores.

### Rural Electrification

THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION Corporation has sanctioned a project for electrifying 64 villages in Aspur, Sagwara and Dungarpur tehsils of Dungarpur district in Rajasthan. With this, the number of REC-assisted projects in Rajasthan now totals 31.

The Dungarpur project, when completed in five years, is expected to energise 1,400 pumpsets and extend power supply to 235 small-scale and agro-based industries. It will also provide for 450 street lights and 1,600 domestic and commercial connections in the area.

The project sponsored by the Rajasthan State Electricity Board will receive loan assistance of more than Rs 59 lakhs from the REC.

The Corporation has so far sanctioned loans for more than Rs 16.4 crores for 31 projects. Of these, 11 are specifically designed to improve the socio-economic conditions in the backward areas.

### Blind Man's Entrepreneurship

TWENTY-SIX YEAR old blind man, Raghavan, of a village near Badagara (Kerala) has no special training. He wanted to start lime making industry since raw material and marketing facilities were available locally. Blindness did not deter him from carrying out his plan. He met the Regional Joint Director of Industries, Kozhikode, who arranged for him a loan of Rs 5,000 from the Department of Industries and Commerce for starting the industry. Raghavan is now doing thriving business.

*FPO, Kozhikode*

### Break with the Past

THANKS TO THE MARGINAL Farmers and Agricultural Labourers agency, well-irrigation has become popular in Keonjhar, Orissa. In 1971-72 as many as 88 marginal farmers of the district, on the recommendation of MFAL, availed loans from the nationalised as well as Land Development Banks to sink permanent wells for irrigation purpose. In 1972-73 the number swelled and enterprising farmers energised their wells with the help of electric pump-sets.

One of them is Bhagabat Singh. In the initial stages he was indifferent to the approaches made by the representatives of MFAL and Land Development Bank. However, after much persuasion, he took loan to sink a well in his field. The gains of the first year removed his earlier hesitation. In 1972, he went a step further. With a bank loan he installed an electric pump-set. The result was outstanding. Farming for him has now become an year-round operation.

*FPO, Rourkela*

### House Sites Scheme Extended

KANYAKUMARI will be the second district in Tamil Nadu, where the Centrally sponsored scheme of provision of house-sites to landless agricultural workers is to be implemented. (It has already been introduced in Thanjavur district.)

It is estimated that a sum of Rs. 90 lakhs will be required for acquisition of lands and for converting them into developed plots for construction of houses for 26,000 families in Kanyakumari district. The scheme is to be implemented during the current year.

### Tagai Loans

THE GOVERNMENT of Maharashtra has decided to grant *tagai* loans for purchase of seed to two categories of cultivators, namely, defaulter members of cooperative credit societies who have not been rehabilitated under the normal conversion scheme or under the rehabilitation conversion scheme and non-members and non-borrowing members of cooperative credit societies.

The Government has allotted Rs. 2.50 crores to the zilla parishads for granting *tagai* loans to these categories of cultivators.

The *tagai* loan, bearing nine per cent interest per annum, will be granted only in kind. The loans will be sanctioned only if there is a reasonable apprehension that the lands may otherwise remain unsown.

### Agro Service Centres

THE HARYANA Agro Industries Corporation has set up eighteen Agro Service Centres at Block Head Quarters in the State to provide the farmers in far-flung areas with facilities of custom-hiring, repairs and servicing of tractors.

The Corporation has provided 2 to 3 tractors at each centre on payment basis for custom-hiring work. It has also equipped each centre with adequate workshop facilities.

The scheme endeavours to provide self-employment to the unemployed engineers in the State. They will undergo a three-month training course before setting-up these Centres.

The Corporation plans to cover the entire State with these Centres within the next two years.

### Wheat Procurement in U.P.

THE COOPERATIVES in Uttar Pradesh have purchased more than half the total quantity of wheat procured in the State. As against the total procurement of 6.28 lakh tonnes of wheat in U.P., they have purchased 3.26 lakh tonnes. Last year they had purchased 2.45 lakh tonnes. The cooperatives are making purchases through about 2,000 centres. Most of these centres are functioning in the rural areas.

### Agro-Aviation Aid for Farmers

GUJARAT AGRO-INDUSTRIES Corporation, a State Government undertaking, will soon have an agro-aviation wing, first of its kind in the country, to help farmers in spraying insecticides on standing crops.

GAIC will acquire helicopters, fixed wing aircraft for large scale aerial spraying, in 1,00,000 acres each of cotton and groundnut fields, this year.

The scheme will not only save farmers from locusts and rinderpests damaging crops, but will also save at least Rs. 30 lakhs every year, paid to private aviation companies for aerial spraying in Gujarat.

