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# *Panchayati Raj*

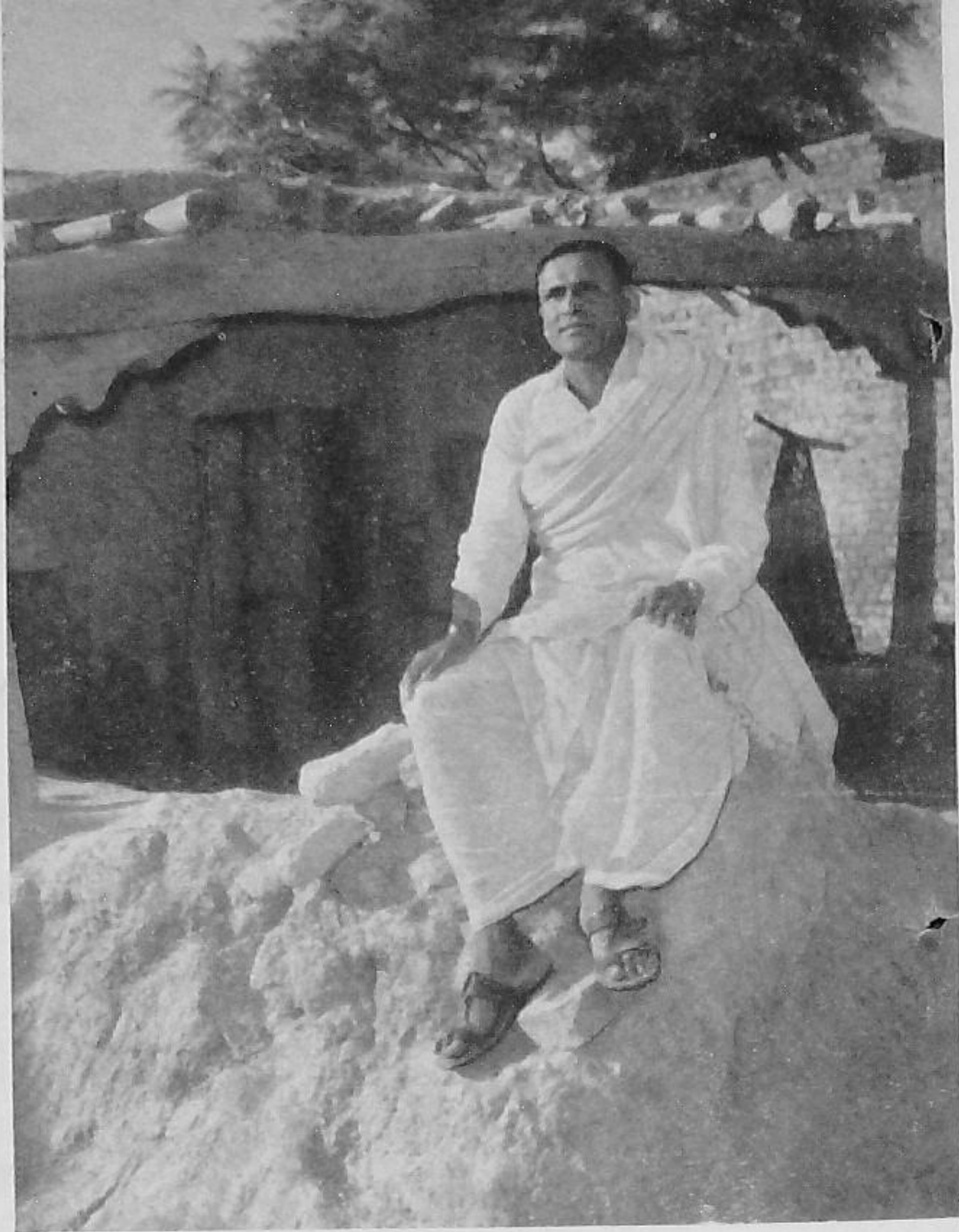
MARCH 1964

**BADLU RAM**, the newly elected Pradhan of Alipur Village Panchayat near Delhi, tries his hand at a spade to clean the muddy drain. He symbolises the new village leadership, sincere and devoted, being thrown up by Panchayati Raj.





A  
*New Panchayat  
Is Born*



*Govardhandas who has been re-elected Panch of the Circle Nyaya Panchayat Alipur. He believes in settling disputes between parties through reconciliation rather than through punishment.*



*Hari Singh who has been re-elected a member of the Alipur Panchayat would collect children and villagers around him through beat of drum and then march off to do shramdan for the benefit of the community.*





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EDITOR : VISHNU DUTT

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# LETTERS

## RURAL INDUSTRIALISATION VIS-A-VIS EXTENSION OFFICER (INDUSTRIES)

RURAL INDUSTRIALISATION has been rightly thought of as an effective medicine for our chronic disease of unemployment. It is admitted by one and all that it is an effective measure to prevent the one-way traffic *i.e.*; the inflow of rural masses into the cities for casual or permanent employment and so it helps to prevent the creation of slums. It is a definite solution of our problems of disguised unemployment, under-employment and low standard of living. Little wonder that of late the scheme has received an urgency all its own.

But the man who is practically responsible for the implementation of the rural industrialisation programme *viz.*; the Extension Officer (Industries) has been left organisationally very weak. He is under the administrative control of the B.D.O. and gets his pay etc. from the District Industries Officer, with whom he comes into contact only once a month. As most of the Block Development and Panchayat Officers come from Departments other than the Industries, they lack industrial outlook, They do not grasp the importance of 'Rural Industrialisation' in the right perspective and so attach little importance to this work and to the Extension Officers (Industries). The latter after undergoing one year's training (which is of course not in keeping with the work in the field) joins the Block with a zeal to work. But after sometime, he loses his initiative and zeal because of the B.D.O's attitude of indifference towards the rural industrialisation programme. Very often, the Extension Officer (Industries) is deputed for works other than Industries under the pretext of 'Co-ordination', or 'Integrated programme'. He is deputed for agricultural activities such as 'Pohli eradication' programme, Rabi campaign, Kharif campaign, and other campaigns. He is also deputed for earthwork and drainage work etc. and these things defeat the very purpose of his training. Seldom the personnel of any other department is deputed for industries work in the Block. Not to speak of deputing Extension Officers of other departments, even the Gram Sevaks can be found saying that they know nothing about Industries and that their work pertains to Agriculture. There is no other separate staff given to the Extension Officer (Industries). Through whom is he to work? He has to work as a peon, clerk, sub-inspector, and as an Extension Officer. Now that the work of Industrial Co-operatives has also been transferred to him, he has to work under three different officers, *viz.*; Block Development Officer, Asstt. Registrar Co-operative Societies, and District Industries Officer. He finds himself in a strange position. He gets step-motherly treatment from all these three officers because he is thought to be a member of the other department by everyone of them. A sort of inferiority complex thus creeps into his mind and he loses the zeal and initiative for work.



If the Government is earnest about promoting the 'Rural Industrialisation' programme, the position of Extension Officer (industries) must be strengthened in the block by reorganising the present structure. He should be given a little more independence, provided with necessary staff and above all, the Block Development and Panchayat officers and Gram Sevaks should be oriented in the subject of Industries.

30-12-63  
Punjab

Yours etc.,  
*An E.O. (industries)*

### SUGGESTION BOX FOR GRAM SABHA

Sir,

NO ONE can deny the importance of Gram Sabha in Panchayati Raj. However, the situation as it is now, is not satisfactory. There is the problem of making it more active and a more effective unit of Panchayati Raj at the village level.

