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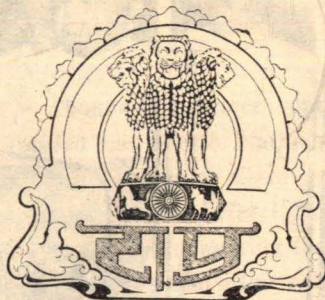
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Dr. Rajendra Prasad

President of the Republic of India

is pleased to be the

Patron-in-Chief

of the

Bharat Krishak Samaj.

By Command of the President of the Republic of India

Military Secretary's Office,

The 19 March 1958.

[Signature]
Major-General,
Military Secretary to the President

President Dr. Rajendra Prasad has very kindly accepted to be the Patron-in-Chief of the Samaj



Prime Minister Shri Nehru inaugurating the Fourth National Convention of Farmers.

NEHRU'S CALL TO FARMERS TO INCREASE FOOD OUTPUT

Inaugurating the Fourth National Convention of Farmers on March 15, in New Delhi, Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru told the farmers that they had a great responsibility to fulfill and also a great opportunity to march ahead not only for their own sake but for the sake of the country and asked them to co-operate with the Krishak Samaj.

About 4,000 farmers from all over India listened to Shri Nehru in rapt attention in the gaily decorated pandal at the Talkatora Gardens. Among those present on the occasion included Shri A.P. Jain, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, Shri Swaran Singh, Shri Nathuram Mirdha, Dr. R. Ahmed, Shri M. Choudhry, Shri Gurbanta Singh, Shri S.N. Mushran, Shri Chandrika Ram, Shri M.V. Krishnappa, Shri Thomas and development and agricultural experts from the Centre and the States.

Addressing the farmers the Prime Minister said that at this stage of national reconstruction, food and population were two vital problems and these problems must be solved with all urgency for the benefit of country's progress. He said that Five Year Plans and other plans for industrial development of the country would be seriously upset if the disappointing state of food production and the alarming rise in population were allowed to continue.

Shri Nehru expressed his concern at the drainage of India's foreign exchange on account of import of food

grains during the last two years when there was so much need for foreign exchange for developmental work under the Second Five Year Plan.

He said there were instances in this country of the productivity having been raised through intensive efforts on a limited scale. This demonstrated that there was no inherently insurmountable obstacle in raising the production. Whatever difficulties there were could and should be tackled. And in the final analysis it was the determination of the farmer, individually and collectively which decided the issue.

He said that side by side steps must also be taken to control the growth of population. He said this was an important problem and if not tackled in time it was going to become a matter of life and death for India and other countries like her. The pace of growth of population in India, China and in other Asian countries at present was simply terrific. He said that if they did not curb it, the countries of Asia in that event would be perpetually on the brink of starvation and misery. The dreams of a higher standard of living would simply have to be given up.

He said that it was not enough to just become self sufficient in food. The country must produce surplus so that unforeseen eventualities like famine, flood and drought could be met and also foodgrains were exported abroad. He said that there was no cause for depression on account of their present difficulties as in another two or three years the country should be enjoying the benefit of her industrial development.

He said that India was going ahead with her industrialization programme

even though the country was experiencing temporary difficulties over foreign exchange for the purchase of machinery equipment.

He said that the problem of food was closely intermingled with the industrialization programme. Industrialization programme could not succeed unless the country was self sufficient in food grains.

The Prime Minister emphasized that without people's co-operation these difficulties could not be overcome.

Shri Nehru stressed that it was **imperative to achieve some quick results in the matter of food production.** He expressed the view that, without any prejudice the long range efforts for increasing food production such as clearing forest for bringing waste land under the plough, concentrated effort must be made in areas where water supply to the fields was more or less assured whether through irrigation or comparatively steady monsoon condition. He regretted that in some cases full advantage of irrigation facilities had not been taken. There were cases of inadequate take off of water from tube-wells on the ground that the water rate was high. In some fields along side canals went dry resulting in loss of food production, because offtake channels had not been prepared. About forty lakh acres of land which could have been irrigated, in fact, had to go dry. This was a very unsatisfactory state of things and must end soon, the Prime Minister added.

Referring to agricultural development the Prime Minister said that although he was never a farmer in his life, he could say that **one of the means to intensify agriculture was through the small co-operatives** which should be free from Government interference. He felt that the farmers would benefit greatly, and their efforts for increasing food production have much better chances of success if they organize themselves in co-operatives. It was difficult for an individual farmer, but much easier for the co-operative to arrange for improved seeds, fertilizers, implements and also for proper marketing of the produce. The co-operative must not be very big in size for them, as the necessary personal touch between the members became difficult. He suggested that the panchayats in every village should fix the targets of agricultural

produce for each family and see that the target was achieved.

Shri Nehru wished that every village in India possessed a panchayat, a co-operative and a school. **These he described as the instruments of upliftment and development;** the first one bring political, the second economic and the third an all round well being of the people.

He discouraged the idea of erecting buildings for schools and felt that disproportionately large share of the amount earmarked for education was being spent on raising these buildings. In villages, in particular, he preferred that instruction could be very well imparted in the shade of the trees as was being done in Shanti-Niketan. Shri Nehru suggested that the money so saved should be spent on paying the

FARMERS FROM ALL PARTS OF INDIA

MEET IN 4TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

About 4,000 farmers representing a cross section of Indian peasantry attended the Fourth National Convention of Farmers from March 14 to 19, at Talkatora Gardens, New Delhi. They came from far flung places like Assam, Kerala and Kashmir and formed a colourful gathering of young and old wearing their areas representative costumes. Besides them there was also a fair sprinkling of farm-women from Assam, Maharashtra and other States.

The farmers met each other and discussed their problems, reviewed the various agricultural programmes and listened to the eminent national leaders—Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru; Shri G.B. Pant, Home Minister; Shri A.P. Jain, Minister for Food and Agriculture; Shri V.T. Krishnamachari, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission; Shri Satyanarayan Sinha; Shri M.V. Krishnappa, Deputy Minister for Agriculture; Maharaja Yadendra Singh of Patiala and the President of the Samaj Dr. P.S. Deshmukh.

They studied the various agricultural practices and implements on view in the Agricultural Exhibition and joined their friends from various States to witness the cultural programmes arranged in evenings and were all in praise for the Moghul Gardens of the Rahstrapati Bhavan, where the Union Minister for Food and Agriculture was at home to them.