### Rs. 13.5 Cr. Dairy Plan for Rajasthan

THE RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT have prepared a Rs. 13.5 crore scheme for dairy development during the fifth Five Year Plan in the State.

Under the scheme, milk centres would be established at eight centres of Jodhpur, Bikaner, Alwar, Bharatpur, Kota, Udaipur and Bhilwara.

It is proposed to raise about 13 lakh litres of milk per day from these centres.

Over two lakh families in two thousand villages of 16 districts would be benefited under the scheme which provides for giving them help to raise good breed of milch cattle.

### Snack-Bar Permits for the Unemployed

TO MAKE THE educated unemployed business minded, the West Bengal Government has prepared a scheme under which permission will be given to the cooperative societies run by them to open snack-bars in Calcutta.

State owned land is to be given to them against a nominal amount. Each society will have to invest Rs. 5,000. Loan would also be available from the nationalised banks.

### Farmer-Teachers Training Project

SIXTY FARMER-TEACHERS of six Development Blocks in Bankura district, West Bengal, concluded their courses at the two-week training camp at Jhenda under the Farmer-Teachers' Training Project sponsored jointly by the Central Government and UNESCO.

Sixty more centres covering all the blocks would be opened in the district for similar training of the teachers who would work in rural areas to bring about socio-economic changes in the country.

### National Integration

THE PRIME MINISTER, Smt. Indira Gandhi has called upon educationists, political parties and publicity media in the country to create an atmosphere of tolerance so that the message of national integration could permeate all levels of society.

### PIREP Success in Midnapore

AT LEAST 2,54,441 man days of work were created under the Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Project at a cost of Rs. 8,85,804 at Nayagram in the Midnapore district till May 31.

Work is still continuing on six road building projects, 16 land reclamation projects, one afforestation project and a small irrigation project.

### Procurement Prices

...IT HAS BEEN decided to adopt the higher procurement price for rice recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission in the support price for the next crop. Presumably everything depends on the outcome of the bonus scheme now announced. The Government will go ahead with its plan of taking over the wholesale trade in paddy if the revised procurement plan produces the desired result. It is a wait and see policy New Delhi has adopted, which is sensible. Prudence demands that the Government should be fully prepared before the take-over of the wholesale rice trade is effected.

*The Hindusthan Standard*

POSSIBLY MADE wiser by this year's experience, the Chief Ministers have decided to treat the procurement prices for paddy suggested by the A.P.C. as only support prices while the actual procurement prices would be fixed before the harvest on the basis of market conditions.

This is without doubt as much a positive incentive to production as aimed at making a success of the procurement drive for strengthening the public distribution system which is a logical corollary of the take-over of the wholesale trade. But its implications for the consumers yet remain to be fully clarified. If the issue prices remain unchanged, the Government would have to increase the amount of subsidy to much more than what has been provided for in the budget. That would mean diversion of resources to unproductive purposes. If, however, increased issue prices serve to ensure smooth availability through the public distribution system there might not be any serious resistance from the consumers.

*The Amrita Bazar Patrika*

PARTIAL TAKEOVER of one cereal cannot improve matters. What is required is the takeover of trade in all foodgrains and pulses, leaving

no loopholes to be exploited by the unscrupulous.

Once it is clear that the farmers have to deal only with the Government and their agencies and with no one else, that they will get credit unflinchingly on easy terms and that their produce will bring a price that is just and fair, India's food problem will be largely solved, for the system will then have in-built incentives for greater production. With the middlemen and the racketeers among the big farmers rendered ineffective, the consumer can simultaneously be assured of regular supply at reasonable prices. The Government are rightly most concerned with the immediate problem of keeping prices from going up and maintaining adequate stocks; but the need to make the takeover and distribution scheme for the kharif crop foolproof should not be lost sight of.

*The National Herald*

THE GOVERNMENT must make a scientific study of the cost of production of various crops in different areas and peg the procurement prices at levels which allow a reasonable margin of profit to the cultivator. Besides, arrangements for the purchase, storage, movement and distribution of grain must be streamlined and a stable food policy evolved for good years and bad. The government after all would not have had to resort to high priced imports on the scale envisaged if it had been able to procure at least as much grain as it did last year when the total output of *rabi* wheat was the same, if not lower.

*The Times of India*

### Food Imports

THE IMPORT of foodgrains amounts to surrender to blackmail by vested interests in the rural economy, and giving in before the mischievous campaign by reactionaries.