The Study Team Report on Gram Sabha is very comprehensive and is a valuable document. It has given the correct analysis of the present Gram Sabhas and suggested a number of measures for its improvement. It has rightly pointed out that not all people attend the Gram Sabha meetings because of lack of time or unsuitable date or inconvenient venue (specially in the case of the Panchayats covering more than one village). I suggest that every Gram Sabha should have a "Suggestion Box" at some common place in the panchayat area, so that such people as are unable to attend the Panchayats can put in their suggestions or ask for the necessary information from the panchayat. If needed, the services of the Panchayat Secretary may be made available to them for writing letters on their behalf. The Suggestion Box will come in handy for the villagers who for one reason or another may not like to raise their suggestions in the open meetings of the Gram Sabha. All such questions and suggestions received in the Suggestion Box should be discussed in the Gram Sabha meeting.

New Delhi.  
Dt. 18-12-1963.

Yours etc.,  
*A. N. Hoge*

### COMMUNITY LISTENING SETS

Sir,

I NEED not point out the important role that community listening sets play in giving a tone to

the educational and recreational aspects of the rural life. The Government have provided radios to the panchayats in our district last year. But I regret to point out that a large number of these radios are now lying idle because they have not been repaired for some minor defects they have since developed. The visits of the mechanic of the State Publicity Department are few and far between. It would be far more advantageous if a representative of the Young Farmers Club were given some training in the handling and repairing of the radios. I am sure, they would be able to set right most of the idle radios because they have got minor defects only. The services of the mechanic of the Publicity Department at the district headquarters could be availed of for the removal of major defects, if any. Besides, he should visit the villages more often in a systematic manner.

30-12-63  
Kaithal,  
Punjab.

Yours etc.,  
*Ram Dayal*

### PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF CO-OPERATIVE FARMING

Sir,

IN SPITE of all the emphasis laid by the Government, the Co-operative Farming movement has not made the desired progress. Apart from the indifference and a sort of aversion that an average peasant cherishes for the scheme, there are some practical difficulties which are holding up its onward march.

First and foremost, a newly formed Co-operative Farming Society does not get the requisite technical guidance for the preparation of a suitable agricultural production plan and the application of the various improved farming practices. The Co-operative Inspector who is supposed to look after the Society has not got the necessary technical know-how on better farming. The V.L.W. and the Agricultural Extension Officer have their hands full and they do not consider it obligatory on them to bestow any special consideration towards the Co-operative Farms. Therefore, the increase in agricultural production of these farms falls far short of the hoped for standards. This causes disappointment amongst the members of the Society. It is suggested that a separate Extension Officer or a V.L.W. should

(Continued on page 7)



# ORISSA'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

## A PIPE IN EVERY HOME

THE ORISSA Government has begun implementing an elaborate plan for supply of protected water, preferably pipe water, to rural areas.

In the first instance, pipe water will be provided through stand posts in villages with a population of 2000 and above. On the basis of this population coverage, the scheme is proposed to be implemented in 460 villages within the Third Plan period. The villages are to be selected in terms of eligibility of population, preference being given to villages where the Expanded Nutrition Programme has been introduced and the people have given their consent to meet part of the cost and to maintain the project after completion.

Supply of protected water forms part of the larger programme of rural sanitation. The object is to supply clean and protected water to the villagers as an insurance against water-borne diseases. But the purpose cannot be achieved unless public health measures such as latrine and drainage facilities are provided. Water will be supplied through stand posts in village streets at different points. This will require satisfactory drainage to be provided to prevent stagnation of water around the stand posts.

Priority has been given to areas lying in endemic and epidemic belts. According to an official health survey, the four coastal districts of Cuttack, Puri, Balasore and Ganjam lie in endemic zone where the sub-soil water is subject to floods which help spread contamination of water sources resulting in epidemics like cholera, typhoid etc. Besides, the four other districts of Balangir, Dhankanal, Keonjhar and Sundergarh also lie in epidemic belt and are subject to frequent epidemics.

The problem of protected water supply in Orissa is a complicated one because its geography does not permit a straight solution to the problem resulting in huge loss of life every year through waterborne diseases. The biggest hurdle is to locate clean water in hilly areas and saline tracts. About 75% of the State covering a population of

about 50 lakhs falls within the hilly zone and about 15% of the State is under saline tract.

Both in the hilly and saline tracts, boring for underground water is a very costly affair and it involves heavy expenditure in putting up water pipes in scattered and isolated groups of villages. In the hilly areas particularly, the villages are widely scattered and uneconomic in size.

### PIPE WATER COMES TO VILLAGES

Two big villages, one in Puri District and the other in Ganjam District, have already started receiving pure pipe water supply. Work on about 100 projects has already started and is expected to be completed within the current financial year. The total Plan outlay for this purpose is about Rs. 380 lakhs, of which Rs. 107 lakhs have already been utilised. In such villages where pipe water is very difficult to supply, tube wells and masonry wells fitted with hand pumps have been installed.

The UNICEF has already given substantial assistance in the implementation of the scheme and further aid is proposed to be given.

### PANCHAYATS PLAY THEIR ROLE

The Panchayati Raj institutions in the State have been involved in the implementation of the integrated programme. The Gram Panchayats, the Panchayat Samitis and the Zila Parishads have been made responsible for the selection of places in terms of eligibility of population and the willingness of the people to contribute part of the cost of the project and to maintain it later on when completed. The Gram Panchayats will be responsible for paying the people's contribution at Rs. 5 per head. Besides, they will meet the maintenance charges, appoint the necessary staff and purchase all spares and accessories. They will help in the construction of latrines and drains and in the implementation of the programme according to approved plans and estimates. The Panchayat Samiti will ensure that suitable persons of the locality are selected for training as water-works operators to be appointed by gram panchayats.



# A NEW PANCHAYAT IS BORN

THE OBJECTIVE of establishing a Socialist Society through democratic means is now becoming clearer and clearer before the country. Panchayati Raj assumes significance all its own in this wider context. The National Seminar on Panchayati Raj held at Udaipur gave a serious consideration to the various issues involved. It has made some very far-reaching recommendations.

The working of Panchayati Raj during the last four years has made some impact on the social, economic and political life of the vast masses of our rural people. It needs to be studied rather more thoroughly in order to enable us to plan for a better and more dynamic Panchayati Raj. Though its impact on development activities might not have been as fast and satisfactory as one would have desired yet its healthy influence is unmistakably clear. Panchayati Raj has evoked a sense of responsibility amongst the rural people. This has led to renewed and redoubled efforts on their part particularly noticeable in better attendance by teachers, more enrolment of school children, better facilities for the advancement of loans for seeds and fertilisers, greater peoples' participation in community works like building of schools, roads and anti-soil-erosion measures.

It has been suggested that the mechanism of the party system of elections has not been wholly conducive to the good of the community and that it has led to party factions and a certain amount of disintegration of the community. My keenness to know at first hand the impact of the recent Panchayat elections held in Delhi Union Territory led me to village Alipur, 12 miles from the Capital.

Alipur has a historical significance in so far as the Community Development is concerned for it was here that the programme was symbolically inaugurated by the Prime Minister in 1952. When I reached the village, the new Panchayat was holding its session and planning its programme of action. Rightly it was devoting its attention to the pressing problem of overflowing water and the stinking mud in the village streets. I was rather surprised that the Panchayat should have

been confronted with such a problem because it has got all its streets brick paved and there were three sweepers who cleaned the streets daily. However, I was informed that it was the pipe water supply which had posed the problem. The stoppers having been removed from the public taps by some miscreants, they were running all the time and the overflowing water could not be drained out completely which had thus become a source of nuisance.

## ELECTION CONSCIOUS VILLAGE

Alipur village, with a voting population of about 1,500 people has after four years elected a new Panchayat with Badlu Ram as its new Pradhan. The villagers after going through three successive electioneering processes have become more enlightened and conscious of their rights and responsibilities. Their election consciousness is evident from the fact that about 85% of the voters exercised their right of voting during the elections.

