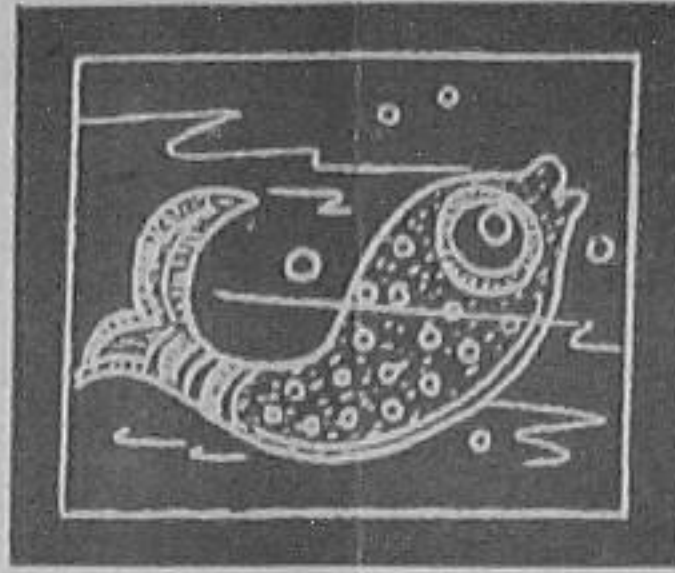




GRAM SEVAK

APRIL 1959



MY LOVE

All work is mine when others rest :
To judge and spend my strength at best.
All loss is mine when others gain :
To feel and know the pangs of pain.
I think and brood when others sing :
To know the deeps of suffering.
O, work and woe and loss—my love !
And I will all the pleasures prove.

K. Y. Ratnam
Rayaghada.



GRAM SEVAK

Chaitra-Vaisakha 1881
Vol. 5 April 1959 No. 9

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Letters

PRICE WORTHY

The Editor,
Gram Sevak,
Sir,

We hear a lot about manures—green, compost, farm yard, fertilizers and what not. This gives us the feeling that we are really serious about Agriculture. Agriculture in the past was an art in this country. Today it is neither an art nor a profitable profession. All this talk about manures and the like will be meaningless unless we assure a fair return to the farmer for his agricultural produce. What are we doing about it?

Delhi.
16-3--959

Yours etc.
Kanta Bhatia

CREDIT-WORTHY

Sir,

The clause relating to credit-worthiness has become a stumbling block in the organisation of credit co-operatives in the villages. The poorer sections are denied the facilities of Credit Co-operatives on this score, and this adds strength to the feeling that the Programme is only meant for those who are financially better off. In order that the Co-operative movement can succeed it is urgent that the Co-operative laws are suitably altered and the Government is prepared to underwrite a portion of the loss which the Co-operatives may sustain on this account. The losses are not likely to be enormous, though the risks are certainly there.

Kurnool,
Andhra Pradesh
1-3-1959

Yours etc.
S. K. Pula Reddy
S.E.O. (Co-ops)

WRITING REPORTS

Sir,

It has become a fashion to sympathise with the lot of the Gram Sevak and ascribe his failure—whether partial or total—to the volume of paper work he is required to do. But let it not be forgotten that writing reports about one's work is as essential as the actual doings in the field. This will develop his thinking capacity and will teach him the skill of separating the grain from the chaff. Our Gram Sevaks should write less about their achievements and targets and more about the people among whom they work.

New Delhi
10-3-1959

Yours etc.
Satvinder

STUDY TOURS

Sir,

The Bombay Government, I learn, have drawn up a Study-tour scheme, whereby the Gram Sevaks will be taken out in batches to Agricultural Research Centres, Experimental Farms and farms of some progressive Cultivators. This is to replace the usual Gram Sevak's Seminars held at the Extension Training Centres. The scheme, I am told, has been drawn up with a view to educating the Gram Sevaks in all aspects of agricultural improvements. How we wish the scheme to be a broad-based one and conducted on an all-India scale. Gram Sevaks need to see things for themselves, and thereby gather valuable experiences, which they are expected to share with the villagers.

Soro (Orissa)
8-3-1959

Yours etc.
N. K. Das
V.L.W.

MEMSAHIBS

Sir,

I agree with Sri Madan Mohan Pd. Sinha when he says (in his article "Suggestions for Better Co-operatives" published in the February, 1959 issue of your journal) that women have got a very important role to play for the success of the Co-operative movement, but I differ with his suggestion for creating a new cadre of lady S.E.O.s in charge of Co-operation. In my State (W. Bengal) the lady S.E.O.s are better known to the villagers as "Memsahibs" than as S.E.O.s. This unhappy situation is more due to the vagueness of the Social Education programme than to their failure as a class of field person-

nel. So why not entrust the specific jobs of organising small women's Co-operatives and Thrift Societies to them rather than add to their number?

Gariahat

Yours etc.

(W. Bengal). B. M. Chaudhuri
19-3-1959

RADIO-SETS

Sir,

The Community centres, Information as well as Reading Rooms, have not yet found a place in the rural life. It is only Community radio-sets that have so far found favour with our village folk, and there is need for a greater use of them. It is, therefore, necessary that the Gram Sevak who has an intimate contact with the villagers should be closely associated with the Community radio-sets.

Vinjamur,

Udayagiri Stage I Block,
Nellore Dt.

3-3-1959

Yours etc.

A. A. Naidu
V.L.W.

BRICK AND LIME PROGRAMME

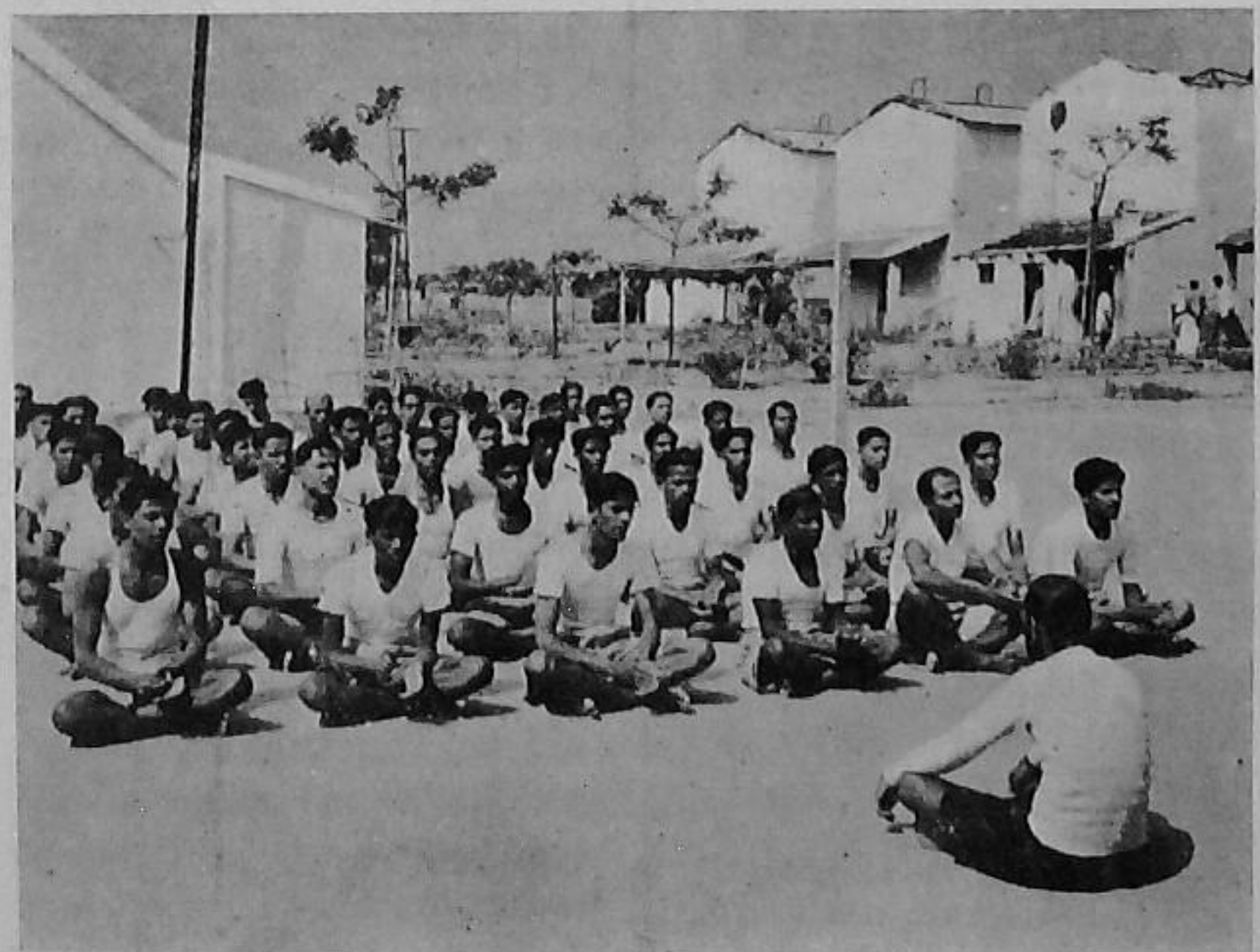
Sir,

Thanks to the Community Development programme, roads, drainages, drinking water wells, Panchayatghars, school buildings, culverts, grain gollas and many of the kind have become common sight in our villages. They are no doubt essential for the village, but not so vital as agriculture and medical facilities on which our life depends. We find that these constructional activities not only eat away much of the Block budget, but deprive us much of the time and guidance of the B.D.O. Agriculture, animal husbandry and medical aid, as a result get much less of the Block fund in comparison to the demand.

