

SYNOPSIS OF PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
COMMITTEE 'C' ON DRAFT FIFTH FIVE YEAR PLAN  
(Agriculture and Rural Economy)

CORRIGENDA

- Page viii, line 22, for 'Tusiram' read 'Tulsiram'
- Page ix, line 10, for '\*142' read '142'
- Page ix, line 20, for '152' read ' + 152'
- Page ix, line 21, for '+153' read '\* 153'
- Page ix, line 25, for 'Shayam' read 'Shyam'
- Page ix, line 8 from the bottom, for 'Bramanand'  
read 'Brahmanand'
- Page x, line 12, for 'Sarojni' read 'Sarojini'
- Page xiv, line 15 from the bottom, for 'revulets'  
read 'rivulets'
- Page xix, line 17 from the bottom, for 'vageries'  
read 'vagaries'
- Page xx, line 17 from the bottom, for 'fgarmers'  
read 'farmers'
- Page xx, line 17 from the bottom, for 'handless'  
read 'landless'
- Page 4, line 7 from the bottom, for 'proframmes'  
read 'programmes'
- Page 64, line 14 from the bottom, for 'Early;  
Completion' read 'Early completion'

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**COMMITTEE 'C'**  
**(AGRICULTURE AND RURAL ECONOMY)**

**ON**

**DRAFT FIFTH FIVE YEAR PLAN**

Shri Darbara Singh (Lok Sabha)—*Chairman*

**MEMBERS**

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2. Shri Virendra Agarwala
3. Shri Nathu Ram Ahirwar
4. Shri P. Ankineedu Prasadarao
5. Dr. Henry Austin
6. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad
7. Shri Hamendra Singh Banera
8. Shri R. N. Barman
9. Shri Panna Lal Barupal
10. Shri Onkar Lal Berwa
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12. Shri Bashweshwar Nath Bhargava
13. Shri Jagadish Bhattacharyya
14. Shri Shyama Prasanna Bhattacharyya
15. Shri B. S. Bhaura
16. Shri R. S. Bisht
17. Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu
18. Shri Buta Singh
19. Shri Chandulal Chandrakar
20. Shri Amar Singh Chaudhari
21. Shri Tridib Chaudhuri
22. Shrimati Premlabai D. Chavan
23. Shri K. Chikkalingiah
24. Shri Madhu Dandavate

25. Shri Anadi Charan Das
26. Shri B. K. Daschowdhury
27. Shri Dasarath Deb
28. Shri M. Deiveekan
29. Shri D. D. Desai
30. Shri K. G. Deshmukh
31. Shri Anant Prasad Dhusia
32. Shri G. C. Dixit
33. Shri Hiralal Doda
34. Shri Biren Dutta
35. Shri Nageshwar Dwivedi
36. Shri Genda Singh
37. Shri Varkey George
38. Shri Mohinder Singh Gill
39. Shri C. C. Gohain
40. Shri Samar Guha
41. Shri Krishna Chandra Halder
42. Shri Hari Singh
43. Shri D. P. Jadeja
44. Shri Md. Jamilurrahman
45. Shri Bhogendra Jha
46. Shri Chiranjib Jha
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59. Shri M. K. Krishnan
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88. Shri Ram Kanwar
89. Ch. Ram Prakash
90. Chowdhury Ram Sewak
91. Shri Birender Singh Rao
92. Shri Jagannath Rao
93. Dr. K. L. Rao
94. Shri Satyanarayana Rao
95. Shri B. N. Reddy
96. Dr. Saradish Roy
97. Ch. Sadhu Ram

98. Shri Mulki Raj Saini
99. Shri Shibban Lal Saksena
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103. Shri P. M. Sayeed
104. Shri Era Sezhiyan
105. Shri C. K. Jaffer Sharief
106. Shri S. M. Siddayya
107. Shri Digvijaya Narain Singh
108. Shri Hari Kishore Singh
109. Shri Ram Deo Singh
110. Shri Ram Shekhar Prasad Singh
111. Shri Rana Bahadur Singh
112. Shri S. N. Singh
113. Shri Shankar Dayal Singh
114. Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha
115. Shri R. V. Swaminathan
116. Shri Tayyab Hussain
117. Shrimati Bhargavi Thankappan
118. Pandit D. N. Tiwary
119. Shri V. Tusiram
120. Shri M. G. Uikey
121. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee
122. Shri N. R. Vekaria
123. Shri Ram Singh Bhai Verma
124. Shri G. Viswanathan
125. Shri G. P. Yadav
126. Shri R. P. Yadav

*Rajya Sabha*

127. Shri M. S. Abdul Kadar
128. Shri Abu Abraham
129. Shri Lal K. Advani
- \*130. Shri Debanandan Amat
131. Shri S. C. Angre
- \*132. Shri G. A. Appan



- \*133. Shri Kumbha Ram Arya
- 134. Shri N. C. Buragohain
- \*135. Shri Ganeshi Lal Chaudhary
- 136. Shri K. P. Singh Deo
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- \*140. Shri Chandramouli Jagarlamudi
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- \*151. Shri U. K. Lakshmana Gowda
- †152. Dr. Bhai Mahavir
- \*153. Shri U. N. Mahida
- 154. Shri Yogendra Makwana
- 155. Shri H. D. Malviya
- 156. Shri S. S. Mariswamy
- \*157. Shri Shayam Dhar Mishra
- 158. Shri Bhaiya Ram Munda
- 159. Shri B. P. Nagaraja Murthy
- \*160. Shri Gurmukh Singh Musafir
- 161. Shri Bramanand Panda
- 162. Shri D. K. Patel
- \*163. Shri Sundar Mani Patel
- \*164. Shri Tribhuvandas Kisibhai Patel
- \*165. Shri Prithwi Nath
- 166. Shri Kota Punnaiah

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\*Retired from Rajya Sabha on 2nd April, 1974.

†Retired from Rajya Sabha on 15th April, 1974.

167. Shri D. D. Puri  
 168. Shri S. K. Raha  
 169. Shri V. B. Raju  
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 \*171. Dr. K. Ramiah  
 172. Shri Ranbir Singh  
 173. Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy  
 174. Shri Papi Reddy  
 175. Shri Roshan Lal  
 176. Shri Virendra Kumar Sakhalecha  
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 179. Shri Venigalla Satyanarayana  
 180. Shri Manubhai Shah  
 181. Shri Nageshwar Prasad Shahi  
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 183. Shri T. N. Singh  
 184. Shri Awadheshwar Prasad Sinha  
 185. Shri Swaisingh Sisodia  
 \*%186. Shrimati Sita Devi  
 187. Shri Sultan Singh  
 188. Shri V. V. Swaminathan  
 †189. Shri Syed Hussain  
 190. Shri Gunanand Thakur  
 191. Shri Triloki Singh  
 192. Shri Mahavir Tyagi  
 193. Shri Om Prakash Tyagi  
 \*194. Shri Jagdambi Prasad Yadav  
 195. Shri Shayam Lal Yadav

## SECRETARIAT

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 Shri A. J. Dave—*Senior Research Officer*  
 Shri S. L. Seth—*Research Officer*

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\*Retired from Rajya Sabha on 2nd April, 1974.

%Died on 21st March, 1974.

†Retired from Rajya Sabha on 15th April, 1974.

## INTRODUCTION

Committee 'C' (Agriculture and Rural Economy) on the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan commenced its deliberations on the 17th January, 1974 and continued till the 21st January, 1974. During the period, the Committee held six sittings. At its First, Third, Fourth and Fifth Sittings held on the 17th, 19th and 21st January, 1974, the Committee held a general discussion on the subject of Agriculture and Rural Economy. The Committee did not conduct any business at its Second Sitting held on the 18th January, 1974 and adjourned after adopting a condolence resolution mourning the death of Shri Kamal Nath Tewari, Chairman, Estimates Committee, who had passed away the preceding day. At its concluding sitting held on the 21st January, 1974, the Committee heard Shri B. Sivaraman, Member, Planning Commission, who replied to the points raised by the Members during the general discussion and answered questions on various specific issues. Also, at the same sitting, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning, Shri Mohan Dharia, intervening in the concluding discussions, replied to the Members' questions.

2. In the course of the discussion, the Committee authorised me to prepare a note, taking into account the consensus of opinion expressed in the Committee, for being appended to the Synopsis of Proceedings of the Committee. This would, the Committee felt, help the Planning Commission in finalising the Fifth Plan. I have accordingly summed up in the following paragraphs the main observations and suggestions made by the Members during the discussions in the Committee, adding, where necessary, my own views and suggestions on the subject under consideration of the Committee.

### *Strategy for the Fifth Plan*

3. Our agricultural policy should be guided by considerations of social justice and removal of poverty. Removal of poverty and attainment of economic self-reliance are the dominant guidelines of the Fifth Five Year Plan. Undoubtedly these are also the cherished goals of the nation. For the attainment of these goals, the importance of accelerated and sustained growth of agriculture can hardly be over-emphasised. About two-thirds of our people derive their subsistence directly from agriculture. Welfare of nearly four-fifths of our population is dependent on the health of our rural economy.

Development of agriculture and rural economy at a faster pace is not only vital for removal of poverty and achievement of self-reliance, but is most essential for the stability of our democratic set-up. While the importance of agriculture is recognised in the Fifth Five Year Plan, the allocation of outlay for the most important sector of our economy, nevertheless, leaves much to be desired.

4. Public Sector outlay for agriculture during the Fourth Five Year Plan was about Rs. 2728 crores, that is about 16 per cent of the total public sector outlay of Rs. 16,774 crores. As regards the production of foodgrains, the Fourth Plan had set a target of 129 million tonnes during the terminal year of the Plan, i.e. 1973-74 as reckoned against the assumed production level of 98 million tonnes in 1968-69, the base year of the Plan. The actual production in 1968-69, however, turned out to be 94 million tonnes, that is lower than the assumed base level by about 4 million tonnes. It is estimated that during 1973-74 the production may be around 114 million tonnes. The realised additional production on annual basis during the Fourth Plan would, therefore, be anything between 16 and 20 million tonnes, as against the target of 31 million tonnes.

5. In the Fifth Plan, the target for the increase in production of foodgrains over the base level production is 26 million tonnes, as against the corresponding achievement of 16 to 20 million tonnes in the Fourth Plan. The targets for commercial crops, fruit production, fisheries, forestry, and more particularly animal husbandry and dairying are likewise far bigger than the achievements during the Fourth Plan. The level of outlays envisaged in the Fifth Plan for the agricultural sector is around Rs. 4,730 crores. This forms about 13 per cent of the total public sector outlay of Rs. 37,250 crores i.e. about 3 per cent lower than in the Fourth Plan. If the reduced value of the rupee is taken into account, then the outlay for agriculture in the Fifth Plan in real terms would hardly better the corresponding amount in the Fourth Plan. Government may later allocate additional resources for agriculture, but as the things stand at present, the production with the present resources is not expected to be sufficient to make up the shortfalls, particularly in respect of the foodgrains. The ratio of outlay for agricultural sector has in fact been allowed to fall. We fear this may knock out the very strategy of self-reliance. We, therefore, suggest that the allocation for agriculture should be substantially increased. Then alone will we be able to achieve our targets of agricultural production.

6. The rate of growth envisaged for the agricultural sector in the Fifth Five Year Plan is nearly 4.5 per cent which is on the

lower side. If the country's economy has to be strengthened, there is no alternative but to provide sufficient resources for the all important agricultural sector. A re-structuring of the Plan to provide increased outlays for this sector is necessary for sustaining a higher growth rate in agriculture. The target of growth rate in agriculture should, therefore, be raised to about 6 per cent. The total outlay for agricultural sector should also be raised to 25 per cent of the total Plan allocation. This will help in stabilising the economy and remove the difficulties which we are facing today.

### *Village-wise Survey*

7. We consider it necessary to bring to the notice of the Planning Commission the imperative need for undertaking village surveys for ascertaining the requirements of villages before planning for their development. The Plan should start from below. For agricultural purposes a village-wise survey is most essential, for that is the only way one could know in precise terms what are the requirements of a village in respect of irrigation, drinking water, agricultural implements, roads, housing, hospitals, schools and other inputs for the agricultural production. The Panchayat is the base of the democratic set-up and it must be incumbent on the Gram-Panchayat to compile the requisite information on behalf of the entire village. The necessary provisions for the development of the villages may be made on the basis of the materials and foodgrains supplied by the Panchayats. The three-tier system of the Panchayati Raj should be involved in the planning process, for, otherwise the Plan is not likely to be a realistic one. The involvement of Panchayats in the implementation of agricultural plan is vital. It is the people's institution and its involvement will help the Government in a big way to increase agricultural production.

### *Intensive Agriculture*

8. Food problem is the core of the Plan. Unless there is food for all, and in plenty, the plans will fail to make visible impact on the life of the people. The crux of the problem is that sources from which increased production has to be obtained are limited. Increased food production has to be obtained through intensive methods of cultivation, that is through extra efforts on the existing land by making it yield more. Along with this, efforts should continue to be made for bringing new areas under cultivation, wherever it is possible to do so.

### *Irrigation*

9. In India, the supply of water for irrigation purposes constitutes an important aspect of the agricultural development. With

all the Plans, the country has been able to irrigate only one acre out of four. Even in respect of that one acre, the assured water supply is for only 0.6 of an acre and the other 0.4 is dependent on the rainfall. Therefore, while planning for agricultural production, great importance needs to be attached to irrigation.

10. The irrigated area is not evenly distributed over the different States. In some States, a very low percentage is fairly high. An analysis of yields in irrigated area under principal crops would indicate that the crop yields are high in States which have a high percentage of irrigated area and low where the irrigated percentage is less. It is, therefore, imperative that in selecting sites for irrigation projects, the under-developed areas are given priority. While finalising the plan, the Planning Commission should take into consideration the backwardness of the States.

11. Dependence on major irrigation projects alone, which in some cases take as long as nine to ten years to complete and involve high inflationary investment, will not be advisable. Along with major projects, due reliance will have to be placed on medium and minor irrigation projects and on tube wells, tanks, wells, etc., which yield quicker results and, at the same time, involve lesser investment. Funds should be provided for minor and medium irrigation schemes to the maximum possible extent. No such scheme should suffer for want of funds.

12. In recent years minor irrigation has assumed added significance in the context of ground water utilisation. For ground water provides, farmers with just the type of instant and controlled irrigation which the new high-yielding varieties of seed demand. Water of rivers, perennial rivulets and ponds, which otherwise goes waste can be utilised for irrigation purposes by constructing lift channels at low cost.

13. In many States, water can be found just about 30 to 40 feet below the surface level. Installation of tube-wells can yield spectacular results in such regions. It will be desirable that in the matter of ground water survey priority is given to such areas as have at present low percentage of irrigation utilisation.

14. For the judicious use of limited irrigation supplies, it is important to determine critical periods during which deficiencies of moisture in the soil can seriously reduce the yield of crops. The irrigation system should be such as would provide water not only in the required quantity, but at the required time. Schemes should be formulated to educate and assist the cultivators in the economic and judicious utilisation of water.

### *Completion of Continuing Irrigation Projects*

15. All the continuing major and medium irrigation projects which might spill over into the Fifth Plan should be completed expeditiously.

### *Power for Energising Tube-wells and Pump Sets*

16. There is a great disparity among the States in the matter of production and distribution of electricity required for energising tubewells and pump sets. A grid of surplus States should be set up and electricity generated by them supplied to the neighbouring deficit States.

17. The long gestation period of hydro schemes, which sometimes spreads over eight to ten years, calls for, on expedient grounds, adoption of other short-term measures such as installation of thermal plants, etc. to catch up with the fast increasing power demands, particularly in the agricultural sector. Power is required to operate tubewells and energise irrigation pump sets. Immediate steps should be taken to generate more power, as the country is at present in the grip of a severe power crisis.

### *Inter-State Water Disputes*

18. Inter-State water disputes not only tend to create ill-will among the States involved but also stand in the way of expeditious development of the water resources, thereby hampering the irrigation facilities in areas with tremendous potential for stepping up yield of foodgrains. Government should find out ways for a speedy solution to such long-standing disputes.

### *Multiple Cropping Programme*

19. Since the scope for extension of agriculture to new areas is now very limited, future increases in yield must be secured from intensive cultivation and multiple cropping programme, which can be introduced in areas largely fed by irrigation system.

### *Crop-planning*

20. Crop-planning at the State level is an essential part of the agricultural production. Certain States go in only for cash crops and the others are producing only foodgrains. It should be ensured that each State produces enough foodgrains for its needs. It should be possible to achieve self-sufficiency through better crop-planning particularly in those States where resources for increasing production exist.

### *Dry Land Farming*

21. Dry land farming tracts with low rainfall and inadequate irrigation constitute a sizeable portion of the net sown area of the country. The existing cropping pattern only enables farmers to have a minimum level of subsistence under uncertain conditions. Concerted efforts should, therefore, be made to handle the problems of these areas thereby exploiting their production potential.

### *Drought-prone Areas Programme*

22. The inflationary system of distress finance for famines, droughts, floods etc. should be replaced by productive investments in a planned manner under the Drought-prone Areas Programme.

### *Reclamation of Waste Land*

23. A massive programme for reclamation of ravines and saline lands should be undertaken. For this purpose youth potential of the country could be suitably mobilised and harnessed.

### *Fertilisers*

24. To make each acre of cultivated land produce more per year involves a many-sided effort. Of these, the use of fertilisers is recognised as the key factor. The planning of fertilisers production in India will, therefore, have to be basically geared to fertiliser consumption targets which in turn will be related to targets of agricultural production. At present, we are facing an acute shortage of fertilisers. It is obvious that the anticipated increased demand for fertilisers to boost agricultural production will ultimately have to be met fully from indigenous sources. There is also a great need for strengthening the distribution arrangements and developing transport facilities for fertilisers.

25. In the present circumstances, the country can ill afford to depend upon chemical fertilisers alone. A substantial campaign for the development of local manurial resources will have to be launched. A coordinated programme in the villages and cities should be formulated on a high priority basis to see that all the rural and urban compost is fully utilised. The provision of Rs. 9 crores made in the Fifth Plan for the development of local manurial resources in the Centrally sponsored Sector is too meagre and should be increased.

26. Keeping in view the present shortage of fertiliser, which may become more acute in future, *gobar* gas plants should be introduced in a big way. Government should provide subsidy to individuals



and villages for setting up private and community gas plants and to achieve favourable results, a substantial amount should be earmarked for this purpose. The foremost benefit accruing from such plants would be that while the gas obtained from such plants can be used for cooking purposes, the *gobar* can still be used as fertiliser. This will also help in reducing the people's dependence on fire-wood for fuel purposes. Research should, therefore, be undertaken to explore the possibility of setting up more and more *gobar* gas plants, particularly in the rural areas.

