

THE ALL INDIA VILLAGE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

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THE CONSTITUTION

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MAGANVADI

WARDHA.

THE RESOLUTION
OF
THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

*Passed at its 48th Session at Bombay, Sjt. Rajendra Prasad
presiding.*

Whereas organisations claiming to advance Swadeshi have sprung up all over the country with and without the assistance of Congressmen, and whereas much confusion has arisen in the public mind as to the true nature of Swadeshi, and whereas the aim of the Congress has been from its inception progressive identification with the masses, and whereas village re-organisation and re-construction is one of the items in the constructive programme of the Congress, and whereas such reconstruction necessarily implies revival and encouragement of dead or dying village industries besides the central industry of hand-spinning, and whereas this work, like the re-organisation of hand-spinning, is possible only through concentrated and special effort unaffected by and independent of the political activities of the Congress, Shri J. C. Kumarappa is hereby authorised to form, under the advice and guidance of Gandhiji, an association called the ALL INDIA VILLAGE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION as part of the activities of the Congress. The said association shall work for the revival and encouragement of the said industries and for the moral and physical advancement of the villages, and shall have power to frame its own constitution, to raise funds and to perform such acts as may be necessary for the fulfilment of its objects.

THE CONSTITUTION
OF
THE ALL INDIA VILLAGE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION
(As amended on the 3rd Feb. 1935, at Wardha.)

Name

1. The Association contemplated by the resolution regarding village industries passed by the Indian National Congress at its session held on the 27th October 1934, at Bombay and known as the All India Village Industries Association, i.e., the Akhil Bharat Gram Udyog Sangha, is hereby formed.

Object

2. The object of the Association shall be village reorganisation and reconstruction, including the revival, encouragement and improvement of village industries, and the moral and physical advancement of the villagers of India.

Functions •

3. For the due fulfilment of its object, the Association shall raise funds, carry on research work, publish literature, organise propaganda, establish agencies, devise measures for the improvement of

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village tools, and do every thing that may be necessary for the furtherance of its object.

4. The Association shall work under the guidance and advice of Gandhiji.

Composition

5. The organisation of the Association shall consist of:—

- (1) Trustees
- (2) Foundation Members
- (3) Board of Management
- (4) Ordinary Members
- (5) Agents
- (6) Honorary Workers
- (7) Paid Workers
- (8) Associates

and shall also be assisted by a Board of Advisers.

Trustees

6. The following six persons shall be a permanent Board of Trustees who shall hold funds and properties on behalf of the Association and shall disburse them in accordance with the instructions of the Board of Management provided, however, that if the said instructions are, in the opinion of the Trustees, in conflict with the object of the Association or with the best interest thereof, there

shall be a joint meeting of the Board of Management and the Trustees and if in spite of the joint meeting two-thirds of the Trustees disapprove of the instructions of the Board of Management, then such instructions would be deemed to have lapsed.

- (1) Sjt. Shrikrishnadas Jaju, Treasurer.
- (2) Sjt. J. C. Kumarappa, Wardha.
- (3) Sjt. Jamanalal Bajaj, Wardha.
- (4) Dr. Khan Sahib, Frontier.
- (5) Dr. Gopichand, Lahore.
- (6) Sjt. Vaikunth L. Mehta, Bombay.

In the event of a vacancy occurring by reason of resignation, death or otherwise, such vacancy shall be filled in by the remaining Trustees, from amongst the ordinary members of five years standing or if at the time of the vacancy occurring, the Association has not been in existence for that period, then from the list of members then in existence and registered on or before the 31st day of March, 1935.

The foundation Members and Board of Management

7. The following shall be the Foundation Members and shall also be first Board of Management to hold office for seven years from this

the 3rd day of February 1935 along with such members as may be co-opted in the manner herein after provided.

- (1) Sjt. Shrikrishnadas Jaju
- (2) Sjt. J. C. Kumarappa
- (3) Sm. Goshibehn Captain
- (4) Dr. Khan Sahib
- (5) Sjt. Shoorji Vallabhdass
- (6) Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ghosh
- (7) Sjt. Shankerlal Banker
- (8) Sjt. Laxamidas P. Asar

Sjt. Shrikrishnadas Jaju shall be the first President and Sjt. J. C. Kumarappa the Organiser and Secretary.