A beautiful town of tents with electricity, running water, flush latrines and telephones had sprung to life in the picturesque surroundings of the Talkatora Gardens. Arrangement of meals was both in North and South Indian styles. The farmers were taken around to the Cattle Show, Military Tattoo and places of interest in Delhi. Later after the Convention they went to see the Bhakra Dam in two special trains.

The Convention was a great event to many. Some people had not come out of their states before, while for others it was the second opportunity to represent their areas. And all of them voiced one feeling—“Sammelan was good, informative, educative and gave the farming community their due place in national life; and Krishak Samaj should have deep roots in every village of the country for the betterment of farmers lot and for the advancement of Indian Agriculture.

teacher well and on purchasing equipment necessary for teaching. He said that the teacher in India deserved a much better deal.

Referring to the question of prices Shri Nehru said that this was a matter in which the interests of the farmer and the consumer were in conflict. He said that efforts should be made to keep down the prices of agricultural produce at a reasonable level because any rise in the food prices in a poor country like India had a far reaching effect on the economic life throughout the country. He emphasized that the price should be fair to both the producer and the consumer.

Shri Nehru said that tremendous responsibility lies on the farmers and with that the farmers have also a great opportunity to march ahead for their own sake as well as for the good of the nation and expressed the desire that farmers will take part in the deliberations of the Krishak Samaj.

Earlier, welcoming the Prime Minister, Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj said that Indian farmers were deeply indebted to Shri Nehru for the great interest he was taking in agriculture and agriculturists. He said that the Samaj was progressing satisfactorily and was getting stronger day by day.

He said that the link that Samaj had set out to forge between farming and farmer was daily becoming stronger and the endeavour deserved Prime Minister's whole-hearted encouragement and blessings. He said that the farmers present there had not come to ask for anything but to discuss the various issues confronting the Ministries and what they themselves felt about them. He said that the presence of the Prime Minister was sufficient to make them happy and enthuse a new spirit to them.

In his presidential address, Dr. Deshmukh expressed satisfaction for the fact that Samaj has steadfastly adhered to its object of keeping itself completely free from any politics. With a view to make this still more sure, it has a programme of mutual discussions and deliberations where farm-

ers make the fullest use of the Government officers and experts every-where and in all branches of agriculture. The experts have extended to Samaj their best and sincere co-operation, he said.

He said that the co-operation of effort of the officials and the non-official farmers was already yielding fruit in as much as the main function of carrying to the people, what constitutes better agriculture, was being fulfilled. Dr. Deshmukh said that the Samaj was contributing to the improvement of Indian Agriculture, in considerable measure.

Referring to the vast gathering present in the *pandal* Dr. Deshmukh said that not only in the Convention but even at various meetings of the All India Farmers' Council large number of representatives from every State and from most of the districts in India come to attend them. He refuted the suspicion that the organization catered only to the needs of the bigger cultivators. He said that in every meeting by and large, the small and the medium cultivator was always in a very substantial majority. Actually, however, the problems of cultivation did not differ much with the holdings. They only get more acute as the holding becomes smaller, in the field of deliberations and considerations of pros and cons of the various issues that face the farmer. Dr. Deshmukh said that the Samaj could claim for itself some good work to its credit.

He said that the meetings of the Samaj were not only held to pass resolutions or to protest against this or that action or policy of the Government. **The Samaj considers every item which concerns the farmers vitally and the members themselves express frankly and forcefully, in a constructive spirit.** The Samaj was of the view that in an independent India with a Government selected by the people, it should not be necessary for any section of its community to take to any direct action or indulge merely in protests and condemnations.

Dr. Deshmukh said that some indeed were dissatisfied that Samaj had no militant programme and that it was rather docile. "Leaving all bravado to others, we are prepared to bear this criticism of ourselves cheerfully," Dr. Deshmukh added.

He said that whenever the Samaj holds Convention, a Seminar on some

subject or the other is also held. This time the Subject was the "Place of Krishak Samaj in Agricultural Extension" and Shri V.T. Krishnamachari had inaugurated it. Dr. Deshmukh said that he felt confident, that as a result of the Seminar, the Samaj will strengthen the National Extension Service.

Dr. Deshmukh reminded that the salvation of the farmer lies in taking the utmost advantage of the National Extension Service and the latter cannot have the satisfaction of having achieved everything without the co-operation of the farmer. He emphasized that the benefits accruing from National Extension Service could become permanent and lasting only if an organized body of farmers undertakes the follow-up and thus shoulders the responsibility of carrying on the work. He warned that to discard this important aspect was to invite inevitable failure. Even if a large army of officials was set up for doing extension it was impossible that every individual farmer could be approached to advise and helped all the time. "Inevitably, we have therefore, to think of the farmers as a group. **It is our confirmed view, therefore that a Farmer's Organization should form the basis of Agricultural Extension** so that our efforts may bear much more fruit than we could hope to do without", Dr. Deshmukh added.

He said that in the Convention delegates had come from every nook and corner of India. Coming here of these delegates from various parts of India and remaining together for 6 to 8 days inspired them to better action and gave them invaluable inspiration and confidence, which they broadcast and almost physically radiate after they return to their homes. The Samaj has now a settled but most fruitful programme which it goes through every year. The farmer delegates from hundreds of villages meet the Prime Minister and listen to his advice, have the honour of going to the Rashtrapati Bhavan and to meet and hear the Rashtrapati. They also get the opportunity of listening to many Ministers, Members of the Planning Commission and a large number of experts in the Ministry of Food & Agriculture. They see the Pusa Institute, which, Dr. Deshmukh described as the Mecca of Agricultural Research in India. He said that they also get an opportunity to see Bhakra Nangal as well as a Community Development Centre in the Punjab.



Reflecting on agricultural production Dr. Deshmukh said that during the last half a dozen years farmers have resorted progressively to better agricultural production in the country which was on an upward grade. He said that this conclusion had also been reached by the Ashoka Mehta Committee. He assured the Prime Minister that farmers will not be failing in their efforts to respond to appeal for larger agricultural production.

He regretted that in spite of substantial progress in the total yield as well as per acre yield of various crops, average yields in the country continue to be the lowest in the world. He said that he did not also wish to make any excuse by saying that there were many adverse circumstances which were responsible for these low yields, nor did he wanted to plead the vagaries of the weather or lack of adequate credit and still worse, the unsatisfactory state of marketing of agricultural produce in mitigating comparative failure to produce as much as the country needs.

Regarding the agricultural prices Dr. Deshmukh said that there was an important aspect of prices which had to be always remembered, namely, whereas paying higher prices for food grains may cause great hardship to many people, the low prices of agricultural commodities, apart from causing similar misery to the farmer also reduces, if not destroys, his capacity to produce more the next year.