#### *Improved Seeds*

27. The production of quality seeds is basic to the success of a sound agricultural strategy. The existing arrangements for production of high quality breeders stock and foundation seeds continue to be inadequate, Research on seed technology has revealed that quality of the foundation seeds deteriorates after the first progeny of the breeder stock. The Government should, therefore, take steps, in coordination with the State Governments, to reorganise the National Seeds Corporation, which is primarily responsible for production of foundation seeds, and ensure that sufficient quantity of quality seeds is made available in different parts of the country to suit the requirements of the land on which the seed is to be sown. Also, the arrangements for distribution of seeds have been faulty, with the result that seeds are made available to farmers very late, generally at the fag end of the sowing season. Measures will have to be taken to ensure timely supply of seeds.

#### *Agricultural Research*

28. Greater attention should be paid to agricultural research. Farmers have to be informed about the proper dosage of fertilisers to be used and also of the results achieved in the research laboratories. The outlay for agricultural research and education should, therefore, be enhanced.

29. The facilities provided by soil testing laboratories should be extended to the Tehsil headquarters, so that the productivity of land and the nutrients which it needs are clearly known to the farmers. Testing of soil of each field should be done. A card showing full particulars, viz., the name and address of the cultivator, amount of credit issued to him, the total area of land cultivated and the findings of the test should be maintained. The farmer must know what type of fertiliser is needed for a particular type of land. This will help the farmer in applying the right type of fertiliser, thereby ensuring more production.

*Agricultural Extension and Administration*

30. As important task in the agricultural development programme is to create awareness among the farmers of the benefits that will accrue from the adoption of improved agricultural practices. For that purpose, a sound agricultural extension programme needs to be built up. Useful data should be disseminated through the media of information and publicity.

31. Unless there is full cooperation and coordination between the State Departments of Agriculture and State Agricultural Universities, it may not be possible to achieve the set targets. The Agricultural Universities should play a leading role in the matter of training. All measures should, therefore, be taken to propagate improved agricultural technology to the farmers.

*Agricultural Implements*

32. The use of improved agricultural implements has not been encouraging in the past, partly due to the defective design of such implements and partly due to lack of repairing facilities. Agro-Service Centres should, therefore, be set up on an extensive scale to help, particularly, the small farmers in acquiring, at low cost, mechanised services, such as tractorisation, levelling and bunding. In each block, there should be service stations and mobile workshops for the facility of farmers. There is a fixed time for the sowing of crops and if the tractor goes out of order, the farmer cannot borrow it from another, because the other farmers are also engaged in the same process. The same problem arises at the time of reaping also. Therefore, mobile workshops will be helpful to the farmers working in the field in that they will get repairing facilities at their doors. Such workshop facilities are now available at certain places, but not all over India. These should be extended to all parts of the country.

33. Agro-industries have to play a big role in agriculture. Agro-industries corporations should be encouraged to manufacture small tractors. The landlords can help themselves, but the poor, small and marginal farmers cannot afford to use a big tractor on a small piece of land. The prices of tractors have gone very high. Government should, therefore, come to the rescue of the small farmer and manufacture small tractors and market them at a reasonable price. More land can be brought under agricultural use, if the small farmers are provided with such low-cost tractors and implements.

Employment avenues will also develop if educated young people are trained as tractor mechanics, technicians or drivers.

### *Plant Protection*

34. With higher intensity of cropping and greater use of fertilisers, the incidence of pests and diseases has increased. The plant protection activities should, therefore, be stepped up. New pesticides should be developed in order to protect the high yielding varieties from disease. Inputs will go waste if timely measures to check pests are not adopted.

### *Crop Insurance*

35. Because of the risk and uncertainty on account of floods and drought, farmers are reluctant to invest more on the farms. The introduction of crop insurance will diminish that risk. Crop insurance should be adopted on an experimental basis, if not on a regular basis, at least in the case of major commodities like foodgrains, jute and cotton.

### *Plan for Distribution of Food*

36. Planning in agricultural production cannot be divorced from the distribution of foodgrains. If no planning is made for distribution, agricultural produce is liable to be exposed to the vagaries of the erratic market. Appropriate mechanism should, therefore, be evolved for rational acquisition and distribution of foodgrains.

### *Marketing Facilities*

37. Even though food production has been good during the last season, foodgrains did not find way to the market. For want of proper marketing arrangements, and due to indifferent attitude of the administration, growers are often tempted to hoard surplus crops or sell them at a higher price through underground channels, instead of offering such surplus to the Government sponsored procuring agencies. An assured market will protect poor farmers from exploitation by the middlemen. A comprehensive plan for marketing of agricultural produce should, therefore, be drawn up.

### *Pricing Policy*

38. With increasing production, there is urge for better consumption and even the poor farmers do not make their surplus readily available. The remedy against this is a reasonable price for

the agricultural products. The recently announced policy of procurement of foodgrains providing for a levy of 50 per cent on purchases by wholesalers is a new experiment. Government must keep vigilance over the markets, for when the prices are high, consumers protest, and when the prices tend to fall in spite of the high prices of inputs, the farmers complain. Therefore, Government should have the pipeline of distribution full to its capacity in surplus States so as to facilitate distribution of foodgrains to the consumers at reasonable rates. It will be better if some relief is provided to the consumer, if necessary, in the shape of subsidy. In any case, the prices should be maintained at a reasonable level and remunerative price assured to the farmer. Apart from other things, this will attract the farmer to the market. Hoarders, whether they be big farmers or traders, should not be allowed to go scot free. The maintenance of a price level which is both reasonable and remunerative to the farmers is thus the corner stone of a sound agricultural policy.

### *Forestry*

39. Despite the National Forest Policy adopted in 1952 laying down that India as a whole should aim at maintaining one-third of its total land area under forests, about 1.7 million hectares of land has been deforested during the period 1951 to 1969. A pragmatic policy should be formulated to preserve and consolidate the existing forests and to afforest fresh wastelands.

### *Land Reforms*

40. We can hardly over-emphasise the need for land reform. The production base of small and medium farmers and landless labourers cannot be strengthened unless implementation of the policies of Government in regard to land reform is vigorously pursued. Due to loopholes in the legislation and other lapses, it has not been found possible to realise enough surplus land for distribution among all landless cultivators, especially the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The poverty of millions of landless workers and small farmers is linked up with this vital problem. Without mobilisation of landless workers and small and marginal farmers, the goals and objectives of the Fifth Five Year Plan in regard to agriculture will not be achieved.

41. The process of consolidating uneconomic holdings has not yet been completed. Fragmentation of land is always fraught with the danger of production being reduced. On the other hand, a compact and consolidated holding can be used for much more intensive cultivation. However, to consolidate the gains of the consolidation of holdings in certain States, effective follow-up steps need to be

taken to ensure security of tenure to tenants, particularly the share-croppers who are the worst affected among the lot.

42. National guidelines have not been kept in view while promulgating ceiling laws in different States. Specific deadlines should be fixed for implementing ceiling laws. Frequent changes in the ceiling proposals create suspicion in the minds of the farmers which ultimately affect their production programmes.

### *Credit Facilities*

43. The greatest weakness of the agricultural sector is the defective or inefficient system of providing credits to the farmers. Though the main responsibility for providing agricultural credit falls on the cooperative institutions, it is a matter of gratification that after the bank nationalisation commercial banks have also entered the field of agricultural credit. But, unfortunately, the commercial banks have failed to enthuse farmers, particularly the small ones, for the simple reason that the procedures laid down for advancing loans are too cumbersome and time-consuming. Since the farmers fail to obtain loans from the banks expeditiously or easily, most of them are still dependent on village money-lenders who continue to charge exorbitant rates of interest. The entire machinery for providing agricultural credit thus needs to be geared up. The red-tapism and bottlenecks should be removed so that the procedure for getting loans is simplified. It will be helpful if a clear schedule is prepared indicating the normal time taken at each stage of the process, right from the submission of application to the grant of loan. Facilities should be provided for the grant of loans to cultivators against their standing crops. The existing cooperating institutions should also be restructured so as to eliminate the vested interest therefrom.

### *Small Farmers' Economy*

44. In India, agriculture is predominantly a small farmer's economy. The Small Farmers Development Programme started in the States during the Fourth Plan with a view to improving the condition of the small and marginal farmers should be extended to the Fifth Plan. Under this programme it should be ensured that the small and marginal farmers are supported by advisory service and timely supplies of agricultural credit, improved seeds and fertilisers, plant protection service and irrigation facilities on a priority basis.

*Rural Industries*

45. One of the factors responsible for the sad plight of the country's rural economy has been the utter neglect of the rural industries. The available surplus land meant for distribution among the landless labourers is too inadequate to meet the needs of the poorer sections of the rural community, particularly of the Harijans and other backward classes. The labour classes in the villages must have an assured income to be able to feed their families. For this it is necessary that more and more small industries are taken from urban to rural areas.

DARBARA SINGH,

*Chairman,*

*Committee 'C' (Agriculture and Rural Economy) on Draft Fifth Five Year Plan.*

NEW DELHI;

*The 24th April, 1974*

*Vaisakha 4, 1896 (Saka).*

## FIRST SITTING

(January 17, 1974 : 10.00 to 13.40 hrs.)

### *Procedure to be Followed*

In the absence of the Chairman (Shri Darbara Singh, M.P.), Shri Kota Punnaiah, M.P. was elected to take the Chair till the arrival of the Chairman. Shri Kota Punnaiah briefly explained the procedure to be followed by the Committee and observed that the views expressed by Members would be useful to the Planning Commission in finalising the draft Plan and would also prove helpful to Parliament when the discussion on the draft Plan took place there.

### *Main Topics for Discussion*

Referring to the subjects falling within the purview of the Committee, he said that some of the main topics on which Members might like to concentrate would be targets and strategy of the production of agricultural and commercial crops, supply of agricultural inputs such as improved seeds and fertilisers, provision of irrigation facilities, credit schemes, agricultural extension and administration, and rural development. The main strategy underlying the Plan should be to execute as many schemes as possible in the various sectors of agricultural development. It should be ensured that the implementation did not suffer for lack of planning or lack of co-ordination. What was required was an agricultural policy, guided by the consideration of social justice. For the purpose, specific measures had to be taken to see that the *per capita* income of the poorest of the rural population rose. Moreover, care should be taken to see that the agricultural policy did not accentuate the disparities among the people. The programme of land reforms should get due priority. Shri Kota Punnaiah then requested the Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning to initiate the discussions.

**SHRI MOHAN DHARIA** (*Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning*): As rightly indicated by the Chairman, the Committee should freely express their views. On behalf of the Planning Commission and the Government, he assured the Members that the proposals put forth by them would be given serious consideration. The suggestions to be made by the Members would undoubtedly be of immense help in the finalisation of the Plan.

### *Discussion then Commenced*

SHRIMATI KUMUDBEN MANISHANKAR JOSHI: Agricultural research had an important role to play in increasing the farm production. Research in agriculture should be decentralised so that it could be done in varying conditions and the findings made applicable to the local conditions. There should be good integration between agricultural education, research and extension services. Co-ordinated research projects should be developed. The research work should be made time-bound and the findings should be made available to the farmers as quickly as possible.

### *Agricultural Education*

The competency of the agricultural graduates in practical farming should be developed. The syllabus for agricultural education should be revised according to changing conditions, particularly in the development of the basic sciences. The existing institutions should be strengthened in the field of equipments, library facilities etc. There was need for making continuous research studies regarding various educational aspects and effecting necessary changes on the basis of the research findings.

### *Adult Education*

The latest techniques of adult education should be used. More research was needed in the areas of adult education.

### *Farmers' Training*

In regard to the National Demonstration Scheme, it was important to know as to what extent the demonstrated practices had been adopted by the farmers. More publicity of national demonstration plots should be made to attract more farmers to visit such plots. The farmers' training should be conducted on such plots.

For the training of farm-women, highly qualified, well-trained and experienced staff should be provided. Good hostels facilities should be provided at those centres.

### *Agricultural Extension and Administration*

The latest techniques and methods of communications should be used in the extension work. The administrative structure should be organised to avoid dual control and to increase coordination at various levels.



### *Reliable Agricultural Statistics*

It was necessary to ensure that more reliable statistics were available. The data should be made available in time. The collected information should be tabulated and interpreted in such a way that ordinary citizen could understand it.

### *Agricultural Inputs*

Balance use for fertilisers should be promoted by organising demonstrations. The enforcement of the Fertiliser Control Order should be carried out very strictly. There should be separate staff for regulatory functions.

### *Soil Testing Programme and Seed Production*

The Soil Testing Programme should be undertaken on an extensive scale. The cooperatives should be encouraged to undertake Seed Production Programme.

### *Plant Protection*

Schemes for carrying out mass control measures against most common insects and diseases should be framed. Plant Protection Squads, through cooperatives, should be organised. Preventive measures rather than curative measures should be encouraged.

### *Agricultural Implements*

Village Panchayats and cooperatives should be encouraged to provide costlier implements to the farmers on hire-basis. Service Centres for repairing machinery should be established in rural areas. Training should be imparted to the farmers for repairing implements and machinery.

### *Irrigation in Under-developed Areas*

In selecting sites for irrigation works, the underdeveloped areas might be selected and in the execution of the works, those areas should be given priority.

### *Soil and Water conservation*

Human labour should be utilized for soil and water conservation. If necessary, separate administrative set-up for soil and water conservation might be created. Reclamation of ravine lands, levelling of land in command areas and providing drainage in the irrigated areas were the important tasks to be carried out for increasing the

agricultural production and to protect the natural resources, i.e., soil.

### *Agricultural credit*

The procedure for getting loans from cooperatives and commercial banks should be made simpler and less time-consuming. Small farmers and marginal farmers should be provided with adequate credit. Provision should be made to give credit to farmers for the purpose other than agriculture, which might ensure full utilisation of agricultural credit.

### *Agricultural Pricing*

It was necessary to find out the cost of production at regular intervals in order to have a sound policy of pricing. The cost of inputs and labour should be taken into account while fixing prices.

### *Agricultural Marketing*

Establishment of more marketing and sub-marketing centres should be expedited. The existing centres should be expanded and improved. Grading of farm produce should be made compulsory for these centres.

### *Storage and Warehousing*

Storage and warehousing facilities should be provided in the interior parts of the rural areas.

### *Special Programmes for Foodgrain Crops*

For increasing wheat production, efforts should be made to introduce that crop in the canal areas as the second crop. Summer cultivation of rice should be extended to the areas which were under the command of perennial canals. For maize, jowar and pulses, high yielding varieties should be introduced as early as possible.

### *Special Programmes for Commercial Crops*

Intensive drive for introducing cultivation of soya-bean and sunflower should be made. Market for soya-bean should also be created. Use of fertiliser in oil-seed crops should be made popular. Similarly, use of plant protection measures on a mass scale should be planned and implemented. The farmers whose land was situated in the command area of canals, should be trained for cultivation of

sugarcane crop. High yielding variety of cotton for dry farming should be evolved.

### *Special Programmes for Horticulture*

High yielding varieties of horticulture and vegetable crops should be developed. Orchards should be laid out in a more systematic way following the latest techniques in order to have maximum number of fruit trees in a unit area. The possibility of introducing cashew nut in the hilly tracts should be explored. Similarly, coconut plantation should be extended in the coastal areas.

### *Animal Husbandry and Dairying*

Lack of high milk-yielding cows and less efforts to impart knowledge about animal rearing, feeding etc., were the obstacles in the development of animal husbandry and dairying. The extension service should, therefore, be organised. This could be done by the co-operative dairies also. Cross breeding needed to be adopted on a larger scale to improve cattle wealth within a short period.

To supply standard feeds for various types of cattle, more feed factories should be established.

### *Poultry Farming*

For encouraging poultry farms, adequate supply of birds of proven breed should be made. Nutritive feeds should also be made available.

### *Wool Production*

For improving wool production, there should be a programme for those areas, where rearing of sheep could be successful. Mixed farming, especially for small and marginal farmers, should be encouraged.

(SHRI DARBARA SINGH *in the Chair*)

SHRI SHIVNATH SINGH: Planning should assure a market and a reasonable price for the agricultural produce and should eliminate middlemen. The farmer should be enabled to know in advance what price he would get for his produce.

### *Electricity at Cheap Rate*

Adequate electricity should be supplied to farmers in the areas not covered by canal irrigation. Agriculture should be treated as an

industry and agriculturists should be supplied electricity at cheap rate. For industries electricity was supplied at 2 or 3 paise per unit, whereas for agricultural purposes it was being supplied at 13 or 15 paise per unit. In certain districts in Rajasthan, such as Jaipur, Alwar and Churu electricity could be supplied at a cheaper rate.

### *Reducing Pressure on Land*

Pressure on land should be reduced. Unless small scale and cottage industries were encouraged, the pressure of population on land would go on increasing because a farmer had no alternative source of employment.

### *Land to Tillers*

The present position was that the actual tiller of the soil had no land. The difficulties of an agriculturist as they were today should be removed. The ownership of land should vest in the actual tiller of the land.

### *Fertilisers*

The farmers should be supplied fertilisers in adequate quantity.

SHRI R. N. BARMAN: The targets of agriculture fixed in the Fifth Five Year Plan had perhaps no bearing with reality. The Plan document indicated no positive direction towards achieving those targets.

### *Shortage of Fertilisers and Land Reform*

There was acute shortage of fertiliser and other agricultural inputs. Land reform had not been effectively implemented in various States. Effective administrative and political measures had got to be taken for giving effect to land reforms.

### *Effective Public Distribution System*

The rural peasantry, including dealers, did not have confidence in the Government because of weaknesses in the public distribution system. The rural people should be assured of steady and regular supply of the essential consumer goods through the public distribution system.

### *Remunerative Prices for Agricultural Products*

Remunerative prices should be fixed for agricultural products so as to cover the prices of all other essential commodities which a farmer was required to purchase.

### *Minimum Wage for Land Labour*

The question of fixing minimum wage for land labour had also not been sorted out for long. Positive steps should be taken in that direction.

### *Priority Sectors*

It should be ensured that whatever resources were available in the country were spent on priority sectors alone.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: The abundant natural resources and man-power available in the country had not been fully exploited. The water resources available in the country had not been fully utilised for the development of agriculture in various States. The projects which required large amounts of money and which were under way were not being implemented expeditiously.

