

Panchayati Raj

JUNE 1963



A member of a Village Volunteer Force doing line-sowing of jute in a field belonging to a Village land-owner in West Bengal. The wages for the labour done will be recovered from the beneficiary and credited in the Defence Labour Bank in the name of the labourer.

3047



RAJASTHAN FARMERS ON TOUR



A party of fifty farmers, including women from Rajasthan visited a number of important places on 'learning through seeing' mission.



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LETTERS

HATS OFF TO THEM

Sir,

THE MARCH issue of 'Panchayati Raj' inspired my emotions to the highest pitch of satisfaction and pleasure when I read that MAHANT SHRI KUSHAL KISHOREDAS had donated 70 acres of land amounting to Rs. 35,000 for National Defence Fund. I read it over and over again and my eyes became wet because of a sense of Indian brotherhood with him and more because of a timely sacrifice from that privileged class which if it begins to preach the gospel of National Defence in the same way as it does "Ram Nam, Hari Nam", most of our religious-minded women will be inspired to donate their best ornaments on their own and we will not need further "Morarji's Gold Control". May I express my highest thanks to Mahantji and request other Mahants to follow the splendid example. Indians are by and large a religious people and if Mahants like Shri Kushal Kishoredas were to inspire by their own example the ordinary men and women to sacrifice some of their gold for the country in the hour of this crisis, they would be doing the greatest service to the nation.

My hats off to Mr. Devi Chand Patel, Gram Sevak, Manawar Block of Dharwar District, Madhya Pradesh. I do hope that the outstanding zeal evinced by him in pushing ahead the work of defence as well as development will be followed by other Gram Sevaks too.

My tributes are due to the Block Development Officers of Gujarat as well who have resolved to meet the emergency in the ways they have declared in their conference at Ahmedabad. This is to be hoped that this will not be just a table-victory. The goal to achievement is a long and an arduous one and this should not dampen their zeal under any circumstances. It is requested that the progress achieved by them may be published in the 'Panchayati Raj' journal from time to time.

Your etc.

ANAND PRAKASH ARYA

LADNUSI
RAJASTHAN
4-5-1963

SOME PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF VILLAGE VOLUNTEER FORCE

Sir,

THE SCHEMES of village Volunteer Force and Defence Labour Bank, if implemented properly, are bound to give a great fillip to the agricultural production in the villages. But there are certain organisational problems involved in the process which if not solved satisfactorily, are likely to impair their chances of success.

The basic requirement is that there should be a group of people responsible for doing and taking work in an organised

(Continued on page 12)

A Progressive Chairman of

THE PANCHAYATI RAJ bodies have drawn to them some of the ablest and most progressive village leaders. The mark of their wisdom and valuable experience left on the splendid progress made by the Panchayats under their stewardship is proof positive of their unerring leadership.

Shri K. Doraiswamy Naidu, Chairman of Perianaickenpalayam Panchayat Union (at the Block level) was elected unanimously by all the fifteen Presidents of the Panchayats in 1960 when the first batch of 75 Panchayat Unions came into existence in Madras State.

Being himself a progressive agriculturist, industrialist and one holding high offices in diverse spheres of public life, he has the captivating qualities of an effective leader. His shrewd sagacity, sympathy for any good cause and enthusiasm for development work have won him appreciation from one and all.

One wonders how he finds time for the immense responsibilities of the Panchayat Union administration, while he is engaged in multifarious commitments. As an industrialist, he owns the Farm Industries at Perinaickenpalayam, the All Steel Industries at Coimbatore. The drilling machines perfected by his firm are boring deep wells in the States of Assam, Punjab, Kerala, Mysore etc., bringing succour to the draught-stricken areas. He is the managing partner of the local Palamali Rangnathar Mills, and many other enterprises. He is connected with many institutions and organisations of public utility. He is one of the directors of the Central Co-operative Urban Bank, Chairman of the Coimbatore West District Development Education Committee, Member of the Soil Conservation Committee and Commercial Tax Board and associated with numerous other agencies.

A PROGRESSIVE FARMER

He is himself a progressive farmer, deeply interested in trying out new and improved techni-



Shri K. Doraiswamy Naidu

ques in agriculture. His model farm and orchard are a talk of the neighbourhood. His mixed garden of guava and papayas, have attracted visitors from far and wide in the country. He gives whole-hearted support for any measure aimed at agricultural improvement in the Block. Recently when there was a severe incidence of red hairy caterpillar pest in the locality, he instituted a novel scheme of utilising local manpower resources to protect the food crops. Prizes were announced to schools which collected and destroyed the largest number of these pests. Thousands of students and teachers in 53 schools of the block and the affected farmers participated in this mass campaign and effectively checked the pest. In this connection, the Thirumalainaipalayam, Kasturipalayam and Samichettipalayam

A Panchayat Council

schools have won the awards for the best community effort to control this plant menace.

A KEEN EDUCATIONIST

Shri Doraiswamy is widely read and keeps himself abreast of the current affairs. He is upset at the deteriorating standards of education and is keen that an all-out effort should be made to see that proper education is imparted to all students.

In the past two years, the number of schools has increased from 47 to 53 and the strength of teachers from 147 to 213. The number of panchayat-owned schools buildings has also risen from 19 to 38. He firmly believes that the nation's sound investment lies in the implementation of compulsory education for all. Thanks to the incentives created through the mid-day meals scheme, free supply of books, and other facilities, the number of school-going children has increased from 1,622 to 2,433 in the past two years. At present the mid-day meals scheme is financed partly by Government and partly by the Panchayat, public contributions, and through the munificent gifts from UNICEF. But Shri Doraiswamy believes that at some stage this vital scheme should reach the take-off stage and become self-sustained in tune with the basic philosophy of our national scheme of education. To this end in view, he has formulated a pioneering scheme in the Block known as the "Self-sufficiency programme for the Mid-day meals scheme". As basic education lays emphasis on productive work at school, he has introduced regular farming, fruit and vegetable-gardening, chalk-making and other useful pursuits so that the spare time of the students and teachers can be utilised in this productive labour. This self-sufficiency programme has been in practice in ten schools and the novel idea has already caught

the attention of the Government of India who have set up a committee to study the working of the scheme in Perinaickenpalayam Block for its wider application. By and large, people too have come to regard mid-day meals scheme as a necessity and have made generous gifts up to five acres of land to many schools for this self-sufficiency programme.