Food production and health in the village deserves precedence over this "brick and lime" programme, which can wait till better times.

Bhopal
12-2-1959

Yours etc.
D. K. Jilani



Prayer Time : Extension Training Centre, Mandya, Mysore

“THE SEVEN WISE MEN OF HINDOSTAN”





VINOBA'S MESSAGE

S. PARTAP SINGH KAIRON

FOR THE POOR, the economic is the spiritual, Gandhiji used to say; Vinoba's self-imposed mission of settling some one crore families of landless tenants and agricultural labourers on land voluntarily donated by zamindars is of a piece with the lifelong endeavour of the Father of the Nation to ameliorate the lot of the "humble, the lowliest and the lost". Bapu blazed the trail; Vinoba is keeping the flame alive.

Quietly, unostentatiously, Acharya Vinoba Bhave heralded some eight years ago his comprehensive socio-politico-economic movement, known as the "Bhoodan Yagna", which later was to influence the trend of thought and events not only in India but also abroad. In pursuance of his cherished objective he has undertaken on

foot an intensive tour of different States in the country during the last four years. The collection of over 50 lakh acres of land and 5,000 villages for Bhoodan Yagna purely through persuasion in this short spell bears testimony to the fund of goodwill existing in this country among the more affluent sections towards their less fortunate brethren. This speaks volumes for the potentialities of the scheme for resolving the agrarian problem.

The Bhoodan with its logical concomitants — Gramdan — Sampattidan — Shramdan — Buddhidan — is based on an invincible faith in human nature; a faith which sees in man an image of God and not a blind handiwork of brutal struggle for existence; and this faith is characteristic of the Indian view of life. Long, long ago the ancient seers and savants referred to the living reality or the Great Being which permeated everything in the universe and enjoined upon all to partake of the material values in life in a spirit of detachment. The initiator of the Bhoodan movement believes that when individuals change, society changes. In order to bring about a revolution, therefore, one must "turn the searchlight inwards."

Vinoba's Bhoodan Yagna takes its inspiration from Gandhiji's theory of Trusteeship of Wealth which marks a distinct improvement over the economic systems established and upheld in other parts of the world. While human will is sought to be subordinated under the latter to the larger interests of the State, the theory of Trusteeship

of wealth aims at the exaltation of man and establishment of his supremacy over economic forces. Vinoba, like Gandhiji, believes that the rich should act as custodians of wealth and use it for general well-being after meeting their genuine requirements. The use of force or coercive methods to achieve the desideratum is clearly forbidden and the sole method to be employed is that of persuasion.

Man and not any abstract theory forms the core of Vinoba's philosophy. He appeals to the finer urges of the human heart and seeks to elevate conduct of mundane affairs to a higher plane, free from ill-will, acrimony or class strife.

Vinoba, like his Guru, stands for Sarvodaya or the uplift of all. The accumulation or concentration of wealth and the means of production in a few hands, according to him, would only serve to create scarcity or poverty amidst plenty. This has to be avoided at all costs in the larger interests of society as a whole. In the India of tomorrow there would be no indolent rich or starving poor and an equalitarian society would become an established fact. Beyond the pale of political wrangling or legislative hair-splitting, Vinoba and his band of selfless followers are working for a silent revolution which incidentally would serve fulfil the two basic objectives of planning in India, namely, social justice and fuller employment.



PADDY YIELD DOUBLED

SEVEN YEARS ago, the big question for N. Palanivelu, a farmer of Tanjore, was what precisely he could do to help the country achieve self-sufficiency in food production.

N. Palanivelu's own 11-acre plot of land was giving him 24,000 pounds of paddy per year. This in itself was a high figure compared to what other farmers in the district were able to get. But Palanivelu wanted to do still better. He decided that the best thing under the circumstances would be to have a Five Year Plan of his own. A 40 per cent increase in production over a period of five years was, he felt, not only desirable but absolutely essential.

He started cautiously. In the first year, he set aside a small 2-acre plot for experimentation in some of the improved methods of paddy cultivation suggested to him by the extension worker from the Agriculture Department of the Madras Government. His land was good, he was told, and could easily give a double crop. But he wanted to be sure. So he started working on this 2-acre plot. A variety of improved strains of paddy was used. The results were far better than he expected. There was a net increase of 3,600 pounds of paddy. This made Palanivelu a little more ambitious. He decided to secure a production of 36,000 pounds in the following year and prepared the ground for it by planting green manure on all his land.

So next year, he brought another four acres under a double

crop of paddy and was rewarded with an additional yield of 8,400 pounds. In 1955, the third year of his five year plan, Palanivelu was able to bring seven out of his eleven acres under the two-crop system. A few improvements in the cultivation methods were also made. One of these improvements was an extensive application of *Sesbania*, one of the most powerful of green manures. Besides, the entire plot of land was intercultured thrice. Precautions against some troublesome varieties of insect pests were also taken. By all these efforts, it was possible for Palanivelu to raise paddy production from his land by another 9,000 pounds. Production shot up to 45,000 pounds that year.

In 1956 and 1957, the last two years of N. Palanivelu's five year plan, all the eleven

acres were brought under the two-crop system. On the advice of the extension officer from the Block headquarters, he also raised the quantity of superphosphate applied to the land. Green manure was also more extensively used. In addition, Palanivelu spread some of the urine soaked soil from the cattle-shed on the land. At the end of 1956, the total yield of paddy from his 11 acres stood at 51,000 pounds. This meant an increase of more than hundred per cent over the production figure for 1953, the year when his five year plan was put into operation.

Today, N. Palanivelu is in the midst of his second five year plan for which, encouraged by the success of his first plan, he has set a more ambitious target. "I feel proud of my land's increased production," he says, "and of my own small contribution to the country's food resources".



Under the housing schemes for Harijans adequate financial assistance is being provided. Most of the Harijans are now building their own houses



Sowing a nursery plot

SOIL FERTILITY

M. S. SIVARAMAN

Adviser, Planning Commission

OUR COUNTRY has a vast population which is increasing every year by nearly 2%. The present crop yields are low and the total food production has to be supplemented by imports to meet even the requirements at a low level of nutrition. The total area available for profitable cultivation is also limited as cultivation has spread to all such places and the scope for further extension of cultivation is small. Agricultural scientists have said that India's soil have reached a static level of low production.

Many of our problems of agriculture have arisen because of a tendency to overlook the fundamentals of cultivation. Nature's laws cannot be defied with impunity and Nature's law proclaim that if crops are to grow properly they should be supplied with certain quantities of essential nutrients the most important of which are nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. In our country, there is abundant supply of potash in the soil. Phosphates are also available and only in a few places the quantity is not suffi-

cient. But all over the country the soil lacks nitrogen. There is also deficiency of humus, a product of plant de-composition, the presence of which helps the soil to absorb sufficient moisture and keep it available for the benefit of the plants when there is a spell of drought. Under tropical conditions the nitrogen is dissipated and humus gets oxidised.

NITROGEN

Nitrogen is an important nutrient required for the growth of plants and if it is not present in sufficient quantities crop production will be governed by the amount present.

At present the major agricultural crops remove about 4 million tons of nitrogen from the soil and the quantity which we supply by way of manures and fertilisers is less than a fourth of this. The remaining portion is made up of nitrogen added by certain types of bacteria in the soil, by lightning, by washings from hills and waste areas, by waste products of plant and animal life that find their way into the soil through means other than human agency. In the result an amount of nitrogen is supplied sufficient to maintain a low static level of production and obviously there can be no improvement when no extra nitrogen is supplied. If by some method we can put in more nitrogen into the soil we should raise the level of production and this has to be done in a way so that every cultivator can adopt it. The average cultivator lives on a low level of subsistence and therefore it will be useless to ask him to invest more money for this purpose.

So far it has not been found possible to arrange for the necessary credit. If however he can, through a little more effort, produce the extra nitrogen of the type required by the plants without in any way interfering with his normal cultivation, then we should have found a solution to his immediate problem. Experiments initiated at the instance of the present writer in Madras have successfully shown that it is possible to increase the availability of nitrogen in the field by methods which can be universally adopted whether the land is irrigated or rain-fed.

PLANT WASTES

The most important source of nitrogen in cultivated areas is the farm-yard manure. But a large portion of cattle dung is burnt for want of supplies of cheaper types of fuel. The next major source will be the plant wastes of cultivation like leaves and twigs. If plant wastes are available we can convert them into manure by composting, which in effect means feeding the plant materials for a period of 3 to 6 months to millions of bacteria and microflora which reduce these wastes into a form like cattle manure. For this purpose we will require at least 4 tons of plant wastes per acre of cultivated land and unless this quantity is produced within easy reach of every field there is no prospect of applying them as manure.