A highly interesting and healthy development that came to light was that even the traditionally weaker sections *viz*; the Harijans as well as the womenfolk have begun to assert the independence of their right of voting. The Harijans are no longer swayed by threats or temptations held by the upper class people. Many Harijans openly voted for the candidates of their choice. Badlu Ram Pradhan told me how Harijans had defied threats held out by his rival candidates and voted for him. There were others who though outwardly mixed with the other candidates, even took advantage of the facilities offered by them such as drinks and free gifts of foodgrains, yet, they gave their vote to him only. That was the advantage of the secret ballot.

## VOTE—A SACRED TRUST

Even the family ties were ignored at the time of elections. The young son would not listen to his father, and the woman her husband when it came to the casting of vote to a candidate. Things came to a pretty crisis when the entire family revolted against Gopi, the head of a family who insisted on their voting in favour



of a candidate who was not a popular one. The family withstood its ground firmly and voted for another candidate of their choice. In the matter of voting, the womenfolk also asserted their independence of the menfolk. Chandan Kaur would not be coerced by her husband nor would Hanso be. Both voted independently of their husbands.

All these were very healthy trends and ensured success of Panchayati Raj. It was gratifying to note that the villagers did not, on the whole, permit any considerations of caste, tribe or religion to colour their decisions to caste votes. This belied the fears expressed by the critics of the Panchayati Raj. The onward march of democratic forces is bound to level up in course of time all such sectarian or parochial considerations.

As I was trying to analyse the results of the Village Panchayat elections, it became crystal clear that the men voted to power were those who had some social service to their credit and were honest and helpful persons. Badlu Ram, the new Pradhan of the Panchayat symbolised poverty, humility and spirit of social service. He has been a social worker for the last 20 years. He has always stood by the weak and helpless and opposed the tyranny of the unscrupulous Zamindar or the Government official. He would never disappoint anybody who needed his help. He became extremely popular with Harijans, landless tenants and womenfolk of the village. People loved and respected him even though he was a pauper. In the past, he had tried to run a small tea shop to be able to make both ends meet. He tried to become a gram sevak but could not get the job because he was read up to middle standard only. At last, he got a petty job of a Moharrir cattle pound. But poverty hardly parted company with him. There were four other candidates who opposed him in the elections. Some of them were very rich landlords and wielded considerable influence even in the political party. One of them was known as a police tout who would set one party against the other and then try to extort money. He had cultivated good relations with Government officials and would take bribes from poor villagers for recommending their cases to the officials. This man is reported to have spent over a thousand rupees by serving free drinks to the prospective voters. He even distributed free foodgrains to some of the Harijans. It was amusing to learn that though the voter

took full advantage of his generous hospitality, they would keep their vote reserved for poor Badlu Ram only. The latter is understood not to have spent a single pie on his elections.

More or less similar was the story of the election of other Panches. It was Hari Singh, a member of the Panchayat, who during the critical days of flooding as a result of the breach of Drain No. 8, would move around like a hurricane, with a spade in hand and a drum hung around his neck, warning the people to collect for plugging the breach. He is a registered grower and grows all the latest improved varieties of wheat seed such as C281, C824 and C723 in a plot of 11 acres for being supplied to the cultivators of the Block. It was for these services and his sweet and jovial temperament that he got the maximum number of votes in the Panchayat elections.

### EVOLVING SOUND LEADERSHIP

A convincing proof of the villagers' sound common sense and their care for honesty and spirit of social service is afforded by the fact that they have rejected outright the members of the old Panchayat, seeking re-election who had misbehaved and did not do their job conscientiously during their term. Thus only four out of the fourteen outgoing panches were re-elected and they are men who have a good record of service to their credit. Nand Ram who was Up-Pradhan in the last Panchayat has been re-elected because he had proved his worth by instituting a case for encroachment of public street against a person who happened to belong to his own family. He had often sided with the weak and given evidence in the court in order to bring the guilty to book. Similarly, Shri Gordhan Das was re-elected as a Circle Sarpanch because people had appreciated his sense of justice in deciding the cases. He had always aimed at bringing about a peaceful settlement between the parties rather than punish the guilty. Only four out of forty-five cases he dealt with ended in conviction. Even a young law graduate who opposed him in the elections was rejected by the voters.

I inquired if the elected members now faced any opposition from the defeated candidates. I was told that though there was some bitterness in the beginning, it had now almost vanished. There was little evidence of any party factions or groupism now.

*(Continued on page 14)*



# M. PRADESH — Two Sons of the Soil



**RATTAN SINGH** Sarpanch who mobilises thousands for shramdan.

## JAORA BLOCK in M. Pradesh

may will be proud of its two "Sons of the Soil", each of whom in his own way has done remarkable work in the field of development. The examples set by Shri Rattan Singh as Sarpanch of Uplai Panchayat circle and Shri Bhagwan Das as a model farmer of village Hatpipalya have been a source of light and inspiration to a large number of villagers in the vicinity.

Forty year old Rattan Singh belongs to a peasants' family. He has been taking keen interest in all development activities particularly agricultural production. He protects the cultivators' rights in the Marketing Society and the Central Co-operative Bank at Ratlam.

### INSPIRING LEADERSHIP

His selfless nature and devotion to the cause of development

has earned him a high place in the hearts of the villagers. He is being unanimously elected as a Sarpanch for the last 10 years in Gram and Nyaya Panchayats. He wields considerable influence over them. His desire is a word of command for them. That explains why he has proved such a successful catalytic agent in inspiring them to community action. He is responsible for organising and supervising a number of projects involving peoples' voluntary participation. On his appeal, people have contributed generously in cash, kind and labour. The total value of works completed by his Gram Panchayat comes to over Rs. 60,000. As convener of Bharat Sevak Samaj he has organised several youth camps and taken full advantage of them for the execution of several Public Works. He has become an expert in organising programmes involving community action.

In his village Uplai, the villagers have constructed a Panchayat Ghar costing about Rs. 3,300. Lack of good roads joining their village has been their greatest felt-need. They have built largely through shramdan and cash contributions, roads and bridges costing Rs. 23,000.

They have attached great importance to the provision of housing facilities for their village functionaries like the Gram Sevak and lady teacher. That is why even at the cost of some other important community works, they have thought it fit to spend over Rs. 4,000 on building houses for

them. Other important buildings constructed by them are : Community Centre, Girls School, Balwadi, Boys school and Maternity Home. Several sanitary drinking water wells have also been built.

In the field of agricultural production too, the villagers have made spectacular progress under his leadership. Almost every one of the 65 families has begun to use fertilisers and the average production per acre has gone up four times.

Ever since the emergency was declared, the village has been in the vanguard of programmes calculated to meet the emergency. Every family has sent one member each to the village volunteer force. This force has taken upon itself the watch and ward of the village. On one of its night patrols, it caught a thief who was brought to book. During the last monsoon season, more than 1,000 trees were planted by the V.V.F. The V.V.F. members have been regularly donating 12 days' labour to the Defence Labour Bank. They along with a large number of other villagers helped in digging an irrigation check-dam in Niman Village. This project has brought 150 acres of land under irrigation.

Similar work has been done in the other villages of the Panchayat circle. In village Sadakheri, projects involving people's participation to the tune of Rs. 26,000 have been completed. A sum of Rs. 5,000 has been spent in providing residential accommodation to the lady



teachers. A link road, School buildings, Balwadi, Sub-health



**BHAGWANDAS**—the bright star of Sahakari Samaj.

Centre and sanitary drinking water wells have also been provided. A 'Rapat' i.e. check-dam involving a cost of Rs. 4,000 has been built in order to provide irrigation facilities.

IF RATTAN SINGH has been a hero in the field of Panchayati Raj, thirtyfive year old Bhagwan-

das, another cultivator is a bright star of the Sahkari Samaj. A simple rustic, he was born in a poor cultivator's family in village Hatpipalya, ten miles away from Jaora Block headquarters.