The chairman has also introduced economies and modifications in the construction of the school buildings which have been accepted by the State Government. The modifications suggested by him in the roofing arrangement has brought down construction cost of the school building by 50 per cent for the same floor area. Under his inspiring guidance, the Block has also pioneered a scheme of opening creches for children between the ages of two to five. This scheme seeks not only to provide healthy and happy surroundings for the toddlers, but also to free the elderly children to go to schools who were otherwise doing baby-sitting at home in the absence of their parents who went on bread-winning work. This idea has since been accepted by the State for wider application in all the Panchayat Unions. At present there are three creches in the Block with the prospect of a few more coming up soon. All the children below the age of five, coming from the income-group of parents drawing less than Rs. 100 per month are admitted to these creches.

Some of the other progressive measures pushed ahead vigorously through the earnest efforts of the Chairman are the B.C.G. mass vaccination and Family Planning. Both the schemes have met unprecedented success. The Block has won a silver trophy and a certificate of merit for achievements in education on family planning.

LOK SABHA DISCUSSES PANCHAYATI RAJ

Some Clarifications

During the last budget session of the Lok Sabha, the discussion on Panchayati Raj evoked considerable interest amongst the Members. Below we give an extract from the speech made by the Minister for C. D. & C., Shri S. K. Dey, to clarify some of the issues raised during the debate—Ed.

Tracing the four distinct stages of evolution of the Community Development Programme, the Minister Shri S. K. Dey explained, how in the beginning of 1952, it started with the official phase, with a governmental organisation trying to do good to the people. Soon it was realized that the participation of the people was very essential. Therefore, came in the next phase of operation in 1955 called the advisory phase when nominated members were associated with officials at the block level to plan the programme and assist in the implementation. The next phase, the representative phase, came in 1959, with the starting of Panchayati Raj in Rajasthan and other States. The latest stage could be described as that of the Village Volunteer Force. This was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 26th January. It has begun to take roots gradually, very slowly, but fairly steadily.

It was stated that efforts were being made gradually to train the elected leaders. Eighty training centres had been set up under non-official auspices for panchayat secretaries and other functionaries like presidents of panchayats, panches and up-sarpanches. In order to train the trainers of these Panchayati Raj training centres, a trainers' training centre had been established under the All-India Panchayat Parishad headed by Shri Jai Parkash Narain.

About the implementation of Panchayati Raj, it was revealed that it was functioning in nine States, and in the tenth, Gujarat, it had been introduced on April 1. Two other States, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, had enacted necessary legislation for the purpose. But for the emergency it would have been working in these two States as well. Bihar State would implement Panchayati Raj in four districts on the 15th August, and in phases in the remaining 13 districts by the 15th August, next year at the latest.

A reference was also made to programmes for youth and women in community development. It was pointed out that ten years ago, women were never in the picture in community development. Even if they came forward, except for one or two States in the South, they remained at a distance. Through the efforts of the Education Ministry, schools had been opened and a beginning had been made in the field of women's programme. There was certainly much better enrolment of school children particularly girls, in the schools. There were exclusive women panchayats also functioning in the country. Also women had been co-opted as members in every Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad.

In order to ensure that the agriculturists received the needed guidance in improved farming, the State Governments had been asked to ensure that Gramsevaks were asked to concentrate only on work related to agriculture in its wider sense, namely agriculture, animal husbandry, minor irrigation and soil conservation and co-operation related to agriculture. In fact, in order to improve the working of the agricultural programme, the pattern of the community development budget had been changed. Earlier, an allocation of Rs. 3.40 lakhs out of a total of 12 lakhs used to be given for agriculture. This was increased to Rs. 4.50 lakhs and since the emergency, this had been further increased by one lakh. At the same time, programme relating to amenities in the blocks had been cut down.

It was pointed out that in the light of the emergency, Defence Labour Banks were being established in villages which after the needs of defence were over, could be utilised for developing local resources.

In order to promote the programme of rural industrialisation, it was stated that industrial estates had been set up, but they suffered from shortage of raw materials, from lack of iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, transport and electricity. A large number of rural industrial estates which had been set up in different parts of the country at considerable expense by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry had thus become infructuous.

Lok Sabha Questions and Answers

(Below we give a gist of the Questions raised and answers given in the last Session of the Lok Sabha.—Ed.)

Q. How many State Governments have combined the office of the Block Development Officer with some other offices? Has this decision affected adversely the success of the Community Development Programme?

A. Block Development Officers are generally not assigned any non-developmental functions in any State except Bihar where these officers also perform revenue functions. In Assam and West Bengal they are associated with Famine Relief Operations. In addition, the B.D.O.s in West Bengal, who are ex-officio Circle Officers, perform certain administrative functions. In Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Maharashtra, the B.D.O.s are also entrusted with census work.

The discharge of Revenue and Developmental functions by the Block Development Officer in Bihar has adversely affected the pace of C.D. programme in that State. The Central Government has taken up this matter with the State Government a number of times with a view to persuading them to take out the revenue work from the charge of the B.D.Os.

Q. Has any cut been effected in the amount allotted for Community Development following the declaration of the Emergency?

A. No reduction in the allotment for the Community Development Programme was effected at the central level following the declaration of the Emergency. The programme was, however, reoriented so as to accord very high priority to agricultural production, to which funds were required to be diverted by effecting savings under non-agricultural and non-industrial items. Certain States did not find it possible to make full provision for the Community Development Programme for 1963-64, on account of their limited resources.

The items in which there would be reduction in expenditure would be office-contingencies, construction of buildings, purchase of jeeps and amenities programme, subject to maintenance of social services already established and provision of drinking water supply.

Q. What are the changes that the Rajasthan Government have suggested in the Schematic pattern of the Community Development?

A. The Rajasthan Government has decided to increase the provision under Agricultural Development in Stage 1 Blocks from Rs. 4.5 lakhs to Rs. 6 lakhs by diversion from amenities head, in order to concentrate on programmes of agriculture and animal husbandry besides providing an additional agricultural extension officer in Blocks with greater agricultural potential.

Q. What steps have been taken by the Ministry of C.D. & C. to reduce the expenditure on various heads of account in view of the present emergency and what is the anticipated saving on this account?

A. The steps taken by the Ministry to reduce the expenditure relate to economies on the Headquarters establishment and Central and State Plan Schemes, including the Community Development programme, with which the Ministry is concerned, by curtailment, postponement or abandonment of certain schemes or items considered to be of lower priority in the context of the emergency. The anticipated saving during 1963-64 is about Rs. 2.65 crores.

Q. What is the latest position with regard to the introduction of the three-tier system of democratic decentralisation by those States which have not been able to implement the scheme fully? Has the Emergency affected the progress in any way?

A. Panchayati Raj bodies are still to be set up in six States viz. West Bengal, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. While the necessary legislation has been enacted in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, this is still to be done in the remaining three States.

The Emergency has had no perceptible effect on the progress of Panchayati Raj in West Bengal, Kerala and Jammu & Kashmir.

In West Bengal, the Panchayati Raj Bill is now before the State Legislature.