LEGUMINOUS CROP

Broadly speaking, the cultivated areas are either irrigated or rain-fed. The problem of manuring irrigated fields is rela-

tively simple, if a leguminous crop can be raised ahead of the main crop like paddy or wheat so that it can be incorporated into the soil. Legumes are plants like the pulses, Sann hemp, dhaincha, etc. which are able to synthesize atmospheric nitrogen into organic compounds by absorbing it directly from the air with the help of certain bacteria which are found in the nodules of the root. It has been found that the addition of 4,000 to 8,000 lbs of green matter in a field is enough to give the full requirements of nitrogen needed for a higher level of production. For instance the average yield of paddy in India is about 1,100 lbs and this can be raised to over 2,000 lbs in three to five years merely by the addition of green manure to the field. If a green manure crop is sown in the paddy field at the same time the paddy is sown in the nursery, then it should not be difficult to produce the necessary green manure which can be used as manure for the paddy crop. In the case of paddy, transplantation can be done immediately after incorporation of the green ma-

nure without allowing time for rotting of the manure.

GLYRICIDIA

Glyricidia has been planted on a mass scale in all the Agricultural Research Stations in composite Madras. Orissa and Bengal have also taken up the work recently. A campaign for mass development of glyricidia was launched in Kerala last year when more than a crore of plants were successfully grown all over the State. It will be seen that even if we start with a very small quantity of nucleus material there is no difficulty in developing the requirements of millions of acres provided there is a concerted drive and urge to do it.

The problem of nitrogen deficiency can be solved only by inducing every cultivator to solve it through his own efforts. No expenditure of money is involved in this. What has been done in some parts of the country can be repeated all over the country provided the necessary enthusiasm is roused. Our crop yields need not remain stagnant if every field can produce the manure it requires even while the crops grow.

A WORD TO OUR READERS AND TO THE CONTRIBUTORS

Up to date we have never found any difficulty in finding suitable material for publication in this Journal. As our readers would notice, much of what is published is in form of contributions received from field workers relating to their own personal experience. As a matter of policy, no honorarium is paid to any contributions accepted for publication in our Journals *Kurukshetra* and *Gram Sevak*. We, therefore, depend on contributions which are sent to us not in expectation of any monetary return but in fulfilment of a satisfaction. To that extent, we consider it is the unique privilege of our Journals *Kurukshetra* and *Gram Sevak* to be able to offer to our readers something that could never expect to have if we were to print paid contributions in our columns.



A Blacksmithy training centre for villagers at village Ratu in Ranchi Block

IMPROVED TOOLS

TO INCREASE the efficiency and standard of workmanship of village artisans, the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation are considering a scheme for the supply of improved hand tools to village blacksmiths and carpenters in the development blocks.

The scheme, which has been circulated to the State Governments for their views, will form an item on the agenda of the next annual conference on Community Development.

Under the proposed scheme, a set of improved hand tools for village blacksmiths and car-

penters is to be supplied on subsidised rates, based on the price differential of the new tools and the old ones now in use. While for most of the hand tools the price differential is to be fully

10 PRIZES FOR BEST BOOKS

THE UNESCO in consultation with the Ministry of Education, Government of India has decided to award ten prizes worth Rs. 2,280 each to Indian authors of best books for the new reading public published between January, 1957 to December 31, 1958.

Out of these ten prizes 4 will

subsidised, for some of the tools having disproportionate price differential the subsidy is to be limited to 50 per cent of the cost of recommended tools.

The Development Commissioner, Small-scale Industries, in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, who will exercise the overall supervision over the programme for the popularisation of improved hand tools among village artisans, will be assisted, in regard to the designing and manufacture of improved tools, and demonstrations through mobile vans, by the Directors of regional and major small-scale industries service institutes. The State Directors of Industries will be responsible for the implementation of the programme in their respective States.

The aim of the industries programme in the blocks is to make the village artisan a better artisan. A beginning is to be made with two basic trades, viz., blacksmithy and carpentry.

The next stage of the programme envisages the introduction of small machines and appliances, which would increase the productivity of the village artisans. This will be done when an adequate supply of power is ensured.

be awarded for Hindi, 3 for Tamil, 2 for Bengali and one for Urdu. Besides 1,500 copies of each of the prize winning books shall be purchased by the Government of India for distribution in Community Development and N.E.S. Blocks of the

(Continued on page 18)



PRIZE COMPETITIONS

For Gram Sevaks And Villagers

THE SCHEMES of Prize Competitions for Gram Sevaks and villagers is being continued for the current year. In order to avoid the difficulties experienced in the last competition, the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation have made some modifications in the schemes. It has been proposed to distribute prizes to the winners at the National Level on the coming Republic Day.

COMPETITION

(i) The schemes will be restricted only to productive items of the programme viz., Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Irrigation and Co-operation, but a number of sub-items under these heads will be indicated in order to enable the State Governments to choose a certain minimum number of them which may be more important according to local conditions. Comprehensive instructions in regard to the assessment of physical achievements will be issued later.

(ii) The selection of the best village will not be restricted to the circles of the Village Level workers winning prizes at the

various levels. Instead, the competition would be broad-based and the following procedure is suggested for the selection of the best villages at various levels from amongst all the villages situated in the circles of the competing Village Level workers.

Block : The Block Development Officer will select the 'best' village in his block in consultation with the Block Development Committee.

District : The Selection Committee at the District Level will consider the achievement of all the villages reported by the Block Development Officers and select the 'best' village at the District Level.

State : The Selection Committee at the State Level will

select the 'best' village in the State from amongst the 'best' villages at the District Level.

While selecting these villages, efforts made by the villagers not only in the productive fields but also in other fields of common interest viz., development of people's institutions and implementation of the programme through them and the degree of community cohesion and amity etc. should also be taken into account.

PRIZES

(i) The maximum value of the prizes at the various levels should be the same as for the year 1958-59. The prizes may be selected by the State Governments and should be such as would help the Village Level workers to perform their duties more efficiently. No cash prizes need be given.

(ii) The State winning the National Level prize for the best Village Level worker and/or the best village may divert the State Level prize to the next best Village Level worker or village as the case may be.

(iii) The prizes for best villages should be paid in cash to the Village Panchayat or where it does not exist to the *Vikas Mandal*.

(Continued on page 21)

MUD PLASTERING

Villagers living in heavy monsoon zones will no longer face the problem of sagging or collapsing mud walls as the Central Road Research Institute has found a satisfactory answer to the problem of plastering of walls. The Institute has certified a five per cent "Janata" tar emulsion in mud plaster as resistant to continuous showers extending up to 144 hours. The plaster evolved has also withstood 75 cycles of wetting at night and drying during day and will soon be tried in the field under the Community Development Programme. A start has already been made in Delhi villages.



Villagers consulting a village level worker about their problems

DO'S AND DON'TS

For Panchayat Workers

Bhagwant Singh

IF THERE IS a feeling among the villagers that the Panchayat Taxes paid by them are used for their own benefit and expenditure is incurred with due regard to economy, they will be more willing to pay their taxes and many persons will come forward with donations for works of public utility to be constructed by Gaon Panchayats. In fact this has happened in a large number of villages. If people suspect that account are not correctly maintained and that somebody has used Panchayat funds for selfish ends, great resentment and dissatisfaction are caused. If people are ignorant about the income and expenditure of Gaon Panchayats and Government grants given to them, they have a feeling of suspicion and distrust about use of

funds even if funds are properly used. It is, therefore, necessary that the Development and Panchayat staff in the blocks and the local leaders should pay adequate attention to train the *Pradhans* and *Up-Pradhans* of the Gaon Panchayats in the maintenance of accounts and build up Gaon Panchayats and *Gaon Sabhas* to have effective control on accounts. These accounts should be frequently checked by auditors, by Inspecting Officers, by sub-committees of *Gaon Sabhas*. Vouchers should show quantity of supplies or details of services rendered, rates, date or period of supplies or services, names of persons who made supplies and rendered services, the name and designation of the payer, the name and address of the payee, the

exact amount paid and the date of payment. The field staff including officers should check receipts and vouchers personally and carefully instead of entirely depending upon the office clerks. Spot verification of receipts and vouchers should also be done by contacting persons who have made payments or who have received payments. Details of receipts and vouchers should be read out in the Gaon Panchayat meetings and *Gaon Sabha* meetings besides presentation of summary of accounts. Some times accounts should be made available for inspection by anybody in the village in the presence of the person who maintains the accounts. The publicity about accounts will create a confidence of the village people in the Gaon Panchayats and will strengthen loyalty towards it. The village people should know about sources of income, total annual income and expenditure and broad heads of expenditure about their *Gaon Sabha* funds just as members of Parliament, State legislatures and the public know about national and State budgets.

If Gaon Panchayats and *Gaon Sabhas* undertake only those activities which cause dissensions, aggravate disputes or cause unpleasantness, these bodies will not become popular. One of the main causes of weakness of Gaon Panchayats has been that their work has been confined at many places to imposition and collection of taxes, attending to disputes relating to sanitation, drainage or community land etc. These are essential duties. But there should be emphasis on activities on

which there is common agreement and on programmes which may be carried on by the people voluntarily. Planning for increase in agricultural production by individual cultivators and programmes of improving communications and School buildings, maternity and child welfare, physical culture, recreation and cultural activities etc., draw people together and efforts should be concentrated on such programmes. All these programmes should be organised through Gaon Panchayats and *Gaon Sabhas*. Economic, Social and cultural programmes should be expanded. By working together for such programmes people will develop habits of co-operative functioning. This will increase executive ability of the office-bearers of Gaon Panchayats and will enable them to deal with matters of taxation and land management etc., also more effectively. Development workers and local leaders can help considerably by encouraging the development programmes of common agreement and working with the people. There are a large number of development programmes which can be carried on without heavy expenditure. If a village is poor and resources of Gaon Panchayats inadequate, let the development workers lead the Gaon Panchayats to mobilise men on inexpensive programmes.