### *Time-bound Programme in Consultation with M.P.s*

The Planning Commission should be more realistic in its approach. Unfortunately, the suggestions given by the people's representatives were not being incorporated in the Plans by the State Governments or the Planning Commission. On the contrary, the Planning Commission was depending on bureaucrats who had little knowledge or background about the rural economy. The officers concerned collected requisite data from their subordinates. What was necessary was to collect the data from the people's representatives who moved about with the people in villages and knew better the character of the villages and understand the miseries of the people. Things would not get right until and unless the Planning Commission, in consultation with the Members of Parliament, prepared a production-oriented time-bound programme and fixed responsibilities for implementation on various States and other agencies.

### *Development in Karnataka*

In regard to Karnataka, the Planning Commission could not identify the development of just more than 13 per cent of the area under irrigation. The minor irrigation programmes had not been taken up. Most of the projects which had been started in Karnataka had not been completed. No programme had been envisaged for identifying the backward regions in Karnataka.

### *Agro-based industries*

Agro-based industries had got to be set up in various rural parts of the country to create rural employment. Certain processing in-

dustries had to be established on a big scale. If that kind of a programme had been launched in the Southern States, including Karnataka, that could have relieved the unemployment problem.

### *Exploitation of Mineral Wealth in Karnataka*

Some of the districts in Karnataka had been identified as backward but no extra financial assistance had been provided by the Planning Commission. The concessions were not granted equally to other districts which were identified as backward. The Planning Commission had not even envisaged any special or specific programme to exploit the mineral wealth of Karnataka which would have created self-sufficiency in mineral and its allied industries.

### *A Village Plan*

A Village plan should be prepared according to the resources available in the villages concerned, so that the people who were unemployed could be absorbed in such village programmes. This should also be envisaged in the Plan. An attempt should be made to be more realistic.

**SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:** The Plan was being imposed on the people through bureaucracy. Some sort of a mechanism should be devised so that the people could participate in the Plan-making process.

### *Land Reforms*

Land reforms had so far been implemented half-heartedly and had proved to be a hoax. The success of the planning largely depended really on the 75 per cent of the population who lived in the villages and who gave 50 per cent of the total revenue. All the necessary land reforms should be completed within two years so as to free India from the feudal clutches.

The land reform implementation machinery from top to bottom should be re-organised. Tenancy rights should be granted and landless tenants should be given land. Surplus land should be distributed to the poorest strata of the society in the villages. One could not agree with the contention that the implementation of land reforms had been done fairly efficiently.

### *Strategy*

The Fifth Five Year Plan was vague and its strategy was not at all defined. The whole strategy of the Plan should therefore, be

spelt out. There should be a clear definition of the landholder. While framing the Draft Plan, the interests of poor agriculturists and peasants and of tribal people and scheduled castes should be taken into consideration. These things had not been done. The spirit of the Indian village life should be reflected in the Plan. This was utterly lacking in the Plan document.

### *Research and Development*

What had been done in regard to research and development was completely isolated from the masses. The expenditure in respect of research and development had thus become infructuous.

### *Growth of Jute and Tea Industries*

In respect of West Bengal, in the sphere of jute and tea, not sufficient research and development work had taken place. Necessary steps should be taken for the development and growth of the jute and tea industries.

### *Bifurcation of Agriculture Ministry*

The Ministry of Agriculture as at present constituted had to deal with so many items. It was not feasible for a single Ministry to tackle effectively such a large number of essential problems. It should be considered whether there was need to bifurcate the subjects so that they might be dealt with by two separate Ministries.

**SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA:** The Plan document did not contain any mention in regard to classification of land into various categories with regard to their fertility. It did not also specify the acreage of land to be brought under cultivation of food crops and commercial crops, separately.

### *Agricultural Prices*

No basis had been laid down in the Plan on which prices of agricultural produce would be fixed. Similarly, no indication had been made as to what would be the basis of fixing prices of agricultural inputs to be supplied to peasants.

### *Ownership of Land*

Land should be owned by the tiller who could give the maximum produce out of it.

### *Afforestation Schemes*

The policy of deforestation was not in the public interest. Adequate attention should be given to afforestation schemes.

### *Land Ceiling*

State Governments did not seem to be keen to implement the land ceiling legislations. This aspect needed to be looked into.

### *Draft Plan Unrealistic*

The Plan had got to be prepared keeping in view the realities of the situation. The Planning Commission had miserably failed from this point of view inasmuch as the Draft Plan was not realistic.

### *Agency for Implementation of the Plan*

The Planning Commission had not envisaged any agency to look to the implementation of the Plan. For instance, it had suggested an increase in the production of milk but no provision had been made for the development of pastures and production of fodder.

### *State Agency to Look After Planning and Development*

There was no department of the Central Government or Planning Commission to plan for an increase in sugarcane production in Bihar. It was the responsibility of the State Government. Every State should have a department to look after the work of planning and developing the agricultural crops.

Planning should envisage a penal code to provide for punishment to those officers who failed to discharge their duties properly.

### *Supply of Electricity to Farmers*

Timings should be specified for the supply of electricity to farmers for energising the tubewells for minor irrigation purposes.

The entire Plan should be recast in view of the sharp rise in the prices of various essential commodities like petrol, diesel etc.

SHRI T. N. SINGH: The Draft Plan was framed with the assumption that the price level would stay at a particular level. The fact, however, was that the prices did not remain at the level at which calculations were made, that is, 1972-73 level. The Draft Plan would, therefore, have to be recast.



### *Higher Rate of Growth Necessary*

Agriculture was the most important sector from the point of view of raising the growth rate. Attempts should be made to have a higher rate of growth in agriculture than in any other sector of economy.

During the Fifth Plan, the wheat production, was envisaged to grow at an annual compound rate of 4.8 per cent. This was rather on the low side. A growth rate of at least 6-7 per cent should have been aimed at, because wheat was the only foodgrain in respect of which 'green revolution' had really succeeded. The envisaged growth rate of 4.8 per cent was even lower than the one reached during the Fourth Plan, viz., 5.2 per cent.

Similarly higher growth rates should be visualised in respect of rice, pulses and oilseeds.

### *Small Farmers' Economy*

In India, agriculture was pre-dominantly a small farmer's economy. The entire agricultural programme would have to be chalked out on the assumption that by and large it would be intensive farming by the small farmers. That would need large investments on small farming. The capacity of savings for the private sector in agriculture was rather low. It was obvious that private sector would not be able to make the investments required under the green revolution. That aspect must be borne in mind while planning for agriculture.

### *Community Development Strategy*

The Community Development strategy needed to be drastically changed. Serious thought should be given to evolving a suitable machinery in place of the Community Development Programme.

### *Priority to Low Gestation Period Projects*

The higher rate of growth could be made possible in agricultural sector and small and cottage industry sector. In order to have a high rate of growth preference would have to be given to low gestation period projects which did not require a very high rate of investment. That kind of strategy should be adopted.

### *Two-way Increase in Production*

Increase in agricultural production could be achieved by two methods, first by increasing the area under cultivation, or by having

multi-cropping, and secondly by introducing high-yielding varieties. Both the things had got to be done.

### *New Areas under Cultivation*

The programme in regard to bringing new areas under cultivation should be a really ambitious one, but it was completely lacking in the Plan. It should be worked out as to what would be the investment required for bringing in new areas under cultivation, because high-yielding varieties could not be introduced overnight all over the country.

### *Extensive Programme for Minor Irrigation*

It had also to be considered as to the manner in which multi-cropping programmes could be introduced in areas fed largely by irrigation facilities. For this purpose, it would not be enough to depend upon huge dams whose gestation period had been as long as nine or ten years and which involved high inflationary investments. More reliance would necessarily have to be placed on tube-wells, tanks, wells, etc. A very extensive programme would have to be worked out for this purpose and this programme would have to be made an essential part of the Plan. These programmes would yield quicker results and at the same time involve lesser investment. Higher priority should, therefore, be given to the small, medium and minor irrigation programmes, so that multi-cropping might be resorted to.

### *Commercial Crops*

Appropriate targets should be fixed for the production of cotton, jute and other commercial crops. The import of long staple cotton could be avoided by intensifying cotton crops in Punjab, Rajasthan and other cotton-producing areas.

### *Area Planning*

As regards the rural workers, we should have a strategy of what was called in planning terminology area planning. The Planning Commission should apply its mind and see what it could do to expedite the whole methodology of area planning. It should be planned and started.

**SIRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:** The Draft Plan, like the previous Plans, had been a fine exercise of intellectual wisdom, but the Plans had failed in so far as their implementation was concerned.

### *Neglected Sector*

The agricultural sector had been a neglected one and it continued to be so. The outlay in regard to the agricultural sector had been on the decrease.

#### *Consultation with M.P.s before Submission of Plan to N.D.C.*

What would have been more appropriate was that before the Draft Plan was put up before the National Development Council, the Members of Parliament should have been taken into confidence.

#### *Lack of Finality about Land Reform Measures*

One of the main aspects in the agricultural sector had been the lack of finality about land reforms. Generally, there had been failures in the implementation of land reform measures in various States. In Bihar, for instance, land reform measures were yet to be implemented and whatever measures had been adopted were nothing more than a mere hoax. The so-called land reforms had created a paradise for corruption, which, in turn, had completely shaken the faith of the common man in the land reform measures. There should, therefore, be some finality in the matter of land ceiling and that finality should come about forthwith so that measures could be implemented vigorously. It would be desirable if means were found out to associate Parliament with the implementation process of land reform measures. For, otherwise, there was no likelihood of any meaningful land reforms coming forth in the country even during the Fifth Plan period. A decisive political will was an essential prerequisite for that purpose.

#### *Attention to Sinking of Tube wells*

As regards irrigation, more attention should be given to besides major irrigation projects, the programme of providing tubewell irrigation facilities. In Bihar, for instance, the State Government could not sink more than 1,100 tubewells, when the Central Government had made an allocation for sinking as many as 1500 tubewells during the year ended 30th June, 1973. Not only that, out of 1100 tubewells sunk, only 300 were energised and it was not known when the remaining 800 tubewells would be energised. The problem of power generation, particularly in the backward regions, was a very difficult and complicated one. Unless measures were taken to resolve that, no solution could possibly be found to the problem of energising the tubewells.

*Thermal Plant in North Bihar:*

The promised thermal plant should be installed in North Bihar.

*Marketing and Credit Facilities:*

Proper marketing facilities should be provided for in the Plan. Rural credit system should be streamlined.

*Rural Road System:*

Substantial allocations should be made for the development of the rural road system.

*Development of Rural Road System:*

Integrated development of agriculture needed attention to many aspects like horticulture, and poultry development. In that regard, a Central Pilot Project should be established in every State covering not only a Block, but at least 10 per cent of the population and also 10 per cent of the area of the State.

*Central Authority for Fixation of Price of Cane:*

A research centre for the improvement of the yield of sugarcane should be established in eastern U.P. or Bihar. There should be a Central authority for fixation of the price of cane considering the yield, inputs, etc.

*Administrative Machinery of Jute Corporation:*

In Bihar, the Jute Corporation of India had failed miserably. There was a lot of corruption in the administrative machinery which purchased jute from the farmer. The cultivators who brought their raw jute to the market were forced to sell it to the merchants at a far lesser price than the price fixed by the Jute Corporation. This kind of administrative machinery would not help the farmers.

SHRI MULKI RAJ SAINI: No method of classification of land had been devised so far. The statistics of production were not related with the quality of land. Any plan for the development of agriculture must co-relate land with water and power resources and the irrigation programmes should be taken up immediately. The planners should adopt a rural approach.

*Farmers' Involvement:*

The farmers should be given all incentives and the necessary implements. Proper machinery should be set up for the marketing of

agricultural produce. Actual tillers of land should have an involvement in the formulation of the Plans.

*Pasture Lands and Horticulture Schemes:*

Sufficient land should be earmarked for developing pasture lands, and horticulture schemes should be given all encouragement. Plans should be formulated keeping in view the rural economy and the interests of the agriculturists.

*Roads Connecting Villages:*

Villages should be connected with roads and ring roads should be constructed to cover a groups of villages. It would also help in easing the housing problem.

*Prompt Execution of Irrigation Schemes:*

The fact that the departments of Irrigation and Power were not under the charge of a Cabinet Minister indicated that this sector had been neglected. If the food production were to be increased there was no other way except to expedite the execution of various irrigation schemes.

Better irrigation facilities were very necessary for good farming. The aim should be to bring all the cultivable land under irrigation during the Fifth or Sixth Plan.

The timings of power supply to farmers should be such that they could make best use of the electricity.

*Farmers' Representation on Agricultural Prices Commission:*

The farmers should be represented on the Agricultural Prices Commission. In matters like fixation of prices of agricultural produce, it was the district level committee or the State level committee which could give proper advice. The Government should call for reports from such committees and take proper action thereon.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: The financial allocation proposed for agriculture in the draft Plan was not inadequate, provided it was properly utilised. Only one third of the amount spent on the welfare of the cultivators actually reached them.

*Finality about Land Reforms:*

Frequent fresh proposals about land reforms created instability in the minds of peasants. Land reform measures should be finalised once and for all.

*No Industry at the cost of Agriculture:*

Industries should not be developed at the cost of agricultural production. Fertile land should not be allotted for industries.

*A Remunerative Price to Farmers:*

All facilities should be given to agriculturists, so that they were induced to increase the production. The farmers should be given reasonable and remunerative prices for their produce. No tax should be imposed on them. Inputs should be supplied at cheaper rates.

*No Food Zones:*

Food zones should be abolished and unrestricted movement of foodgrains allowed.

*A Stable Land Policy:*

A stable land policy should be framed and all the necessary facilities, like the supply of seeds, manures, agricultural implements, should be made available to farmers with a view to giving them an incentive for increasing production.

CH. SADHU RAM: In order to achieve the objective of socialism, it was essential that the growth in agriculture and industry should be accelerated. The Plan should make larger allocations of funds for expenditure in these two sectors. Planning should envisage larger facilities to workers.

*Provision of Tubewells and Tractors:*

Cultivation of land should be undertaken on a cooperation basis. Government should instal tubewells for small farmers and should provide tractors to them at the Block level.

*Agriculture on Cooperative Basis:*

Planning should provide for larger facilities to border States like Punjab. Agriculture should be taken up on a cooperative basis with a view to removing unemployment. Monopoly houses should be curbed.

*Association of Panchayats with Planning:*

No agricultural income tax should be imposed on cultivation. During the process of planning, cooperative societies and the workers working in Panchayats at village level, State level, and the Central

level should be associated with the Plans. The planning had hitherto been defective, which was borne out by the present economic crisis. Co-operative basis should be applied in every field of production.

**DR. LAKSHMINARAYAN PANDEYA:** There was no coordination between the measures undertaken to improve the rural economy and the allocation made for the purpose in the Plan. The Plan should include provision for making irrigation facilities available to all the States in a uniform manner. If one State got more facilities and the other less, to that extent the other State was denied the opportunities of developing itself. Minor irrigation programmes could better achieve that end, and bring immediate results.

*Disparity in Distribution of Electricity:*

There was great disparity among the States in the matter of the production and distribution of electricity. While some States had excess electricity, others did not have enough power to meet their requirements. A grid of surplus States should be set up and electricity generated by them should be supplied to the neighbouring deficit States. Rajasthan and Gujarat, for instance, had a large potential for generation of electricity and the implementation of their schemes could remove the shortage of electricity in deficit States.

*Imbalance in regard to Irrigation and Power:*

In the Draft Plan, some targets had been fixed in regard to irrigation and power, but it had not been considered as to how the imbalance in this regard could be removed.

*Definite Targets for Development of Road Transport:*

Lack of transportation facilities was another bottleneck in the improvement of rural economy. It resulted in the perpetuation of the agency of middlemen and an unreasonable price for the agricultural produce. The Plan should lay down definite targets for the development of road transport and make definite allocations for the same.

*Easy Credit to Farmers:*

The existing system of banking facilities to rural people was dilatory and the difficulties and obstacles in the speedier sanction of loans to farmers had to be removed.

*Machinery for Implementation of Plan:*

Industries had to be earmarked for their location in rural or urban areas. It was also necessary to improve the machinery for the implementation of the Plan. It was due to drawbacks in the implementation machinery that the targets for generation of power and targets for irrigation could not be achieved. The programmes of intensive cultivation had to be continued.



## **II**

### **Second Sitting**

*(January 18, 1974: 10.00 to 10.20 hrs).*

THE CHAIRMAN referred to the sad demise of Shri Kamal Nath Tewari, Chairman, Estimates Committee on the evening of January 17, 1974. The Committee adopted a condolence resolution, mourning the death of Shri Tewari and adjourned without transacting any business as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

### III

#### Third Sitting

(January 19, 1974: 10.00 to 13.00 hrs.)

SHRI N. G. GORAY: The agricultural sector was so important in the country's national life that the highest priority should be given to it. So far as the Fifth Plan target was concerned, the best strategy would be to concentrate on that single sector. In fact the agricultural front should be identified and the Planning Commission should try to concentrate its efforts on that front.

#### *Strategy for Agricultural Sector:*

While finalising the strategy for developing agricultural sector, certain important aspects should be borne in mind. First, the production was to be increased to the maximum in the irrigated areas. In India, only 20 to 30 per cent of the cultivable land was under irrigation. Unless the country took to multiple farming in a big way, it was not possible to achieve high yield as well as provide employment opportunities all round the year. The second thing required to be done was to select certain tracts in the non-irrigated areas or dry lands for having increased production. There were two or three such tracts. One, for instance, was in the eastern U.P., and the other was in the area comprising Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra. Depending on the rainfall, those areas could be singled out for the purpose of increasing the production to the maximum extent. The I.C.A.R. seemed to be very optimistic that if the proper inputs were made available, a substantial increase in production could be effected in those dry areas. The Planning Commission and the Government should, therefore, make substantial efforts to raise the production of foodgrains, particularly in such areas.

#### *Coordination at Both Union and State Levels:*

The third point was about organisation. There, it seemed that the Central Government was helpless so far as agriculture was concerned because it was a State subject. That gordian knot would have to be cut some time. In regard to subjects like irrigation, agriculture, etc., efforts would have to be coordinated at the Union as well as the State levels. The Union must assume the responsibility of doing everything possible to persuade the States, and if the States

did not respond, then, the Union should intervene and see to it that the Plan was executed.

#### *Exploitation of River Waters:*

It was well-known that one of the main sources of irrigation was rivers. Still the river water disputes were allowed to drag on for years. The Narmada waters, for instance, were not being utilised for the last 15 years. Experts said that if Narmada waters were properly harnessed, it would not only be possible to raise billions of quintals of foodgrains, but, it would add to the electric supply. That sort of thing could not be allowed to go on. Therefore, the overall strategy should be to make the maximum use of all the available resources in spite of the fact that the Chief Ministers of the respective States did not see their way out to find a solution.