He was the President of a Co-operative Society when the Agriculture Department transferred the work of distribution of seeds and fertilisers to the co-operatives. In spite of best efforts by the Block authorities, the programme of utilisation of Chemical fertilisers was not catching up. The cultivators were not only hesitant but were opposed to the use of fertilisers. At last, Bhagwan Das, much against his will, was prevailed upon to make use of at least 2 bags of fertilisers, one each of Ammonium Sulphate and another of Superphosphate.

Hesitatingly, he tried to make use of the fertilisers in one acre plot. Ten Kilograms of Ammonium Sulphate were applied in three instalments in  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of an acre which grew Jowar, Bajra and Maize. Twenty Kilograms of Superphosphate was applied in the fields growing groundnut, pulses and cotton. The yield was thrice the average he used to have in the past. This was so in spite

of the fact that his fields had no irrigation facilities.

### MISSION OF LIFE

The success of the experiment made Bhagwandas a convert to the scheme of utilisation of fertilisers. He has now made it a mission of his life to demonstrate the effect of different doses of chemical fertilisers on different crops and to help popularise the same in the countryside.

He is now 'A' Class seed grower of the Block for Jowar, maize, cotton, groundnut, gram and wheat. He is producing 18 maunds of Jowar and maize per acre and 24 maunds of groundnut per acre with the help of superphosphate. His fields have become a place of pilgrimage and he is so popular that he is being elected the President of Service Co-operative Society, Hatpipalya unanimously for the last 3 years. The membership of the Society has increased from 20 to 70, having adopted improved farming techniques for increasing production. Use of Chemical fertilisers has become widely popular not only amongst the well-to-do cultivators but even amongst the average and below average cultivators.

## LETTERS

(Continued from page 2)

be posted wherever there are a sizeable number of Co-operative Farming Societies. If due to financial limitations, it is found difficult to appoint this additional staff, at least the Co-operative Inspector should preferably be an agricultural graduate.

In Pilot Project areas, the project officers would become more effective if they are placed under the control of the B.D.O.'s and are considered as part of the Block Staff. In that case, they would be able to procure all the facilities

of improved seeds, fertilisers and pesticides required for the Co-operative Farms.

At some places, the Gram Sevaks transferred to the Pilot Projects have lost the facilities of house rent or free housing accommodation they used to enjoy previously. This has damped their spirit to work enthusiastically for the success of the scheme.

21-1-64.  
GUJARAT.

Yours etc.,  
RAVINDRA VYAS



# TRIKKAKARA—The Land of Mahabali

*(The original text of this story is in Malayalam. It has been published in the Panchayati Raj, a monthly journal of Kerala State Government.—Editor.*

*“When King Mahabali ruled the country, people were happy and prosperous. . . . .!!!”*

THE ATMOSPHERE was overflowing with the music of these words. It reminded one of the prosperous days of yore. Wherefrom was this music coming? It was from a small house of a farmer where a batch of girls aged about 10 to 12 years were playing on the sands of the front yard. The golden “Chingam” was to rise. Thiruvoram was coming again and they were welcoming king Mahabali approaching from a distance.

## THE DISTANT PAST

I was going to Trikkakara from Edapalli railway station. I was stopped on the way by this wonderful music. The thought that I would soon reach Mahabali’s place overwhelmed me. I was just in front of the Trikkakara temple where Mahabali is worshipped. There were many inscriptions in that temple about social customs and history of the times when the king ruled that place. This reminded me of the olden days when the place was known as “Kalkarai” and because Mahavishnu took birth as “Vamana” that this came to be known as “Trikkakara”. In olden days, all the kings in Kerala used to assemble at Trikkakara for celebrating “Onam”.

The glittering dense and flowered forest attracted the eyes as well as the heart. Wherever you looked you saw only flowered trees. All around there were only fruit-bearing trees. In between the mounts, you could see the green beautiful paddy fields. It was this beauty of the place about which the poet Chang Ambuzha born at Edapalli close in the neighbourhood, had sung in his songs.

Today Edappali Community Development Block embraces Trikkakara. The headquarters of Trikkakara Panchayat could be seen at a distance. The backbone of Trikkakara—Palavivattam and Kumarapuram Road—goes along the heads of the small mounts. On either side of the road, there are green meadows and grass plateaus. The

big school building, hospital and the surrounding beauty of nature attracts everybody. In between the trees and the creepers, you find the peaceful houses of farmers. Below you find the fields. Off and on you pass the beautiful coconut trees with lots of round pots on their heads. The house compounds are full of beautiful mango, jack, coconut and arecanut trees.

## THE DECLINE AND RISE

But that was not so always. If you had gone ten years ago, you would have noticed only a few paddy fields. Here and there you would have found grazing meadows. Off and on there would come up houses. If you wanted to go up a little distance, you would have to wade through small bushes and creepers. After evening, it was all dark. There were no streets, not to speak of street lights. There was not even enough drinking water. There was no hospital. If small children were to be sent to school, they had to wade through difficult paths.

Things began to change slowly when the Trikkakara Panchayat was constituted in 1950. Gradually, as Panchayati Raj was strengthened the entire atmosphere began to improve. The enthusiastic panchayatdars led by their inspiring president have shown the way to progress. They have pulled together and struggled their way up through difficulties. Before their inspiring enthusiasm, the social customs began to change. A new life was born amongst the people and a number of development activities were taken in hand.

The first and foremost achievement was that of a road. Sixty year old Ramu would tell you what a life it was during his youth when there was no road. At the time of the first delivery of his wife, he had to carry her on her shoulders to a distant hospital. Because he reached the hospital late, he had to bring her corpse back home. But things have materially changed now. The other day, the old man was



seen speeding up in a friends' car. The reason: his son Apu had cut his leg by a pick axe and he was taking him to the hospital for dressing.

If you climb a small mount, you reach the meadow. Again, you will find small mounts, again meadows. Which way you look, you see beautiful scenery. It is exciting to note that 34 miles of roads have been built to girdle round the 11 sq. mile area of the Panchayat. With the help of the community projects, a sum of Rs. 42,825 was spent in constructing a road of 8 miles and 5½ furlongs in length. The Panchayat spent another sum of Rs. 8,705, on 8 roads having a length of 8½ miles, and seven roads of about 6 miles,—all built through shramdan. They have now a programme of constructing 7 roads of 11 miles length at a cost of Rs. 85,515.

Motivated by the desire that no inhabitant of the Panchayat area should go without pure drinking water, the Panchayat has sunk 36 public wells on which a sum of Rs. 72,500 has been spent.

Over 90 per cent of the population is composed of farmers. About 3,000 acres of Trikkakara Panchayat are under paddy. The cultivators did not know much of the improved practices of farming. The Panchayat has however taken interest in developing and improving farming. Many bunds and tanks were constructed on which a sum of about Rs. 34,000 has been spent. In Trikkakara, a garden for growing green manure was developed at a cost of Rs. 6,000. For a veterinary hospital, the panchayat spent Rs. 6,000.

The Panchayat tried its level best to improve the educational standard of the area. There is a lower primary school, two Government Lower Primary Schools, three Management Lower Primary Schools and the Management Upper Primary School in the area. For building a basic school, the panchayat has spent Rs. 10,000. Another sum of Rs. 20,000 has been spent for an upper primary school. In another village, a sum of Rs. 6,750 was spent for constructing a lower primary school.

Government has constructed an allopathic dispensary in an acre of land donated by the Panchayat. Expenditure on construction was about Rs. 9000 of which Rs. 5000 was received as loan from the Government. Because of the

initiative of the Panchayat, one Ayurvedic hospital and one child welfare centre have also been sanctioned and are progressing fast.

Electricity has illuminated the whole area and banished the darkness of ages. The glittering roadside lights stand as sentinels for the area.