AN IDEAL WORKER

How a development worker works with the villagers is a matter of great importance. *A good worker may sometimes kill the initiative of the villagers and hamper evolution of local leadership by working himself*

too hard. It should always be kept in mind that the work of development workers is to create habits of self-help and develop self-reliance amongst the people, and build up local institutions and local leadership. He should inspire and encourage villagers to think of their problems themselves, work out their solutions, make and implement their plans, assess and evaluate their work and analyse causes of their successes and failures themselves. If a development worker begins to work as an Executive Officer of the Gaon Panchayat, begins to supervise *Shramdan* personally, begins to bring supplies of seed, fertilisers, credit and building materials etc. to the home of every family or to every village himself without entrusting the jobs to the members of Gaon Panchayat and office-bearers of Gaon Panchayats, he will do more harm than good. He should be there to associate with local leaders and participate in meetings and he should also render necessary assistance in arrangements of supplies and supervision of work. But the main burden of responsibility should be on the villagers themselves. If a development worker or a disinterested local leader can work as a teacher behind the scene, it would be much better than his working in the forefront. Let the villagers conduct their own meetings, arrange their own supplies, supervise their own work. Only then will self-reliance develop.

TEAM SPIRIT

The *Pradhan* or *Up-Pradhans* also should share their burden with other members of the

Gaon Panchayats. Responsibility should be fixed whenever decision to do a certain thing is taken. Several persons should take up different responsibilities. A member may take up responsibility for the Agricultural plan, another may take up the responsibility to get a well repaired, yet another to bring building materials, and some other to make arrangements for a meeting and so on. Team leadership should develop in the village to mobilise the people for development work. With the development of such teams, loyalty of all sections of people in the village to Gaon Panchayats will develop. When team spirit develops and responsibilities shared by many persons, it would be difficult for any *Pradhan* or *Up-Pradhan* or Government official to misuse his position for selfish ends. Loyalty to Gaon Panchayats will then develop quickly.

EDUCATION

The entire programme of village development depends upon the education of the people and their active participation. There are many persons in the villages who hesitate to speak in *Gaon Sabha* and Gaon Panchayat meetings, but they can express their views in the *Mohalla* meetings. For education, groups of small number of persons are better than large gatherings. That is why so much emphasis is given to group discussions in Community Development Programmes. In small villages of population of 250 or so, attention to small groups may not be necessary but in bigger villages organisation of *Mohalla* sub-committees is very necessary. In

(Continued on page 16)

PROGRAMME PATTERN

BEST PANCHAYATS

THE GOVERNMENT of Bombay has decided to extend the Saurashtra scheme of awarding prizes to the best village panchayats to the entire Bombay State. Two village panchayats adjudged best at the divisional level would be given prizes of Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 2,500 respectively, the first two panchayats at the district level Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 1,000, respectively, and two village panchayats at block level Rs. 250 and Rs. 125 respectively.



FARMER'S FORUM

THE FIFTH National Convention of farmers will be held in Mysore from May 1 to 5, 1959. The Convention will be held under the auspices of the Bharat Krishak Samaj, which is the national organisation of the farmers of India. It is expected that this year the Convention will be attended by over 3,000 farmer representatives from all parts of the country. This will be the first time that the Bharat Krishak Samaj will be holding its National Convention outside Delhi. The previous four Conventions were held in the Talkatora Gardens in 1955, 1956, 1957 and 1958.



FARM LABOUR

THE REPORT of the second all-India inquiry on agricultural la-



The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, administering the Oath of Office and Secrecy as Deputy Minister to Shri B. S. Murthy at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on March 6. Shri Murthy is now Deputy Minister for Community Development

bour now under preparation will enable the Government to ascertain how far the conditions of such labour have improved during the last six years. The first was conducted in 1950-51, when there were controls and the first Plan was about to be launched. It covered only 800 villages and its report was published in 11 volumes in 1954-55. It forcefully brought out the fact that the provision of more employment opportunities for agricultural labourers is as important as fixing minimum wages for them. Since then controls have gone and various development schemes are under execution. The scope of the inquiry too has been widened, as 3,696 villages are covered. The data collected in the second inquiry relates to the average size, composition and earning capacity of agricultural families, employment, unemployment, underemployment, wages, income, expenditure and indebtedness.



MANGOES AND MANGO PICKLES

EXPORTS OF Indian mangoes during the first 11 months of 1958 earned foreign exchange worth Rs. 10.97 lakh, nearly double the earnings in the whole of 1957 which were over Rs. 5.67 lakhs. Of the 27 countries to which Indian mangoes were sent in 1958, Kuwait was the biggest importer. The other countries which came next, were Malaya, Bahrein, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, Aden and Hungary. Government has taken a number of steps to promote exports of fruits and fruit products. These include subsidy on tin-plates used in the manufacture of cans and rebate of excise duty on sugar used in exported fruit products.



SMALL INDUSTRIAL UNITS

ABOUT 350 SMALL industrial units in 12 States have been sanctioned loans amounting to about Rs. 2.59 crores by the State Financial Corporation which are among the several institutions providing credit facilities to small industries. The 12 States are the Punjab, Kerala, Bombay, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, U.P., Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, where State Financial Corporations have been established, and Madras, where the Madras Industrial Investment Corporation Ltd., functions on the lines of a State Financial Corporation. Among the small industries, which have taken advantage of these facilities given by the Corporations, were those engaged in the manufacture of bicycle parts, locks and padlocks, agricultural implements, hosiery, ceramics, pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

Shri S. D. Misra, M. P., being sworn in as Parliamentary Secretary by the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, at a function held in New Delhi on March 6. Shri Misra is now Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Community Development and Co-operation. On the right is Shri B. S. Murthy, the Dy. Minister



GRAM SEVAK

LANDHOLDINGS

ACCORDING TO the eighth round of the National Sample Survey (July 1954 — March 1955), about 6.5 crore households resided in the rural areas of India. They owned an estimated area of about 31 crore acres, forming about 38 per cent of the geographical and 61 per cent of the topographically usable area. Of this a little over one-fifth, that is, about one and a half crore of households did not own any land. About one quarter of all rural households had land less than one acre in area. A little less than half of the rural households had thus either no land or owned less than one acre, their share being only a little more than one per cent of the land owned by all rural households. About three-fourths of all the households either had no land or less than five acres, and their share was about one-sixth of the area. The estimated average area owned for all households was about 4.7 acres, including those who had no land.

Among all households in rural India, 63.5 per cent did not lease out any land, 12.5 per cent leased out partly and two per cent leased out fully. The remaining 22 per cent of households were landless. Ninety per cent of households were operating their land individually and in some populated zones the percentage of such households was even more than 90.

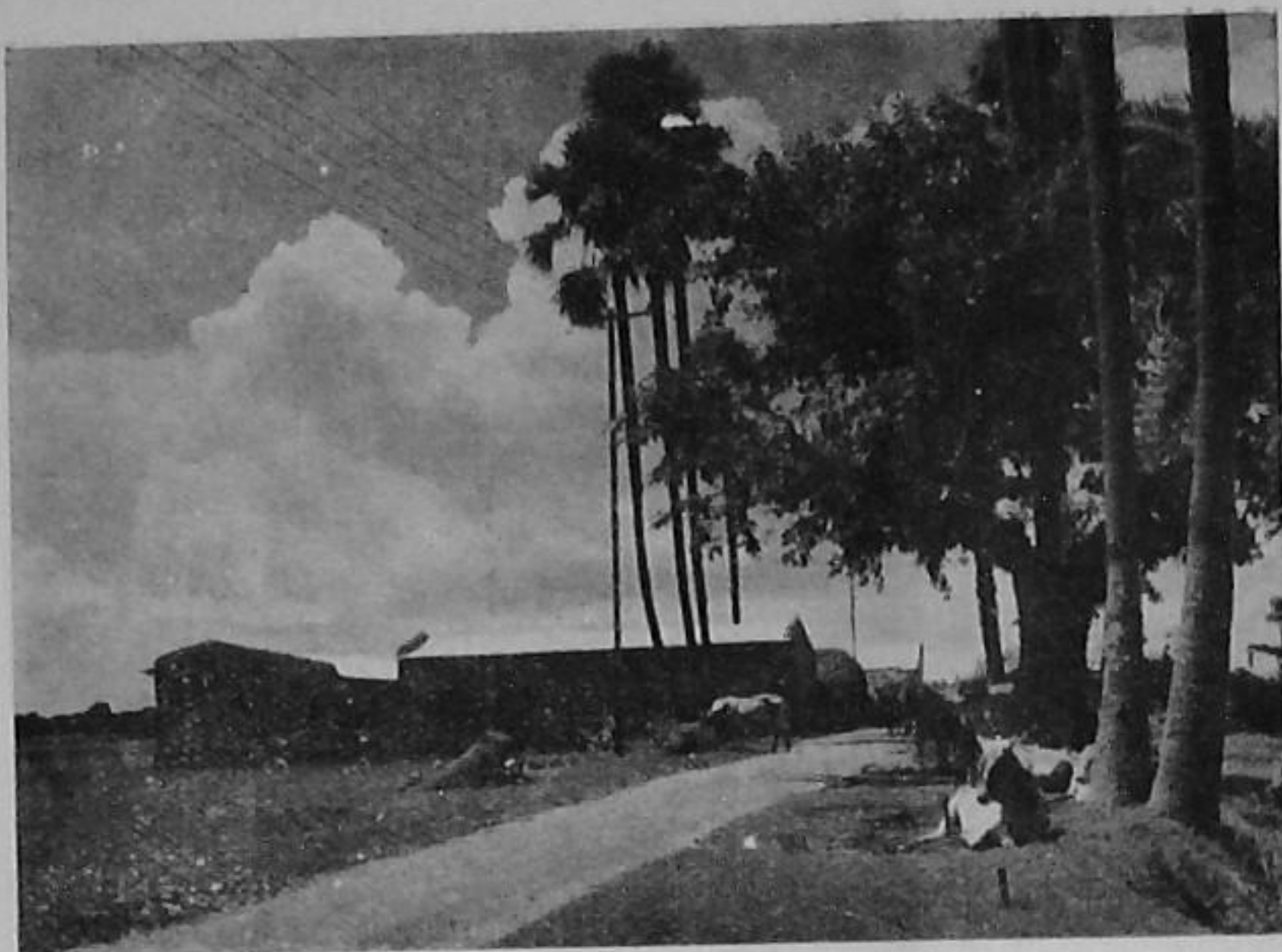
In the whole of India, 10 per cent of the households possessed land jointly with others; six per cent were operating purely jointly and the remaining four per cent were operating both jointly and individually. About eight per cent of the total area was under joint management.