#### *Organic Manure:*

So long as the country depended on Naptha for the production of fertiliser, the fertiliser crisis would continue. So far as organic manure was concerned, the provision made for the entire country was only Rs. 9 crores. That was a miserably paltry sum and some strenuous efforts were needed to harness all organic manure resources which were available in cities like Bombay, Calcutta etc. Some drastic steps would have to be taken to see that all the human night soil and the immense amount of *gobar*, that were available in cities like Bombay, should be made use of. Something should be done to set up a machinery for turning out the organic manure.

#### *Food from Seas:*

The Government had been neglecting steps to collect food from the sea as far as possible. It was stated that if sufficient funds were made available, it would be possible to get a good number of prawns for home supply and export. The 3000 miles coastline should be properly utilised and all available fish should be caught.

#### *Market Mechanism:*

Even though production had been good during the current year, grains were not finding their way to the market. The same thing was happening in regard to cotton and groundnut. In spite of the estimates of a bumper crop in groundnut, vanaspati was becoming more and more scarce. Some very serious efforts would have to be made to find out why, in spite of the encouragement that the farmer was given, viz., a fixed price for his produce, supply of fertilizer,

canal water, good seeds pesticides etc., he refused to give to the Government what was really due to it. It was a paradoxical situation that when opportunities were created for more production the consumer was left high and dry, because the market mechanism did not work.

### *Rethinking on Grains Take-over.*

The production of sugar during the year was good; but in spite of that, prices were rising. The Ministry of Agriculture would have to take a serious note of it. The entire idea of take-over, whether of wheat or rice, should be abandoned. That Ministry would also have to consider whether the country would do well to throw overboard the entire machinery which was set up and go back to *laissez faire* economy or whether it would go ahead and say that not only wheat but other things would also have to be rationed.

DR. K. RAMAIAH: The targets fixed for agricultural as well as industrial production during the Fourth Plan could not be attained. Despite those facts, higher targets had been proposed for the Fifth Plan. The question arose whether all the administrative and organisational difficulties had been got over.

### *Responsibility of Agricultural Programme with States*

The agricultural programme had to be carried out by the States. Any amount of organisation or strengthening of the set-up by the Union was not going to be of much help. There had been a very uneven success in the matter of achieving targets fixed in the Fourth Plan. The Fifth Plan should enumerate and specify what were the difficulties and how they were proposed to be overcome.

### *Inter-Departmental Cooperation*

There was the necessity for inter-departmental cooperation. There should be full coordination and cooperation between the different departments of the Government. A way must be found to have cooperation and coordination of different agencies in the implementation of the Plan. Otherwise, the Plan targets would not be achieved. Dedicated and trained men were absolutely necessary, right from the bottom to the top, for that purpose.

### *Training of Workers*

In States, the agriculture departments and the agricultural universities did not cooperate and work together. The agricultural universities should play a leading part in the matter of training which

was absolutely necessary. It was gratifying to learn that the Fifth Plan proposals specified that the provision of grants to universities should be made condition to the effect that they cooperated and carried out the agricultural programmes for the success of the Plan. That should be strictly adhered to.

#### *Additional Area Under Crops*

As regard the targets fixed, both for area as well as for production, the Fifth Plan proposals were that an additional area of 11 million hectares was to be brought under crops. It was true that by introducing irrigation a dry land could be made more productive. But that did not mean that the requisite extension of area under crops would come about. It was doubtful whether the extension of area under cultivation would be as much as 11 million hectares of land in the Fifth Plan.

#### *Afforestation*

The Plan had mentioned that there should not be a further clearance of forests. But already, the country's forest area had been reduced to the minimum. It would not be proper to aim at the horizontal growth. The growth in vertical direction should be aimed at. More yield should be obtained from the existing area rather than extending such areas.

#### *Ambitious Plan Targets*

With regard to production targets, in the case of food crops, it might be possible to reach them with some difficulty. But in the case of pulses and cotton, the targets were a bit too ambitious. With regard to oil seeds, efforts should be concentrated on production of soyabean and sunflower. With regard to those new crops, the extension of areas should also go hand in hand with proper arrangements for procuring processing and marketing.

#### *Targets for Fertilisers*

As regards the question of increasing production, nearly two thirds of the increase in production was expected to be achieved by growing high-yielding varieties of seeds. There was a popular conception that growing of high-yielding varieties was inter-related to the output of fertilisers. The target of consumption in the Fourth Plan was about 54 lakh tonnes of fertilisers. The actual availability in the last year of the Fourth Plan was only 30 lakh tonnes. The Fifth Plan target was about 80 lakh tonnes. The target of 80 lakh tonnes of fertilisers was somewhat high.

### *Increase in Production of Rice*

In regard to wheat, it could be imported on payment of a good price. But in the case of rice that was not possible. Rice was scarce in the whole world market. Rice production must, therefore, be increased, because that was the key crop for India. Where there were irrigation facilities for more than ten to eleven months, non-photosensitive variety-short duration crops should be grown repeatedly. In peninsular India, the temperature permitted the growing of paddy throughout the year. There was an impression that the growing of high-yielding variety of rice was dependent on the availability of fertiliser. That was not correct. A high-yielding variety could yield much better than the normal variety even with a smaller quantity of fertiliser or even without fertiliser. That point had got to be emphasized.

### *Organic Manure*

Since the introduction on a large scale of the use of chemical fertilisers the enthusiasm or the activity about the use of organic manure had gone down. That was just the time to resuscitate it to the maximum possible extent so that every organic waste was brought back to the soil. Lack of power and lack of fertiliser could be compensated by the introduction on a very large scale on *gobar* gas plant.

### *Organisation for Procurement and Distribution*

It was all very well that handsome targets were fixed for agricultural production. But, if the foodgrains were not properly procured, stocked and made available when the necessity arose, the whole Plan would be a failure. So, something had to be done to improve the administration, as otherwise production alone was not going to solve the problem.

**SHRI NATHU RAM AHIRWAR:** A study should be made as to how the deficiencies in the implementation of the earlier Plans could be removed. Since agriculture could play an important role in removing the regional imbalances, the Plan should furnish a direction as to how better facilities of lift irrigation and other minor irrigation could be provided to agriculturists. If better facilities of irrigation were made available in backward regions, the agricultural production would show a remarkable growth.

### *Need for Setting Up Rural Engineering Service*

In order to bring about co-ordination in the manifold activities in the field of agriculture, Government should set up a Rural Engineering Service with their personnel at each block level. It would

maintain a liaison and bring about coordination in various Government departments such as irrigation, P.W.D., Public Health Service, etc. The entire machinery should be so devised that everyone, right from the village level worker to the highest authority, took keen interest in his job.

### *Animal Husbandry and Afforestation*

Efforts should be made to bring about adequate development of animal husbandry and larger use of *gobar* manure. Adequate afforestation should also be undertaken.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA: Agriculture was the backbone of Indian economy. But in the Draft Fifth Plan there was no specific strategy to be adopted on the national front.

### *Major Factors Impeding Growth of Indian Agricultural Economy*

Two major factors impeded the growth of Indian agricultural economy. These were: structural factors and dependence on uncertainties of nature. The physical proportion of land in the country was fixed. The modern farm technology suited to intensive small scale agriculture. What was important was that the farmer must put his heart into it. But, at the same time, the land must be redistributed. That would increase production, provide more employment in the country and help bring the element of social justice into the rural economy.

Another factor impeding the growth in agriculture was the country's dependence not only on the vagaries and uncertainties of nature, but also on the cruelties and calamities of nature. The planners must give top priority to improve the agricultural economy by providing protection from the natural calamities.

### *More Stress on Organic Manure*

As regards the use of fertilisers, one could agree with the statement that the dependence on chemical fertilisers was rather misplaced. In India, organic manure had a big role to play. Indian farmers knew about it from their traditional experience. Some of the experts held that the ratio of chemical fertilisers to organic fertilisers should be 1 to 10. But, in actual practice, it had gone down to 1 to 5. If it was desired to reduce the dependence on imported chemical fertilisers, the proportion of 1 to 10 between chemical and organic fertilisers should be restored. Water weeds were available

in plenty in the Assam region. It had very rich carbon contents and that could be used as a fertiliser. Fertilisers could also be produced out of the pyrites. Efforts should be made to manufacture fertilisers from gypsum as well. Coal and gypsum were available in the country. Fertilisers could be made out of the raw materials available within the country. There was no need to go in for the liquid fuels and other ultra-modern technologies.

### *Bringing Fresh Land under Plough*

The objectives of increasing the agricultural production could be achieved by bringing in fresh lands under plough. There were millions of hectares of unreclaimed saline lands and ravine lands. There were vast extents of ravine lands in the U.P., Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. About seven million hectares of saline land and brackish land was available in the country. Certain scientific practices had proved that by application of gypsum, all the saline lands could be reclaimed. By having an army of a lakh of young men, known as 'Land Reclamation Army', that could be achieved. They could be usefully employed by giving the tools and the so-called wherewithal with which they would be able to reclaim and cultivate the land. Thus, within five years, millions of hectares of virgin lands could be brought under plough. In that way, on the one hand, the country could provide useful productive employment to a large number of unemployed people and, on the other, increase the agricultural production.

### *More Rational Distribution of Water*

A rational and more scientific distribution of water was necessary. A new strategy of land and water management through lift canals, lift channels and lift irrigation should be introduced so that it could be feasible to plan for everyone for a better future.

### *Crash Programmes*

The crash programme was unproductive and it was taken up on *ad hoc* basis only. Crash programme for the rural employment should be integrated with the area development programme for productive activities.

SHRI RANA BAHADUR SINGH: Whatever had happened on the agricultural front in the country was not brought about by planning. Immediately after the drought in 1966-67, the country had the good luck of coming into contact with Dr. Borlogue's findings



of iodisation of wheat. Dr. Borlague's hybrid wheat could be tried which could give four times the yield which Indian farmers used to get by their traditional method. That was a lesson which had been lost sight of in Draft Plan.

### *Non-productive Expenditure Causes Inflation*

The basic difficulty in giving good market price to the agricultural producer was the inflationary aspect of such payments. The inflation was not there because the farmers had produced less, but, because the Government expenditure was more on administrative and non-productive part of the economy. If the phenomenon of inflation was made an excuse not to give the farmer adequate price for their produce, then the priorities were misplaced.

### *Research on Millet*

One important factor that was missing in the Plan was research on the millet production. Almost the entire expenditure on research had been concentrated on wheat and rice which were comparatively rich men's crop.

### *Small Tractors*

On the one hand ceiling was fixed on the land holdings of a family, and, on the other, large tractors meant for double the area of the land allowed to be held by a family were manufactured. Once a decision had been taken to limit the land holdings, it should be seen that only small tractors were allowed to be manufactured. No import should be allowed of tractors which were meant for a thousand acre farm.

Licences should be granted also for the manufacture of small harvesting units which could be fitted on the hand-tractors as being used in Japan.

### *Quick Land Survey*

There were many regions in the country where land survey had not been done for the preceeding 30 to 40 years. It was high time that stress was laid on the land survey and an outright moratorium given on further land fragmentation.

SHRI RANBIR SINGH: In India, 70 per cent of the people depended on land. Unless the balance was set right the rural economy would never be rehabilitated.

### *Development of Rural Industries*

The country's rural economy had been disturbed because rural industries—cottage and small scale—had not been given proper attention. Heavy industries—large and medium industries—had usurped the rural industries and the population which depended upon rural industries had been thrown on agriculture. Rural industries would have to be developed.

### *Financial—Ceilings on Expenditure in Rural Sector*

In regard to programmes of agriculture, there should not be any financial ceiling for the purpose of their implementation. The opinion that the investment in rural sector created inflation was a fallacy. The programmes which brought results in the same year could not add to inflation.

### *Cultivation of Maize, Jowar etc.*

In the past, the country had done better in rice, wheat, but not in maize, jowar, bajra and other crops. To have more maize, jowar and bajra, irrigation facilities would have to be augmented in hilly, tribal and desert areas.

### *Non-chemical Fertilisers*

As regards fertilisers, the allocation made for the production of fertilisers other than chemicals fertilisers should be increased.

### *Gobar Gas Plant*

Gobar Gas Plant allocation would not help to solve the fertiliser problem. It was not feasible in the present times to do without burning gobar in the rural areas.

### *Interest Charges on Irrigation Projects*

In a country where 70 per cent of the people depended on agricultural, the interest charges were levied on the programmes for creating major and minor irrigation potential. In 1950-51, there was a marginal loss of 58 lakhs of rupees in irrigation, while during 1970-71 it had gone upto Rs. 150 crores and it was likely to increase further in the next five years. No interest charges should be levied on major or medium irrigation projects or river valley projects. An investment of Rs. 360 crores had already been made by 1973-74 on irrigation, and the normal Plans were disturbed because of the requirement of repayment of loans and payment of interest charges.

### *Cuts in Agricultural Programmes*

Regional imbalances would, no doubt, have to be done away with. But, in the name of regional imbalances, country's economic progress should not be hindered. Punjab and Haryana had the know-how to execute a plan within one year, while other States might take five or six years to complete that work. In areas like Punjab and Haryana, therefore, no cuts should be imposed on agricultural and minor irrigation programmes.

SHRI P. ANKINEEDU PRASADARAO: From the very beginning, the planners had given a wrong priority for several items in the agricultural sector. In the Fifth Plan, agriculture should have been given a much higher priority than it had been given during the previous four Plans. But in the Fifth Plan also, it had been given a lower priority, and the allocations in this regard were being cut down *pro rata*. More stress had to be laid on the agricultural sector.

### *Land Reforms*

In regard to land reforms, there was an apprehension in the minds of the farmers that the lands would be taken away, if not at present, then in future, and, therefore, they were not very keen on developing their lands and in using improved agricultural methods to get better returns therefrom. Therefore, the ceilings, whatever they might be—ten acres or twenty acres—should be finalised, and the process of land reforms speeded up, instead of leaving this matter to the States and allowing them to take their own time to implement it, either the Union should take over this subject and implement it within a year or two or there should be a time-bound programme to be implemented by the States.

### *Capital to landless Labourers*

While redistributing the excess land or the wasteland to the landless labourers, care should be taken to distribute some capital also to them so that they could utilise it for obtaining better yields from the land.

### *Assistance for Small Farmers*

The assistance proposed for the small farmer in the Plan was not enough.

### *Fisheries*

Two other aspects, namely, fisheries and forest wealth, had been ignored completely. The country had a vast coast—line, and it had

to be made use of properly by the development of fisheries. The funds allotted for fisheries were meagre. More funds should be allotted so that more fish could be made available to the people.

#### *Exploitation of Forest Wealth*

The forest wealth was not being exploited to the extent it should be. Ways and means should be found to increase the return from the forests.

#### *Coal Based Fertiliser*

In regard to fertilisers, the planners had made a mistake in basing the fertiliser production on naphtha. Stress should have been laid on fertilisers based on coal or other raw materials which were available in the country.

#### *Fruits of Research*

Since there was no proper coordination between the research institutions and the agricultural universities on the one hand and the agricultural department on the other, very often one found a time-lag of seven to eight years before the results of research percolated to the agriculturists. The process of transference of the fruits of research should be speeded up so that there was not much time-lag and farmers could increase their food production rapidly.

SHRI GENDA SINGH: The Draft Fifth Plan did not suggest any measures for the improvement of the economic condition of about 22 crores of marginal and small farmers, most of whom were living below the poverty line, even if it might not be possible to completely remove the disparity between the rich and the poor, something must be done to improve the lot of these 22 crore people so that they might rise from below the poverty line and join the ranks of those known as the poor. If these unfortunate people could improve their lot the country would automatically rise.

#### *Wells For Irrigation*

In areas where electricity had not yet reached, farmers should be encouraged to dig wells for irrigation. Well-irrigation was very good for growing vegetables etc.

#### *Marketing Facilities*

More marketing facilities should be provided to agriculturists. Particularly in the U.P. and Bihar, cane cultivators were suffering

a lot for want of proper marketing facilities. Unless something was promptly done in that direction, the poor peasants would not survive any longer.

### *More Allocation Needed*

While no effective steps were being taken to curb the growth of monopoly houses, the agricultural sector was not receiving what was its due. The proportion of allocations for this sector was very meagre as compared to the First Plan.

### *Farmers' Education*

More attention should be given to farmers' education so that they might be better equipped for engaging themselves in cultivation or other rural industries.

### *Growth Rate*

According to the Plan document, the projected rate of growth for agriculture for the Fourth Plan Was 5.0 per cent. Against this, the achievements during the years 1969-70, 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73 were 5.1, 4.7, -1.7 and -5.5 per cent, respectively. Far from registering an increase, the growth rate became 'minus' in 1971-72 and 1972-73. On the other hand, in the field of public administration and defence the projected growth rate was 2.0 per cent. and actual achievements rose as higher as 12.1 and 8.9 per cent during 1971-72 and 1972-73, respectively. That merely showed the neglect on the part of administration towards agriculture. That state of affairs should improve.

PANDIT D. N. TIWARY: The statistics on which production targets were based were unrealistic. It was not known on what lines the statistics were collected. The entire Statistical Division should be stream lined and geared up.

### *Implementation Machinery*

The machinery for implementation of the Plan was defective. The block development committees set up to handle the development work were the dens of corruption and misappropriation.

### *Consolidation of Holdings*

No consolidation of holdings had so far been made and the land ceilings had also not been fixed. The slogan "Land to the Tillers" had not been implemented.

### *No Piecemeal Schemes for Irrigation*

There had been no adequate utilisation of water. Irrigation schemes should not be taken up piecemeal.

### *Service and Repair Centres*

Government should make available tractors in each village development block and set up their own service and repair centres.

### *Amenities to Agriculturists*

Government should also provide necessary amenities to agricultural labour, like hospitals, entertainment centres etc.

### *Agricultural Credit*

The existing facilities for obtaining agricultural credit were inadequate and they should be increased.

### *Storage and Warehousing*

Adequate facilities should be provided for storage and warehousing.

### *Soil Conservation*

Funds allocated for soil conservation schemes were insufficient. No long-term scheme had been made in that regard. More attention should be paid to that aspect.

**SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA:** The outlay on agriculture was low. Agriculture accounted for 45 per cent of the national income, but the public sector outlay on agriculture and irrigation was only 20.1 per cent of the total outlay. The rate of growth provided for was 4.7 per cent, only just above 2.5 per cent in the growth rate of population. Therefore, the investment on agriculture and irrigation must be increased.

### *Rural-Oriented Plans*

The Draft Plan recognised that the infrastructure for credit and other inputs had been markedly weak. Unless that infrastructure

was strengthened, all the plans were likely to go awry. The Plans continued to be urban-oriented with the result that small farmers were unable to get the assistance they required.