The Government has enough time between now and November to organize kharif procurement on the

basis of a compulsory levy which will be enforced with the assistance of all supporting the procurement scheme. Any sign of hesitation will mean a severe setback to the entire concept of regulation of the food economy, and dependence on farmers abroad who, as in the case of the present import of two million tonnes, will dictate their terms.

*The Patriot*

### Education Plan

THE BASIC difficulty about expansion of primary education has been the competing demands of the classroom and the field. If this is resolved by the device of making this level of education informal and integrating it with the environment, some of the current frustrations will be minimised.

*The Hindustan Times*

THE FARMERS of India's Constitution had visualised that the State would be able to provide by 1960 free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14.

The goal set out in the Constitution remains a distant dream. The education plan has nothing in it to suggest a sense of urgency on the part of its authors or a proper awareness of the problems involved.

*The Indian Express*

### Legal Aid for the Poor

LEGAL AID for the poor will have to be complemented by simplification of the long, complicated and cumbersome legal procedures which even the educated find bewildering and difficult to follow. These procedures often render the dispensation of justice difficult and, for the poor and the uninitiated, disadvantageous. Without simplification and expedition law cannot be related to justice....

Such simplification must be considered an integral part of endeavours to make the poor man's recourse to law more than notional. Only by the discarding of outmoded and clumsy processes and procedures can law become a weapon in the hands of the underprivileged against the inroads into their rights by the privileged and the affluent.

*The Hindustan Times*

# HOW CUBA DID IT

ANAND VARDHAN\*

LITERACY FORMS the crucial social foundation in countries that are in the process of development. It has to go hand in hand, if not precede, with all the efforts of laying the physical foundations, which are generally described as infrastructure to planning. In recent years a striking example has been provided in this regard by the Republic of Cuba.

barrio) in accordance with the system of the three departments of finance, technical and publicity headed by a coordinator.

The Technical department was divided into three divisions—didactical, technical and statistical with each of them being headed by a woman, for a proper implementation of the National programme.

The motto of Premier Fidel

ing how to read and write under the guidance of trained teachers) who took the task upon themselves: to erase illiteracy from every nook and corner of the country. Another set of teachers that came to the fore were the Brigades consisting of students under the guidance of rebels. They dedicated themselves to the universal cause of teaching and usually operated in the isolated areas of the country.

In pursuance of the first stage of the Literacy Campaign, towards the middle of April, all schools were ordered to be closed. And these students were utilised for spreading education in the priority areas, formed into students Brigade. Behind the large literacy force of the campaign was the Conrado Benitez Brigade, the Patriao Muerte Worker's Brigade and as many as 120,632 people's *alfabetizadores*. Besides, about 34,722 professional teachers played their part by heading all technical departments of the directing bodies. They worked as advisers and instructors of the study and research centres.



The Cuban Literacy Campaign was divided into four distinct stages. The preparatory stage which commenced in September 1960 organised the National Literacy Commission which, along with the Municipal Councils of Education designated 'Liaison delegates' consisting of 15 to 20 qualified teachers. The Municipal Councils of Education was divided into work sub-commissions for the barrio (administrative division of the rural territory of the municipality) and cuartón (division of

Castro, viz., "We shall conquer", was pursued and the campaign developed steadily. The department of statistics covering national, provincial and municipal areas screened thoroughly all zones and inquired about the illiterates. The preparation for the campaign was intense.

### In Stages

The first stage was from 1st January, 1961, to 20th April of the same year. The Cuban campaign was primarily carried out by *alfabetizadores* (ordinary citizens and men and women determined to devote their free hours to teach-

The second stage (from 1st April, 1961 to 5th September, 1961) was the most constructive one. During this period the Literacy Commission was modified in its composition, order and derivations. The campaign was given a political orientation. Representatives of the National Teachers' Association, the National Association of Pedagogues and 17 other professional associations of educators formed a commission of their own. Mixed organisations, integrated with mass organisations and Party representatives as well as technicians, were set up and assumed the responsi-

\*Special Correspondent, India Press Agency

bility for the campaign in each province and municipality.

During this period of constant change in the whole educational structure, the literacy nucleus in certain areas turned into literacy units, as the decentralisation of the work grew. Fifty illiterates were under the guidance of 25 *alfabetizadores* resulting in an ideal relationship of two illiterates to one *alfabetizador*.

The statistics reveal that out of 105,664 young members of the Conrado Benitez Brigade all ranging from 14 to 16 years, 89,500 worked until the end of the campaign, and 5,000 finished their work before schedule.