After the expiry of the term of office of the first Board of Management succeeding Boards shall be elected every three years by Ordinary Members of at least three years standing from amongst themselves.

Each member of the Board shall be jointly and severally responsible for the enforcement of the policy of the Association and shall therefore be expected, to the best of his ability, when the Board is not in session, to represent it and enforce its policy and programme with his sphere of influence.

Ordinary Member

Any person who subscribes to the pledge hereto annexed, is recommended by a Member of the Board of Management and whose admission is approved by the said Board, shall be an Ordinary Member of the Association.

Agents

9. Agents may be selected out of the ordinary members by the Board for representing it without any pay in a village, villages, or a district and shall be chosen for their knowledge of the area of their jurisdictions, for their organising ability and known influence within their area and shall be subject to the Bye-Laws defining their duties.

Honorary Workers

10. Honorary workers shall be workers other than Agents or ordinary members and shall be approved by a Member of the Board or an Agent. Such Workers shall perform some tangible service of the Association.

Paid Workers

11. Paid workers shall be chosen by the Board or persons duly authorised thereto, subject to the confirmation of the Board, and shall

give their whole time and attention to the work of the Association.

Associates

12. Any person who sympathises with the object of the Association and pays an annual subscription of not less than Rs. 100 shall be an Associate and one who pays a lump sum of Rs. 1,000 may be enrolled as a Life Associate.

Advisers

13. Advisers shall be those who, consistently with their pre-occupations agree to give the free benefit of their special knowledge to the Association whenever they are consulted.

Powers and the Duties of the Board of Management

14. The Board of Management shall be in full charge of the affairs of the Association and shall have power to add to their number from among the ordinary members, provided that the total strength does not exceed twenty. It shall maintain proper books of accounts which shall be duly audited, and which shall be open to public inspection.

By-laws

15. The Board of Management shall have power to frame Bye-Laws for the due carrying out of the object of the Association.

Alteration to the Constitution

16. It will be open to the Board of Management by the vote of three-fourths of the then existing members of the Board to alter, amend or add to the Constitution, with the exception of clauses relating to the object and the Trustees. In case of these two clauses complete unanimity of the Trustees and of the Members of the Board of Management will be required to make any change.

PLEDGE FOR MEMBERS

Having read the Constitution and Rules of the All-India Village Industries Association, I offer to be a member thereof, and God helping, promise to devote the best part of my energy and talents to the furtherance of its object, which is the all-round welfare of the villagers of India.

So long as I remain a member of the Association, I shall not take part in any Campaign of Civil Disobedience.

In the discharge of my duties, I shall seek the assistance and co-operation of all those who may be willing to give them, irrespective of differences in politics.

To the best of my ability I shall strive to live up to the ideals of the Association and prefer the use of village manufactures to any other.

In the prosecution of my obligations to the villagers I shall recognise no distinction between man and man.

Date.....

Signature.....

Recommended by

*Signature of a member or
a duly authorised agent.*

BYE-LAWS.

(1) The Ordinary General Meeting of the Association shall be held once every year, and at any time an Extraordinary Meeting may be convened by the Secretary with the consent of the President and shall be convened upon a requisition received by him from not less than one-sixth of the members on the roll. One-fifth the number of members on the roll with a minimum of seven shall form a quorum.

(2) The first financial year of the Association shall be from the 14th Dec 1934 to 31st Dec, 1935 and thereafter the calendar year.

(3) Meetings of the Board of Management may be summoned by the Secretary as and when necessary or when required to do so by one-third the number of members on the Board.

The Secretary may circulate a proposition amongst the Members of the Board and when all the members have agreed to it such shall have the force of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Board.

For a Meeting of the Board of Management one-third the number of members with a minimum of four shall be the quorum.

Any member of the Board of Management who is absent at three consecutive meetings without leave shall be deemed to have vacated his office.

(4) Proper records shall be kept by the secretary of all proceedings of the General Meetings and the Board Meetings with the attendance of the Members there at, such minutes shall be signed by the President at the Meeting at which they are confirmed.

(5) This Association shall not be responsible for any obligation, financial or other, entered into by any person without written authority signed by a person duly authorised thereto, on behalf of the Association.