FISHERY

THE UNION MINISTRY of Community Development and Co-operation has requested the State Governments to instruct the extension agency at the Block level to advise fishermen to take advantage of the facilities provided by the Fisheries Extension Units, set up by the Government of India.

Nine units have been set up in various States so far by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to function as a liaison between the research laboratories, on the one hand, and the Development Departments, fishermen and fish farmers, on the other. These units are located at Mandapam Camp (Madras), Calcutta, Dighipukhuri (Assam), Allahabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Karnal, Mithapur (Bihar) and Bhopal.



A view showing the Harijan Quarters constructed last year

THE YEAR 1958-59

MORE THAN 165 million people had come within the orbit of the Community Development programme on January 1, 1959, according to the annual report of the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation for 1958-59. Thus, fifty-six per cent of India's rural population has now been covered by the programme. The programme, on that date, extended to 2,405 blocks covering 3,02,947 villages.

People's contribution in cash, kind and labour up to September 30, 1958, totalled Rs. 65.98 crores, as against the Government expenditure of Rs. 103.38 crores; people's contribution, in other words, amounted to 64 per cent of the Government's expenditure, as against the figure of 60 per cent for the previous year.

Several important decisions were taken, in pursuance of the

recommendations of the C.O. P.P. Study Team to revitalize the programme, to make it broadbased and to secure more effective participation of the people, both in formulation and implementation, as also steps to bring about decentralisation of power and responsibility.

The subject of village panchayats, was transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Community Development in March, 1958, and Co-operation and Co-operative Movement from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture on December 30, 1958. The Ministry has been redesignated as the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation.

REVISED PROGRAMME

The year under review, witnessed the abolition of the distinction between the N.E.S., intensive and post-intensive stages,

and also the introduction of the new pattern of operation under which the programme is implemented in two stages of five years each, with a schematic budget of Rs. 12 lakhs and Rs. 5 lakhs for Stage I and Stage II, respectively. The decision to cover the entire country by the programme by October, 1963, was another important feature of the revised programme.

The block agency and Gram Sahayaks played an important part in the *Kharif* and *Rabi* agricultural production campaigns of the year. The demand for fertilizers generally outstripped the supplies. During the year ending September 30, 1958, improved seeds distributed totalled 48,24,000 maunds, and chemical fertilizers of being 1,38,59,000 maunds.

The area brought under green manuring totalled 25 lakh acres and compost pits utilised numbered 25 lakhs. The number of demonstrations carried out on the farmers' fields by the extension agency numbered 18.45 lakhs.

A minimum programme of animal husbandry in the blocks was drawn up and implemented by several State Governments.

Full advantage was taken of the rinder-pest eradication campaign, whereunder 3,51,90,000 cattle have been attended to since the inception of the scheme. Several States have enacted a minimum programme of inland fisheries development.

MINOR IRRIGATION

Referring to minor irrigation, the report says that the steady rise in the tempo of minor irrigation works was maintained.

The expenditure on this item was Rs. 424 lakhs during 1956-57, Rs. 698 lakhs during 1957-58 and Rs. 284 lakhs during the period between April, 1958 and September, 1958. Special stress is being laid on renovation and maintenance of works. The need for entrusting works to Panchayats or Co-operatives has been increasingly appreciated and some States, such as Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, have already put this into practice.

INDUSTRY

Under the village and small-scale industries programme, the training-cum-production centres are being reorganised into training centres, and production is undertaken by industrial co-operative societies, or by Government to start with, before a co-operative society is formed. The life of the pilot projects for cottage and small-scale industries, which were started on April 1, 1956 for three years, has now been extended up to the end of March, 1961. Marketing of produce of village and small-scale industries posed a difficult problem, and emphasis was being laid in the Community Development blocks on ensuring that the produce of the areas were consumed locally.

FAMILY PLANNING

Family Planning programme, according to the Report, has been integrated with the maternity and child welfare service in the block.

SOCIAL EDUCATION

Under the Social Education programme emphasis shifted to the organisation of youth groups, farmers' groups and village leaders' training camps. From the

beginning of the programme till September 30, 1958, 84,700 youth and farmers' clubs, with 9,35,000 members, had been formed.

WOMEN'S PROGRAMME

Referring to the women's programme, the report says that on September 30, 1958, 19,100 Mahila Samitis were functioning in 2,278 blocks. Membership stood at 2.99 lakhs. Progressive village women are assisting the women S.E.O.s (now designated as Mukhya Sevikas) and Gram Sevikas in implementing the programme. More and more Block Development Committees are appointing women members. Industrial co-operatives for women are being encouraged by all States, particularly Bombay, Andhra Pradesh, Madras and Tripura. Co-ordination programme with Central Social Welfare Board has started in 78 blocks.