### *Research Institutions*

In the Fourth Plan, a good deal of emphasis was laid on high yielding varieties of seeds. But they were susceptible to pests and they required more care and guidance. Farmers had to be informed about the proper dosage of fertilisers to be used and also of the results achieved in the research laboratories. There was a great deal of difference between actual field conditions and controlled field trials. Plans had to be formulated on that basis. The allocation of Rs. 243 crores for research work was very negligible. The country would require at least 100 such institutions with an approximate outlay of Rs. 1000 crores.

### *Emphasis on Minor Irrigation*

So far as irrigation was concerned, the entire country had to be mapped out in zones. In those areas which had got assured rainfall and irrigation facilities, all that was needed were inputs. In areas with unstable irrigation facilities, assured irrigation would have to be provided for. Particular emphasis should be laid on sinking and energising tubewells and other modes of minor irrigation. There had been great slackness in the energisation of tubewells.

### *Provision for Fertilisers Inadequate*

Regarding the question of fertilisers, whatever be the assumption, it was apprehended that they might not be realised, largely because of the price rise. The existing provision for fertiliser programme would appear to be too meagre for the gigantic or massive work proposed in the Plan.

### *Integrated Price Policy*

The Planning Commission should revise the investment pattern. There was need for having an integrated price policy. Fixing the price of foodgrains alone in isolation and without taking into consideration the high cost of production was not an adequate stimulus or incentive to the farmers.

### *Targets Need Revision*

The Plan might be all right on paper but when it came to real execution, the whole objective got diluted. Power should be given to the Planning Commission to act as watch-dog to see that whatever

plans were made were properly implemented and the targets realised. The targets of earlier Plans had not been realised, therefore, the targets needed to be revised and investment efforts to be stepped up.

SHRI K. G. DESHMUKH: Targets had been fixed in the Fifth Plan on a five-yearly basis and not on yearly basis as it used to be the practice in the previous Plans. It was not known as to why a departure had been made. It would have been better if yearly targets had been fixed, for that would have enabled one to know the yearly progress made in achieving the set targets.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: (*Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning*): In view of the vagaries of nature, it would be better if instead of annual targets, endeavours were made to achieve the plan targets over a period of five years.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: The Planning Commission should publish some sort of annual progress report, so as to give an idea about the extent of progress made towards the fulfilment of the set targets.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: So far as physical targets were concerned, in the discussion held with the State Governments, progress was assessed not only in terms of money spent, but also in terms of the physical planning. The Planning Commission would be all too happy to report whatever physical programmes were prepared and also the manner in which the programmes were being implemented.

SHRI K. G. DESHMUKH: While fixing targets for agricultural production, the cultivators should be assured of remunerative price for their produce. If the Plan could provide that the agriculturists would get a particular return if they produced a commodity, as was being done in Australia in respect of wheat and some other commodities, it would certainly help the agriculturists in producing more. If the agriculturists did not get a good return from a particular commodity, they would naturally switch over to the production of some other commodity, which was more paying to them.

#### *Statutory Board to Fix Prices of Food-grains*

There should be a statutory board for wheat, jowar, maize, cotton and other commodities which should have the power not only to fix the prices of particular commodities but also for providing for the supply of fertilisers and other inputs required by the agriculturists.



### *Agricultural Credit*

The small farmers could not produce unless sufficient credit was given to them. The cooperative societies should follow the system of giving credit not according to the holdings but according to the crop. The banks should also give credit on the basis of crop yield.

### *Crop Insurance*

There should be a scheme for crop insurance. The crop insurance should be adopted as an experimental measure at least in the case of major commodities like wheat, jute and cotton. If it were to be done, there should be a boost in yield in farming.

### *Irrigation Planning*

As regards irrigation, the backwardness of certain areas had not been taken into consideration. While preparing the Plan, the Planning Commission should take into consideration the backwardness of some of the States like Bihar and Eastern U.P. Unless there was irrigation, there was no guarantee of a return from agriculture and people would hesitate to invest money in agriculture.

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: While discussing overall strategy of the agricultural programme, it was necessary to take note of the development changes that had taken place in the Indian agrarian system since Independence. The agrarian policy hitherto adopted aimed at developing capitalist method of agriculture. Bulk of the Plan aids such as credit facilities etc. had gone to capitalist landlords and rich peasants. The main beneficiaries of those facilities were the landlords and rich peasants. The agrarian reforms had been patently tuned up to the realisation of such structural changes in the rural society. The problem of agriculture could not be solved unless the Government's attention was shifted to the poorer sections who were really the tillers of the soil.

### *Small Farm Holdings*

In the Draft Plan, it was quoted that in India most agricultural holdings were small. Statistics showed that sixty per cent of the land owing peasantry were having below five acres. The vast majority were small, marginal and middle farmers, who were the main producers of agricultural commodities. They were not in a position to re-invest for the production out of their savings. Unless and until the small farm holdings were made productive, the agricultural production could not be increased.

### *Credit Facilities to Small Farmers*

Experience had also shown that yield per acre of small farmers was considerably higher than in the bigger farms. At present the Plan aids in most cases were out of reach of the ordinary farmers. The prices of fertilisers were very high. In the Fifth Plan draft, only about 40 per cent of the short-term credit out of Rs. 1700 crores was allotted in favour of the small farmers. That was not sufficient. Institutional credit facilities should be fully assured to the small farmers. Separate credit societies, exclusively for small and marginal farmers, should be organised.

### *Fertiliser Distribution*

The fertilisers distribution should also be taken over by the State agencies and the prices should be controlled. There was no change in the perspective regarding marketing in the Draft Plan.

### *Agricultural Marketing*

Reasonably remunerative prices should be fixed and there must be guarantee for the farmers for getting fixed prices. The prices of inputs necessary for agricultural production should be controlled. The wholesale trade should be completely eliminated and the necessary inputs be supplied at the time of effecting procurement.

### *Top Priority to Land Reforms*

The Draft Plan itself admitted the failure in land reforms and tenancy legislations. The land reforms measures taken so far and implemented upto now were not in favour of the tiller. Approximately, twenty-one million tenants and share-croppers had been evicted between 1961 and 1971. Urgent steps were needed to stop eviction and restructuring the agrarian set-up by breaking up concentration of land and distributing the same among landless peasants and conferring ownership rights on the tenants and share-croppers. Top priority should, therefore, be given to the vital question of land reforms which would generate the base and increase the scope for more production.

### *Taxation Policy vis-a-vis Small Peasants*

As regards taxation, there were proposals in the Draft Plan for tax on agricultural income. The taxation policy should not in any way affect the strata of the peasantry.

*Proposal for Major Irrigation Projects*

In the Draft Plan, there was no proposal for any new major irrigation projects. Sometimes back there were suggestions regarding Ganga-Cauvery link. No mention of it had been made in the Draft Plan. Due consideration should be given to this project by the Planning Commission.

*Minimum Wages to Agricultural Labour*

In the whole Plan, nothing had been mentioned about the agricultural labour. The Planning Commission should consider that and set national guidelines to fix minimum wages for the agricultural labour.

## IV

### Fourth Sitting

(January 19, 1974: 14.00 to 17.30 hrs.)

**SHRI SYED HUSSAIN:** In order to facilitate growth in agricultural production, the first essential thing was that education should be imparted through project methods in the basic primary schools.

#### *Rural Development*

Urbanisation should not be encouraged. Rural population should be provided with all the amenities so that they might not be inclined to leave villages and move to cities.

#### *Animal Husbandry*

Animal husbandry should be given adequate attention.

#### *Forest and River Resources*

The forest and river resources in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and hilly tracts of U.P. had not been fully exploited. Steps should be taken to utilise them.

**SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN:** The small farmers and the agricultural labourers constituted a vast majority in the total population of the country. They had not benefited from the planned economic development. So, the allocation made in the Fifth Five Year Plan for agriculture should be increased.

#### *Land Reforms*

The correct implementation of land reforms would bring about a great change in the economic development of the country.

#### *SFDA Programmes*

In order to help the small farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture had initiated a scheme known as the Small Farmers Development Agency Programme. In view of the useful role likely to be played

by such organisation, the Fifth Plan strategy should be revised on the following lines. First, the SFDA programmes started in the States during the Fourth Plan should be continued and extended to all districts of the States. The SFDA scheme was meant to improve the economic conditions of the small farmers. Under that scheme, the farmers possessing less than three acres of land were receiving loans through the cooperative societies. Secondly, whatever increase had occurred in the price of cattle feed must be subsidised. Thirdly, the interest on loans given by the SFDA might be completely condoned. Fourthly, the term of repayment of the loan might be extended. Fifthly, emergent financial assistance might be sanctioned to farmers for overcoming their difficulties. Sixthly, a Commission might be appointed, consisting of representatives of the small farmers to redress their grievances. Seventhly, steps should be taken to see that the loan taken by the small farmers did not in any way disqualify them for taking new loans in the future from the cooperative societies.

#### *Supply of Inputs to Small Farmers*

The small and marginal farmers should be supported by advisory service and timely supplies of agricultural credit, high quality seeds and fertilisers, plant protection service and irrigation facilities on a priority basis. The medium and minor irrigation projects should be completed within a period of two to three years.

#### *Production and Distribution of Foodgrains*

The use of fertilisers in the rural areas was not sufficiently widespread. The production of foodgrains was, therefore, not sufficient for meeting the demand. Whatever foodgrains were produced in the country, should be made available to the common man at a reasonable price. Hoarding and black-marketing should be checked if the foodgrains were to be made available to the common man.

#### *Optimum Utilisation of Land*

The strategy of agricultural development should be the optimum utilisation of land.

#### *Remunerative Price to Growers*

Regarding commercial crops like oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton, jute, etc., the growers should be guaranteed a reasonable price for their produce.

### *Coconut Board*

In respect of plantation crops, like cashewnut, coconut, pepper, banana, tea, rubber, coffee, etc., there was shortfall in production as compared to the target. In respect of coconut, a Coconut Board should be constituted for protecting the interest of coconut cultivators and coconut plantations. The Central Government should make provision in the Fifth Plan to constitute a Cashew Plantation Corporation so that the cashew industry, which was earning a large amount of foreign exchange, could be developed on proper lines.

### *Timely Supply of Foodgrains to States*

Those of the States experiencing shortage of foodgrains should be supplied adequate quantity of foodgrains in time. Kerala was facing shortage of foodgrains every year. Some provision should be made in the Plan to meet such situations.

### *Land Reforms*

Priority should be given to the implementation of land reforms:

#### *Financial Assistance to Farmers*

Financial and technical assistance should be made available to the small and marginal farmers. The procedure to get loans from the co-operatives and banks should be liberalised.

#### *Anti-Sea Erosion Work*

Anti-sea-erosion work should be carried out by the Central Government.

#### *Seeds and Fertilisers*

High yielding varieties of seeds and fertilisers and technical assistance should be given to the farmers in time.

#### *Pest Control*

All measures should be taken to protect the food crops, commercial crops and other plantation crops from disease.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: The Draft Plan looked more like an exercise in essay writing. If examined from a realistic point of view, it contained very little.

#### *Agricultural Sector Neglected*

It was common knowledge that while preparing all the Plans,

agriculture had been given little importance. It was the agricultural sector which warranted the highest priority. Had only one-tenth of the amount spent on the import of foodgrains been used for the development of agriculture, the country would have had no shortage of foodgrains. The root cause of all that was that the planning was done by those who had little knowledge about the conditions in villages.

#### *Production Figures Fictitious*

The production figures given in the Plan document were not based on facts. Those were fictitious figures and to base the Plan on those figures was a mere hoax.

#### *People's Involvement in Plan making*

About 44 crores of people out of the total population of 55 crores lived in rural areas. If such a vast number of people were neglected, they would not tolerate the situation any more. What was actually required was that the people should be taken into confidence while planning for the agricultural sector. There had been no involvement of the people in the process of planning.

#### *Village-wise Survey*

Before planning for the agricultural sector, a village-wise survey should be conducted to find out the actual requirements of each village regarding tractors, irrigation, drinking water, hospitals, housing, schools etc. A centre should be set up in a block of villages which should arrange for servicing of tractors, supply of seeds and other inputs and also for consultancy service for agricultural development. Each village panchayat should be asked to supply information regarding their requirements for bringing about the increase in agricultural production. A list of minor or major projects within that particular area should be drawn up and planning should be done on the basis of that list. Aid should be given according to their known requirements.

**SHRI SULTAN SINGH:** Allocation of funds for agricultural development had not been made in the Plan according to the proportion of income from agriculture in the total national income. Larger allocation of funds should have been made for such minor irrigation projects as yielded quick results.

#### *Suspicious about Land Reform should be removed*

A farmer was confused on account of controversies about land ceiling and agricultural income-tax. He should be assured that his land would not be touched for the next 5 to 10 years so as to remove

his suspicion and apathy for larger investment in agriculture. Land reform legislations had failed to bring about the desired results in regard to the provision of land to landless labourers. They had simply created confusion in the minds of agriculturists, which had ultimately resulted in the decline in agricultural production.

**SHRI ROSHAN LAL:** The most essential thing for the development of agriculture was that the basic needs of the farmer, such as the supply of fertilisers, water for irrigation, electricity, seeds etc., should be fulfilled first. These things should be supplied to him at subsidised rates. A remunerative price should be paid to the farmer for his produce. The agricultural production would show a remarkable rise if those conditions were fulfilled. Adequate attention had not been given in the past to improve the rural economy in the country.

#### *Larger Allocations for meeting Farmer's Requirements*

Minor and lift irrigation, means of communications, roads etc., should be given a higher priority. Larger allocation of funds should be made for meeting the basic requirements of farmers.

#### *Co-operative Farming*

Land reforms had not been actually implemented. If the Planning Commission really desired to provide a livelihood to the landless labourers, the land should first be vested in Government and then redistributed according to the prescribed ceiling. The, co-operative farming should then be undertaken.

#### *Agriculture might be declared an Industry*

Agriculture might be declared as an industry. That would result in the agricultural production being subject to taxation like other industrial production. To save taxes agriculturists would feel inclined to go in for cooperative farming in which every worker would be a share-holder. That would automatically eliminate absentee landlords. That would also provide tillers with land.

#### *Cottage Industries*

Cottage industries should be encouraged by providing better facilities for investment and production. It would help a lot in tackling the problem of rural unemployment.

#### *Soil Testing Laboratories*

Laboratories should be set up in each district in rural areas which,



would undertake the job soil testing and advising the farmers in regard to inputs.

SHRI BIREN DUTTA: The agrarian relations must be changed. For that there must be some political motivation as well as some financial allocation.

### *Land to Tillers*

Nothing was being done to improve the lot of the actual tiller of the soil. In the framework of allocation for the development of agriculture, the majority of the tillers were not at all in the picture. Unless and until the Planning Commission realised the fact that the tillers must be given land first of all and after that they must be given aid for improving their production, there would be no progress in the agricultural sector. That aspect had not come up in the whole approach to the Plan. Attempts should be made to locate the real forces that might help the growth of agriculture. At present agricultural labourers, share-croppers and small peasants were bearing the heavy debt and other forms of exploitation. Unless they were relieved of the burden, the Indian agricultural economy would not prosper.

### *Freeing Agriculturists from Feudal Bonds*

The prices were rising and food riots were taking place. The prevailing imbalances would grow unless the agricultural population was freed from the feudal bond that was still existing.

SHRI BIJOY MODAK: The agricultural sector was the most important sector in the national economy. Yet, the framers of the Plan had not given due importance to it. Even the noted economist Mr. Collins Clerk had said that the framers of Plans had had no sense of priority in regard to that important sector and that was why the Plans had failed.

### *Purposive Planning*

The planning in agricultural production should be purposive. It must narrow down the prevailing inequalities and tally with the broad objectives of the total Plan.

### *People's Involvement Necessary*

There was no involvement of the people in the discussions because the discussion had come so late in the day. Further, if plan-

ning was to be successful, it must have control over the productive elements, namely, the instruments of production.

### *Planning for Distribution*

The planning in agricultural production could not be divorced from the distribution of food. If no planning was made for distribution, then the agricultural produce would be left to the vagaries of the erratic market. Throughout the whole planning, the distribution system had not been dealt with. The increase in production resulting from planning might expand the consumption total of bottom 30 per cent. It did not help in removing the disparity in incomes or in the consumption levels.

### *Concentration of Land*

For augmentation of production, concentration of land in the hands of the top 5 per cent of the people, who held 40 per cent of the land, must be broken, and the land thus released should be distributed among the poor.

### *Distribution of Land Among the Lowest Strata*

By the distribution of land to the lowest ranks, automatically the food was distributed to them. It also created internal market which helped the growth of industry, and thereby solved the urban unemployment. The distribution of land would also resolve the question of hoarding by the top people in the rural areas.

### *Tenancy Laws*

The tenancy laws were not favourable to the tiller. As the land had been meagrely distributed, the credit and cooperative systems had not been helpful.

### *Need for Closer Coordination*

The subjects of land, irrigation and power must be placed in charge of one Central Minister. The lack of co-ordination between those Departments was actually causing so much of dislocation in production.

There was a great need for small irrigation schemes. Adoption of improved methods of agriculture might also augment production.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SAKHALECHA: The question of land reforms should be analysed in proper perspective. The concept of economic holding had lost its import in modern times. Any holding could be made economic by improved methods of agriculture. The talk of ceiling created uncertainty and confusion in the minds of agriculturists. In the existing set-up of things, fragmentation of holdings could not be checked in certain circumstances. It was not, therefore, fair to encourage such land reform measures as created suspicion in the minds of the farmers.

### *Price Policy*

A reference had been made to the price policy in the Plan document. Price policy was an instrument to enthuse the farmer to increase production. The farmer was neither satisfied with the prices fixed nor with the mechanism of fixing the prices. He would be more satisfied if his produce was sold in the open market to the highest bidder.

### *Forest Policy*

The chapter on Forest Policy in the Draft Plan emphasised that Adivasis should specially be given the benefit of forest development programmes. It had been decided in 1952 that one-third of the total land should be earmarked for the development of forests, but it had not been possible to do so. The forests were rather being destroyed by contractors and the Forest Officers. A pragmatic policy should be formulated to preserve and consolidate the forests and to grow plantations for the development of new forests.

### *Inputs at Cheaper Rates*

The current general price rise had created an imbalance in regard to the use of fertilisers, and other inputs in the agricultural activities. They should be made available to the farmer at cheaper rates.

### *Larger Allocation for Quick Return Schemes*

Waterlogging had also got to be checked. It should also be decided that a particular quantity of power generated would be made available for the purpose of lift irrigation. Schemes should be prepared for the supply of power to energise small pumps. Priority should be given to such schemes as yielded quick results. Larger

funds should be allocated in the Plan for a such schemes. The Plan allocations should be revised keeping that point of view in mind.

**SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR:** All major irrigation projects should be taken over by the Central Government and water should be distributed according to the share of the States. Inter-State disputes had obstructed the completion of several projects.

Similarly, all major power projects should also be taken over by the Central Government. They should not be treated as a State subject

#### *Support Price for Each Crop*

There could be no development of agriculture unless the basic policy in regard to rural economy was changed. A fool-proof agricultural policy should be formulated under which a support price should be fixed for each crop, so that a farmer could know in advance what price he would be getting for his produce.

#### *Roads in Rural Areas*

Roads were very important in the rural economy; but adequate provision had not been made in the Plan for construction of roads in the rural areas.

#### *Model Marketing Act*

It was essential to enact a model Marketing Act to save the farmer from the clutches of the traders. A Marketing Act should be enacted at the Central level and enforced in all the States.

#### *Animal Husbandry and Poultry*

It had been found that in the earlier Plans, schemes pertaining to poultry, fisheries and animal husbandry were not implemented and the funds allocated for them had lapsed. That should not be allowed to recur.

#### *Land Reforms*

There could be no growth in agricultural production until land reforms were implemented honestly.

#### *Cooperatives*

Cooperative Societies for marginal and small farmers had not been started on a large scale all over the country.

SHRI V. B. RAJU: The basic factors for agriculture were water and fertiliser. The only important thing about water was its preservation and utilisation. It was found that more water than necessary was being consumed for irrigation. With the same water and with the change in the pattern of cultivation, the area under irrigation could be increased by two times. In fact, no irrigation water should be used during the rainy season. Secondly, it was necessary to prohibit intensive irrigation in drought prone areas beyond a particular limit. In the country, there was still 70 per cent as the dry farming area and in that area water was taken from the underground with the use of electricity. That was going on in the southern part of India. A more correct water policy had got to be properly defined and something had to be done in that respect before a new project was taken up. In that context, one could suggest the establishment of a development authority for each major crop. In the Fifth Plan, there was need to take up one command area, one big project, and to constitute development authorities for the integrated development of the agriculture.

#### *No Break through in Rice and Other crops*

Though it had been possible to achieve a break-through in wheat, such a break-through had not been achieved in respect of rice. In regard to pulses, there was stagnation; in regard to oilseeds, there was fluctuation.

#### *Faulty Distribution of Fertiliser*

In regard to fertiliser, distribution had been faulty. Whatever fertiliser was available should be distributed properly. It should be allotted to the peasantry, which was now subject to levy, who would give some grain in terms of procurement.

#### *Local Government Agencies*

There were several programmes like small farmers programme, marginal farmers programme, drought-prone programme etc. But those programmes were not being implemented properly. The agency of local Government or the Panchayat agency was out of picture, so far as implementation of these programmes was concerned. The Panchayat Samitis and Zilla Parishads were being ignored. It was high time that the Parliament examined as to what was proposed to be done with that big set-up of local Government. In fact, that was the agency which was expected to be helpful in the development of agricultural sector.

### *Community Development Organisation*

The community development organisations and Panchayati Raj institutions should be examined thoroughly. It was not right to completely depend upon the bureaucracy. The community development organisations and the Panchayati Raj institutions should be revitalised and reorganised and the bad elements should be eliminated. Unless it was done, a revolution in regard to agricultural development was not possible.

### *Constitutional Amendment to Provide for Local Government*

The various sectors of power that had sprung up, were creating contradictions. If necessary, the Constitution should be amended to provide for Local Government. This matter could be referred to the Finance Commission also, who could recommend appropriation of necessary resources for the Local Government.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: In the Fourth Plan, adequate importance had not been given to the agricultural sector, compared to industries and other sectors. It might not be enough to suggest that top priority should be given to that Sector. It had been suggested a number of times that there should be a separate Planning Commission in regard to agriculture. But that had not been conceded. There was still time to give serious consideration to that.

*Plan should be recast.*

The whole structure of the Plan should be re-cast. More than 50 per cent of the funds of the total Plan should be allocated for agriculture. It must be dealt with only by the States. A farmer should be assured of an income to live a reasonably decent life. Land ceilings could be fixed, but these should not go against the farmers.

SHRI G. A. APPAN: It was rightly said that agriculture was a State subject and it should be dealt with by people who were nearer the farmer.

### *Farmers' Education*

Farmers should at least get the primary education, so that they developed their civic sense, their social responsibilities, and put in their education and knowledge to improve farming techniques.

### *Ban on Loans to Big Farmers*

Banks were giving loans only to big farmers and not to small and marginal farmers. A ban should be imposed on the grant of loans

by banks to farmers who had got 50—60 acres of land.

### *Small Farmers be organised*

As regards the availability of fertilisers, generally the people who grew cash crops got the fertiliser. Small farmers were not sufficiently organised and so they could not get fertiliser. Government should try to organise the agricultural labour, the small farmers, who owned 3-4 acres of land. The fertiliser distribution and pesticides distribution should be organised not on a cooperative basis but in a joint sector.

### *Fragmentation of Holdings*

As regards the land reforms, the fragmentation of holdings should be prevented.

### *Recasting of Plan*

Unless the prices were controlled and regulated, the periodic price rise would upset the whole Plan. With the rising price level of crude and petroleum products, all the sectors of the Plan were going to be a miserable failure. Government should recast the whole Plan.

**SHRI CHIRANJIB JHA:** The Plan should make such provisions as would enable the farmer to obtain a remunerative price for his produce. The prices of agricultural crops should be fixed keeping in view the cost of production incurred by the farmer, the labour involved, the cost of seeds, fertilisers, water etc. There was at present a wide gap between the cost of agricultural production incurred by an agriculturist and the price that he got for his produce in the market.

### *Remunerative Price For Jute*

Huge stocks of jute were lying with the farmers and the Jute Corporation of India had been indulging in all sorts of malpractices, with the result that farmers were not getting remunerative price for jute.

### *Timely Supply of Seeds*

Improved seeds should be supplied to farmers well in advance before the time of sowing.

*Compost Manure*

As regards fertilisers, compost manure or green manure should be preferred to chemical fertilisers as the latter destroyed the fertility of soil. The Planning Commission should pay more attention towards it and should popularise the use of green manure.

*Minor Irrigation*

As regards irrigation, more attention should be given to minor irrigation schemes.

*Separate Plan for North Bihar*

North Bihar needed special attention for its agricultural development and a separate Plan should be drawn up for that purpose, which might meet the needs of the region.

**SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:** The solution of India's basic problems lay in the development of agriculture. But agriculture had been neglected in every Plan. India had a large potential for agricultural development and so larger allocation of funds should have been made for agricultural development in the Draft Plan. The amount allocated in the Plan for agricultural development should be enhanced.

*Tractors and Power Tillers*

Tractors and power tillers were essential for multiple cropping system, but it should be examined how their use could be made more economic for a cultivator. On the one hand, fodder was not available in sufficient quantities and on the other, oil cakes worth crores of rupees were exported.

*Soil Testing*

Soil testing work should be given higher priority and fertilisers be supplied to suit the particular soil.

*Seeds at Cheaper Rates*

The Seeds Corporation did not supply seeds at cheap rates. Government should devise measures to make seeds available to farmers at cheap rates.

*Minor Irrigation Programmes*

The production of foodgrains could be increased only when the minor irrigation programmes were completed. But they had not been given due priority over the major irrigation schemes in the Fifth Five Year Plan. The existing provision for minor and medium



irrigation schemes should be doubled or trebled. The Central Government should take over the work of boring tubewells and lift irrigation.

### *Fertiliser Supply Position Unsatisfactory*

The position of supply of fertilisers in the country was most unsatisfactory. In India, it was 4.3 kg. per hectare, as against the world average of 19.56 kg. per hectare. The use of organic manure had not been popularised. The Government had not paid due attention to set up *gobar* gas plants in rural areas. In the Draft Plan, Rs. 9 crores only were allocated for manufacturing fertilisers, which was too inadequate. It should at least be raised to Rs. 100 crores. A large amount of urea was going waste in the form of human or cattle urine.

### *Cash Crops*

Our total requirement of foodgrains was about 33 million tonnes. The methods of cultivation in our country were still outmoded with the result that the entire agricultural production collapsed with one spell of drought. The production of cash crops and pulses had almost come to a stand-still. Their production alongwith the production of soyabean and sunflower should be encouraged.

### *Infra-structure of Cooperatives Be Reorganised*

Cooperatives had failed in making loans easily available to farmers. The Agricultural Refinance Corporation had also not helped much. Almost all the institutions disbursing agricultural credit had no representatives of poor farmers, backward classes and Harijans. Therefore, the infrastructure of these cooperatives should be reorganised and the vested interests should be eliminated from them. It was also necessary that marketing and warehousing of agricultural produce should be done at the village level instead of at the State level.

### *Land Reforms*

As regards land reforms, if ceiling had to be fixed, it should be done once and for all and should not be changed for at least twenty years. Government was heading towards acquiring all lands indirectly by resorting to methods of communism. Fragmentation of holdings was a great hindrance in the growth of agricultural production. It had to be checked by enacting legislation with a view to avoiding holdings becoming uneconomic.

### *Export of Lac*

Lac had a substantial export potential. Efforts should be made to increase its production.

### *An Implementation Wing Be set up*

It should be better if the responsibility for implementation of the Plan was fixed. An institution like Implementation Wing should be set up for the inspection, evaluation and implementation of agricultural Plan, which should be made responsible for the success or failure of the Plan. It should submit a monthly, quarterly or half-yearly report. It should see that there was coordination between States and Central agricultural departments and agricultural universities.

**SHRI NAGESHWAR DWIVEDI:** A new approach had got to be developed for bringing about the development of villages in India. In order to bring about the growth in agricultural production, the old methods of irrigation should not be discarded; they should be supplemented by new means of irrigation.

### *Pastures*

The grazing grounds should be developed. A plan should be drawn up to maintain the existing pastures and to develop the new ones with a view to promoting animal husbandry.

### *Agricultural Prices*

It was unfortunate that a cultivator had no say in the fixation of price of his produce. In fixing the price of agricultural crops, the cost involved in cultivation, the price of seeds, the rates for water, the cost of fertilisers and inputs, the wages of labour etc., should all be taken into account.

### *Facilities For Agricultural Marketing*

A comprehensive plan for marketing of agricultural produce should be drawn up, which would ensure a fair price to agriculturists. The rural market should also ensure the availability of various commodities which were required by the farmer for agricultural purposes.

### *Servicing Centres for Tractors*

Servicing centres for the repair of tractors should be started in a block of villages.

### *Tubewells and Pumping Sets*

If electricity was supplied to cultivators for operating tubewells and pumping sets, it could be possible to bring about a manifold increase in agricultural production.

### *Gobar Gas Plants*

Farmers should be encouraged to accumulate cowdung for utilisation in gas plants. More and more *gobar* gas plants should be set up which would add to the production of fertilisers. The allocation of funds for this purpose should be enhanced.

### *Production of Fruits*

Horticulture should be encouraged and the production of fruits should be increased. It would provide employment to rural people.

### *Fisheries*

Attention should be given to the development of fisheries. Village tanks, ponds and lakes should be adequately utilised for that purpose.

### *Measures to Check Soil Erosion*

Soil erosion was taking place due to rivers and divulets, Embankments should be built and facilities for perennial irrigation should be created from them. Afforestation should be encouraged.

SHRI J. G. KADAM: In order to increase the agricultural production it was essential that a survey of ground water be undertaken especially in those areas where the percentage of irrigation was very low, such as in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

### *Godowns and Warehousing*

More attention should be given to proper storage of foodgrains and a large number of godowns and warehouses should be set up where cultivators could store their foodgrains.

### *Improper Implementation of the Plan*

The structure of the entire Plan was based on wrong estimates and fictitious statistics. Some device must be found out to obtain reliable statistics. At the same time, research should be encouraged in each kind of commodity, land and climate. Those who were responsible for the implementation of the Plan neglected their job and the result was that the Plan had not been implemented properly.

### *Gobar Gas Plants*

In view of the acute shortage of fertilisers in the country, a good deal of research was necessary for the better use of cowdung. No measures had so far been taken to set up *gobar* gas plants in rural areas. They could be set up on community block level basis.

### *Insecticides*

Some method must be devised to standardise various kinds of insecticides. More attention should be given to the production of better insecticides. Firms producing inferior quality of insecticides should be blacklisted.

### *Cost-Production Ratio*

Agriculture was not being treated as an industry. The Planning Commission should consider whether the cost-production ratio could be applied in the field of agriculture, with a view to improving the agricultural economy and the rural economy.

**SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA:** Suggestions had been made to set up *gobar* gas plants in rural areas but the availability of *gobar* gas was on decline because the number of cattle was going down in the country. The Plan should provide enough funds to increase the cattle potential. With the present acute shortage of diesel in the country, the tractors were lying idle and the farmer was compelled to use the cattle in agriculture. If more attention was given to the development of the cattle wealth, it would automatically result in a larger supply of fertilisers in the form of *gobar*.

### *Agricultural Materials at Cheap Rates*

The common farmer was today in dire need of water, seeds, and fertilisers for bringing about a growth in agricultural production and unless these materials were provided to him at cheap rates he would not be able to do much in that direction.

## V

### Fifth Sitting

(January 21, 1974: 10.00 to 13.00 hrs.)

SHRI B. N. REDDY: Since 75 per cent of the population of the country belonged to the agricultural sector, it was all the more necessary for the planners to come out with clear policies and programmes serving the interests of the agricultural sector. Since it had not been possible to achieve the Plan targets, it was apparent that there was less production in all the Sectors of the Plan. The position on the agricultural front was not only unsatisfactory but one of a continuing crisis from Plan to Plan. The latest statistics clearly showed that the *per capita* income in the agricultural sector was also going down. That problem must be tackled.

#### *Outmoded Agrarian Relations Obstructing Progress*

The main reason for the crisis was the existence of outmoded agrarian relations which were obstructing the progress. As long as feudal or semi-feudal relations continued to exist, it would not be possible to achieve the targets.

#### *Political Will for Implementing Land Reforms*

In spite of all the land reform legislation and redistribution of land to the poor and the landless, the problem of abolishing landlordism and breaking the shackles of the majority of the rural poor had not been solved. The land reform laws had no doubt done some good, but they did not touch the main problem. The programmes of land reform adopted since Independence had failed to bring about the required change in the agrarian structure. The enactment of progressive measures of land reform and their efficient implementation called for political decisions, and effective political support, dedication and control. The attitude of the bureaucracy towards the implementation of the land reforms was generally lukewarm and often apathetic. There was lack of political will on the part of the ruling party and the bureaucracy.

#### *Ownership Must Vest in Tillers*

Those who tilled the land must own the land. People who did not till the land and who did not depend upon tilling of the land had no right to the land.

### *Land Ceiling*

As regards the question of land ceiling, it was proposed that it should be 10 acres of wet land or 25—30 acres of dry land for a family of five. If any of the children was a major, he should not be taken out of the family unit and treated as another family for that purpose. They should all be taken as the basic family unit. If that was done, it should be a real, radical change in the existing economic set-up of the society on the agrarian front.

**SHRI ANANT PRASAD DHUSIA:** Most of the facts stated in the Plan were based on theoretical knowledge and there had been no practical approach in the process of planning.

### *Land be Nationalised*

There had been a loud talk about land ceilings, but still the actual tiller was without land. Unless land was nationalised, there would be no increase in agricultural production.

### *Adequate Facilities for Small Farmers*

Small farmers did not have adequate facilities of power, fertilisers, seeds etc. Whatever facilities were provided by Government had been grabbed by the big landlords and the rich agriculturists. Even the administrative machinery helped big landlords with the result that the poor small and marginal farmers were left helpless.

**SHRI B. S. BHAURA** It appeared from the past experience that planning in the field of rural economy had rather a political bias which had adversely affected the country's entire economy.

### *A Committee of Committed People to Implement Land Reforms*

Several loopholes had been left by the States in their land reforms legislations. The Land Reforms Acts were cumbersome, complicated and ambiguous. The machinery to implement the land reforms was in the hands of big landlords. The Central Government should take over the work of implementation of land reforms and it should not be left to the State Governments. Rather a Committee of committed people should be set up and entrusted with the task of implementing those land reforms. The Planning Commission had to give guidelines in that regard. The land must in any case go to the tiller.

### *Machinery for Ensuring Minimum Wages to Landless Labourers*

Nothing had been said in the Draft Plan about landless agricultural labour. There was no machinery to ensure the payment of minimum wages to them. More and more agro-industries should be started which would provide jobs to landless labourers.

### *Development of Dairies*

Mention had been made in the Plan document about development of dairies, but only the big farmowners were benefited by those schemes. Small plots of land should be allotted to landless people where they could grow fodder for cattle acquired for the development of dairies.

### *Support Price of Agricultural Produce*

The prices of agricultural produce should be fixed well in advance and the remunerative price or support price should be announced before the sowing of the crops, so as to enable the grower to know that he would get a particular price for his produce. That aspect should be seriously considered, particularly in the case of sugarcane growers. Under the existing price mechanism, the cultivators did not feel enthused to grow certain crops.

### *Taking over of Rice Trade*

The work of procurement of foodgrains should be entrusted to popular committees set up for the purpose. The Government should take over the rice trade and it should not be left at the mercy of blackmarketeers. The Government should directly purchase and supply foodgrains to consumers.

CH. RAM PRAKASH: The Planning Commission had not done justice to the States of Punjab and Haryana by slashing their demand by 50 per cent for funds for generation of electricity. Those two States could supply foodgrains to the entire country if maximum funds were allotted to them for the generation of power. The agricultural targets could not be achieved during the Fourth Plan because power could not be made available for tubewells. For increasing the agricultural production it was essential that those States were allotted larger funds for the supply of power.

### *Change in Approach Towards Land Reforms*

As regards land reforms, the officers entrusted with the task of implementing land reforms were anti-tenant and obstructed the successful implementation of radical reforms. It was, therefore, necessary to bring about a change in the approach and mentality of the concerned officers.

### *Funds for Rural Housing*

About 25 per cent of the agricultural labourers had no houses to live in. The Planning Commission should allocate more funds for rural housing schemes. They should also consider the desirability of acquiring land for the construction of houses for them.

**SHRI KUMBHA RAM ARYA:** If adequate water could be made available to the cultivator even for the remotest land, it would result in larger growth in agricultural produce. Government should take the responsibility to see that water reached even the tail end of the field. It would also make the irrigation yield better results.