### THE HERO HONOURED

Trikkakara Panchayat is situated on a meadow from where ideas have emanated for changing the entire atmosphere of the village. The small panchayat office near the road was not a fitting temple to house that industrious panchayat. An amount of Rs. 2,640 was spent in order to give it a suitable accommodation. Because of its work in the sphere of road development, due recognition has been conferred on Shri K. P. Kuryan, President of the Panchayat who has been the guiding spirit behind the whole movement. It was he who put the first basket of earth on the first road viz; Edachira-Kunachilli road taken up for construction. This road has been named after him and is known as Kurya road. There could not be a more befitting honour to this son of the soil!

Sometimes, it is from the institutions that heroes emerge while at other times, it is from heroes that institutions grow. Trikkakara comes in the latter category. It is not because of the greatness of the size or income of the Panchayat but because of the services of a team of selfless workers that these big achievements have been possible. The income of this Panchayat is hardly Rs. 1,500. It is in this background that the services rendered by Shri Kurya and his colleagues have to be viewed.

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The panchayat has a lot of work still to do before the village would be able to revive its age-old prosperity. There is ample scope for introducing cottage industries, such as coir making and mat-weaving. Animal husbandry and other allied activities have also to be developed a good deal. The farmers are not able to make their both ends meet. Several of them are indebted. They know only a little of the improved farming practices. The village leaders with a co-operative and selfless spirit can and will go a step further to usher in through democratic institutions like Panchayati Raj and Sahkari Samaj, Mahabali's prosperous community of old.



# SANCHI BREATHES NEW LIFE

IF IN the past, Sanchi had made history because of the holy *stupas* enshrining the sacred memories of the disciples of Buddha, it has in the modern times added colour due to the rapid progress achieved in the development field.

The green fields, the roaring irrigation pumps, the new roads and diverse forms of co-operative activity in the Sanchi Community Development Block in Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh, are evidence of the new life that is spreading to the 236 villages of the Block, covering a population of about 60,000.

Until about a decade ago, the villages around the ancient monument of Sanchi presented the all-too-familiar picture of rural stagnation. A new hope for better life emerged when the Community Development programme was introduced in this area on Gandhi Jayanti Day in 1953. In the ten years since then, the programme has made a tremendous impact on the villagers. The villages of this Block have the unique distinction of receiving the first prize for agriculture in Raisen District during the last three years in succession.

## AGRICULTURE MAKES HEADWAY

The all-round development of agriculture made in the villages of the Block is mainly due to the detailed agricultural programmes that are prepared for each village every year. The programmes are systematically carried out under the active guidance of Gram Sevaks and Extension Officers. More than 50% of the villages in the Block are now covered by agricultural programmes. Nearly 75% of the cultivated area in the Block is now covered by improved seeds. Improved seed varieties of wheat, gram, jowar, paddy, groundnut and potato are distributed to the farmers. Fertilizers made available through Block agencies are also being extensively used. During the first two years of the Third Plan, a little over 7,000 maunds of fertilizers, such as ammonium phosphate and super-phosphate, were distributed in the villages of the Block. Green

manuring and compost manuring has also been taken up on a large scale.

Before the establishment of this Block, cultivated land was infested with *Kans* and as a result the yield per acre was poor. Land reclamation schemes were started and deep ploughing for *Kans* eradication was done in about 43,200 acres. This has resulted in an increase in the average yield of wheat. Over 14,000 acres of culturable waste land was brought under cultivation with the help of men and machines.

Only 90 acres of land was under irrigation in 1953. Now nearly 1,400 acres of land is irrigated. Ninety-one new irrigation wells, four barrages, and seven tanks have been constructed and 25 oil engine pumps have been installed. Several old wells and tanks have been repaired. The Halali Dam, now under construction, will irrigate nearly 28,000 acres. Besides, the Banchore Tank Project when completed, will irrigate 4,000 acres.

Steps have been taken to popularise plant protection, seed treatment and soil conservation methods. Horticulture is also being encouraged and over 10,300 saplings of different fruits, such as mangoes, guava, lemon etc., have so far been distributed to the cultivators of the Block.

The Japanese method of paddy cultivation has been introduced in the Block and already about 425 acres are being cultivated under this method. Thanks to the demonstrations held every year in the Block, improved agricultural methods are being adopted on an increasingly wider scale.

Co-operative credit societies functioning in the Block have contributed much to the growth of agricultural production. The credit societies which include village societies, primary agricultural credit societies and large-sized societies, cover 159 villages and have distributed loans to the tune of Rs. 8.5 lakhs annually. A pilot project of joint co-operative societies has been started. Under this scheme, 10 joint farm societies have been formed so far.

(Continued on page 12)



# National Seminar on Panchayati Raj

(From our Correspondent)

*(A three-day national seminar on Panchayati Raj organised by the All India Panchayat Parishad was held at Udaipur, Rajasthan. It was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Jaya Prakash Narayan and attended by Chief Ministers and Ministers of 10 States. Shri S. K. Dey, Union Minister of C.D. & C. also addressed the conference which discussed a number of fundamental problems of Panchayati Raj and made some important recommendations.—Editor)*

THE three-day national seminar on Panchayati Raj held at Udaipur recently, recommended that there should be a non-official organisation of Panchayati Raj Institutions both at the State and Union levels. It was felt that States should facilitate membership by Panchayats of such non-official organisations and for that purpose permit use of Panchayat funds for application fees, delegate fees etc. There was unanimity in regard to the view that panchayat institutions should be non-official bodies, officials even the Ministers should not be its members.

The Seminar recommended that incentives by way of money should be given to best village Panchayats as had been done in Orissa. It was also resolved that meetings of Gram Sabhas should be held at least twice a year. The Gram Sabha should be statutory bodies; budget proposals of Panchayats should be placed before Gram Sabhas and village chowkidars should be placed under the Gram Sabha.

## S. K. DEY'S ADDRESS

Addressing the National Seminar, Shri S. K. Dey, Union Minister of Community Development and Co-operation, said that if democracy were to survive in India, nothing could stop the onward march of Panchayati Raj. A system had already been created and the task now was to ensure that it did in fact enable people to take on increasing responsibility in building their own future. Shri Dey pointed out that the experience gained so far in the working of Panchayati Raj had revealed certain discouraging features. Panchayati Raj institutions had often tended to be more anxious about their authority than about their responsibility. Instead of trying to acquire greater competence in discharging their functions, they had often acted as distributors of patronage. Referring to the question whether Panchayati Raj institutions should be free from

the influence of political parties, Shri Dey said it would be extremely naive to think that the political parties would leave these institutions completely alone. In the present context, it would be unrealistic to expect political parties to ignore the immediate prospects and to work for unanimity of decision and action at the village or district level. This was not necessarily undesirable. One need not be afraid of competition; in fact, the ideal should be a competitive society trying to develop a co-operative life without however any combative tendencies. This was a field in which major political leaders and non-official organisations had a major role to play in the development of Panchayati Raj.

## JAYA PRAKASH NARAYAN'S VIEWS

Introducing the main subject for discussion at the Seminar, Shri Jaya Prakash Narayan said that it had to be viewed in two aspects, viz; the basic concept of Panchayati Raj and the means for its realisation. He pointed out that there was considerable lack of clarity about the basic concept and people were not very clear what they actually meant. Further, when people talked about Panchayati Raj their words often lacked complete conviction. As a result, Panchayati Raj in India today was largely make-believe.

He pleaded for a clearer thinking on the subject as to whether Panchayati Raj institutions should be regarded merely as agencies or instruments of the Government for the carrying out of development programmes or any other functions that might be assigned to them or whether they should be accepted as units of self-government at their own levels with all the necessary responsibilities, functions and powers. It would be wrong to view Panchayati Raj as an instrument to ensure the success of development



## SANCHI BREATHES NEW LIFE

(Continued from page 10)

### SOCIAL WELFARE SCHEMES

The Sanchi Block has had remarkable success with its social welfare schemes. Before the inception of the Block there were only four schools for the entire Block; now there are 115 primary schools, six middle schools, 3 higher secondary schools and two institutions for vocational training. Adult literacy programmes have been taken up and night classes are arranged periodically. Village leader training camps are organised to train the villagers to work for the development of the community as a whole. Training camps for women, teachers and children are also organised from time to time.