(6) The Board of Management shall have power to remove any member from the roll by a resolution of the Board passed by at least three fourths of the number of Members on the Board, at a meeting of which due notice had been given, and this matter had been placed on the agenda.

(7) Every member shall send to the Secretary a report of the allotted work done by him for every quarter so as to reach the Central Office not later than one month after the expiry of that quarter.

In of reports are received for three consecutive quarters from any member such member will cease to be a member and vacate his office, if any.

(8) Institutions which undertake to abide by the Rules and Regulations laid down by the Board of Management for affiliations may be on application affiliated by the Secretary.

(9) It shall be competent for the Board to issue certificates to persons who may be prepared to deal in village manufactures coming within the province of the Association.

(10) The Duties of Agents may be prescribed by the Board from to time.

(11) Every Ordinary Member of the Association shall send to the Secretary a report of the work done by him every quarter so as to reach the Central Office not later than one month after the expiry of the quarter. If no report is received for three consecutive quarters from any ordinary member, such member shall cease to be a member of the Association.

(12) Every honorary worker shall keep a record of work done by him, an abstract of which he shall send to the Secretary once every quarter.

AGENCY RULES.

Under Bye-law No. 10 the following rules for agents have been framed by the Board of Management :—

(1) To begin with, the agent will be expected to attend to the programme already drawn up by the Central Office. After he has made a fair start with the Central Office programme he will be expected to make a survey of all such industries that may be revived, improved or introduced in his area and shall forthwith report to the Central Office the results of his investigation and submit a programme of work based thereon for examination by the office.

(2) Every agent will be expected to attend to sanitation and hygiene of the villages within his area.

(3) With a view to finding markets for surplus products of the villages he should induce reliable merchants to store village products for sale at prices mutually fixed between the merchants and the agent so as to ensure genuineness of such products.

(4) He should carry on an intensive propaganda to create a favourable public opinion for the programme in his area.

(5) He may invite and receive subscriptions and donations to meet the expenses in connection with his work and should not expect any financial aid from the Central Office. But he shall not utilise any part of the funds so collected by him for his own personal requirements.

(6) He may appoint, whenever necessary and if funds at his disposal permit, paid workers needed for his work.

(7) He shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements which will be subject to audit by Central Office.

(8) His work will be subject to inspection and supervision by the Central Office.

(9) He shall submit a report of his work and abstract of receipts and payments for every month so as to reach the Central Office not later than the 15th of the month following.

(10) Any neglect in submitting the monthly report and statement of accounts or in carrying out the instructions from the Central Office will involve the cancellation of the agency.

PLEDGE FOR AGENTS.

Having read the Constitution & Agency Rules of the All India Village Industries Association, I offer to be an Agent thereof and God helping, promise to devote the best part of my energy and talents to the furtherance of its object, which is the all round welfare of the villagers of India.

So long as I remain an Agent of the Association, I shall not take part in any campaign of Civil Disobedience.

In the discharge of my duties I shall seek the assistance and co-operation of all those who may be willing to give them irrespective of differences in politics.

To the best of my ability I shall strive to live up to the ideals of the Association and prefer the use of village manufactures to any other.

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Date..... *Signature*.....

Recommended by

IMMEDIATE PROGRAMME.

Pending the establishment of agencies and in order that no time may be lost in the execution of the village uplift programme, the Board of Management appeals to the public to concentrate attention on the popularisation of the use of hand-pounded unpolished rice, hand-ground whole wheatmeal flour and village-made gur.

The Board is already in possession of the testimony of medical experts that mill-pounded polished rice, millground flour and mill-refined sugar are much inferior to hand-pounded unpolished rice, hand-ground whole wheatmeal flour and village-made gur.

Whilst in the matter of village ghani-pressed oil and the mill-pressed oil the evidence is indecisive, the balance of opinion is in favour of ghani-pressed fresh oil.

Evidence is, however, conclusive that all the articles commonly sold in the bazaars are adulterated and harmful to health. This adulteration can be easily avoided, if the recommendation of the Association is followed by the public.

The economic benefit accruing to the villages from such adoption will be incalculable.

The Board also feels that the work of rural hygiene ought not to be delayed. The intelligentsia can immediately begin the work of sanitation in the way of simple road making in the villages, improved and economic methods of disposal of human excreta, cleaning of village wells and tanks and teaching the villagers the proper use of water supply.

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