He said that the Samaj has been anxious to set up a National Farmers' Co-operative Bank with as large a capital as it may be able to collect. He said that Samaj would like to make it a very sound concern which will help the farmers in various ways including substantial assistance in preventing distress sales of their produce. Having such a bank, it may be possible to make advances to the smaller cultivators on the pledging of their goods so that they may have the benefit of better prices. He said that this was the objective of warehousing and other marketing schemes also.

Concluding his speech Dr. Deshmukh said that the Samaj proposed to hold an International Food & Agriculture Exhibition in India in January 1960.

Meetings Of The Commissions

After the inaugural session, the Convention broke up in three Commissions: (1) Commission on Agriculture & Animal Husbandry; (2) Commission on Co-operation and Marketing and (3) Commission on Finance and organization.

Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

The Commission on Agriculture and Animal Husbandry held its meetings on March 16 and 17. Dr. P.S. Deshmukh presided over the deliberations.

In his speech Dr. Deshmukh explained to the farmers the agricultural and animal husbandry programmes of the Government.

The Commission held discussions on several subjects relating to agriculture and animal husbandry. More important among these were : Fixation of price of food grains before sowing time; reduction of rates of electricity for agricultural purposes; availability of fertilizers; lift irrigation; food processing and food grain zones; representation of Samaj on Import and Export Advisory Committees; pastures; composting of human excreta by *gram panchayats* and local bodies; availability and production of improved seeds; equalization of rate of excise duty on tobacco; curtailment of railway freight charges for transport of manure from cities to rural areas; greater production of ammonium sulphate; mechanized farming; compulsory inoculation against contagious diseases of cattle; provision of veterinary dispensaries and also land reforms.

Co-operation and Marketing

The Commission on Co-operation and Marketing held its meetings on March 17 and 18.

Opening the deliberations of the Commission Dr. Deshmukh informed the delegates that the programme of setting up warehouses and godowns has been recently launched and seven Central Warehouses had already been established.

He further disclosed that for helping the farmers in marketing their produce, branches of the Krishak Samaj were proposed to be formed in every important *mandi* in the country.

The subjects discussed in the Commission included : agricultural credit; co-operative societies ; agricultural marketing; State Co-operative Development Board; etc.

The Commission was addressed by Shri Yadvendra Singh, Maharaja of Patiala. He exhorted the farmers to make concerted efforts to grow more food and pay greater attention to storage and marketing of their produce.

Land holdings were becoming smaller and uneconomic and unless they worked jointly through co-operative, they would not get full returns for their hard labour, he said.

He expressed himself in favour of "Co-operatives by will." While there were certain things which the farmers could do individually, there were many agricultural operations like irrigation, control of pests and diseases, storage and marketing which could be best done by joint efforts. Small co-operatives should be set up to handle these common problems, he said.

Paying tribute to Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, for the work he was doing for the farmers, the Maharaja said that Bharat Krishak Samaj had done good work by providing the farmers a forum for meeting together and exchanging experience for common benefit.

Organization and Finance

The Commission on Organization and Finance held its meeting on the afternoon of March 18, under the Presidentship of Dr. P.S. Deshmukh.

Addressing the meeting Dr. Deshmukh, pointed out the various factors essential for the development of agriculture in the country. He said that the Bharat Krishak Samaj was aiming at the advancement of Indian agriculture. Dwelling on the objects and aims of the Samaj, Dr. Deshmukh said that the Samaj should be established in every village of the country, so that the farmers got an opportunity of discussing and solving their problems and to help build the rural economy which was the backbone of India's progress towards prosperity.

The deliberations of the Commission mainly centred round the Constitution of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, finances of its branches in the States and matters concerning the organization of the Samaj in the States.

Pant's Call for Increasing National Income

Shri G.B. Pant, Union Home Minister called upon the farmers to increase annually, by at least eight to ten per cent, the country's food production, while addressing the concluding session of the Fourth National Convention of Farmers on March 19.

He said that he felt happy to address the farmers and the holding of the National Farmers' Convention was a healthy move by which the farmers got opportunity to discuss important issues connected with the interests of the farming community. He said that the Bharat Krishak Samaj was a promising organisation because it endeavoured towards the welfare of farmers through inter-exchange of ideas.

He said that it was a shame that a country like India which was essentially an agricultural one and had been pursuing this vocation for several centuries should depend upon relatively new countries for food. Thousands of maunds were imported from lands which were primarily industrialised.

He said, "If we were to double our food production every person's income in India would increase by at least 1½ times. The prosperity of the country is dependent upon the welfare of the villagers which can only be possible through better crops", he added.

Shri Pant said that judicious use of improved techniques and technical know-how could increase food production. Modern implements, more irrigation water and better seeds were available and it was up to the farmers to take advantage of them.

It was a pity, he said, that at certain places irrigation water was going waste. The same way there were other facilities available to improve the crops but they were not being fully used. How could the efforts to increase food production be effective, if persons concerned did not come forward to avail of them, he added.

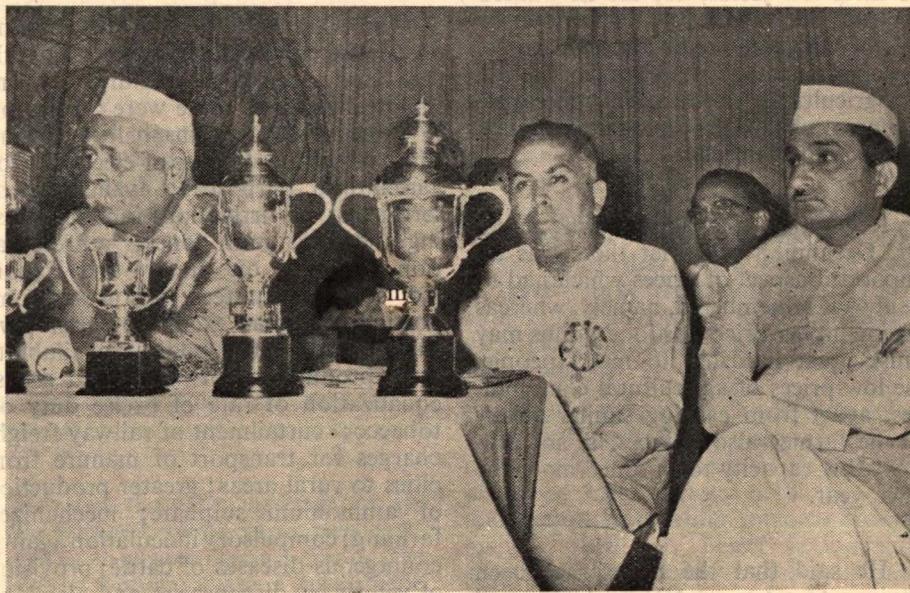
He complained that the people of the country became inactive due to foreign domination for their rulers never wanted the people to gain strength and stand on their own legs.