#### *Time-schedule for the Supply of Water*

Water should be supplied at the fields in a planned manner. A fixed time-schedule should be drawn up, so that a farmer could know well in advance on which particular date water would be supplied for a particular field. That time-schedule should be strictly adhered to. The existing position was that the cultivator did not get water at the time when he required the most, resulting in the loss of production. No political approach should be allowed to creep into that matter. There would be no headway in agriculture until satisfactory arrangements were made for the supply of adequate water to the agriculturists.

#### *Standard Unit of Economic Holding*

The pressure on land had been increasing, but no definite ceiling had been fixed till then. The standard unit of a holding should be determined and no land should be allowed to be fragmented below the economic unit of holding. The Draft Plan had no provision in that regard with the result that land continued to be sub-divided into uneconomic holdings.

**SHRI PAPI REDDY:** Fundamentally, the country should decide whether to go in for capitalist planning or communist planning.

#### *Reorientation of Approach to Planning*

It was noticed that capitalist countries like Canada, Australia and America supplied food to China, Russia and India. In that background it was necessary that there was reorientation of approach to Planning.

#### *Fertilisers*

The Government policy was to have high-yielding varieties of seeds so that food production could be improved. They required heavy doses of fertilizers which were in short supply.

#### *Alleged Exploitation by Food Corporation*

The Food Corporation was in some cases resorting to exploitation. An instance would clear the position. In Madras a particular variety of rice called Malmal was grown. The crop took about six months to come up. The Food Corporation, which was the sole procuring agency, wanted to procure only that variety. It gave the growers



the minimum support price and take on the same rice was sold at higher price.

### *Administrative Machinery Need Streamlining*

While Planning, authorities seemed to be more interested in spending money rather than in achieving the results. All those things required proper streamlining in the interest of the country.

**SHRI BHALJIBHAI RAVJIBHAI PARMAR:** Planning was being resorted to without any tangible results. Gujarat could feed the whole of the country, if the Narmada project was sanctioned without any delay.

### *Development of Forests*

The outlay in the Fifth Plan was not sufficient for forests. Unless the forests were developed, there could not be any development in agriculture either. The provision of Rs. 2.20 crores for forests should be increased.

### *Animal Husbandry*

As regards cattle breeding, the cross-breeding and artificial insemination programmes should be given due weightage. Those programmes should be implemented wherever possible in the far-flung parts of the country and other rural areas.

### *Fishermen's Cooperative Societies*

With regard to the development of fisheries, the fishermen's cooperative societies should be encouraged at the village level, at the taluka level, and at the district level. Special attention should be given to such areas where there were rivers and ponds.

**SHRI NATHURAM MIRDHA:** The Draft Plan reflected the new approach of economic growth with social justice. The Plan provided for the measures required to be taken to implement the various suggestions made by the National Commission on Agriculture in their reports. The document had also laid down the measures to create maximum employment opportunities for the people and provided for the facilities given to agriculturists for the supply of essential materials and credit for agricultural purposes.

### *Land Reforms*

The Indian cultivator did not appreciate the idea of collective farming. The redistribution of land would thus not solve the problem. The Plan document had given the definition of personal cultivation

in view of different tenancy laws obtaining in different States. The Plan had suggested measure to remove the deficiencies in the implementation of land reforms. The uncertainty in the minds of peasants about the land reform measures should be removed, because it served as a disincentive for further investment in the field of agriculture.

#### *S.F.D.A. Programmes*

The Plan had also indicated the steps to be taken for solving the problem of housing in the rural sector. The National Commission on Agriculture had done considerable work with a view to removing the deficiencies in the implementation of S.F.D.A. programmes. The schemes for disbursing agricultural credit to small and marginal farmers had also been explained in the Draft Plan.

#### *Agricultural Marketing and Animal Husbandry*

Special recommendations had been made for the development of animal husbandry. Provision had been made for agricultural marketing and the formation of a federation of rural markets at the district level had been suggested in the Plan. That was a new approach which was not there in the earlier Plans.

#### *Forestry*

In regard to the development of forestry, it had been proposed in the Plan that forestry should be linked with forest industries and forests be made approachable. Trees and grass should be planted on fallow land.

#### *Growth Rate*

It had, however, not been stated in the Draft plan as to why the target of agricultural growth had been fixed at 4.7 per cent in the Fifth Five Year Plan as against 5.6 per cent in the Fourth Plan. The targetted growth rate of 4.7 per cent seemed to be quite insufficient and should, therefore, be raised to at least 5 per cent if not to 5.5 per cent.

#### *Fertiliser*

The target for fertiliser consumption during the Fourth Plan period was 52 lakh tonnes, but the achievement was only 30 lakhs tonnes. In the Fifth Plan, the target had been placed at 80 lakh tonnes, but it had not been indicated how much of it would be indigenous production and what quantity would be imported. The Fertiliser Corporation of India in the public sector and even the private sector factories had been a failure and the shortage of fertilisers had persisted. The position in that regard should be clarified.

### *Judicious Use of Gobar*

A definite plan should be drawn up for better utilisation of *gobar* and it should constitute a part of the larger agricultural plan. Large community gas plants could be set up in rural areas. That would also help in tackling the prevailing energy and fuel crisis.

### *Coordination for Improving Irrigation*

So far as irrigation was concerned, arrangement must be made to take water to the tail end of the cultivated land. Large funds had been allocated in the Plan for levelling the land and constructing *pucca* canals. Greater coordination with the administration had to be strived for in that sector. Some more medium irrigation projects which were very important should be taken up.

### *Provision for Irrigation*

Provisions of about Rs. 216 crores had been made in the Plan for command area development. It should at least be raised to Rs. 500 crores. That would help in bringing about a rapid growth in the agricultural production.

### *Lift Irrigation*

A new plan for lift irrigation should be drawn up for more judicious and equitable distribution of water in drought-prone areas.

### *Inter-State Water Disputes*

Unless the Constitution was amended, the inter-State water disputes would not be settled. Powers had to be taken by the Union under the Constitution to settle them, because arbitration and other methods would not help much.

### *Panchayati Raj and Cooperatives*

The implementation of the Plan was not possible unless the involvement of people at the lowest level was sought. The institutions of Panchayati Raj and cooperatives should be strengthened and made to play their effective role in the implementation of agricultural development plans. The planners should do serious thinking in that direction.

SHRI G. A. APPAN: The opening sentence of the Draft Plan document said that the removal of poverty and attainment of economic self-reliance were the two strategic goals that the country had set for itself. There was, however, not a single member from amongst the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Planning Commission itself. None of the members from those communities were

consulted at the time of the preparation of the Plan document and their involvement was lacking.

### *Resources For Agriculture*

Agriculture involved 75 per cent of the population in India. So 75 per cent of the total resources should be set apart for the development of agriculture. A portion of the money that was given to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission which had become a 'white elephant' should be allotted for the agricultural development schemes.

**SHRI BUTA SINGH:** It would have been better if a comprehensive national plan had been drafted for agriculture, which would cover food crops, commercial crops and even forest produce.

### *Land Settlement*

Land settlement had been too old and no national programme had been chalked out for the consolidation and conservation of land since the days of Raja Dodarmal. Considering land as private property, nothing had been done for its development either by the State Governments or the Central Government. They should pay due attention to it. A National Land Development Corporation should be set up with the consent of the States and should be entrusted with the task of development of the entire land under a national project.

### *Machinery for the Distribution of Chemicals Fertilisers*

The manufacture and distribution of chemical fertilisers was concentrated in the hands of industrialists and traders who exploited the situation and even adulterated the material. Government should take over its distribution and evolve a system that was service-oriented and not project-oriented. The Plan provision of Rs. 9 crores for fertilisers was a mockery. It should be increased. Keeping in view the need of the country, a national plan should be prepared in regard to the requirements of agricultural inputs.

### *Allocations for Agriculture*

About 70 per cent of India's population was dependent on agriculture, but only 20 per cent allocation had been made for it. It should be at least raised to 30 per cent.

### *Agricultural Implement*

In regard to the manufacture of agricultural implements, which were every necessary for modern cultivation, traders had resorted to dishonest methods. Tractors etc. were sold in black market. Small

manufacturers should get special quota of raw materials for the manufacture of agricultural implements.

### *Land Reforms*

So far as land reforms were concerned, it should be declared in the Fifth Five Year Plan that those sections of backward classes who had been in possession of land for generations would be made the owners of their lands. The State Governments should enact legislation for that purpose. In order to ensure the implementation of the requisite guidelines duly accepted by the Chief Ministers, the Union Government should direct each State Government to prepare a time-bound programme in that regard and submit periodic progress reports which should be presented to Parliament.

### *Agricultural Credit*

In order to tackle the problem of rural indebtedness, the Union Government should issue directions to the States that all debts prior to a certain fixed date should be declared as bad debt. The agricultural credit system should be institutionalised and the weaker sections of peasants protected from the clutches of moneylender. The loans disbursed by the nationalised banks through cooperatives were inadequate. Steps should be taken to improve the position in that regard.

### *National Policy for better use of Water*

A reference had been made to inter-state water disputes. Water was a national asset but it was being wasted. A national policy should be framed for its proper and economic use.

### *Panchayati Raj System*

Cooperative had not been successful in achieving the desired objective. Panchayati Raj system was still under the pressure of caste considerations it was essential that it should be reorganised.

**SHRI GURMUKH SINGH MUSAFIR:** In the field of agriculture, the most essential material like fertiliser was available only in blackmarket and in an adulterated form that should be checked and production increased. Another aspect was the uneven manner in which subsidy had been given for the purchase of fertilisers. That practice had not been uniformly followed and the demand had not been met. No research had been undertaken to decide which kind of fertilisers should be used in different kinds of land.

### *Tractors to Farmers at reasonable price*

Supply of agricultural implements, tractors, etc., to farmers at reasonable price should be ensured.

### *Banking Facilities for farmers*

The small farmer had not been very much benefited by the nationalisation of banks. No facilities of credit or concessions in the rate of interest had been given to farmers. All facilities were accorded only to rich peasants and big landlords.

### *Adequate Water for cultivation*

The farmers should be given adequate water for the purposes of cultivation.

### *Land Reforms*

No concrete steps had been taken in regard to the implementation of land reforms.

DR. K. L. RAO: In India, the supply of water for irrigation purposes constituted an important aspect of agricultural development. For about one-half of the country, irrigation was badly needed. With all the Plans made, the country had been able to irrigate only one acre out of four acres. Even in respect of that one acre, the assured supply was for only 0.6 of an acre and the other 0.4 was dependent on the rainfall. Therefore, while planning for agricultural production, great importance needed to be attached to irrigation.

### *Early, Completion of Irrigation Projects Delay*

Certain projects which should have been completed, had been going on for a long time. The Rajasthan Canal project, for instance, had been hanging on too long. It must be completed in the Fifth Five Year Plan. Then, Kerala had certain projects. Water should not be allowed to go waste in small States like Kerala.

### *Inter-State Water Disputes*

There were some projects in which there were some disputes between States. It must be ensured that those projects were got through. In regard to Thein Dam there was a difference of opinion between the various contending parties, between Haryana and Rajasthan Governments and so on. It was very important that in a case like that the parties must come to an agreement and if necessary, the Union Government should step in.

### *Funds for Completion of Projects*

Where there was surplus water, it should be brought to other areas. Otherwise, if money continued to be spent endlessly, there would be no finality in any project. It was necessary to see that on account of want of finances progress of the project was not held up.

### *Irrigation Projects in Backward Areas*

There were some areas which had great irrigation potential but were highly backward. For example, Madhya Pradesh had big irrigation potential. But the irrigation there was the lowest in the country. It was a fit case where the Union Government must step in for, otherwise, it was impossible for the State to find finances from its own resources. The Planning Commission should make a special provision for such areas as were backward due to certain historical reasons and where proper facilities of irrigation had not been provided. These areas should be irrigated for the benefit of the nation. With a view to increasing food production, the Union Government must allocate money for the completion of irrigation projects in such areas.

### *Irrigation by Tubewells and Lift Irrigation*

There were a large number of streams in the country from where water could be lifted and used for irrigation purposes extensively. There were a number of streams along the Ganga which could be pumped to areas which needed water. The Union Government should undertake a number of lift irrigation projects from streams and use their water extensively. Similarly, the tubewells should be extensively used. The subjects of lift irrigation and the tube-wells came under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture. If those were transferred to the Ministry of Irrigation, it would accelerate the progress of work. There was also a recommendation made by the Administrative Reforms Commission in that regard which was worth-pursuing.

### *Inter-basin Transfer of Water*

About one-third of the country was subject to heavy semi-arid conditions. Those areas must be supplied with the surplus water from wherever it might be available. Therefore, inter-basin transfer of water. Investigation in that regard during the Fifth Plan should be undertaken, so that necessary projects could be taken up in the Fifth Plan itself.

### *Correct Statistics for Agriculture*

There were no correct statistics available in regard to various aspects of agriculture. Efforts should, therefore, be made for having correct statistics in that regard.

## VI

### Sixth Sitting

(January 21, 1974: 15.00 to 17.30 hours)

SHRI B. SIVARAMAN (*Member, Planning Commission*): The main strategy of agriculture was to intensify the high-yielding varieties for cereals, cotton, sun-flower and selected pulses, and improved management of the other crops. The multi-cropping programme would be further intensified, particularly in the irrigated areas. Irrigation would be stepped up substantially in 12 million hectares of land under major, medium and minor irrigation projects. Dry farm techniques would be applied on a large scale. In all those programmes, the aim would be to introduce a package approach. That was the basic of the agricultural strategy to be adopted during the Fifth Plan.

#### *Yardsticks for Estimating Growth Rate*

A question was asked as to why the Planning Commission was opting for a growth rate of only 4.7 per cent in agriculture, and why it could not be raised to 7 to 8 per cent with minimum investment. The estimates of investment and growth had been made on certain yardsticks. Three major yardsticks were: (i) addition in the extent of irrigated areas; (ii) addition in the gross area under cultivation; and (iii) addition in the consumption of chemical fertilisers. Those yardsticks, which had been used for earlier Plans, had been checked by various economists and statisticians, who had reported from time to time that, based on all India experience, they might generally be taken as reasonable. It was, therefore, decided to use those yardsticks for calculating the growth rate during the Fifth Plan also.

#### *Command Area Development Programme*

The area approach and the package approach had got the best results out of the investments. The first was the command area development programme. That was an important programme covering between 50 to 55 major irrigation projects. The objective was to see that every bit of land which was shown as commandable was commanded.



### *Existing Irrigation Sources Not Adequate*

The Irrigation Commission had come to the conclusion that the existing irrigation sources were substantially not in a fit condition for modern agriculture, because they could not control the water for the type of agriculture that was required. They had, therefore, recommended a certain amount of modernisation of structures and an investment on a priority basis.

The National Commission on Agriculture had followed up those recommendations and dealt with them in a greater detail, explaining exactly what it meant by commanding an area. The Plan had adopted both these recommendations. The command area development programme was the result of that. The investment that was proposed to be made in the Plan was for the infra-structure and some amount of inputs, helping the small and marginal farmers in those command areas to get their work done on an area basis, which otherwise might not be possible with their limited resources.

### *Investment in Area Developing Programme*

The bulk of the investment in the area development programme would come from the institutional sector. That was why it was not included in the Plan itself. That was provided for under the Agricultural Refinance Corporation's scheme of investments.

### *Dry Farming Area Programme*

Another very important programme was Dry Farming Areas Programme. That programme was being adopted in what was called the small and marginal farmers programme and in the drought-prone areas programme which were being extended during the Fifth Plan Period. In both these programmes, the Plan investments were for a certain amount of infra-structure and for specially helping the small and marginal farmers of the area with some amount of subsidy. The bulk of the work was going to be done through the institutional investments on an area basis. That was being reflected in the investments under the A.R.C. and the Land Development Banks' schemes. If those results could be built up and if the experience of Punjab could be reproduced, the investments that had been proposed in the Plan could produce a greater rate of growth.

### *Wheat Expansion Programme*

It was true that the yardsticks in the wheat expansion programme had been reduced and it was brought below what had already been achieved during the Fourth Plan period. It might be recalled in that context that while Punjab and Haryana had

already shown the growth, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar had not yet started wheat revolution. In those circumstances, it was decided that it would be better to go on a modest scale rather than on a bigger scale.

As regards rice, the yields during the Fourth Plan had not come up very substantially. In spite of that, a growth of 10 million tonnes—from 44 to 54 million tonnes—was planned. It was based on certain experiences gathered during the last three years of the Fourth Plan. The high-yielding varieties programme was actually not being translated into action in many States. It was currently being undertaken through a close coordination between research and extension and the farmer got a variety suitable to his area. The summer crop of rice was giving the most spectacular yield results, particularly in West Bengal. It had been decided that whenever ground water supplement was possible, both the autumn crop and the summer crop would be increased. It was on an estimate of what the States themselves felt they could achieve that the Planning Commission had optimistically gone for a 10 million tonne increase in rice production.

### *Bajra*

Bajra had already reached the yardstick much better than what had been forecast for the Fifth Plan. In States like Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, bajra had done better than jowar. It was now felt that with that experience the bajra acreage might go up.

### *Jowar*

Jowar during the Fourth Plan showed a minus performance because of various difficulties. But varieties have now been introduced which would perhaps get over the difficulties, both during the kharif and the rabi seasons.

### *Cotton*

About cotton there was some doubt as to whether it would be possible to reach the cotton levels. No doubt the cotton levels had been fluctuating very badly. New varieties of seeds were being produced. During that year, it was hoped, the cotton production could be increased. Eight lakhs hectares of irrigated land was proposed to be put under cotton cultivation during the Fifth Plan. Those areas had been identified in the irrigated region. It could be possible to do without imports, provided indigenous varieties were supported and fair price was given for them.

### *Jute*

In regard to jute, again, the strategy was to grow it in irrigated areas. West Bengal was taking a lead in that. A very high target had already been reached during the current year. It was almost equal to what was targetted to be achieved at the end of the Fifth Plan. If more jute was wanted, it could be grown.

### *Seed Production Programme for Sunflower*

Among oilseeds, sunflower had come to stay. Already sunflower was grown in three lakh hectares of land in southern India. But there was the problem of seed quality. The ICAR and the State Governments had taken up seed production programme. In marginal areas, the *per acre* yield of sunflower was better than groundnut. With irrigation the yield could be spectacular.

### *Research in Mustard Production Technique*

In northern India, mustard was the main crop in respect of which very substantial research had been done. It had been established that a simple spraying with acids at the right time pushed up its yields spectacularly. So by adopting that and other techniques it was possible to increase the yield of mustard. That was the strategy that had been suggested to States and accepted by them.

### *Soyabean*

As regards soyabean, there was a problem of seed viability maintenance over the years. The hill areas were best suited for soyabean, particularly as a mixed crop grown with maize. So a good allocation had been made for soyabean research and also for soyabean development in Fifth Plan period.