The importance of the active participation of village youth in the development activities of the Block has received due recognition. Ninety youth clubs and 11 Mahila Mandals are now functioning in the Block.

Before the Block agency was set up, there was only one hospital at Raisen to provide medical facilities to the whole district. Now, in addition to this, a primary health centre with a family planning clinic and five subsidiary health centres are attending to the medical needs of the villagers. In all, 135 sanitary drinking wells and 34 hand-pumps have been installed to supply pure drinking water to the people. General sanitation of the villages has also improved and soakage pits and smokeless chulhas have been introduced. It is significant that village Madhe of this Block won the first prize in the district in 1960-61 for having adequate sanitation facilities and keeping the village clean.

The story of Sanchi Block is also significant for the varied activities that have been undertaken by the villagers. Nearly 10 per cent of the cultivators' families are engaged in some subsidiary occupation or the other. There are co-operatives for the production of combs, palm-gur, furniture, bricks, oils and shoes. Training is also given by the Block agency in various trades like carpentry and tailoring to the villagers.

The examples of Sanchi Block symbolises what the Community Development programme can do for the rejuvenation of India's village life.

plans; it must be accepted as a system of political, social and economic philosophy. If Panchayati Raj institutions were regarded as units of self-government, the idea should be embodied in the Constitution itself, Shri Jayaprakash declared.

Turning to the need for the necessary conviction and will to translate the idea of Panchayati Raj into practice, Shri Jaya Prakash Narayan said that people talked about building from below. Unless power was really not nominally transferred to the people, there may not be any construction from the bottom.

Touching upon certain specific questions, Shri Narayan expressed himself in favour of a uniform basic policy in the country in regard to Panchayati Raj. While specific procedures might vary, the fundamental policy must be the same all over the country. As regards panchayat elections, he was in favour of the indirect method.

Earlier in his inaugural address, the Rajasthan Chief Minister, Shri Mohanlal Sukhadia remarked that some persons appeared to be having second thoughts about the desirability of Panchayati Raj. Their attitude had been largely influenced by the difficulties and drawbacks which they saw in the functioning of the system. But these difficulties and drawbacks, said Shri Sukhadia, should not be taken as indicative of inherent defects of the system.

Turning to some of the more important problems that needed to be examined in this context, Shri Sukhadia emphasised the need for a proper relationship between officials and non-officials with the clear definition of their respective duties and responsibilities. He felt it was perhaps also necessary to evolve a more or less uniform pattern of Panchayati Raj all over the country. Other subjects which merited special attention included the vesting of specified powers in the Zila Parishads, the question of panchayat resources, the relationship between panchayats and co-operatives and the training of non-officials in Panchayati Raj institutions and co-operative societies. He also called for continuous attention to the needs of the weaker sections of the community. Speaking about the need for rural industrialisation, he suggested a long-term programme defining the Government's policy regarding establishment of certain industries only in the rural and small-scale sector.



# COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE

## 16 MDS. PER ACRE WHERE NOT A GRAIN GREW

THE PILOT Scheme for the reclamation of saline-alkali and eroded soil, launched in two districts Uttar Pradesh has yielded exceptionally encouraging results in so far as productivity and valuable research data are concerned. Barren and waste land which was priced at Rs. fifty-three an acre is now valued at Rs. 850 an acre. To begin with, about 9,000 acres of saline-alkali and eroded land was acquired in the districts of Lucknow and Hardoi for the project, which has been the first of its kind in the country. By now, 3,000 acres has been completely reclaimed and another 600 acres afforested. More than 2,000 acres of reclaimed land, where not a grain could be grown for decades before the commencement of operations, now produces 33,560 mds. of foodgrains, thus giving an average of over 16 mds. per acre.

## FISH CULTURE INCREASES INCOME OF GRAM PANCHAYATS IN ORISSA

THE INCOME of panchayats in Orissa through fish culture has more than trebled in a period of about three years. The pisciculture earnings of the panchayats have increased from about Rs. 1.8 lakhs in 1960-61 to nearly Rs. 5.0 lakhs in 1962-63. This income constitutes about 22% of the total income from non-tax sources of the panchayats in the State. Some of the panchayats like Chikkalkhadi, Dighapandi and Rambha in Ganjam district and Bandugaon and Alamanda in Koraput district earn something between Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 10,000 annually from fish culture. Thus pisciculture has proved to be a very lucrative scheme for panchayats in Orissa and has played a significant part in building up community assets and utilisation of man-power resources of the panchayats.

During the Third Plan for the State, a provision of Rs. 40 lakhs has been made for giving

assistance to the panchayats for the development of pisciculture.

The success of the pisciculture programme in Orissa with the active participation of the Gram Panchayats is largely due to the systematic supply of about 42,000 fingerlings in 1960-61, and 1.6 lakh in 1962-63.

More than 40,000 tanks are now under the control of the panchayats. The State Government through loans and subsidies helps the gram panchayats to renovate the tanks and provides advice and assistance to develop fish cultivation. The State Fisheries Department also provides training facilities to 30 panchayat nominees annually. Panchayats are also encouraged to start fish nursery centres.

## ORISSA PANCHAYAT CONSTRUCTS TWO-MILE ROAD

OLSINGH Gram Panchayat with a population of about 7,235 has been making earnest efforts to utilise its manpower for all round development through Village Volunteer Force. Situated 12 miles south of the Subdivision of Khurda in the district of Puri, Orissa, the Olsingh Gram Panchayat has since been flourishing under the leadership of Sri Raghunath Patnaik who is taking keen interest in rural uplift work. The weavers of this village have been well known for weaving Tasar for ages past. Attempts are now being made to develop Tasar weaving industry by formation of a weavers' co-operative society. In order to provide better communication facilities the members of the Village Volunteer Force have constructed a two mile-long road from the Panchayat headquarters to Damanbhuin.

## NAGOLE ACHIEVES THREEFOLD FUNCTIONS OF V.V.F.

NAGOLE with a population of 900 is separated by just six kilometers from the outer fringes of



Osmania University Campus. But over the past years it has been a little world in itself, far from the bustle and business-life of the metropolis. The National Highway, connecting the South and North, lies less than two kilometers from Nagole. But for the people of the village, this grand "royal" road of asphalt and cement, has been only an object of wonder, a grand prospect, of no direct benefit to them till January 26, 1963. The Prime Minister's appeal for the formation of a Volunteer Corps in every village, found instant response also in Nagole. From each family in the village, at least one person, man or woman, enlisted for constructive work. The Labour Bank had been formed and the village tailor trained as Dalapati. It was now left to the Sarpanch to use this reservoir of human resources for common good. The Sarpanch did not tarry. The daily sight of fast moving traffic over the highway, kindled in him the idea of a road—even a katcha one, it did not matter. The Panchayat concurred and the Dalapati was ready to lead and organise the village labour force. The "Army" was divided into 15 groups of ten each. And, from dawn to dusk, the volunteers worked by turns to make ready a two-kilometer road in ninety days. Government paid Nagole panchayat Rs. 6,000, amounting to three-fourths of the cost of the road. Completion of the road having demonstrated the potentialities of self-help, the panchayat forthwith launched on another work. This was a building for the village school. Again, the Village Volunteer Force, 150-strong, set out to work under the leadership of Yadgiri, the Dalapati. Foundations were dug and filled, earth and stone were mixed, and bricks, locally baked, went into raising the walls. The skilled masons fitted windows and doors. Within less than two months the school building was ready. Ninety of Nagole's children in the 6-10 age group today read and write in the sheltered comfort of a two-teacher school.

