

LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL FINANCE
THROUGH COOPERATIVES IN INDIA
[WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MAHARASHTRA STATE]

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE
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PREFACE

The erstwhile land mortgage banks were elevated, by the All-India Rural Credit Survey Committee, to the status of (land) development banks to fulfil the role of catalysts for increase in agricultural production, a responsibility that had to be assumed by the national government on the attainment of Independence. The latter continued to be in the cooperative sector. The Planning Commission went on to accept them as instruments of the proposed transformation, both economic and social. It is contended that the responsibility was almost thrust on them before ascertaining their consent, efficiency and competence to assume it. Not much careful thought appeared to have been given to the unique characteristics of the country's agriculture and agriculturists.

The study makes an attempt to evaluate the performance of the land development banks vis-a-vis the role assigned to them in the expected agricultural growth. Towards this end, it is assumed that the cooperative agency was the most well-suited agency for providing long-term agricultural finance in a developing country like India. Attempt is made to establish the hypothesis by trying to view it from different angles and by examining the working of the land development banking system in the State of Maharashtra. As such we regret that some of the repetitions that have crept in could not be avoided.

I would like to take the opportunity to record my deep

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sense of gratitude to Prof. V.M. Dandekar, Director of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics for permitting me to work on the problem in the Institute. I am also indebted to Dr. G.J. Khudanpur for keeping my interest in the subject alive and providing able guidance on all occasions. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Shri D.P. Apte, Registrar of the Gokhale Institute for making available all the facilities for carrying out the study all these years, more as a friend than a formal functionary of the Institute.

The record would be incomplete if I do not express a sense of sincere gratification and obligation to Dr.G.R. Mulla, who spared his invaluable time to extend much useful help and guidance. I would like to remember the profound help provided by another colleague, Dr. C.S. Gajarajan, who always ^{gave} a patient ear and assistance whenever doubts assailed me.

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