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V.V.F. AND WELFARE OF JAWANS

T. R. SATISH CHANDRAN

INAUGURATING the Village Volunteer Force scheme on the 26th of January, the Prime Minister said in his broadcast speech over the All India Radio, "In every village, people must look after those who require help. Children must be especially looked after and others who may be without work or are disabled. Every village must take pride in the fact that everyone is looked after properly. We must consider the village as a big family where each person helps the others. In this way, the whole country can be considered a large family in which people of all religions who live here, are members".

JAWAN: THE MAN OF THE YEAR

Among the people who require such help, the families of Jawans form an important section. Surely, the community owes a duty to the families of our Jawans, who have done a magnificent job on our frontiers in very arduous conditions and many of whom have laid down their lives in the defence of our country. By his example of courage and devotion to duty; the Jawans has indeed emerged as the "Man of the year 1962". There is no better way of expressing our admiration of him and gratitude to those who sacrificed their lives to protect our freedom than by ensuring that their families are well looked after. The welfare of Jawans' families is, therefore, a task which should receive immediate attention. As the bulk of our Jawans are drawn from the rural areas, the responsibility for the welfare of their families naturally devolves on the Panchayati Raj bodies. It lies most heavily on the Village Panchayats, because their members have immediate and direct contact with individual families. Indeed, in the programme which they lay down for the Village Volunteer Force, they should include the welfare of Jawans' families as one of the important tasks. Particularly, the Women's Wing of the Force should pay special attention to this work, since the members of the wing are especially fitted to perform this type of activity. The Block staff should of course render all possible assistance to them.

WELFARE MEASURES

It is a common experience to find that while everyone waxes eloquent on the need for rendering assistance to the families of Jawans, knowledge about available facilities is lacking in the rural areas. Many of the block officials and social workers, who are keen to help, are often themselves ignorant about them. The first requirement is, therefore, that the information about possible assistance from different agencies should be widely disseminated. It should be known not only to the C.D. workers but more essentially, to the members of the Panchayats, Dalpatis and other leaders of the V.V.F. The Zila Parishads and Panchayat Samithis should ensure that it reaches every individual panchayat. The Secretaries of the District Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Boards can also help to give wide publicity to welfare schemes by keeping the B.D.O.s informed. The S.E.O. and the Gram Sevaks can of course be very effective in carrying the information to interior villages. Without such knowledge, good intentions cannot be translated into action.

Some of the important measures taken by the Central and the State Governments and voluntary organisations for the welfare of the families of Jawans, are summed up as follows :

(a) *Central Government* : The Defence authorities pay family pension, under the normal rules, to the families of those who are killed or missing in action. In addition, immediate *ex gratia* payments are made from the newly created Army Relief Fund to the families of personnel of the Regular Armed Forces, J & K Militia, Border Roads Units and men of other similar military organisations who are reported killed or missing in the current operations. Similar grants are available to the Air Force personnel also.

(b) *State Governments* : Many of the State Governments, as for instance, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, give land grants to the families of Defence personnel killed in action. Some of them provide free medical aid to the families

of Jawans, and free education to their children up to a certain stage. In some States such as the Punjab, *ex gratia* grant is given to the widows or other dependants of the deceased personnel. There are other facilities in some States, such as free legal aid to the Jawans' families, grant of scholarships and stipends to their children to pursue higher studies, etc.

(c) *Central Social Welfare Board*: Two programmes of the Board which are of direct benefit to women who are rendered destitute are the Condensed Courses and the socio-economic programme. The former gives the necessary educational equipment, which enables them to find employment as school teachers, nurses, etc. while the latter helps them to supplement their means of livelihood.

(d) *Citizens' Committees*: In many States, the Citizens' Committees have formed sub-committees specially charged with the responsibility for welfare of Jawans' families. Many committees raise donations to give financial and other assistance to those who are left in a state of indigence.

(e) *Bar Associations*: Several Bar Associations have decided to provide free legal assistance in cases where a member of the Jawan's family is involved as a party.

(f) *Voluntary Organisations*: Several Voluntary organisations like the Bharat Sevak Samaj render assistance to the Jawans' families in various ways. Cases have been reported of members of these organisations "adopting" certain Jawans' families and assuming almost full responsibility for their welfare. Each Panchayat should compile lists of families of serving as well as deceased personnel in their respective areas. It will be useful for the Gram Sevak to have a list of all such families in his circle.

PLAYING THE ROLE

There are many ways in which the members of the Panchayat, the village elders, members of the youth organisations and Mahila Mandals and other members of the Village Volunteer Force can play a useful role in looking after the welfare of Jawans' families.

They can, in the first place, help the affected family to get the benefit of all the available welfare schemes. This may seem somewhat obvious

and easy but it is actually found from experience that either for want of information or inability to complete requisite formalities which, unfortunately, are often somewhat elaborate, full advantage is not always taken of such schemes. There may often be delays, as for instance, in the sanction of pension or grant of land. The widow or the mother of the deceased Jawan should not be allowed to feel helpless under such circumstances. The Sarpanch or some other knowledgeable person should contact the Secretary of the District Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board or the Tahsildar and if necessary, the Collector and try to hurry up matters.

Rehabilitation of disabled servicemen calls for specialised services and the defence authorities have made elaborate arrangements to provide them. The village-folk can also assist in rehabilitating persons by helping to find in the neighbourhood, jobs which are suitable for physically handicapped persons.

Similarly, widows of deceased Jawans who would like to take up employment to support themselves and their families, may be assisted to find suitable jobs or to take advantage of the socio-economic programmes of the Social Welfare Board.

Receipt of pension or other financial assistance may take a little time. The family of a deceased or missing Jawan may find itself in dire difficulties in the meanwhile. It will relieve them greatly if the rest of the village can help them to tide over the interim period until governmental aid reaches them.

It is not only in terms of money that the members of the Panchayat and Village Volunteer Force can help Jawans' families. In times of acute distress, such as for instance when news of injury or death is received, sincere expression of sympathy or encouragement has a value in itself. Even if, luckily, no such untoward event takes place, the absence of the head of the family itself gives rise to situations where some assistance is welcome. For instance, the sale of the crop on the family land may have to be negotiated; unless some village elder takes a hand, the family may be unable to get a reasonable price. A neighbour, who is ill-disposed

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LEARNING THROUGH SEEING

H. S. SETHI

FIFTY COLOURFULLY attired, simple-minded sons and daughters of the soil from Rajasthan were about to enter the lift that would take them down from the top of the 130-foot-high Secretariat building at Chandigarh. Their leader cautioned them: "Presently you will enter a small room. Electric energy will move it downwards. It is quite safe. Don't let your hearts sink with the descent of the room." It was, indeed, a new experience for these simple village folk. Some of them, in fact, had not travelled by train until they embarked on their present tour and many had not even seen Ajmer, the headquarters of the district they hailed from. It was, however, a different story now. They had already seen a good bit of the country, and several big cities and culturally and historically important towns had figured in their itinerary. They had visited Jaipur, Agra, Mathura and Delhi. Their life's dream was realised when they met their idols—people they had only heard of and worshipped from a distance. While in Delhi, they had the proud privilege of meeting President Radhakrishnan, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President Zakir Hussain, Central Ministers Shri S. K. Dey and Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, and many others.