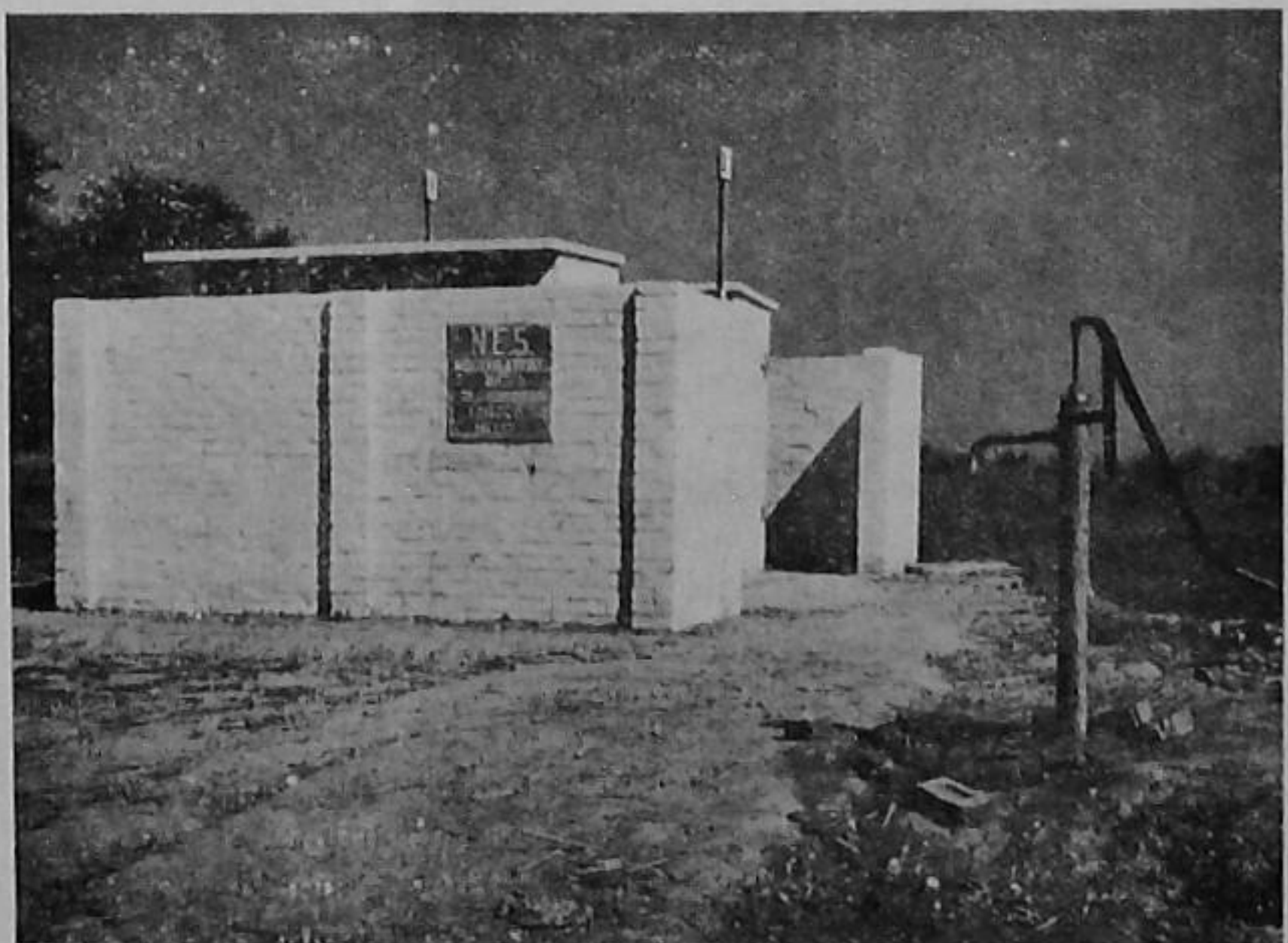
HOUSING

Rural housing cells, according to the report, have been set

up in almost all States; 1,000 villages were allotted to the States for implementation of the schemes in the blocks, in addition to the 500 of last year's. The programme of extending the processes developed as a result of research at the national laboratories to the rural areas registered some progress. Three processes of brick-making from black cotton soil, water-proofing mud plaster for rural houses, and making of roads from stabilised soils are being tried out in pilot projects in Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Assam and Punjab.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

The four B.D.O. Training Centres at Nilokheri, Ranchi, Rajendra Nagar and Bakshi-katalab have been converted into orientation training centres to provide orientation training to all block-level functionaries, as also job and refresher training to Block Development Officers. An orientation training centre has been set up at Mysore and
(Continued on page 18)



Model latrine in a N.E.S. Block village



A group of villagers in Thottiapathi village listening to the news read out by a local leader

DO'S AND DON'TS—for Panchayat Workers

(Continued from page 11)

Uttar Pradesh bigger villages are divided into several constituencies of *Gaon Sabhas* for the purpose of election of Gaon Panchayats. In every constituency there should be a sub-committee for Gaon Panchayat. The members of a Gaon Panchayat elected for that constituency and other important persons of that constituency may form a sub-committee and they may hold meetings in their *mohallas*. The development workers should attend these meetings. This will give them an opportunity to talk about all matters of public interest and development programmes. The members of Gaon Panchayat will get an opportunity of conveying the decisions of Gaon Panchayat to their constituents. Every *mohalla* will have the pride of having a meeting or function in its locality. Development workers will get a chance of carrying their educational programme for development activity through these meetings effectively. Let the development workers and dis-

interested local leaders spend some time in the organisation of sub-committees of Gaon Panchayat in the constituencies of *Gaon Sabhas*.

AN IDEAL PRADHAN

The training of *Pradhans* and *Up-Pradhans* and some local leaders, possessing power of expression in the management of meetings is very necessary. A *Pradhan* should know how to take his position, how to introduce visitors, initiate discussion, maintain order in the meeting, keep the discussion confined to the issue under discussion, to check irrelevant talks, heat in discussions and use of un-parliamentary language, discourage abuses and personal accusations, summarise discussions, sense the feeling of the house, put it before the house, check lengthy speeches and conduct the meeting in a business-like manner with due regard to economy of time. They should also be trained how to introduce resolutions, to second a resolution, to

put amendments, to take votes on amendments and resolutions and declare the results. They should also know how to write the minutes of the meetings. They must be trained in taking up follow-up action on the basis of resolutions. They should be able to put up action-reports on the previous resolutions. They must have some knowledge of rules of conduct in a meeting. Time, place, duration and agenda of a meeting are very important and they determine the attendance in a meeting considerably. Habits of punctuality should be developed. Considerable time has to be devoted by development workers and local leaders in training the office-bearers of Gaon Panchayats and the village people in general in all the detail of democratic process enumerated above by personal association.

NEW TRADITIONS

The fundamentals of democracy must be ingrained in the minds of all village people. Even a person in single minority should be heard with respect in a meeting. Of course, if the view expressed is not correct, the majority may reject it. But the discussion should be free and fair. Consideration for the views of each other should develop. Decision should be taken by as large a majority as possible. It is much better to wait for some time than to carry on the programme with a narrow majority in a village. When a majority decision has been taken, the people should carry out the decision and respect it. The elections are essential in a democracy. But these should not lead to party-factions in a village if good conventions and

traditions are developed. The winning persons should meet the defeated persons immediately after the elections and extend their friendship. The defeated candidates should congratulate the winners. There should be a deliberate attempt to build up unity of the village and create an atmosphere of good will immediately after elections. These habits can develop only by personal contact and personal advice of development workers and disinterested local leaders. Let them devote sufficient time and energy to build up traditions for proper democratic working of Gaon Panchayats.

ELECTION

There is a feeling in many quarters that provision of elections for deciding the office bearers and members of Gaon Panchayats has led to creation and intensification of party-faction in the villages. To some extent this is true. But this question must be examined a little more deeply. There was static society in the villages. It is now a dynamic society. Formerly land, property, money and education were monopolised by a few families in the villages. Status of every family was known. Inter-relationship between different communities and persons following different occupations were settled on the basis of tradition. Power and influence were commanded by a few families. Now increased facilities of education, travel, freedom of occupation, freedom of movement, freedom of association, freedom of expression, general awakening amongst masses, technical development, and con-

ception of Welfare State have changed the balance of power in the villages. The absentee *Zamindars* and absentee *Mahajans* have lost their hold. The *ex-zamindars* who live in the villages and also cultivate their own land still command considerable influence and respect in the villages. They want to stick to power, position and prestige. Wherever they are progressive minded and have given a lead in development work and improvement of their village, they have strengthened their leadership, based on acceptance by the village people. Wherever their education, character and behaviour with the people have made them unpopular, new leaders have come forward to replace them. Even amongst *ex-zamindars* there are long standing rivalries. Aspirants for leadership in the villages have grown in large numbers in all sections of people. They want satisfaction of their urge for recognition in society. The Scheduled Castes which had accepted domination of higher castes are establishing their freedom. The party-factions would have existed in the villages even if no Panchayats had been established. In fact, there were strong party-factions in villages even before the establishment of Gaon Panchayats. The Panchayat system has provided a peaceful method of changing leadership in the villages according to actual following of the people commanded by local leaders. The party-faction would have assumed a violent form/or form of expensive litigation if a peaceful method had not been provided by way of elections in a dynamic progressive society. Panchayat Elec-

tion are only a method of changing leadership peacefully and maintaining continuity of progress. It is true that some reforms are necessary in the system of elections. Elections for the post of *Pradhans* by ballot system is recommended by many experts as well as by common people. But election based on adult franchise is still the most practical method of expression of the will of the people. We should not be disturbed in our attitude towards Panchayats by the existence of conflicting groups. Conflicting groups are found in the international field, at the national level, at the state level, at district level, in Municipal Boards, District Boards, Co-operatives, educational institutions and everywhere. In a dynamic progressive Society there are bound to be conflicts in interests and in ideals.

The very fact that Panchayats elections are held so peacefully and no-confidence motions are carried out without disturbance of peace proves that the people have accepted the Panchayat system. It must however be recognised that good standards of conduct and expression must be built up and good traditions should be established for proper working of the democracy at the village level. In a large number of villages, the Panchayat system has strengthened unity of the village through the medium of constructive work for the benefit of the village people. In many villages conflicting groups have combined together to improve their village and forgotten their old enmities. In more than half the Gaon Panchayats all

the candidates have been returned uncontested.

LOCAL AUTHORITY

The local authority is needed in every village. Either it can be an authority elected by the people or it can be an authority selected by the Administration. The Government servants should be kept away from party-politics. They should not be given the power of nominating the leaders of the people. That would only increase tendencies of bureaucracy, subservience, flattery, intrigue and corruption. In a democracy the system of nomination of *Pradhan* and *Panchas* would be quite illogical.

AREA

Some people argue that the Village Panchayat should have a large area. It should have several villages in its jurisdiction so that it may be financially strong and it may maintain necessary staff. Many experts are opposed to this view. In Uttar Pradesh separate Gaon Panchayat has been provided to every village having a population of 250 or more. Loyalty of the people to their village is deep rooted. Village people generally know one another in the village. Cohesion and unity are essential for any self-governing unit which also aims at mobilising the people for around development. The needs of the villages can best be met by raising local resources from amongst themselves. Local resources are easily gathered for local objects. A big panchayat will not be able to look to the local needs of every village satisfactorily.

THE YEAR 1958-59

(Continued from page 15)

two more are to be set up at Jubbulpore and Junagadh.

A trainers' training institute has been set up at Rajpur near Dehra Dun to provide training to the principals, directors and instructional staff of the various types of training institutes run by the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, and also to the principals of Extension Training Centres sponsored by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

A Central Institute of Study and Research in Community Development was set up at Mussoorie for giving higher training to the key personnel in the Community Development programme, administrative as well as technical. The institute organised three orientation courses of four to five weeks' duration. It is proposed to set up a full-fledged Research Wing attached to the institute after some time.