Commending the example of American farmers, he appealed to the farmers to follow the former's policy of depending more on self help than on Government assistance.

He said that this was possible only if farmers joined hands to solve the numerous problems which confronted

them. The Government could only assist them in this task.

He said, "You can, of course, take the fruits from the tree nurtured by others. But sweeter would be the taste



Shri Pant addressing the Valedictory Session of the Fourth Convention

of the fruit from the tree, provided you cultivate it yourself."

He also quoted the American farmers who had toiled for effecting improvements in the soil through voluntary efforts. Shri Pant said that they not only provided food for all their countrymen but were able to send plenty to India also.

Shri Pant also referred to co-operative societies and said that very few of them were really effective. They were lacking in vitality so essential for their success. It was time the farmers offered their full support for the proper functioning of these bodies.

Shri Pant asked the farmers to benefit from Bharat Krishak Samaj which offered them the opportunity of considering their agricultural problems and farmers should enrich themselves through agriculture and make every effort to increase the agricultural production of the country.

He also stressed for the need of family planning.

Earlier welcoming the Home Minister, Dr. Deshmukh said that, in its short span of life of three years, the Bharat Krishak Samaj had made tremendous progress as could be seen by the work it had done and the response of farmers to come in large numbers to join the Samaj.

He explained the factors responsible

for the popularity of the Samaj. The Samaj, he said, had chalked out its programme which chiefly consisted of the improvement of the lot of agriculturists for increasing agricultural production of the country. Dr. Deshmukh said that the approach of the Samaj to all problems was constructive. It offered an opportunity to farmers and their friends interested in their welfare to study the problems facing the agricultural producers in India and to advance their social, economic and cultural interests as well as the interests of farm youths and farm women.

The Samaj, he said, has provided a platform where farmers, agricultural experts, Government officers, legislators

and others interested in the advancement of rural economy of the country met together and pooled their intelligence and energy to solve the various agricultural issues facing the country.

He said that farmers wanted to become members of the Samaj due to one more reason, that was the non-political nature of the organisation. He said that now the branches of Samaj were being established in taluqs and villages. The 500 village branches established in Mysore significantly proved that farmers were less interested in politics and more in their vocation.

The Valedictory Session of the Fourth Convention passed two resolutions, one regarding the establishment of a National Farmers Bank and the second about holding an International Food and Agriculture Exhibition. The first resolution was moved by Shri S.M. Wahi, Director, Co-operative Bank, Bihar and the second by Shri P.U. Oza, of the Life Insurance Corporation.

The resolution on National Farmers Bank said that a farmers bank can alone meet the credit needs of the smaller agriculturist by supplementing the facilities offered by existing Co-operative Credit Banks or the Warehousing Board. It also asked for taking necessary steps to establish a National Farmers Co-operative Bank in the country at an early date.

By another resolution it was proposed to hold an International Food



Shri M.C. Bondriya, Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Krishak Samaj receiving the First Award

SAMAJ AWARDS FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The "BHARAT KRISHAK SAMAJ 1958 AWARD" for enrolling the largest number of life members in the Country was won by the Madhya Pradesh Krishak Samaj.

The SECOND AWARD went to the Bombay State Krishak Samaj for enrolling largest life members in the State.

The award for enrolling the highest

number of life members in a district went to the District Krishak Samaj, East Khandesh.

The award to the Taluq or Tehsil, enrolling the largest number of life members was given to the Yawal Krishak Samaj.

The awards were given away by the Union Home Minister at the valedictory session of the Convention.

and Agriculture Exhibition under the auspices of the Bharat Krishak Samaj for a period of six to eight weeks beginning in January 1960, when the International

Federation of Agricultural Producers is expected to hold its eleventh Annual Conference in New Delhi.

Farmers at Bhakra-Nangal



The Fourth National Convention of farmers concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman which was proposed by Shri G. S. Dhillon of Madhya Pradesh.

FARMER DELEGATES VISIT BHAKRA-NANGAL

Over 1,200 farmer delegates to the Fourth National Convention of Farmers organized by Bharat Krishak Samaj went on a tour of the multi-purpose Bhakra-Nangal Project on March 19, to see for themselves the mighty symbol of India's determination to go ahead and provide for the prosperity of her people.

The Rs. 170 crore project, which on completion, will arrest the flood waters, when rain is plentiful, saving the land from water logging, will release sufficient water to irrigate 3.6 million acres of sun-scorched land, when nature's supply is scarce.

Shri A.P. Jain Addresses Fifth Meeting Of The All India Farmers' Council

Inaugurating the Fifth Session of the All-India Farmers Council, Shri A.P. Jain, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, told a large gathering of farmers in New Delhi on March 19, that considerable research on the development of better varieties of agricultural commodities had been carried out by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and what was lacking was the extension of scientific knowledge to the farmers and its application in the fields. He said that the Krishak Samaj could play an important role in this direction.

Shri Jain said that he had been watching with keen interest the National Conventions of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and had always felt that they were useful and were growing popular among the farming community as was evident from the large number of farmers who come to attend them.

Shri Jain said that the All India Farmers Council had an important place in the set up of Bharat Krishak Samaj. He asked for holding more meetings of the A.I.F.C. and said that it was necessary to strengthen the Samaj, as only then it would prove useful. He said that some people criticised the Samaj which was a heartening thing. The people would not criticise anything which was dead and inactive but only an active being. The Samaj, he said, had started showing signs of a living being.

Referring to the recommendations of the Food Grains Inquiry Committee, he said that the Government was paying greater attention to minor irrigation works. While major irrigation projects were necessary from the national point of view, these would yield results only during a period of time. The need of the hour was to have wells, tanks and channels which could immediately provide water to the fields.

For the dry farming areas where irrigation facilities were not available and where rain was insufficient, the Minister suggested the use of improved seeds and soil conservation methods. He said that the experiments carried out in Bombay State had shown that production could be increased by two maunds per acre by following these measures.

That farming had to be made remunerative and the lot of the farmers had to be improved were important points for consideration, he said. He, however, conceded that the price would have to be such as was fair both to the consumer and to the producer.