Some of the progressive farmers (from Left to Right) Bhiwani Ram, Mange Lal, Narbada Devi, Bhagirath, Ram Sarup and Ragunath Jat.



In the farmers' party were included a number of women as well.

Theirs was a tour of study and understanding, organised by the Bharat Krishak Samaj to instil among them the spirit of learning through seeing. From that viewpoint, their visit to the Pusa Agricultural Institute at Delhi was highly useful. Here, they saw the use of modern agricultural implements for securing better yields.

The party consisted of 26 women and 24 men—all of them progressive farmers and members of the Bharat Krishak Samaj. It was led by Shri Ram Sarup Verma, convenor of the Ajmer unit of the Krishak Samaj and member of the All India Agricultural Council and an expert on plant protection who has done considerable work on the elimination of the weed called "khaipatwar" and white ants. There were other prominent agriculturists in the party, with significant achievements to their credit in their respective fields. For instance, Raghunath Jat, Sarpanch of Arain, is the first person who has reaped a groundnut crop in the area. Despite the lack of rain, he was able to obtain a yield of 6.75 maunds from half an acre. Another was Bhiwani Ram—from Kakri panchayat samiti—who has specialised in the production of maize. He is a pioneer in the cultivation of hybrid maize in the area and has obtained an increase

of 25 per cent in the yield by growing hybrid maize. Mange Lal, Sarpanch of Lamangra in the Bhinai Panchayat Samiti, has shown his skill in the use of fertilizers. The peasants in his area had previously no knowledge of the technique of using imported fertilizers and whenever they tried to use it their crops were damaged. It was Mange Lal who, for the first time, demonstrated its utility when he secured an increase of 25 to 30 per cent in yield through the use of superphosphates. Yet another stalwart in the group was Bhagirath, of the Kehri panchayat samiti, who has won laurels in the use of green manure. Two years ago, he could secure a cane crop of only eight maunds from a bigha of land. Now, with the use of Jawara he is able to reap a harvest of 12 maunds from the same field.

Women also did not lag behind. Although, some of them were accompanying their husbands on the tour, there were others who had joined the party just for the sake of learning. Among them was Narbada Devi, the matronly

panch of the Lasaria panchayat, who has not so far missed a single meeting of the panchayat. Deeply interested in welfare work, she left her home to join the party only to learn. Relating her experiences on the tour, she said, "I have seen and learnt a lot since I started from my home and I am going to tell the girls about it so that they may also learn from my experience."

The party was not a burden to anybody. A self-sufficient unit, the members of the group carried their own food, and cooked their simple meals under the shade of trees. In Chandigarh, the party remained only for a few hours. Even so, they were delighted to see the town. When asked as to what had interested them most, their leader replied that it was the "newness" in everything which had left an impact on their minds. The roads, the buildings, the lake and even the tree were so different from what they had previously seen! Yes, they had seen a lot of "new" things in Chandigarh which is symbolic of the new India that is rising out of the old.

FOOD HABITS CHANGE IN YUGOSLAVIA

We, in India, have a lesson to learn from the people of Yugoslavia who in a short period of eight years have changed their centuries old food habits. With increased use of protective foods like vegetables, fruits, dairy products and vegetable oil and margarine, they have been able to arrest further consumption of wheat. The per capita consumption of vegetables, dairy products and eggs during this period has gone up by 30 Kilogram, 20 Kilogram and 10 eggs respectively.

It is high time that we also switched on to the production of protective foods more and more and changed our food habits so that the terrible pressure on our cereal consumption is reduced. It is not difficult to change the food habits only if we have the will to do so.

V.V.F. MARCHES ON

REPORTS FROM the States and Union Territories indicate that the total number of volunteers enrolled so far in the Village Volunteer Force is over 97 lakhs and the Defence Labour Banks have received labour donations of over 184 lakh man-days. Taking Rs. 1.25 per day as the average wage-rate over the country as a whole, the money value of the donations works out to be Rs. 2.5 crores.

In some States like Madras, Kerala, Mysore and Assam, women have displayed great enthusiasm for the scheme and have joined the force in large numbers. In Bihar also, the State Government is taking steps to organise women's wings in the Village Volunteer Force.

The works programmes undertaken by the Force, in general, are essentially productive in nature and vary according to local conditions. Excavation of field channels, reclamation of waste lands, digging of compost pits, renovation of tanks, development of poultry and fisheries are some of the items of work commonly undertaken in all the States. In Orissa, manufacture of bricks and in Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, plantation of fuel trees has been taken up. Considerable progress has also been made in the training of Dalpatis, up-Dalpatis and members of the Village Volunteer Force.

ANDHRA PRADESH

The number of volunteers enrolled is 2,63,000 and the number of man-days donated in Defence Labour Bank is 27,48,000. The money value of work actually done is Rs. 1.89 lakhs. About 9,378 Dalpatis have been trained so far. The training programme of the members of the Village Volunteer Force was completed by April.

ASSAM

Over four and a half lakhs including about a thousand women have enrolled themselves in the Village Volunteer Force. A training programme has been launched for members of the Village Volunteer Force.

BIHAR

About thirty lakh and seventy-five thousand volunteers are now enrolled in the Village Volunteer Force. The number of man-days donated in the Defence Labour Bank is over 8,00,000. About ten thousand Dalpatis have so far been trained and of them 2,500 have been put through a special course so that they can work as instructors in training camps. So far 7.5 lakh members of the Village Volunteer Force have been trained and it is expected that by the end of June, 20 lakh members would have received training.

GUJARAT

The total number of people enrolled so far in the Village Volunteer Force is two lakh and twenty-four thousand. The number of man-days donated in the State is 3,72,000. In addition, cash donation received in lieu of labour amounts to over Rs. 22,000.

KERALA

Over one lakh forty-seven thousand persons have joined the Village Volunteer Force. This includes about a thousand women. The number of man-days donated in the Defence Labour Bank is 74,470. Cash donation in lieu of labour collected so far amounts to Rs. 23,000. There are 922 Dalpatis and 7,029 up-Dalpatis. A scheme for giving them special training at the Block has been initiated. The Dalpatis and up-Dalpatis on completion of their training will impart training to the volunteers under them.