### *Groundnut*

Groundnut was still a highly fluctuating crop. The intention was to add about 3 lakhs hectares of irrigated land under groundnut cultivation during the Fifth Plan period to stabilise to some extent the groundnut yields. Varieties had not yet been developed which gave higher yields. That was an area where research had been going on.

### *Castor*

Castor was one crop where very spectacular results had been achieved already. Many new varieties had been introduced which were getting more and more popular.

### *Sugarcane*

As regards sugarcane, the Fifth Plan contemplated intensive development of 2000 hectares around each sugar factory. The main difficulty was that the bulk of the cane that was grown and put into the factory was of doubtful quality. Seed purity was not being maintained and the price that was paid was not based on getting the maximum sugar content. Every sugar factory had been advised to have a basic farm. Scientists would do basic work there. It should be their responsibility to ensure continuous supply of disease-free seeds in the field. The intention was that those farms be used specifically for seed production.

### *Gross Increase in Acreage*

As regards the estimate about the gross increase in acreage at 11 million hectares, it might be mentioned that that was part of the multi-cropping strategy. By reducing the paddy period and evolving the wheat varieties which could be sown a little later, Haryana and Punjab were growing two major crops on the same land. In 1966, West Bengal produced 5000 tonnes of wheat. But last year they produced more than a million tonnes of wheat by multi-cropping. Wheat was being grown in central India where previously no wheat was grown at all in that season. Orissa was growing wheat which was unknown there. Thus, the multi-cropping programme had been taken up because of irrigation with ground-water support. During the Fourth Plan, the State invested in minor irrigation to the tune of Rs. 500 crores whereas 1300 crores came from the institutions and about Rs. 200 to 400 crores from their own resources. So, that was the sector which was giving the real base to the multi-cropping programme and in the Fifth Plan that strategy was being further strengthened. Every State was organising its groundwater organisation, Special funds had been provided for in the Fifth Plan—both in the Central sector as well as in the States sector—for the ground water organisation. Funds had been arranged so that the ground water programme during the Fifth Plan period would be as massive—as if not more—as that in the Fourth Plan.

### *Organic Manure*

The problem of organic manure was also raised. That had always been before the Ministry of Agriculture and the Planning Commission. It was proposed that the urban waste properly mixed with the sewage sludge should be composted by all our major townships and utilised as organic manure. A sum of Rs. 9 crores had been provided for in the Plan for that purpose.

### *Gobar Gas Plant*

In 1966, the Ministry of Agriculture had asked the States to encourage the setting up of cow-dung gas plants. As far as its economics was concerned, it had a very good value. Cow-dung had got fuel value which was in addition to its fertiliser value. The only difficulty was that with the rise in the price of steel, the cost of the plant was becoming rather higher; but even then the Planning Commission agreed with that programme.

### *Sericulture Industry*

There were some important rural industries which had been dealt with in the Plan. Sericulture was an important rural industry. It had an agricultural base. It supported about 3 million families. Science had found better means of improving the quality of silk.

### *Lac Industry*

During the last year or so, lac had suddenly received a sudden impetus in the world market. The Lac Research Institute had been doing a good deal of research, because lac was considered to be one of the growing industries.

### *Handloom Industry*

The handloom sector supported 3 million looms. That was a sector where substantial help had to be given. It was in the State sector. Investments in that industry were going down Plan after Plan. In the Fifth Plan, sufficient money had been allotted—in the State and the Central sectors—for the development of handlooms. The main thing concerning that sector was that yarn supply had to be regular. During the current year, Cooperative Spinning Mills had been started in several States. Allocation had been made in the Plan for the development of that sector.

### *Land Reforms*

Many questions were raised on land reforms. The main proposal in the Draft Plan was to bring the legislation for land reforms in line with the system of peripatetic courts, so that the cases were decided through a system where people in touch with the villages were able to ascertain the facts. Those courts would go to the village and not stay at the headquarter. That was nothing very new, because Settlement Courts had always been in the villages. They should deal with the matter at the village level. It was

suggested that the appellate court should also go to the villages. It was further proposed that as far as possible the administration for land reforms should be a special organisation so that it dealt with the problem without reference to the other departments.

### *Irrigation*

As regards irrigation, it was suggested by an hon. Member that there should be judicious use of water. Here, it was again a question of enforcing a discipline. The programme of Command Area Development Authority had been accepted by the States. The Planning Commission was looking forward to its implementation.

### *Completion of Irrigation Projects*

Another hon. Member had complained about the non-completion of the various irrigation projects. The Planning Commission was providing for the completion of most of the projects in the Fifth Plan period. Rajasthan canal was, however, among the few projects that had been fully provided for in the Draft Plan. In regard to the Rajasthan canal, there were certain problems which had been referred to the State Government. It had been suggested to them that, in the larger interests of the State itself, they might examine the feasibility of taking by lift canal, through the desert districts of Nagaur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Barmer, some amount of water from the Rajasthan canal system itself, as had been done in Bikaner district. The State Government was examining the proposal.

### *Priority to Drought-prone Areas*

As regards the question of giving priority to backward areas in the matter of irrigation, some priority was proposed to be given to drought-prone areas in the Draft Plan. All irrigation projects already investigated by the States were ready for implementation. Medium projects had to be included in the Plan.

### *Inter-State Disputes*

As regards the problem of inter-State disputes, an answer had got to be found in the national interest. The problem involved certain basic issues which could not be dealt with like that in the Plan and which had to be answered at other forums.

**SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI:** There was a widely supported proposal that a village-wise survey should be undertaken with a view to ensure involvement of the people. The planning should be done on the basis of information collected in such village-to-village surveys.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA (*Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning*): As regards the hon. Member's suggestion for conducting a survey to ascertain the minimum requirements of the rural population, some surveys had already begun under the National Programme of Minimum Needs.

#### *National Programmes of Minimum Needs*

Under the National Programmes of Minimum Needs it was proposed to ensure the supply of drinking water to those villages which did not have an assured source of drinking water within a reasonable distance, say within a radius of one mile. In that connection, names of villages, State-wise, were being collected and a phased programme was being formulated.

#### *Rural Roads*

As for survey regarding the rural roads, it was proposed to ensure that all villages with a population of 1500, or a cluster of a number of villages with a total population of 1500, were linked up with a village road which would be an all-weather pucca road.

#### *Elementary Education*

Regarding elementary education, it was proposed that every village should have a primary school. Surveys were envisaged for that purpose.

#### *Nutrition Programme*

Also there was the Nutrition Programme for pre-school children of weaker sections, pregnant women and lactating mothers. The survey in that connection had already been undertaken.

#### *Rural Electrification*

Regarding rural electrification, 40 per cent of the villages in the whole country would be electrified during the Fifth Plan. On the basis of the survey, a phased programme, areawise and Statewise, was being prepared.

#### *Other Surveys*

Then there were the geological survey and mineral survey. All those were being undertaken.

Thus, the intention was to see that under the National Programme of Minimum Needs, which had already been incorporated in the Draft Fifth Plan, every village was taken care of.

DR. K. L. RAO: For the information of the Members it might be mentioned that about a year and a half ago, a survey of the villages was started. Each village team consisted of an agricultural expert, an engineer, and so on. They were collecting complete information about details like the levelling, the contours, roads, electrification, the number of landless people, etc. The money was being allotted by the Planning Commission. There were 5,70,000 villages in the country. They were covering them at the rate of 15 days for each village. If that work was accelerated, it would be a very extremely valuable thing.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: All those details were not being published, with the result that the villagers were not aware of what was being done in that direction.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: U. P. was faced with the problems of flood control, soil erosion and irrigation. No attention had been given to those problems in the Fifth Plan. No provision had been made for soil testing programme. The rise in prices of tractors and power tillers had made the use of those implements uneconomic. The implications of those things should have been explained.

SHRI B. SIVARAMAN: For the Diara land, a research unit was being established by the ICAR to go into the cropping programme. The possibilities of supplementing water supply in some of the areas by ground water were being explored.

Provision was being made in the Plan in the State sector and also in the Central sector for increasing the allocations for soil testing, programme.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: After the minimum needs survey of all the districts was completed, the entire information should be published in the form of a book containing *inter alia* alphabetical list of villages covered by the survey, so that one could find out the required details at a glance.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: When the draft plans of the States were called for, the State Governments had been requested to submit their plans for each district. The *proforma* sent to them for furnishing the requisite details included all the points in respect of which information was sought to be asked by the hon. members.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: That was not known to the villagers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The district plans should also be published.

SHRI B. S. BHAURA: It was important that the Planning Commission should have a machinery to find out whether or not the targets set in the Plans were fulfilled in right time.



SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: So far as the Planning Commission was concerned, the formulation of the Plan was the material task. Some plans were implemented by the State Governments and some by the Union Ministries. An evaluation cell had been established in the Planning Commission. For major projects a mechanism had been evolved whereby reports were called for, so that it could be known whether the work was going on according to schedule and if not, what were the difficulties. The Cabinet had constituted a separate special committee to see, on the basis of those reports, what the hurdles were and how they were to be removed.

CH. SADHU RAM: Although the agreement concluded with Pakistan regarding the supply of water had ceased to operate, the Planning Commission had not completed the execution of the Thein Dam project. India had paid Rs. one hundred crores to Pakistan and had also been supplying water to them despite the fact that Punjab, Rajasthan and other Indian States badly needed that water. A memorandum had also been submitted in that connection by the Members of Parliament from Punjab and the State Government seeking permission to proceed with the construction of Thein Dam. But no decision had so far been taken on that. The Punjab Government had only sought permission to construct the dam. The Union Government could distribute the water as they liked after the dam had been built. There should not be any difficulty at least in giving the permission to build the dam.

SHRI K. G. DESHMUKH: The farmers should get a reasonable price for their produce. The Food Corporation of India or, for that matter, the Jute Corporation were making purchases at the lowest level of price. The targets in respect of oil-seeds or other crops like jowar and bajra were not likely to be achieved.

SHRI B. SIVARAMAN: An Oil-seeds Corporation was being established by the Ministry Agriculture.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: It was rightly said that when prices were fixed, they should be remunerative. All essential inputs should be made available to the farmer at reasonable rates. The Government had no moral right to prescribe a price and procure wheat from the farmer at that price without making other essential commodities available to him. In the report of the committee on articles of mass consumption, of which he himself had been the Chairman, it had been made clear that not only articles of mass consumption such as cereals, cloth, etc., but also the agricultural inputs required for the production of crops should be treated as essential articles for that

purpose. Until they were made available at reasonable prices, the Government had no moral authority to tell the farmer that he should dispose of his produce at a particular rate. The Government had taken a very sympathetic approach in that regard.

SHRI SYED HUSSAIN: Kashmir had the lowest *per capita* income, except Bihar. The Government had been spending much on Kashmir but not in Kashmir. There was the all important sericulture industry and that was being abandoned too. Then, mineral resources like neelam, tamba etc., were there. Research parties should have been sent there for research work. Carpet industry was once considered the pride of the State. Carpets were even being exported from there.

SHRI B. SIVARAMAN: The sericulture industry was not being abandoned. In fact, suggestions, were being incorporated in the Draft Plan for improving that industry. Besides, the carpet industry was going to be developed in a big way in Kashmir.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: In fact, he was not aware of the position regarding mineral surveys in Kashmir. The Member could write to him in that regard. If there was already no programme, it would be undertaken immediately,

As regards the development of the various cottage industries in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, he had gone out of the way to help in that matter. The Member in-charge in the Planning Commission (Shri B. Sivaraman) was personally looking into the matters connected with the sericulture industry. Kashmir was not being neglected in that regard.

SHRI NATHU RAM AHIRWAR: It was not stated as to what allocation had been made in the Fifth Five Year Plan to bring the irrigation potential of Madhya Pradesh at par with the national percentage of the irrigation potential.

#### *Dairy Development*

It was suggested that after the green revolution, "white revolution" should start. But the problem of dairy development had not been tackled effectively.

#### *Agricultural Development in Dacoit-infested Areas of Madhya Pradesh.*

Special provision had been made for the development of certain areas such as hilly regions etc. But it was not known whether any special provision was being made for dacoits-infested districts of

Madhya Pradesh where the dacoits had already surrendered. Unless the economic condition of the people of that region was improved by the development of agriculture, animal husbandry and cottage industries in those areas, the dacoit problem could not be solved.

### *Rural Engineering Service*

In the Community Development Blocks the staff of the regular departments, like the Irrigation Departments and Public Works Departments, were employed. There were a large number of unemployed diploma-holders and junior engineers in the country. A "Rural Engineering Service" should be set up, so that such people could be employed in community development blocks and elsewhere.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Priority had been given to the schemes of those States which were lagging behind in the field of irrigation. Minor irrigation projects had also been given priority. While some States were backward in irrigation, others were lagging behind in other fields. A balanced view would, therefore, have to be taken in that matter.

### *Development of Tribal Blocks*

Every State had been asked to prepare a sub-plan for tribal blocks. About Rs. 500 crores had been specifically earmarked for the development of tribal blocks, backward areas and hilly regions.

It had been indicated to the Madhya Pradesh Government that paucity of funds would not come in the way if they proposed to set up an "Agricultural Service Centre" by employing agricultural graduates and diploma-holders. The Central Government would be prepared to give them priority in regard to allotment of tractors and bulldozers. Madhya Pradesh had accepted a number of schemes, but unfortunately they did not take any steps to implement them.

SHRI PANNALAL BARUPAL: It was not known whether the question of putting Gangotri waters into Jamnotri and then in Ghaggar had been considered by the Planning Commission and whether any survey of that scheme would be undertaken.

### *Disparity in Levy and Current Market Prices*

There was a great disparity in the levy price and the current market price of agricultural produce in Rajasthan. That adversely affected the approach of the farmers, and obviously caused discontent among them.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: So far as the question of linking Gangotri and Jamnotri waters was concerned, it involved the transfer of water of one State to another, which apparently created conflicts among the concerned States. However, so far as the Rajasthan Canal was concerned, the development work was in progress. The Rajasthan Government had not completed the allocation of waters. Sufficient funds had been allotted for that project and if necessary, even more funds would be allotted. It was desirable that that work should be treated as a national programme and executed in right earnest.

*Anticipated Food Production not insufficient to meet Country's requirements*

As regards the prices of foodgrains, it was true that the market prices were more than the procurement prices and in the circumstances, it was natural that it caused concern to the farmers. The problem of foodgrains could be solved if the distribution system was properly reorganised. The country would be producing that year about 110 million tonnes of foodgrains. If the food management and distribution system were alright that quantity of foodgrains was not insufficient to meet the requirements of 55 crores of people. But unfortunately the foodgrains had become scarce in some areas. If the procurement was sufficient and a buffer stock could be set up, the foodgrains could be supplied to the deficit States. The Government proposed to procure foodgrains properly so as to be able to meet the demands of deficit States. There was a definite policy in regard to procurement and in every State and it was the State Government which had to undertake that task.

*Interests of the Country as a whole had to be looked into*

One important aspect of the problem was that the Government had to look to the interests of the country as a whole. For, otherwise, the country's integrity could be threatened. A liberal approach would, therefore, have to be adopted by everyone.

SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: The policy of the Central Government in regard to the distribution of foodgrains, especially rice and wheat, was not at all satisfactory. The State of Kerala was facing an acute shortage of rice, even at the harvesting time. It was the duty of the Central Government to come to the rescue of a State like Kerala.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Whatever was produced in the agricultural and industrial sectors had to be evenly distributed in the country. Until and unless there was better food management, right

from the production and procurement stages to the distribution stage, there could not be social justice. The surplus States were naturally apprehensive that if they allowed the other States to purchase from those States, their internal prices would shoot up. At the same time, the deficit States had to get food from the surplus States. Therefore, the intervention of the State in a systematic manner was essential.

So far as the shortage of foodgrains was concerned, the Union Government would have to take some decision in that regard. The Prime Minister had already assured the leaders of the Kerala Government that more foodgrains would be made available to that State.

**SHRI MULKI RAJ SAINI:** A network of ring roads around the towns, say within a radius of 10—12 miles, to connect surrounding villages should be set up, for that would not only help rural development but also solve the housing problem.

**SHRI MOHAN DHARIA:** Under the Minimum Needs Programme, the linking of every village having population of 1,500 by pucca roads would go a long way in creating the infrastructure of communication. After identifying some growth centres, it could be considered as to how to provide electrification, water facilities, transport facilities, storage, marketing and banking facilities and so on.

The State Governments had been requested that while preparing the State Plans, particularly for the backward areas, they should identify such areas and also prepare sub-plans as to their requirements for creating those infra-structures.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** He was thankful to the Members of the Committee, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning and the Member, Planning Commission who all participated in the deliberations of the Committee. As many as 52 Members had expressed their views at the sittings of the Committee. All the suggestions made by the Members had been noted and would be utilised for preparing the report.

**SHRI MOHAN DHARIA:** According to the directions of the Speaker, a Synopsis of Proceedings, containing the points expressed by the Members, would be prepared. If the Members authorised the Chairman, it would be the report of the Committee.

**SHRI NATHURAM MIRDHA:** The Members had already expressed their views. The Chairman could have a Synopsis prepared.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That would be a proper procedure. He would prepare, on behalf of the Committee, a report on the basis of the various points made by the Members in the course of the discussion. That would be circulated to the Members. If any discrepancy was noticed by any Member, that could be pointed out. Otherwise, that would be taken as final.

*The Committee then concluded its deliberations.*

## APPENDIX

### *List of Material Circulated to the Chairman/Members of Committee 'C' (Agriculture and Rural Economy) on the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan*

[COPIES OF THE MATERIAL ARE AVAILABLE FOR REFERENCE IN THE PARLIAMENT LIBRARY]

#### *A. Material prepared by the Lok Sabha Secretariat*

1. Background Note on Development of Agriculture and Rural Economy.
2. Select Reading List on Agriculture and Rural Economy.

#### *B. Material supplied by the Planning Commission*

- \*3. Draft Fifth Five Year Plan (Parts I and II) in English and Hindi.
4. The Fifth Five Year Plan in Outline.
5. List of Topics (Committee-wise) discussed in the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan, alongwith references to relevant pages of the Draft Plan.

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\*Distributed through the respective Publications Counters of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats.

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31.	Bahree Brothers, 188, Lajpatrai Market, Delhi-6.	27	<b>AGENT IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES</b>		
32.	Jayana Book Depot, Chapparwala Kuan, Karol Bagh, New Delhi.	66	39.	The Secretary, Establishment Department, The High Commission of India, India House, Aldwych, LONDON, W.C.-2.	59



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61. Shri Mahadeepak Singh Shakya
62. Shri R. N. Sharma
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