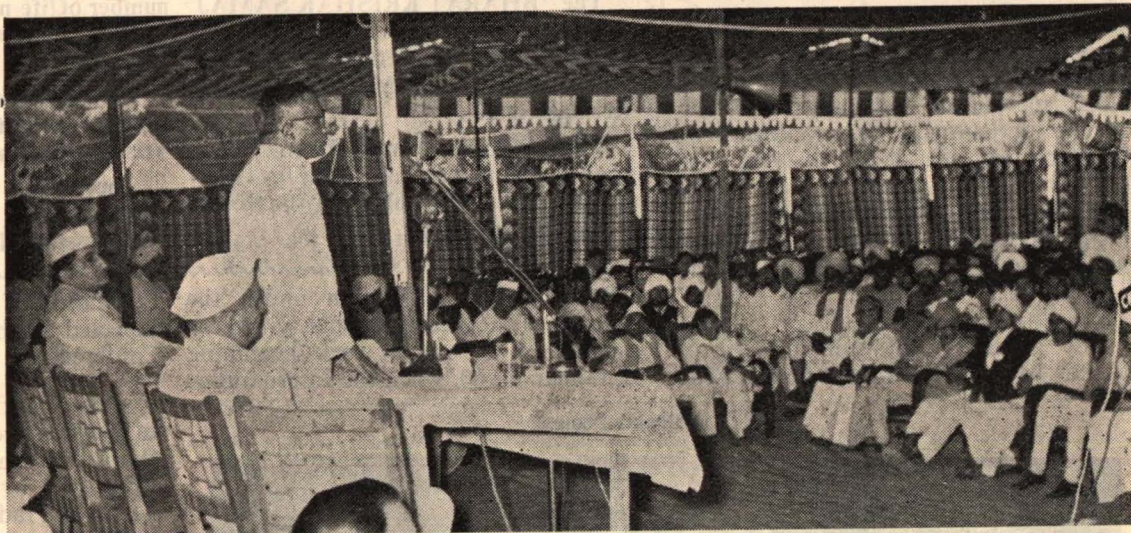
The Minister reviewed the programme of providing cheap credit to the

farmers and provision of better marketing facilities. While the co-operative

on the production of warehouse receipts.

He complained that due to many reasons particularly due to the nature of their work the farmers were unorganised in India which was also the case in some other countries. The industrialists and traders were organised but the farmers due to lack of education and certain other factors were not organised. He said that he welcomed the idea to organise the Samaj and was happy to watch its progress. He was confident that the Samaj would march onwards and become a real representative organisation of farmers. Farmers would not join it for political aspirations but for increasing the agricultural production and improving the technique of farming, he added.

He stressed the need of taking farmers round the country on Bharat Darshan tours. Some people complained that the angle of the farmers was isolat-



Shri A.P. Jain addressing the AIFC Meeting at New Delhi.

credit societies supplied only 3% of the total agricultural credit till four years ago, this had now gone up to 8%. By the end of the Second Plan the credit provided by these societies would be about 250 crores, he said. Co-operative marketing societies were being established and it was significant that during the last two years fluctuation in price at harvest time had been much less as compared to earlier period. He also explained the scheme for establishing a chain of godowns and warehouses in mandies and important trade centres. When these were fully established, it would be possible for the farmers to obtain credit at low rates from the banks

ed, and there were farmers in the country who did not know what was a railway train, what India means, what were their problems, what was a steel plant, engineering industries, reservoirs, etc. There was a great necessity he said for more knowledge and education among farmers. He said that Samaj can be of immense help in the great task of providing enlightenment to the farmers which was extremely essential for strengthening the unity of the country and for making the country prosperous.

Referring to the working of the Commodity Committees of the Government and the Crop Committees of the Samaj,

"AGRICULTURE IS LIFE AND SOUL OF PLAN"

Need for the establishment of village panchayats and village co-operatives, which should assume responsibility of providing minor irrigation works, improved seed, compost and green manure was stressed by Shri V.T. Krishnamachari, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as a concrete programme for the farmers while inaugurating the seminar on "Krishak Samaj in Agricultural Extension", on March 14 in New Delhi.

He said that agricultural production was the foundation on which the Plan was based and it was the duty of the farmer delegates to develop the best leadership which can ensure fullest utilization of irrigation and other facilities to best advantage.

The Second Plan envisages 28 per cent increase in agricultural production and 50 per cent more expenditure than in the First Plan, excluding taccavi loans, small scale industries in rural areas and co-operative sugar factories. Shri Krishnamachari disclosed that for

Shri Jain said that they could always work helping each other for the benefit of the agricultural development of this large country.

Shri Jain referred to the work of the I.C.A.R. which he said had done considerable work of importance. He said that he was happy to see in Egypt that 95% sugarcane crop was being raised from Coimbatore Cane.

Shri Jain said that real community development could be achieved by the active co-operation of farmers and the Government could not succeed in it alone.

Concluding his speech Shri Jain said that when he came to the Convention he felt that he was among his friends and colleagues.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj, in his speech reminded that the Krishak Samaj had appointed a number of Commodity Committees which worked in close co-operation with their counterpart in I.C.A.R.; these committees provided a link between the Government agricultural experts and the farmers in the field. Besides, the Krishak Samaj was actively considering the role it could play in agricultural extension.

Later Shri K.D. Sharma, Secretary Bharat Krishak Samaj, read the report of the working of the Samaj and its progress in various areas. Representatives from Kerala, Madras, Mysore, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal also gave a brief account of the working of the Samaj in these States.

encouraging agricultural production the Planning Commission had written to the State Governments that if the progress was satisfactory during the first three years of the Plan period, the Planning Commission would not hesitate to increase allocation for the remaining two years.

Shri Krishnamachari said that he was always happy to address the farmers' meetings as agriculture was the "life and soul—the vital part of the Second Plan" and agricultural production cannot be increased "unless we have your support". Emphasizing the need for development of minor irrigation works, he said that 12 million acres were expected to be brought under irrigation by the end of the Second Plan. If all the water thus made available was fully and properly utilized there was hope that "we would be able to grow not only all the food we need but might even be able to export more agricultural commodities."

He said that under the First and the Second Five Year Plan the Union Government was spending nearly Rs. 770 crores on major and medium irrigation projects and nearly Rs. 190 crores on minor irrigation works. He also said that under the rural electrification programme they contemplated to provide electricity to 14,000 villages.