MADHYA PRADESH

About five lakhs of people now form the Village Volunteer Force in the State. About 17,000 Dalpatis and up-Dalpatis have been given reorientation training. This training includes training in rifle shooting also.

MADRAS

The total number of people enrolled so far in the Village Volunteer Force comes to nearly eleven lakh and twenty-five thousand. Of this, the women members constitute about 42,000. In addition, the number of man-days donated in the Defence Labour Bank comes to 25,08,000.

The training programme of Dalpatis and Volunteers is expected to be completed by the end of June. In view of the enthusiastic response of women in Madras, the State Government has launched a separate intensive training programme for women volunteers, in which, particular emphasis is laid on home-nursing, first-aid, poultry farming and kitchen gardening.

MAHARASHTRA

The State has organised a Village Volunteer Force of 2,30,000. The number of man-days donated in the Defence Labour Bank is 19,14,000.

MYSORE

The strength of the Village Volunteer Force, in the State is over two lakhs and fourteen thousand, including 1,100 women. Nearly two and a half lakh man-days' labour has also been received as donations in the Defence Labour Bank.

ORISSA

About twelve lakh and seventy-two thousand persons have joined the Village Volunteer Force in the State. The number of man-days donated in the Defence Labour Bank is over twelve lakh thirty-nine thousand.

RAJASTHAN

The State has been able to organise a Village Volunteer Force of twenty-two thousand. The number of man-days donated in the Defence Labour Bank is about 2,98,000. Cash donations received in lieu of labour come to over Rs. 23,000. Volunteers in about 300 panchayats have been given special training by chief officers who themselves underwent a special

re-orientation course. Training of volunteers in other areas has already been taken in hand.

UTTAR PRADESH

The strength of the Village Volunteer Force in the State is over sixteen lakhs and the number of man-days donated in the Defence Labour Bank is over forty-seven lakhs. A detailed training programme for the Dalpatis is under implementation and is expected to be completed by the end of May. An encouraging feature of the Uttar Pradesh scheme is that in one district 744 Dalpatis were trained and the entire cost was borne by the panchayats or trainees themselves.

WEST BENGAL

According to the latest figures, the strength of the Village Volunteer Force in the State is nearly five lakhs. The number of man-days donated in the Defence Labour Bank is over seventeen lakhs. About fifty thousand Dalpatis and Adhyakshas are now undergoing a special re-orientation course.

UNION TERRITORIES

Reports from the Union Territories of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Pondicherry, Goa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands show that they have raised a Village Volunteer Force of 70,000. The total number of man-days donated in the Defence Labour Bank comes to nearly 18 lakhs.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Latest figures from Jammu & Kashmir have not been received. But according to earlier reports about two lakh people had enrolled themselves in the Village Volunteer Force in the State.

V.V.F. AND WELFARE OF JAWANS

(Continued from page 7)

towards the Jawan, may take advantage of his absence to encroach on his land or otherwise cause annoyance to the family. It should be the duty of the Panchas and the village leaders to protect the family from such anti-social elements.

Helping families in need is not new to Indian rural society. Indeed, our villages have a long tradition of mutual help and co-operation. What

is required now is that this spirit is canalised to meet the special needs of Jawans' families. It goes without saying that a Jawan who feels confident that his family is well taken care of makes a better soldier than one who is worried all the time about them. To help sustain his morale in this fashion is one of the easiest and, at the same time, one of the most useful ways in which our rural people can contribute to the defence effort.

LOK SABHA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Continued from page 5)

In Kerala, the Panchayati Raj Bill has been drafted and is likely to be introduced in the State Legislature shortly.

In Jammu & Kashmir, a State level Committee is engaged in the study of the Panchayati Raj set-up in a few States, to evolve a system suitable to the local conditions.

In Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, the higher tier Panchayati Raj institutions were to be set up early in 1963, but this was postponed due to the Emergency. The latest position is as follows :

Gujarat

The State Government has since decided to set up even during the Emergency, the higher tier Panchayati Raj bodies without the element of direct election. Those bodies are now in position since April, 1963.

Madhya Pradesh

The higher tier Panchayati Raj bodies will be set up after fresh elections to the Village

Panchayats, most of which have outlived their term. The higher tier Panchayati Raj bodies are likely to start functioning early in 1964.

Bihar

The State Government is also considering whether Panchayati Raj can be introduced in the State even during the emergency.

Q. How far has the mobilisation of rural India through Village Volunteer Force and Defence Labour Bank been achieved in the villages?

A. The Village Volunteer Force and Defence Labour Bank Schemes were inaugurated in most of the Panchayats on the 26th January. The response to the scheme has been generally good, though it varies from area to area and village to village. Liberal donations to the Defence Labour Banks have been reported from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Madras. With these donations, work has been started primarily on agricultural schemes. According to the scheme, Labour is commuted at the prevailing local wage-rate.

LETTERS

(Continued from page 1)

manner from the villagers offering their shramdan on a project determined by the Gram Sabha as a whole. Of course, it is the Village Volunteer Force that should be entrusted this important duty. Its members should allocate between themselves the number of days when each group will remain on duty and organise the labour force on the project in a systematic and purposeful manner.

Organisation has always been a weak point with our villagers. The present scheme will be a success only to the extent the Village Volunteer Force is able to fill up this lacuna. Hence the paramount need for imparting semi-military

training to the members of the Force in order to inculcate in them a high sense of duty and discipline. However, we cannot expect the members of this Task Force to work day-in and day-out merely by virtue of the military discipline. They need some positive incentives too. For example, they may be provided free uniforms and at least one free lunch for every working day. It should not be difficult for the Panchayat to bear these expenses in view of the important nature of the service rendered by the Village Volunteer Force.

10-4-63
Nangal Raya,
DELHI.

Yours etc.
Kesar Lal

FROM THE CENTRE

MADRAS SCHEME OF FISH SEED FARMS

THE UNION MINISTRY of C.D. & C. have circulated for adoption by all State Governments a fisheries scheme already being followed by the Madras State Government with success. The aim of the scheme is to make every block self-sufficient in their fish seed requirements. The fish seed will be produced within the Block and supplied by the Panchayat Unions for stocking in fresh water sources of the Panchayats for increased fish production. The scheme envisages at least 2 stock ponds of 1 to 2 acres in each block where about 300 adult breeders of quick-growing varieties of fish will be stocked in each pond. The two stock ponds may give 20 lakh fish fry each year. These are to be reared in ten nurseries in each block, from where they will be transplanted to the various village tanks. The cost of ten nurseries in each Block is estimated to be about Rs. 53,000. The fishery yield in each Block may fetch about Rs. 1.25 lakhs per year.