Following are the figures of personnel in various categories trained till December 31, 1958—Gram Sevaks 32,655; Gram Sevikas 1,053; Extension Officers (Co-operation) 1,600; Extension Officers (Industries) 1,138; and Health Personnel 1,699.

A scheme of peripatetic training for village teachers was introduced during the year. Nearly 3,600 teachers had been trained under this programme up to September 30, 1958.

PANCHAYATS

During the year under review emphasis has been placed on

the proper development of the basic village institution, the Panchayat, by providing it with further resources, functions and authority.

GRAM SAHAYAKS

In the first round of Gram Sahayak camps held during the year ending September 30, 1958, nearly 19,000 camps were held and about 9 lakhs of Gram Sahayaks were trained.

Central areas in Madras, Assam and Orissa are being intensively tackled in co-ordination with Gram Dan Movement for Gram Nirman work.

CO-OPERATION

There has been a significant increase in the number of co-operative societies and their membership, as well as in the outflow of credit through co-operative channels. The membership of agricultural credit societies stood at 8.8 million on September 30, 1958.

10 PRIZES FOR BEST BOOKS

(Continued from page 8)

country at a reasonable price.

The books should relate to any of the subjects of international understanding, simple science, economic and social development. They may be translations of simple classics written on any of these subjects breathing a universal human spirit. Strictest objectivity, scientific accuracy and authenticity should be maintained with regard to facts.

The authors should be Indians and alive on the date of submission of books. Except for translations of simple classics only original books will be considered.

GRAM SAHAYAKS

A REVIEW of the programme under which 8,21,420 Gram Sahayaks have been trained at 18,850 camps in 21,140 Gram Sevaks' circles, throughout the country, during the year ended September 30, 1958, shows that the programme has proved extremely fruitful and has been received well by the villagers.

Between 50 to 70 per cent of the Gram Sahayaks trained at the functional leaders' camps have adopted improved techniques and better production methods on their own lands and persuaded, by their own example, a few of the neighbours to adopt these improved practices.

The demand for improved seeds, fertilizers, implements and for agricultural knowledge, it has been observed, has increased in areas where the camps have been held.

RABI AND KHARIF CAMPAIGNS

State Governments have also utilised the services of the Gram Sahayaks for launching the Rabi and Kharif campaigns. Owing to these efforts the agricultural production has been stepped up.

The Gram Sahayaks, according to the consensus of opinion, have returned to their homes convinced of the utility of the camps. They have appreciated the demonstrations in which they have been actively involved and have also shown a good deal of interest in the discussions that took place at the camps.

Some of the questions asked by them, such as, "What is the best manure?" "How can we

cure certain diseases afflicting the cattle?" "What is the best method in eradicating rat menace in the village?" and "How can we fight the threatened locust invasion?" etc., are indicative of the keen interest which the Gram Sahayak trainees have evinced in the camps. During these camps, they have been also placing orders for the purchase of modern agricultural implements.

At some of the camps, villagers also organised agricultural, cattle and poultry shows. They took a keen interest in all aspects of the developmental programme and were quite excited about the way they were being brought together for discussions and exchange of experiences. Discussions were intelligent and in most of the camps the villagers appreciated the role of the Community Development

programme, as well as the role of the extension staff.

The block staff, on the other hand, became aware of the importance of the Gram Sevak contacting the villagers more often and to seek the assistance of the village leaders in his work.

As the programme of training of Gram Sahayaks got under way, the Gram Sahayaks curtailed time for formal functions and utilised the time so saved in understanding the demonstrations held in the fields. Their initial opposition to modern methods was overcome and they made constructive suggestions which have helped the Block staff as well. The Heads of departments of the subjects are now engaged in the technical strengthening of the programme.

REPETITION OF CAMPS

Many of the Gram Sahayaks expressed the view that a repetition of these camps would be

FIRST-AID KITS

FIRST-AID KITS are being supplied free to all Gram Sevaks and Social Education Organisers in the Community Development Blocks, who have passed tests prescribed by the St. John Ambulance Association.

The Ministry of Community Development, with the help of the Ministry of Health, had arranged for a gift of 1,500 first-aid kits from the Indian Red Cross Society for use in the Community Projects or blocks taken up in October, 1952.

After the gifts had been availed of, requests for kits continued to be received, and it was decided to supply all Gram Sevaks and S.E.Os. in the Community Development and National Extension Service blocks during the first Five Year Plan period with First-Aid kits. The supply has been continued during the Second Plan period.

useful if properly organised at periodical intervals.

The reproduction of these Gram Sahayak camps at the village level by the Gram Sahayaks, with the help of improved implements given to selected farmers, has helped in persuading a large number of people to use the improved techniques.

Some States, such as Rajasthan, have already started a programme where selected Gram Sahayaks participate in State-level farm leaders' training camps, organised jointly by the agricultural colleges and the rural institutes, where they are given intensive training in improved methods of agriculture.

The Gram Sahayak camps which have been held for the purpose of imparting training in agriculture, animal husbandry, and minor irrigation are later to be followed by similar camps in other groups of subjects, such as (i) village panchayats, co-operation and communications; (ii) village industries and rural housing; (iii) education, social education, public health and sanitation; and (iv) women's programme.

Following is the State-wise break-up of the number of Gram Sahayaks trained in the various States during the period from October 2, 1957 to September 30, 1958 :—Andhra Pradesh 69,601; Assam 13,998; Bihar 1,14,674; Bombay 75,630; Jammu and Kashmir 2,057; Kerala 24,979; Madhya Pradesh 42,851; Madras 60,370; Mysore 27,407; Orissa 58,137; Punjab 46,168; Rajasthan 30,866; Uttar Pradesh 2,43,312; West Bengal 8,240; Delhi 1,208; Himachal Pradesh 516; Tripura 815; Pondicherry 591.



GUIDES

(In some of the States in the South, Gram Sevaks are known as "Village Guides.")

*Bear you to see our barren land!
To have the scanty yield at hand;
The farmer flagging day by day,
And cattle pine without the hay!*

*Wake up! Wake up! you Village Guides!
They are your ryots—you are their Guides;
Wake up thy spirit if dormant still,
To serve thy land with all thy will.*

*To serve the man—to serve thy land.
To serve thy land—to serve thy Lord;
Run! Run! to guide where ignorance gains.
And give thy hand where innocence reigns.*

*Sum up thy strength and all thy might,
To lift thy and thought less in height;
With power of tongue that stirrs nation,
And with aid of demonstration.*

*Our land a farm—We are the ryots,
Wherein we sweat and work like ryots;
O! When the tree bears fruit at last.
An excellent joy that bursts my heart!*

*Hence work like men and eat like Lords,
Do thy duty then sing like bards;
March on with trumpeting sound, my friend,
With burning will to serve till end!*

V. CHRIST DAS
(Extension Trainee)

GRAM SEVAK

BONE RESOURCES IN INDIA

INDIA IS RICH in bone resources and nearly 3.6 lakh tons of raw bones valued at Rs. 7 crores are annually available in the country, according to a report of the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection of the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture on the Marketing of Bones and Bonemeal in India.

The report, which deals with many aspects of the bone industry such as availability, collection, utilisation, exports and imports, adds that at present about 1.36 lakh tons of bones or roughly one-third of the estimated available quantity, are actually collected; the rest are allowed to go waste for want of organised effort.

Important bone-producing States are Uttar Pradesh (15.4%), Madhya Pradesh (12%), Bombay (10.3%), Andhra Pradesh (9.8%), Rajasthan (9.3%), Bihar (8.9%), Punjab (8.3%), Madras (5.8%) and West Bengal (5.4%). Only bones of larger animals such as cattle, buffaloes, horses, ponies and camels—these being of commercial importance—are collected. The major portion comes from dead or fallen animals as, unlike in Western countries, only an insignificant number of animals enter slaughter houses.

MANURE

Bones are a valuable source of phosphatic manure, and every year 1.35 lakh tons are utilised by 98 bone-crushing mills in the country which

produce crushed bones, bone sinews, bone grist and bonemeal. Bone-digestors set up on a cottage scale produce crushed bones and bonemeal and consume another 130 tons, while about 350 tons are utilised by cottage industries in making combs, buttons, paper cutters, cigarette holders and toys.

The export of bones and bonemeal is prohibited but there is a fairly good trade in crushed bones, bone grist and bone sinews. On an average 74,000 tons of exportable by-products go to the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, the U.S.A., Ceylon, West Germany and other countries, earning nearly Rs. 2.5 crores in foreign exchange.

The report says that within the country, bone fertilisers, though not accepted by certain sections mainly on religious grounds and high cost of the product, are becoming increasingly popular in the States of Kerala, Madras, Mysore, Orissa, West Bengal and Assam. In South India, bonemeal is more popular as an ingredient in ready-made fertiliser mixtures.

For popularising the use of bonemeal, efforts are being made to cut down prices. Some of the States have set apart funds in the Second Five Year Plan for the production and sale of bonemeal. The Government of India and State Governments pay a subsidy of 25% of the retail value when bonemeal is distributed by the latter.