Referring to the Crop Competitions organised by the Union Ministry of Food & Agriculture he said, the results of these have been illuminating and have demonstrated that the production achieved by the Indian farmers can be compared with that obtained in other countries. He advised the progressive farmers to teach others in the better methods of cultivation.

Since individual farmers may not be able to pay for water, improved seed and fertilizers before the crop is ready, Shri Krishnamachari said these

would have to be supplied on credit. Every family should, therefore, be a member of the village co-operative. A community sense should be developed without forgetting that the community can become strong only where the individual families are strong.

Advising the farmer delegates about their role in agricultural extension, Shri Krishnamachari said that their best efforts were needed in building up village leadership. "If this becomes a mass movement our food problem will be solved", he said.

Shri Krishnamachari concluded his address with an appeal to farmers to endeavour their best to increase production. On them depended the success of the Plan and of democracy in India.

Earlier, welcoming Shri Krishnamachari, **Dr. P.S. Deshmukh**, President of the Samaj, emphasized the role a farmer's association like the Bharat Krishak Samaj could play in obtaining greater co-operation of the farmers for increased agricultural production.

He stressed the need for closer co-operation between extension workers and cultivators. He said that it was the farmer who had to put the economy of the country on firmer basis. Unless he worked tirelessly, India may not even be able to pay the debts taken from other countries.

Besides farmer delegates from various parts of the country, Shri Moinul Huque Choudhry, Agriculture Minister, Assam; Shri Jagat Narain Lal, Minister for Co-operation, Bihar; Shri Chandrika Ram, Deputy Agriculture Minister, Bihar; Shri S.N. Mushran, Deputy Agriculture Minister, Madhya Pradesh and representatives of Technical Co-operation Mission, the Ford Foundation and Agricultural experts of the Centre and the states took part in the Seminar.

The discussion in the Seminar was initiated by Shri Moinul Huque Choudhry, and those who spoke or contributed papers to the Seminar included Shri Wendell Holman, of the T.C.M.; Shri Jagat Narain Lal; Dr. R.J. Kalamkar, Additional Agricultural Commissioner, I.C.A.R.; Shri M.L. Wilson (Ford Foundation); Shri Bishan Man Singh; Shri Basant Singh; Dr. P.C. Raheja, Indian Agricultural Research Institute; Dr. (Mrs.) R. Devadas, Chief Home Economist, Directorate of

AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION

The Agricultural Exhibition which was organised during the Convention was opened on the evening of March 14, at Talkatora Gardens, New Delhi by Shri Satya Narain Sinha, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, before a large gathering of farmers and agricultural experts and officers who had come to attend the Fourth National Convention of Farmers.

Inaugurating the Exhibition Shri Satya Narain Sinha said that the eyes of the nation were focussed on the farmers of India, as they were the people who could save the Five Year Plan.

He said that everyone knew that the food shortage in the country drained away very valuable foreign exchange and this was something which the country could not afford to do. Agriculture had occupied an honoured place from the Vedic times and there were proverbs in practically every language to bring out the dignity of agriculture as the noblest calling, he said.

Shri Sinha said that however much a country was industrialized and prosperous, the lynchpin of that prosperity was the agriculturists. All the industrial wealth and other resources should have no meaning if the people did not have enough to eat. The country had attained independence but this would have no meaning until this was translated in economic independence also, he added.

Shri Sinha said that there were hundreds of individual farmers, who were

Extension & Training; Shri Chandrika Ram; Shri Kamta Prasad, a former minister of Madhya Pradesh; Shri B.J. Trivedi. Shri M.P. Bhargava, Director of Co-operation; Shri Shinde, Deputy Director of Agriculture (M.P.); Shri Satwant Singh and Shri Naidu.

Nearly all the speakers in the Seminar voiced the feeling that in implementing the programmes of agricultural extension, the Krishak Samaj can play an important part in securing the active participation of farmers in the great task, of stepping up the food production in the country and also upgrading the rural economy of the country.



Shri Sinha cutting the tape at the opening of the Exhibition

models in farming as their produce compared with the best in the world. It was also true that the agricultural output of the Indian farmer on the average was very poor. This state of affairs had to be remedied. The target before the country should be not only to produce enough for internal consumption but to produce more for export as it would earn valuable foreign exchange.

Earlier welcoming Shri Satya Narain Sinha, Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, President, Bharat Krishak Samaj gave an account of the activities of the Samaj and said that the Samaj proposed to hold an International Exhibition of Food and Agriculture in the beginning of 1960.

Among the many interesting features of Exhibition were the agricultural implements and the stalls set up by the I.C.A.R., the State Departments of Agriculture, the T.C.M., and the Indian Co-operative Union. The farmers were much impressed by the bullock drawn implements useful for cultivating medium size farms. T.C.M. stall had on display a chick incubator which attracted many poultry breeders.

Besides the Gramsevikas' model house set up by the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, the Andhra Pradesh stall attracted many visitors. The stall displayed the prize bunch of grapes from Hyderabad. The farmers also learnt from the stall about the technical data and that the root cuttings of grapes, could be secured from the I.C.A.R. The stall displayed a sign board stating

that Rs. 35,000 can be earned from an acre of grapes crop.

THIRD CONVENTION OF YOUNG FARMERS ASSOCIATION INDIA

Along with the Fourth National Convention of Farmers the Third Convention of the Young Farmers' Association, India was also held in Talkatora Gardens, New Delhi.

Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, Union Defence Minister, inaugurated the Convention on the morning of March 15, and advised young men to develop a sense of belonging to India which alone would bring about unity of people. He said that the tremendous progress made by the country during the past 10 years had been largely brought about by the unity of people

Internal stability was born of contentment, and this comes from adequate supply of food, he said. All efforts should, therefore, be directed towards the development of agriculture which provides the solution to many of the problems facing the country, whether economic or otherwise.

Shri Menon said that there would be about 600 million people living in this country at the end of the century. He said he was not scared of this increase. On the contrary he considered that the greatest asset of India was its population. It was the people and their capacity to organize and work

that makes the wealth of a country. He was not against family planning which was important for various reasons, of hygiene and health, but "the stark reality of this increase in population must be accepted and food must be provided for them". He said India had sufficient resources for meeting internal needs but it was important that what we had should be carefully preserved and properly utilized. It was not right to destroy what we had. In this connection he advocated the preservation of trees, a natural protection of land, as one of the important programmes to be followed by young farmers.

Shri Menon said that the Convention of Young Farmers spoke of the "modernity of India" inasmuch as the farmers living in the rural areas, isolated from others since centuries, have come out in large numbers to meet and discuss common problems and thus share in the development of the country.