* * * *

TRAINING OF ASSOCIATE WOMEN WORKERS

A COMPREHENSIVE training scheme to train, in the beginning, about 25,000 Associate Women Workers in Community Development has been circulated to all the States by the Ministry of C.D. & C. The ultimate aim is to ensure that at least one trained village woman worker will be available in each Village Level Worker's Circle to assist the Gram Sevikas and Mukhya Sevikas. The training programme will consist of two phases. In the first phase, about 150 trainers will be trained in three regional camps of seven days' duration. In the second phase, the trainers will train the associate women workers for a month in two convenient sessions, if necessary. The existing training centres for Gram Sevikas and Mukhya Sevikas will be utilised for the purpose.

* * * *

NATIONAL BOARD FOR LABOUR CO-OPERATIVES

A NATIONAL ADVISORY Board for Labour Contract and Construction Co-operatives has been constituted by the Government of India.

The Board will review the progress of the programme of labour co-operatives, suggest measures for enlisting participation of the labourers in the programme and for fostering initiative and leadership among them. It will help State Governments in formulating their schemes and programmes relating to labour co-operatives. The Board will also suggest arrangements for education and training of personnel required for implementation of the programme.

The All India Seminar on Labour Contract and Construction Co-operatives held at Nagpur in September, 1962 had recommended that an Advisory Board at the national level should be set up consisting of the representatives of the concerned Union Ministries, the Planning Commission, State Governments and the federations of labour co-operatives, for advising Government in laying down broad policies and drawing up suitable plans and programmes for the development of labour co-operatives in the country. This recommendation of the Seminar was endorsed by the Conference of the State Ministers for Co-operation held at Lucknow in February, 1963.

The Board will have the Union Minister for Community Development and Co-operation as Chairman and the Union Deputy Minister for Co-operation as Vice-Chairman.

* * * *

REVISED PROGRAMME FOR CO-OPERATIVE FARMING SOCIETIES

THE PATTERN of financial assistance to co-operative farming societies in the pilot and non-pilot areas has been revised from this year. The main object of the revised pattern of financial assistance is to provide greater emphasis in the organisation of co-operative societies in the pilot areas. The programme already formulated by the State Governments for the year 1963-64 provides for organisation of 588 societies in the pilot areas and 363 societies in the non-pilot areas as against a target of 2,000 societies suggested by the centre, namely 1,200 in pilot areas and 800 in non-pilot areas. An attempt is now being made to work out an expanded programme for the organisation of 1,000 co-operative farming societies in the pilot areas. The revised

programme implies that the State Governments will have to find share of the matching contribution for the additional societies from within their own resources to secure the additional financial assistance from the Centre. It is estimated that the State Governments by finding additional funds to the tune of Rs. 13 lakhs will be able to secure about Rs. 45 lakhs additional assistance from the centre.

NUTRITION PROGRAMME FOR 222 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS

AN AGREEMENT for the development of an applied nutrition programme in 222 Community Development Blocks in India, was recently concluded between the Government of India and the three international agencies : UNICEF, FAO and WHO. The total UNICEF commitment in principle for the project as a whole is estimated at 10 million dollars. The Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation will be responsible for the co-ordination of the programme.

The nutrition programme is the first systematic attempt made on such a scale to make an impact on the nutritional standard of rural communities. It aims at promoting the production of various protective foods like fish, poultry, milk, vegetables, fruits etc. A part of the produce thus assisted will be fed free to certain vulnerable groups of the population, namely, pre-school and school children, expectant women and nursing mothers in order to demonstrate the utility of these protein rich foods and thus orient the dietary habits of the people. Special emphasis will be laid on the promotion of school gardens so that nutritious mid-day meals may be provided to school children. The programme will also promote through demonstration and education among village communities, sound and hygienic practices for the production, storage, preservation and use of protective foods.

Besides assisting local production of these nutritionally valuable foods, an important aspect of the programme is to train various categories of extension personnel, rural health workers, other auxiliary workers, members of Panchayati Raj bodies, village youth and women leaders, and villagers in the nutritional aspects of the production of these foods.

* * * *

PROGRESS OF SERVICE CO-OPERATIVES

THERE HAS been a marked increase in the

formation of service co-operatives in the country. The total number of service co-operatives now is 101,747 as compared to 78,004 last year.

During the current year, over thirty-five thousand newly organised service co-operatives started functioning in the country.

It was found that a lakh of primary societies out of a total of nearly 2.15 lakhs were in a weak condition requiring revitalisation. The programme of revitalisation was first taken up in 1959 and in the process of revitalisation, a number of primary societies were converted into service co-operatives.

Service co-operatives are especially popular in Maharashtra, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. There are about 17,500 service co-operatives in Maharashtra, 13,600 in Punjab and 19,000 in Uttar Pradesh.

* * * *

'RASHTRA KALASH' FOR HIMACHAL PRADESH

THE ALL INDIA Trophy for the highest increase in food production, 'Rashtra Kalash', was won by Himachal Pradesh for the 1959-60 Kharif season. It achieved the highest increase in food output, namely 30% over the average production in the Territory in the three preceding Kharif seasons. The award, a silver trophy filled with the typical grain of the winning territory, carries with it a Community Prize of Rs. 50,000 to be utilised, among other purposes, for popularisation of improved agricultural practices.

The scheme was launched in 1958-59 and the 'Rashtra Kalash' for the Rabi season of the year was won by Bihar. For the 1959-60 Rabi season, Madhya Pradesh topped the list and the Trophy was presented to the State at a function in Bhopal on February 24, 1963.

During Kharif 1959-60, besides Himachal Pradesh, the States of Bihar, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands won State-level awards of Rs. 50,000 each by achieving more than 15% increase in foodgrains production. Out of the 317 districts which participated in the competition, 110 qualified themselves for district-level awards of Rs. 10,000 each.

The total value of prizes won by the States and districts under the scheme so far amounts to over Rs. 38 lakhs.