COLLECTION

The report underlines various difficulties facing the bone industry and maintains that to develop the industry the collection of bones must be increased. This is all the more necessary because, unlike agricultural commodities, there is little scope for increasing production inasmuch as bones can be made available only as a result of mortality among or slaughter of livestock.

The report suggests that full use should be made of the Community Projects organisation, village panchayats, flaying centres and town municipalities for collecting raw bones. It also suggests that better prices should be offered to the primary collectors, and purchasing depots should be set up in Community Project areas.

Demarcation of the country into four zones and restriction on inter-zonal movement of bones is still another recommendation aimed at increasing collection.

PRIZE COMPETITIONS

(Continued from page 9)

ENTRANCE FEE

1. There will be an entry fee of 50 nP. per competitor.
2. The period of competition would be from 1st April, 1959 to 30th September, 1959.
3. The results of the competition upto State Level should be finalised before 30th November, 1959 and intimated to the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation latest by the 15th December, 1959 to enable it to select the National Level winners.



NAYA SANWRA

THIS IS THE story of Naya Sanwra, a village of 1,400 people in the Sirohi district of Rajasthan, and how it has marched from success to success under its youthful and zealous Sarpanch Moti Singh.

You reach the village after a seven mile drive from the district headquarters. On arriving in the village, just on one side of the road, you see a beautiful new building. This is the village school. Next to the school is a group of structures, also new, housing the community centre and the panchayat offices.

Not far from this group is Naya Sanwra's proudest possession—a cow-dung gas plant. This gas plant, which is the only one of its kind set up in Rajasthan rural areas so far, supplies gas fuel not only to the reading room and the adult literacy centre but also lights up table lamps and Chulhas in many a Naya Sanwra household.

Another project about which the Naya Sanwra people talk with great pride is the village water supply system. A big tank has been built on the outskirts of the village, and an elaborate network of pipelines is being laid to connect the tank with the community bathroom and the numerous water taps at various points in the village lanes. The entire water supply system, when completed, will

cost about Rs. 20,000. A sum of more than Rs. 6,000 has already been raised from among the villagers by themselves. One man alone, a mason by profession, donated more than one thousand rupees.

MODERN AMENITIES

A full-fledged water system is not the only thing which the dynamic Naya Sanwra panchayat has given to its people; the village can boast of amenities which would make even a moderate-size town look inferior in comparison. Besides the school, with its extensive playground, and the novel fuel and water supply systems, Naya Sanwra possesses a library, public urinals, an underground drain and what are known as Gandhi Chabutras, where young and old alike meet in the evening for discussion and entertainment.

The village also has something which few villages in Rajasthan can claim—an orchard. This orchard, which is attached to the school, is maintained by the students themselves. An interesting feature of this orchard is a grove of 35 mango trees donated to the school by the community development block people. A part of the income from this orchard goes towards financing some of Naya Sanwra panchayat's social welfare projects.

More important from the point of view of future well-being of Naya Sanwra is the progress made by co-operatives. The co-operative spirit today permeates practically all the departments of economic life in the village. Besides a large-scale multi-purpose society with more than 500 members, the village has a number of small-scale co-operative for specific purposes. There is one co-operative for tanners, another for soap-makers and third for the flourishing Niwar and Durree knitting industry. The idea has evidently caught on in Naya Sanwra. Soon, the panchayat will be getting ready to start a series of co-operatives for farmers.

But for Moti Singh, the Sarpanch, his main task is yet to be accomplished. "There is nothing extraordinary in what the Naya Sanwra panchayat has done for its people," he says, "every self-respecting panchayat has to do these things. My worry is the people themselves. How to free them from the hold of old customs and practices, which have corrupted the social life of Naya Sanwra and many other Rajasthan villages for centuries." High on Moti Singh's list of such evils is the custom of *Nukta*, which is the name given to the feast which every villager is obliged to give to the entire village on the death of a close relative. As a rule, these Nuktas are ruinously expensive affairs and keep people in long and painful indebtedness. This evil, in turn, adds to another equally strong evil, namely, the hold which a class of Mahajans or moneylenders had acquired over village economy.

FORTY TWO MAUNDS PER ACRE

THE 27-ACRE PIECE of land at Panchi Gujran in Rohtak district of Punjab that was offered to Sardar Kesar Singh in lieu of his ancestral property left behind in West Pakistan would have broken the heart of a less enterprising person. Years of neglect had rendered this once green area into a near-arid land, denuding it of all essential plant-food ingredients. Kesar Singh's first year's experience with this land, in 1950, could hardly be more dismal. It brought him a pittance of mixed wheat-gram yield of a maund and ten seers only.

This, however, did not damp Kesar Singh's ardour. He decided to meet this challenge with that combination of courage and commonsense which makes the Punjabi peasant a hard man to beat.

The first thing Kesar Singh did was to call the Government soil chemist to have a look at his farm. The chemist's report minced no word. The soil was really poor, but it could be improved by a regular supply of water, organic matter, fertilisers and green manuring. It was a tall order, but to Kesar Singh it provided the blue-print of a practical plan.

The programme that Kesar Singh drew up, after three months of intensive study of agricultural literature and meetings with agricultural officials and experts, was a minor masterpiece. Its thoroughness, from one small detail to another, was consummate. It meant, first of all,

drilling superphosphate at a maund to the acre; then sowing *guara* and burying it when three to four feet high; then giving the land three to four ploughings, and an equal number of *sohagas* and *rauni* irrigation; then drilling a maund of superphosphate and a maund of ammonium sulphate to the acre; then drilling wheat in lines by using a seed rate of a maund per acre; irrigations depending on the need of the crop, generally four and one hoeing after the first watering.

After this herculean effort, success was sure. The yield began shooting up from year to year. In 1957, seven years after Kesar Singh launched his programme, the yield stood at 42 maunds 22 seers per acre.

Wheat is not the only thing which grows at Kesar Singh's farm. He has set apart 13 acres for fruit trees. About 500 guava trees have come up well and 200 of them bore fruit for the first time this year after three years of careful plantation and tending and pruning.

Like a good farmer that he is, Kesar Singh has taken a keen interest in poultry. His 97-strong White Leg Horns flock is very well kept, and his 88 layers easily give him a daily egg laying percentage of 40 to 45. One of the Light Sussex cocks brought up by him won the first prize at the All India Cattle and Poultry Show in Delhi last year. "It all depends upon the attention you give them," he says.

An indication of the thoroughness and inventiveness of Kesar Singh's mind is the fact that he has constructed the new poultry cages over a portion of the irrigation channel near his tubewell. "Not only the birds will find cool comfort but also their droppings will fall into the irrigation water and enrich my fields," he says. Another of his interesting and profitable idea is to make use of a natural depression in his land by shaping it into a pond for rearing fish.

ROSES FOR HEDGES

Apart from the rich dividends it pays, Kesar Singh's farm at Panchi Gujran is one of the most attractive spots in the region. A very pleasing feature which no visitor to the farm can miss is the 2,600 feet long rose-hedge—variety of flowers used in *Bahari* from Choha Saidan Shah in West Pakistan—which skirts the field like the floral border of a Phulkari shawl. "In April when they are in bloom my farm looks like a land of roses and the whole area is full of sweet fragrance." Fragrance is not confined to Kesar Singh's farm alone. The idea has caught on and now almost all the fields in the colony have rose-hedge borders.

Apart from its being very thorny, an advantage of this variety of roses is that the plants grow very tall and entangle themselves into an impenetrable wall. Also, since the flowering is very heavy and lasts for about fifteen days only, Kesar Singh is planning to utilise the flowers for distilling scent from them. Others, no doubt, will follow the lead and very soon Panchi Gujran will blossom into a rose-scent producing centre.

CIVIL RESISTANCE



WHENEVER THERE IS AN EPIDEMIC
SOME DESERT THEIR
HOMES IN PANIC



SOME RESIST
PROTECTIVE INOCULATIONS



AND SOME RESORT
TO UNLICENSED
PRACTITIONERS —



BUT THE
MOST DANGEROUS
ARE THOSE WHO
HIDE CASES



AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SOCIETIES

As on 30th June, 1957.

State	No. of Societies			Number of members
	Limited liability	Unlimited liability	Total	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Andhra	307	9,383	9,690	8,70,156
Assam	197	2,452	2,649	74,605
Bihar	11,793	1,800	13,593	4,47,841
Bombay	6,016	11,796	17,812	12,38,415
Jammu & Kashmir	486	1,135	1,621	1,82,768
Kerala	813	1,285	2,098	4,55,730
Madhya Pradesh	2,062	14,959	17,021	4,61,100
Madras	173	7,923	8,096	8,78,982
Mysore	2,428	4,890	7,318	7,68,420
Orissa	1,285	5,862	7,147	4,80,933
Punjab	775	12,369	13,144	6,75,620
Rajasthan	960	4,485	5,445	1,81,992
Uttar Pradesh	40,861	1,785	42,646	19,13,085
West Bengal	721	11,399	12,120	4,14,837
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	—	1	171
Delhi	283	87	370	16,571
Himachal Pradesh	499	77	576	45,954
Manipur	12	2	14	865
Pondicherry	—	22	22	956
Tripura	115	12	127	7,845
TOTAL 1956-57	69,787	91,723	1,61,510	91,16,846



The old and the new : The young and the old

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