Shri Menon suggested the setting up of voluntary organizations, dedicated to the service of rural people. No democracy, he said, could survive if the population looked to Government for everything. A community feeling and a sense of common welfare should be inculcated, he said.

Development of co-operation was the other programme suggested by Shri Menon. He said, Co-operation was an integral part of agriculture. There should be a pooling of resources "on spiritual basis" and facilities should be provided to the farmers according to their needs and capacity. Two persons working together could produce more than working individually, he added.

Concluding Shri Menon said that India was a large country and natural calamities like floods and droughts were a normal feature. No purpose would be served by blaming them. "We should be impatient with them and with a sense of dedication and co-operation work towards the development of agriculture, to enrich man and to help him attain higher standards of life."

Earlier, **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh**, Union Minister for Co-operation and President, Young Farmers' Association welcoming Shri Menon said that the main object of the Young Farmers' Association was to assist in furthering agricultural prosperity of the country.

The Association had been working to bring together young farmers from various parts of the country and informing them of the various modern techniques of cultivation. The experience in the use of these modern techniques was being analysed and evaluated and those methods which pass the test were advocated for general use.

DR. LYNTON ON TRAINING OF YOUNG FARMERS

The Young Farmers' Association, India had organized a Seminar on the occasion of the Convention. It was inaugurated by Dr. R.P. Lynton, Director, Advanced Study and Training Centre, World Assembly of Youth, Aloka, (Ceylon), on March 14, 1958.

Inaugurating the Seminar Dr. Lynton emphasized the need for training young men. Dr. Lynton said that training is not a matter of talking at people, disciplining, forcing people to learn. He said that training was very similar to farming, planting seeds of learning, weeding out obstacles to growth, shielding the young growths against unfavourable climates and nursing them to full strength.

He said that in the field of community development and improving farming practices well planned attempts often go wrong in the very first Stages. Giving an instance Dr. Lynton said that in many villages there was a traditional suspicion of Government officers. A new village level worker if contacted the wrong people first or was in a hurry to get a project started or if he failed to communicate his readiness to listen to what people have on their minds in the villages, the villagers will withdraw from him increasingly. His behaviour had confirmed their suspicion of Government officers. And as such one mistake leads to another and the gap between V L W and farmer gets wider and wider.

Dr. Lynton said that these tremendous needs and demands bear most heavily on a few people. They are young and short of experience. He said there was great shortage of people to lead and make efforts to improve the lot of others and themselves.

Dr. Lynton remarked that the Seminar offered the opportunity to the young farmers to look into their experience and mould the awakening of the countryside.

Gramin Mahila

THIRD CONVENTION OF THE GRAMIN MAHILA SANGH

Addressing the Third Convention of the Gramin Mahila Sangh which was held alongwith the Fourth National Convention of Farmers at Talkatora Gardens, New Delhi, on the forenoon of March 16, **Shrimati Rajbanshi Devi** said that rural women had a great responsibility of training the future generation for nation-building activities.

She said that the family was the most important unit in rural areas, where political, social, and other movements had little effect. It was the training received in family that the children formed their character and obtained basic education. Women held the key of this school and could make significant contribution by preparing them for constructive work.

Shrimati Rajbansi Devi urged the women delegates from various States to take the message of the Sangha to the far corners of the country and establish its branches in every village. Once an active organisation has been set up and village women mobilised for concrete work, there would be no lack of resources, she said.

She expressed her satisfaction at the various women welfare schemes provided in the Plan. She said, the object of the Sangha was to bring full benefit of these schemes to women in villages.

Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh, Chairman of the Central Social Welfare Board, pleaded for more educational facilities for village women.

She referred to the Prime Minister's speech delivered on the inauguration of the Fourth National Convention and said that in addition to Panchayats, Co-operatives and Schools, Mahila Mandals should be set up in villages.

Women had a vital role to play in the implementation of the development plans and Mahila Mandals were more important than any other thing to mobilise women to tackle problems of women and child welfare, she said.

Besides education, Mahila Mandals should organise family planning programmes and small savings movements. An active village organisation should be

built up from village upwards, she added.

Shrimati Rameshwari Nehru was against isolated efforts by women's organisations and said that the Sangha could not exist and work independently. There should be a co-ordinated programme of work for the welfare of women and children and in this connection she suggested the linking up the work of the Gramin Mahila Sangha with that of Bharat Krishak Samaj, Community Development Blocks, Kasturba Trust and Central Social Welfare Board.

Shrimati Raksha Saran, Chairman of the Delhi Social Welfare Board, said that women in rural areas helped men in their various agricultural operations. It was, therefore, important that women in villages were also trained along with men in better farm practices, so that they could help raise agricultural produce in the country.

Earlier, **Shrimati Vimlabai Deshmukh** thanked **Shrimati Rajbanshi Devi** for the encouragement she had been giving to the Sangha from its inception three years ago. That, **Shrimati Rajbanshi Devi** came to attend the Convention even though she was not keeping well, was an indication of her active interest in the activities of the Sangha, she said.

The Delegates to the Gramin Mahila Convention were given an at home by **Shrimati Rajbansi Devi** on March 18, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

FOOD PRESERVATION DEMONSTRATION

Delegates to the Third Convention of Bharatiya Gramin Mahila Sangha attended a demonstration of Food Preservation in Talkatora Gardens on the forenoon of March 17.

Teachers of the Industrial Training School of the Union Ministry of Labour, gave the demonstration and explained to the delegates various methods of preserving and canning different varieties of fruits and vegetables of every day use. The delegates found the demonstration very educative and showed special interest to the preservation of tomatoes and peas.

Samaj News

MEETING OF GOVERNING BODY OF THE SAMAJ

A meeting of the Governing Body of the Bharat Krishak Samaj was held on March 17, under the Presidentship of **Dr. P.S. Deshmukh**.

The meeting reviewed the work of the Samaj and approved the proposal of forming a National Farmers Bank, and holding of an International Exhibition of Food and Agriculture.

Madhya Pradesh

Addressing a press conference in Bhopal on March 24, **Shri Takhatmal Jain**, Agriculture Minister, Madhya Pradesh and President of the State Samaj said that the Madhya Pradesh Krishak Samaj would launch a "Grow More Food Week" in May 1958, in which meetings and demonstrations would be held. In this week the farmers would be informed about improved methods of agriculture and the utility of different types of fertilizers by the agricultural experts and officers of the State Agricultural department.