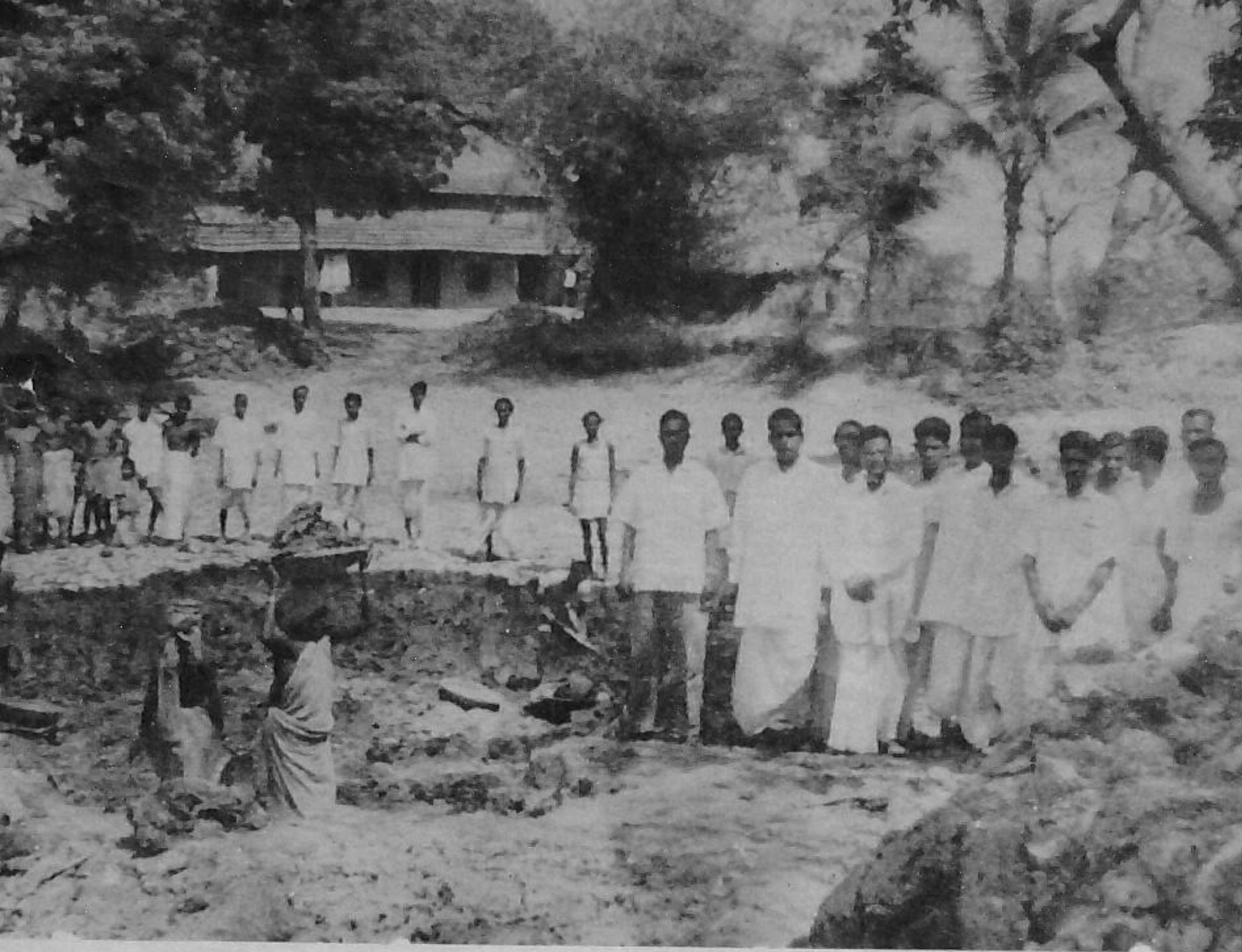
SOME USEFUL BOOKS

Below we give a list of useful books, together with the publishers' name and price wherever possible. Many of our readers, particularly the Block Development Officers and Gram Sevaks may like to go through this list so that they can build up their libraries at the Block Headquarters or at the Information and Community Centres attached to these—**Editor.**

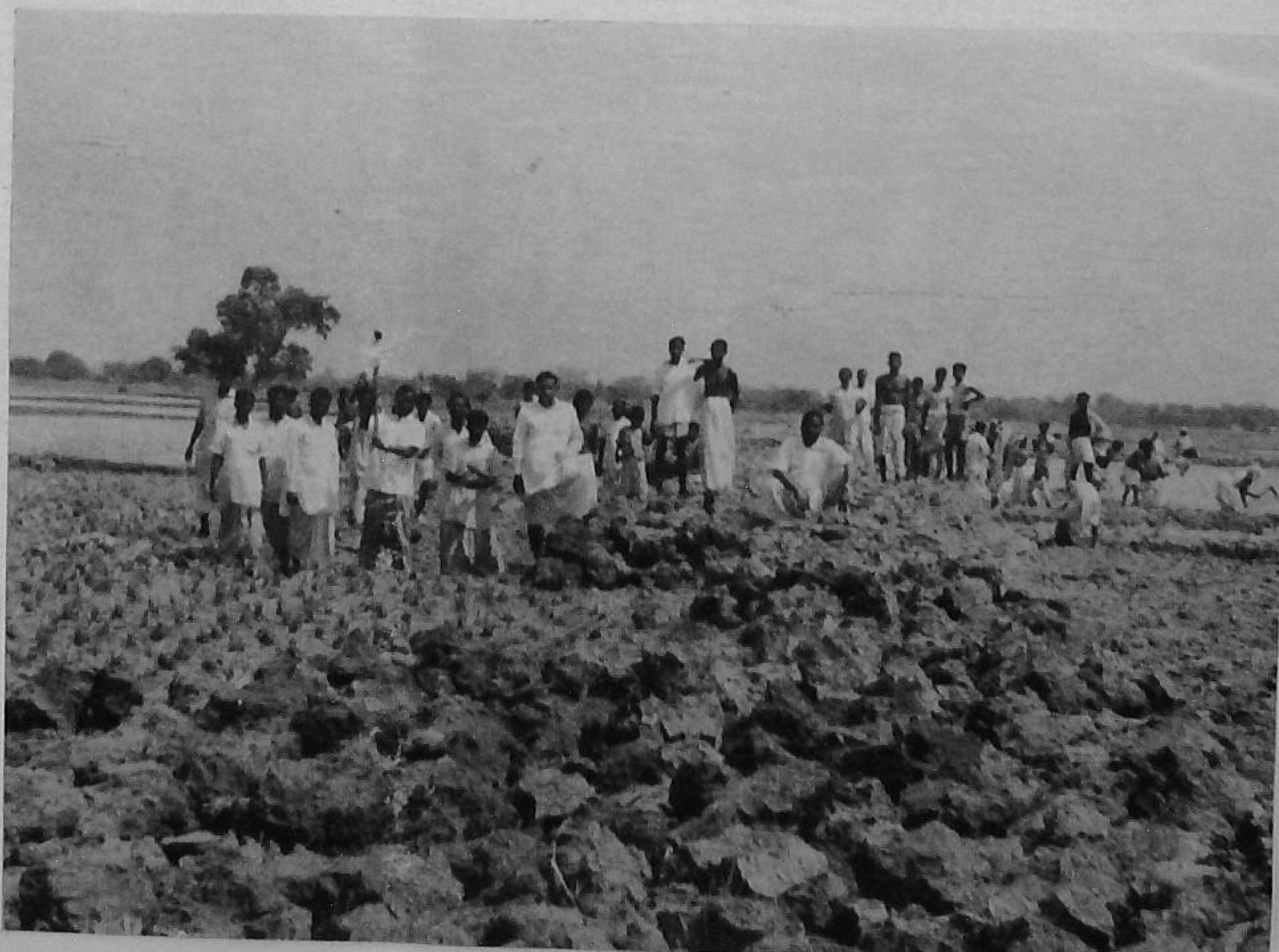
S. No.	Title	Author	Price	Publisher
			Rs.	
1.	Collected Works of Swami Vivekananda		52.00	Advaita Ashram
2.	Community Development in India	Mukerji, B.	10.00	Orient Longmans
3.	Studies in Rural Economy	Rao, R. V.	5.25	Orient Longmans
4.	Experiment in Extension : The Gaon Sathi	Allahabad Agrl. Institute	7.00	Oxford Univ. Press
5.	Village India	Marriott, M.	20.25	The Univ. of Chicago Press.
6.	Agricultural Labour in India	Rao	15.00	Asia Publishing House.
7.	The Strategy for Agricultural Development	Sen	16.00	Do.
8.	Democratic Planning	Santhanam	9.50	Do.
9.	Nilokheri	Dey	10.50	Do.
10.	Social Welfare in India	Mazumdar		Do.
11.	Village Government in India	Retzlaff	10.00	Do.
12.	India's Villages	Srinivas	12.50	Do.
13.	Races and Cultures of India	Majumdar	18.50	Do.
14.	Sociology, Social Research and Social Problems in India ..	Saksena	13.00	Do.
15.	The Approach of Operational Research to Planning in India	Mahalanobis		Do.
16.	At the Feet of Mahatma Gandhi	Rajendra Prasad	10.50	Do.
17.	Co-operative Leadership in South East Asia	I.C.A.	8.50	Do.
18.	The Economic Development of Assam	Goswami		Do.
19.	Economic Development with no Population Transfers	Khusro	2.50	Do.
20.	Hindu Culture-Economic Development and Economic Planning in India	Kapp		Do.
21.	India's Poverty and its Solution	Charan Singh		Do.
22.	Paper on Indian Planning	Rao		Do.
23.	The Role of Small Enterprises in Indian Economic Development	Lydall	8.00	Do.
24.	Some Aspects of Co-operative Farming in India with Special Reference to Punjab	Goyal		Do.
25.	Talks on Planning	Mahalanobis	24.00	Do.
26.	Trends in Indian Planning	Narayan	10.00	Do.
27.	Changing India	Bandekar & Sovani	18.00	Do.
28.	Distribution of the Market Surplus of Agricultural Produce by Size Level of Holding in India	Narain	3.50	Do.
29.	An Economic Survey of Shamaspur Village, District Saharanpur, U.P.	Gupta	11.00	Do.
30.	India's Food Problem	Dantwala	1.50	Do.
31.	Next Step in Village India	Singh	9.50	Do.
32.	A Pilot Survey of Fourteen Villages in U.P. & Punjab ..	Mukherjee & Gupta	16.50	Do.