After the road and school, a well was also dug. On the eve of the first anniversary of the Village Volunteer Force these three achievements of Nagole mark the fulfilment of the three-fold functions of the Village Volunteer Force.

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## MASS DIBBLING BY V.V.F.

WITH A VIEW to popularising dibbling as one of the best methods for increasing agricultural production 110 members of the Village Volunteer Force of Nasalapur village in Raibag Taluka, Mysore State participated in a mass operation held for the purpose. The function was held to mark the starting of the sowing season. The members collectively undertook the dibbling of jowar which is popular and more yielding in this area. Out of 373 acres under jowar in this village 169 acres have been selected for dibbling. On a set date, all the V.V.F. members wearing a uniform of white cap or turban, white shirt or dhoti and a white shirt with a badge on their chest headed towards the fields early in the morning under the command of the Dalpati. The procession was led by five pairs of bullocks. The entire operation was divided into five batches. Each batch carried implements suited for the operation. In one day, 6 acres was brought under cultivation by dibbling. The cash value of the labour donated to the Defence Labour Bank came to about Rs. 110. Several neighbouring villages which had come to witness the function were inspired to undertake similar operations in their own fields.

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## A NEW PANCHAYAT IS BORN

(Continued from page 5)

All these were healthy trends which showed that Panchayati Raj elections even with the competitive spirit built into it helped to evolve a sound village leadership, eliminating those who were insincere and lacked the spirit of service. There might be some difficulties in the beginning when even the wrong men might be able to win their way to the Panchayati Raj bodies but in course of time they are sure to be exposed and rejected the next time. Panchayati Raj thus seems to be the greatest single force operating to build up large masses of people for genuine leadership to shoulder the responsibility of service and development of the country.



# PROGRESS THROUGH THE CO-OPERATIVE WAY

R. N. CHATTERJI

CO-OPERATIVES are the key to progress and prosperity. This has been well demonstrated by the Cuttack Sadar Block in Orissa which has adopted the co-operative way for the development of its villages. It has made steady progress over the past five years which is reflected, among other things, in the increase in the coverage of families by the co-operative sector. About four thousand families out of a total of 12,000 are now receiving the benefits of the co-operative ventures. Last year, the families covered were 3,700 only.

The Block is served by two industrial co-operatives, two big sized joint farming societies, eight grain golas, seven large sized credit co-operative societies, twenty three small credit societies and four house-building co-operative societies. Besides, ten lift irrigation societies, one potato growers, cold storage and marketing society and one labour contract co-operative society have also been organised.

The grain gola co-operatives of Orissa are a unique institution by themselves. Linked with the large-sized credit societies, they have done commendable work by providing timely credit and other service requirements of the cultivators. The idea of creating these primary societies at the gram panchayat level, was to provide as much of credit as possible so as to relieve the cultivators from the clutches of money-lenders. During the current year, about Rs. 58,000 of short-term and medium-term loan have been advanced to cultivators so far.

The cold storage with a capacity of stocking 20,000 maunds of potatoes is proposed to be located in the island of Bayalish Mouza, where about 2,000 acres are under potato cultivation. The storage and marketing society has been organised by a co-operative of potato growers and the construction of the building has already started.

The outstanding feature in the block is the system of lift irrigation run by co-operatives. The first experiment was made in Bayalish Mouza, an island surrounded by the river Kathjuri and

Sidhua which separate just below the road bridge over Kathjuri river near the Cuttack-Bhubaneswar national highway and again join near Daleighai. The approximate cultivable area of the island is about 6,000 acres. This falls within the flooded areas of Cuttack District. The island is protected by embankments except for the portion on the Kathjuri side between Naharpade and Dihasarichuan which are being taken up now. The island is not being covered by the Delta Irrigation system of the Hirakud Dam project and hence the cultivators thought of the lift irrigation system.

The progressive farmers got together and formed a co-operative society for the purpose. Tubewells were installed and they showed that there was good underground water available in the entire area. Each tubewell could easily irrigate about 150 acres of land. It was, therefore, planned to have 40 such tubewells to cover the entire area.

Following the successful working of the first co-operative tubewell venture, ten more lift irrigation societies were formed in the villages of Kadampada, Bahalpada, Berhampur, Jharkata, Kalapada, Bentkun, Kachirisahi, Jhinkiria and Sriram.

A tubewell of six inches diameter has been installed in each of these villages. Each tubewell is fitted with a turbine pump of 10 H.P. which is operated by power supplied by the State Electricity Board. In order to have effective distribution of water without much loss, these societies have been supplied R.C.C. pipes by the Government at nominal cost. Assured irrigation supplies have brought about a marvellous improvement in the villagers' economic life. Potato and vegetable cultivation has been extended on a large scale.

During the next financial year, ten more such co-operatives are being planned. In fact, the farmers are keen on forming all the lift irrigation societies within the next two or three years and thus the entire area of 6,000 acres of cultivable land will be brought under lift irrigation.



# EVERY PANCHAYAT HAS A RADIO

NATARAJAN and Venkataswamy were hotly discussing with each other the factors which had led to the remarkable increase in production of paddy in their neighbouring village Kottur. One thought that it was due to the use of fertilisers, while the other was equally emphatic that it was due to the Japanese method of paddy cultivation. Such was the tone set up by the Radio Forum which they had been listening to a short while ago.

Madras has stolen a march over other States in as much as each of the 12,522 Panchayats has a radio set. It was their target to instal radio sets with all Panchayats by the end of the Third Five Year Plan. But they have completed the job two years in advance.

With the inauguration of the Panchayati Raj in Madras State in 1960, need was felt for disseminating authentic news among the villagers and for mobilising their latent energy for united action in the field of rural development. Soon after, it was decided to introduce the Radio Rural Forums as a means to achieve this objective.

In the initial stages, one Panchayat was selected in every Panchayat Union for organising a Radio Rural Forum *i.e.*; Listening-cum-Discussion-cum-Action groups, covering about twenty members representing a cross-section of the village. Questions were invited from these Forum members and answers were broadcast on behalf of the various departments of the Government.

## THE EMERGENCY AND AFTER

When the Chinese aggression threatened the country and a State of Emergency was declared, the need for dissemination of authentic information became a vital point in mass communication activity. Village Volunteer Force was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on the Republic Day, 1963 and it had been indicated that the Radio should play a very important role in the "mass education programme" of the Village Volunteer Force. Radio Rural Forum thus assumed an importance all its own. The

frequency of the programmes was increased and they are now broadcast on two days *i.e.*, Tuesday and Friday, in a week.

A special drive was organised for the installation of Community Radio sets in all the Panchayats. Today all the Panchayats in Madras State have been provided with Community Radio sets. Especially helpful in this drive has been the readily available radio repair and maintenance service provided by the Panchayat Radio Maintenance Organisation. Each Revenue Division is looked after by one supervisor.

A four-day training camp for the representatives of Radio Rural Forums was organised at Tiruchirapalli in November 1962, for the proper implementation of this new programme. 46 non-officials chosen at the rate of one for every Revenue Division in the State attended the training camp. Prior to this, there was a training-cum-refresher course organised by the Government of India, for the Chief Organisers of Radio Rural Forums from all the States of India and these camps paved the way for the exchange of views and experiences regarding the programme content, broadcast technique, listeners' reactions etc.