The third stage of the campaign, (from 5th September 1961 to 22nd December, 1961,) was a very short one. During this period stress was laid on more working hours—the *alfabetizadores* prolonged their working hours. A vigorous drive was made to ensure that

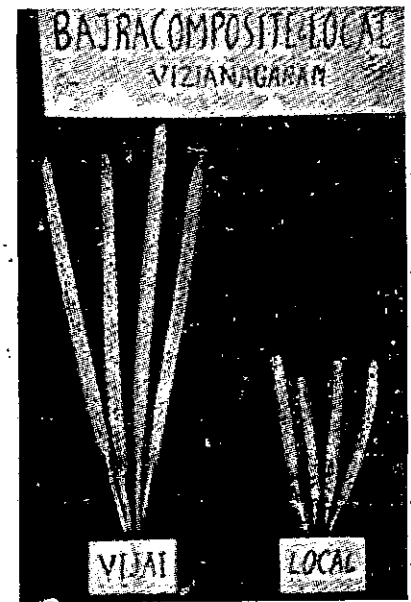
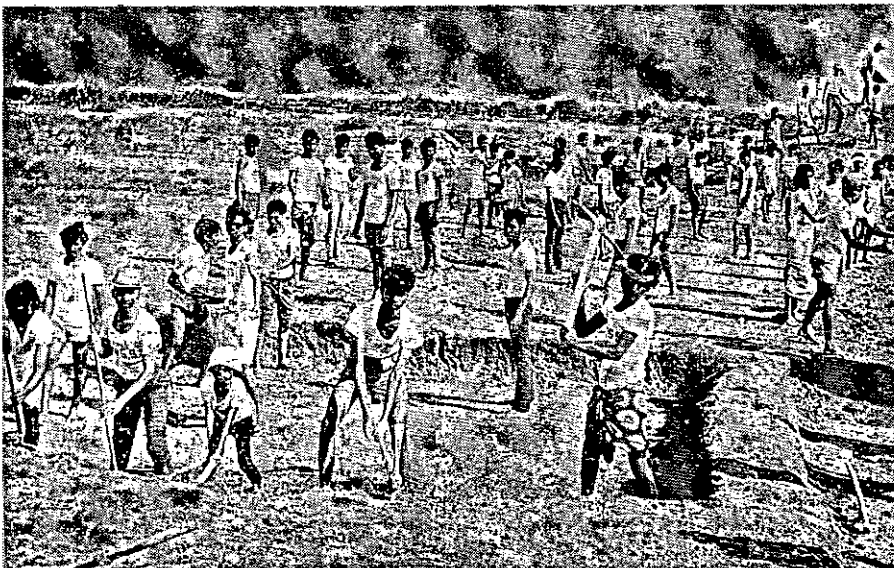
a large number of pupils attended the classes and that their attendance was maximum. For this purpose statistical cards and information sheets were put to use until the end of the campaign. Besides, new techniques and forms were developed in order to accelerate the campaign and strengthen teaching. Thus acceleration camps were opened all over the island. Teachers, brigadistas, experienced people's *alfabetizadores*, all collectively gave intensive lessons to workers and farmers. Thus, 1961 came to be commonly known as the "Year of Education".

As the year came to an end, each municipality made concerted efforts to finish the work before others. There was tremendous competition among teachers, brigadistas and *alfabetizadores* and as a result of that within a short time, the areas were freed from illiteracy. Finally on December 22, Cuba was declared a country free from illiteracy.

#### Y.A.F. WORK AT SULUR

The Youth Against Famine Campaign at Sulur in Coimbatore district has made good impact on the rural population of that area. About 150 students from three colleges of Coimbatore and Ootacamund and 50 local youths desilted and deepened a 300-metre deep pond—Orvelankuttai—in just 21 days.

According to Shri U.K.N. Raju a villager from this area, the campaign has helped change the attitude of the villagers. Another villager observed that the deepening and widening of pond done by the students will make available stored rain water for three more months and percolate 100 acres of dry land. Smt. Angamuthu was grateful to the campers because it was due to their proper projection of the evils of drinking, that her husband gave up drinking within a short period.



#### VIJAYAGANTE

*Vijayagante* a new hybrid variety of composite medium tall Bajra evolved by the Millet Research Station, Vizianagaram, in Visakhapatnam District has a promising future in fulfilling the set targets for the 1973-74 Kharif season.

In Visakhapatnam District Bajra, is grown in Kharif season mostly under rainfed conditions in an area of 1.30 lakh acres. It is a staple food for small cultivators in villages. The *Vijayagante* comes to maturity in 86 days. Its yields are 100 per cent more than the local variety.

The local gives 350 kgs. per acre while this yields 700 to 800 kgs. per acre. It responds well to irrigation and fertiliser application under good management. The yields were recorded upto 1.50 M. Tons per acre in this district.