S. No.	Title	Author	Price	Publisher
33.	The Problem of Co-operative Farming in India	Khusro & Agarwal	Rs. 6.50	Asia Publishing House
34.	Problems of Growth of an Under Developed Economy— India	Khan	24.00	Do.
35.	Agricultural Co-operatives in India	Thornor		Do.
36.	The Making of the Indian Nation	Gokhale	15.50	Do.
37.	The Voice of Freedom	Motilal Nehru	15.00	Do.
38.	Panchayati Raj	Dey	7.25	Do.
39.	Problems of Indian Defence	Panikkar	7.75	Do.
40.	Agriculture in India (In 3 Vols.)	Kumar and others	14.00 per vol.	Do.
41.	Notes on Extension in Agriculture	Iven, G. F.	10.00	Do.
42.	Caste and Communication in an Indian Village	Majumdar, D. N.	16.00	Do.
43.	Cultural Anthropology	Bose, N. K.	6.50	Do.
44.	Efficiency for Small Manufacturers	Ryan, F. A.	12.00	Do.
45.	Land and Labour in India	Thorner, D & A	12.00	Do.
46.	A Survey of Indian History	Panikkar	9.50	Do.
47.	The Indian Heritage	Kabir, H.	9.00	Do.
48.	Women Workers of India	Sengupta, P.	8.00	Do.
49.	Democracy, Decentralisation and Development	Maddick, H.	20.00	Do.
50.	Discovery of India	Nehru, J.	9.00	Do.
51.	Development of Education in the 20th Century	Meyor	21.50	Do.
52.	Extension Education in Community Development	India Govt. M/o F&A	7.50	
53.	Village ABC	Brayne, F. L.	3.00	Oxf. Univ. Press
54.	Bhartiya Sanskriti Ke Updan (Hindi)	Majumdar	12.00	Do.
55.	Hamara Bharat	Mrs. J. Bharat Das	0.75	Rajkamal Prakashan
56.	Ab Ham Azad Hain	Do.	0.75	Do.
57.	Hamare Bapu	Dr. Indra Nath Madan	1.00	Do.
58.	Hamare Nehru	Do.	1.00	Do.
59.	Sachhi Nagrikta	Munro Leaf	2.00	Do.
60.	Hamari Phaslen	Satya Prakash Gupta	0.60	Do.
61.	Phal Aur Sabziyan	Surya Prakash Joshi	0.60	Do.
62.	Ped Paudhe	Munish Saksena	0.60	Do.
63.	Desh Ki Jankari	Indira Devi	0.50	Do.
64.	Gaon Ki Baten	Thakur Raj Bahadur Singh	0.50	Do.
65.	Sahkari Andolan	Anand Prakash Singh	0.50	Do.
66.	Safai	Gyan Prakash Singh	0.50	Do.
67.	Kheti Bari	Om Prakash	0.50	Do.
68.	Pashu Palan	Braham Kumar Uppal	0.50	Do.
69.	Swatantra Desh Ke Nagrik	Mai Dayal Jain	0.50	Do.
70.	Bharat Ke Tirth Sthan	Sant Ram Viehitra	0.50	Do.
71.	Bharat Nirmata	Jagannath	0.50	Do.
72.	Panchatantra Ki Kahaniyan Part I, II & III	Mrs. Shakuntala Devi	1.25 each	Do.





The Volunteers digging a village tank in Balichak Block in Midnapore district of West Bengal.



A ten-mile long village road being constructed by Volunteers in Balichak Block in Midnapore district of West Bengal.



The harvesting over, the farmers all over the country are busy threshing and Winnowing the grains.

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