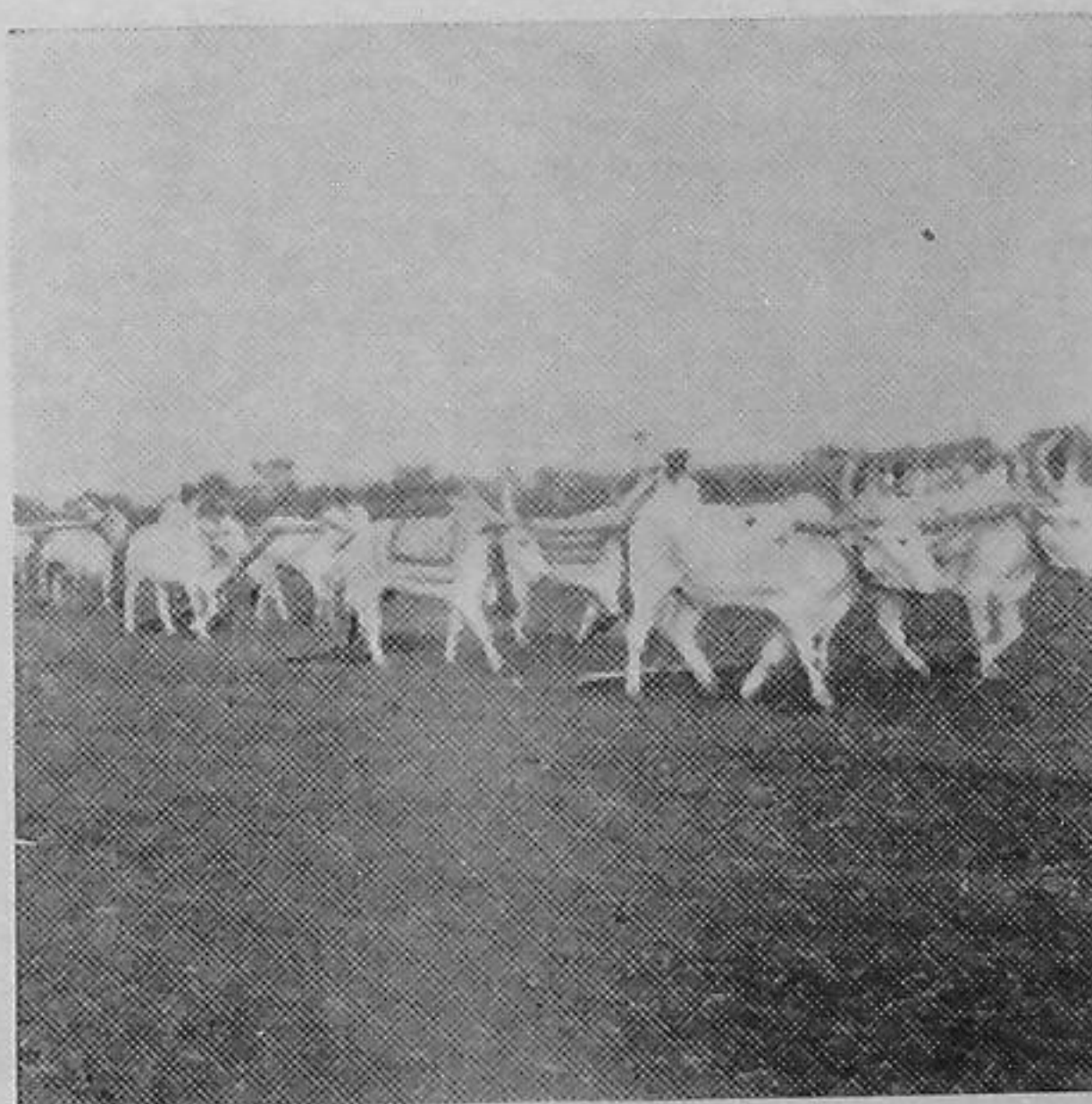
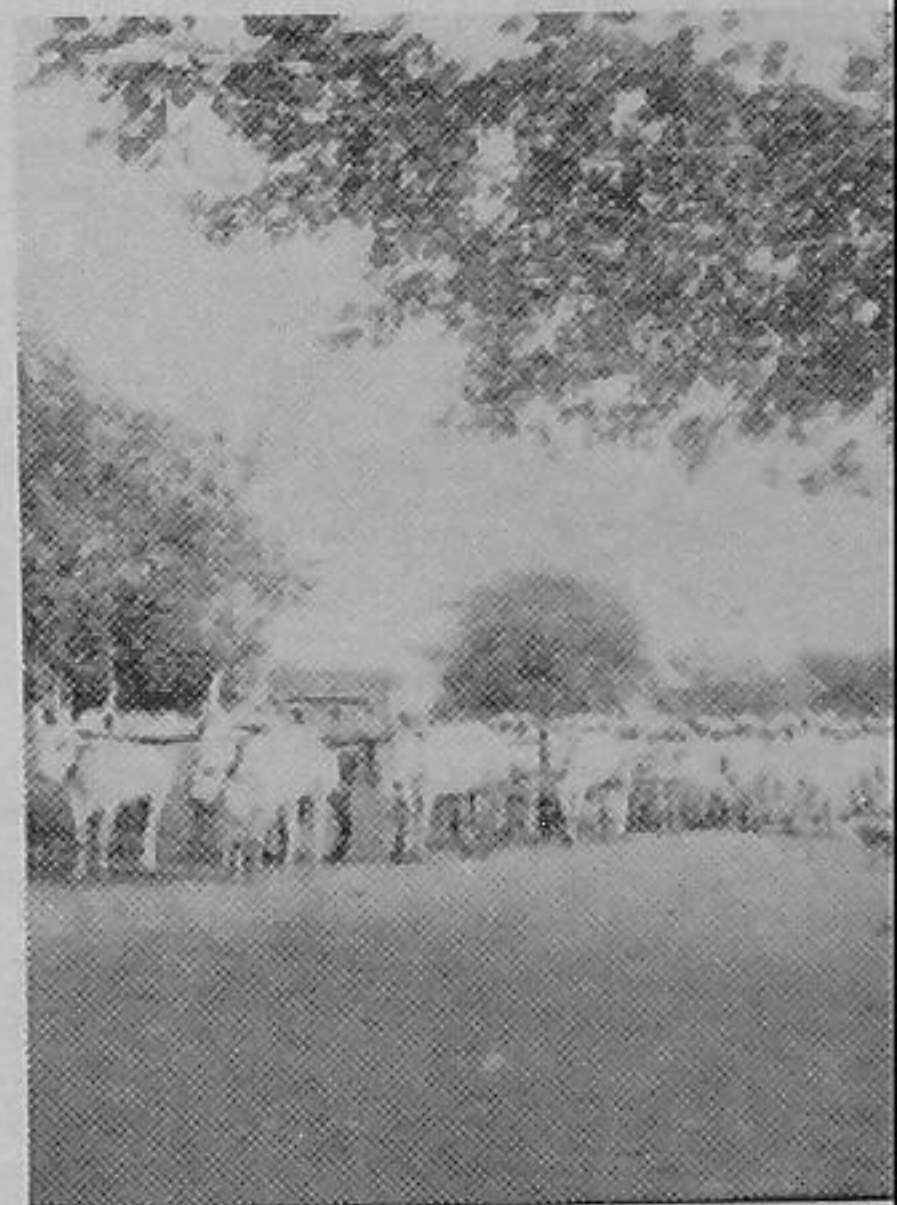
The District Collectors have since been appointed as District Organisers of Radio Rural Forums. They are required to organise a Radio Rural Forum in every Panchayat. Necessary instructions have also been given to the Panchayat Union Commissioners and Extension Officers to guide and supervise the activities of the Radio Rural Forums.

A Radio set which was considered to be a luxury about 25 years ago in rural parts, has now become a necessity. Radio Rural Forums are functioning as 'live links' between the technical experts of the Government and the villagers. They are proving the most effective extension media for influencing their minds. The "Mass Education" programme of the Village Volunteer Force is also being implemented effectively through the Radio Rural Forums.



# MASS DIBBLING BY V. V. F.

*The V. V. F. members of Nasalpur village in Mysore along with their bullocks marched in a procession to do mass dibbling for increased food production.*



*The bullocks in array for mass dibbling*



*The V.V.F. member engaged in line sowing*





*The newly elected Village Panchayat of Alipur near Delhi is having its first session to discuss the village problems and to chalk out their plan of action.*

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