Mysore

An Agricultural Seminar was held on February 22 at Hassan under the auspices of the State Krishak Samaj, Mysore which was inaugurated by **Dr. P.S. Deshmukh**, Union Minister for co-operation who said that the bulk of the

SEMINAR ON FAMILY PLANNING

The Gramin Mahila Sangh had organized a Seminar on Family Planning on March 17 in which the principles of family planning were explained to them through cinema slides etc.

Addressing the Seminar the President of the Delhi Family Planning Association said that the country could not afford to let its population grow at an alarming rate and that a sum of four crores of rupees had been provided in the Second Five Year Plan for family planning. **Smt. K.C. Reddy**, who presided over the deliberations reminded the close relation between food problems and population.

population of India was engaged in Agriculture and it was unfortunate that they were not united and organised. It was very necessary that farmers should be members of the Samaj and must meet regularly at village, Taluk, District, State as well at National levels.

The Second Annual Meeting of the District **Krishak Samaj, Trivendrum** was held at Agricultural College, Trivandrum on February 24 and was presided over by **Dr. P.S. Deshmukh**, Union Minister for Co-operation, who stressed the need of a stronger and capable organization of farmers in the villages.

Bombay

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on February 26, under the Presidentship of **Shri V.R. Naik**, Minister for Agriculture, Bombay and President of the State Krishak Samaj. The meeting reviewed the work of the State Samaj and the Constitution Committee's draft Constitution was approved. The meeting also discussed the subject of enrolling life members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and ordinary members of the State Krishak Samaj. **Shri K.D. Sharma**, Secretary, Bharat Krishak Samaj, was present in the meeting.

A large number of farmers met in the annual convention of **East Khandesh Krishak Samaj** which was presided over by **Shri K.D. Sharma**, Secretary, Bharat Krishak Samaj, who explained that the Samaj was a medium to remove the gulf which existed between farmers and officials and that the Samaj was striving for the betterment of Indian farmers and agriculture.

Rajasthan

Inaugurating the Rajasthan Krishak Samaj Convention at Jaipur on March 14, **Shri Mohanlal Sukhadia**, Chief Minister, Rajasthan said that increased agricultural output was essential for not only the welfare of the farmers but for the nation as a whole.

Presiding over the Convention **Shri Nathuram Mirdha**, State Minister for Agriculture reviewed the various problems of agriculturists and explained the utility of the Samaj in discussing them and finding solutions to overcome them. He appealed to the farmers to strengthen the Krishak Samaj.

President's Call to Members

Dear friend,

Permit me to welcome you again as a Life Member of the Krishak Samaj/Young Farmer's Association of India. We have so far held four Conventions of the Farmers, young and old in Delhi and have done a good amount of spade work. As you know, many districts in India have already opened offices of one or the other and in some places both offices at the headquarters of their districts. If your district has not done so my first request to you would be to kindly contact as many of the already enrolled life members of the two organisations as possible and to enrol as many more as would be interested in this work and set up an *ad hoc* committee at the district headquarters. Apart from other programmes which would be communicated to you from time to time, we are most anxious that our organisations and every member of that organisations forms a definite, an active, a patriotic and a reliable link between all agencies desirous of helping the farmers and the farming community at large. The Ministry of Food & Agriculture has established a large Extension Wing in the Ministry which is intending to take up extension work on a very large scale. All these efforts cannot succeed unless the farmers are awakened to the need and appreciate that all these efforts are directed for their benefit. It is impossible for any agency to contact everybody individually but our organisations are intended to satisfy this need. You are, therefore, an important link through which not only the Krishak Samaj and the Young Farmers' Association but even the Government aid which would like to work for the betterment of the agriculturists and improvement in agricultural production. There are many items of work which are of vital importance. I will mention only a few.

(1) To take up the work of seed multiplication as soon as the Government establishes a Seed Farm and

evolves mother seed. There must be good, practical and progressive farmers who will be ready to do the work honestly and devotedly.

(2) In those areas where only paddy is grown, we want that the Japanese method should be encouraged, demonstrated and practiced.

(3) All of us are very keen also that the night soil and urine should be taken back to the fields in as much more quantity as possible.

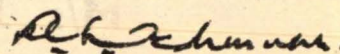
(4) It is our desire also that every village should be made self-sufficient in its few requirements and, therefore, there should be planting of fuel trees as well as other trees which will beautify the village and supply in times to come, some timber also.

(5) We are also laying emphasis on the formation of the Co-operative Societies not only for credit but for various other purposes including thrift, marketing etc.

All these items of work are intended to be conveyed to you with simple instructions from time to time and this is, therefore, a preliminary letter asking you to keep yourself in readiness along with other active friends like you interested in the welfare of the farmers in the district, tehsil or the block because after the district offices are opened, we will go down to the blocks and gradually to individual villages.

I hope you will give due consideration to this request of mine and report to the State Office with a copy to the Central Office the action you have already taken or you propose to take in future.

Yours sincerely



(P. S. Deshmukh)

President

New Delhi. May 3, 1958.

MAY, 1958.

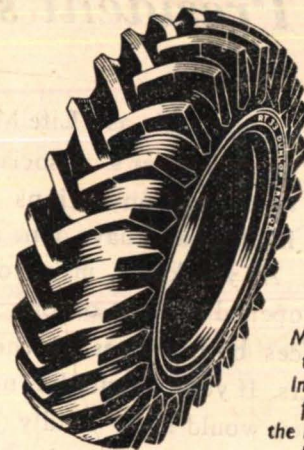
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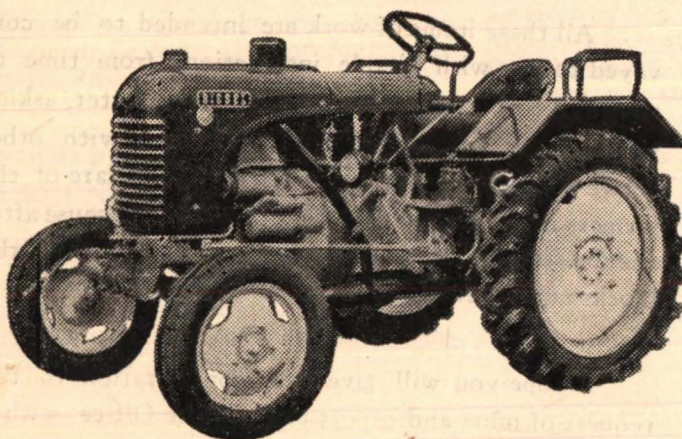
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