

Economic Programme
OF
Kisan Congress



RUPEE ONE



THE ALL INDIA KISAN CONGRESS
2, FERROZSHAH ROAD
NEW DELHI

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**ECONOMIC PROGRAMME
OF
KISAN CONGRESS**

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A KISAN CONGRESS PUBLICATION

**2 Ferozshah Road,
NEW DELHI.**

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ONE**

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INTRODUCTION

We are publishing this economic programme of the All India Kisan Congress as indicative of the line of our aims and work during the next ten years. We do realise that in many of the directions, indicated in this programme, we may either achieve complete satisfaction on certain lines or only make a beginning towards their fulfilment. To indicate how the Agrarian Programme of the National Congress 'the political leader of our Kisan and other toiling masses of our country and which has to take the practical steps, through its Ministries, differs from our programme, we are presenting the questionnaire of the Agrarian Reforms Committee appointed by the Congress also as an appendix. It is the duty of the Kisan Congress, its workers and organisers as well as the Kisan masses to develop their organisational strength and propaganda work so well as to persuade the general public and the National Congress to agree to accept the Kisan Congress programme as their own, at least within the next five or ten years and to take the necessary legislative and administrative steps to implement it so that we can all reach the fulfilment of democratic Kisan Mazdoor Praja (Panchayat) Raj at as early a date as possible.

Let me assure our Kisan masses that the Kisan Congress has worked out this programme only with the definite hope and intention of achieving the Co-operative Commonwealth, with the aid of this programme.

The Kisan Congress is convinced that economic self-government on co-operative lines, giving fullest scope for decentralisation of power and production and distribution in both political and economic activities and organisation of society can alone ensure both progress and freedom of our masses, especially of the Kisans. It is hoped that this programme will be a contribution to the early achievement of the desired decentralised democratic and co-operative Commonwealth.



ECONOMIC PROGRAMME OF KISAN CONGRESS

Why are we to plan? How are we to plan? With what aims? We have to plan to achieve a higher standard of satisfaction of the basic needs and comforts of the masses. To achieve this, we have to plan for the production of more and more food and cloth and housing. These must be given first priority.

From the national level, our present standards and scales of production, actual achievements and deficits and the estimated targets for additional production to provide our people with adequate food and clothing have to be estimated.

In making our plans, we have to keep before us very prominently the need for reorganising our crop and industrial economy with a view to increasing our efficiency and productive levels.

In making our choice from the national level as between different crops their processing industries and subsidiary occupations to provide full employment for all the people in the prescribed local area, such limiting factors as nature of the soil, its suitability for different crops, its demands for rotation of crops or as a mixed crop economy, nature of local rainfall, the availability of different kinds of manures, will have to be allowed for.

The need for insuring the local public against any possible failure of processing industries, transport and commerce and also threats of general strikes in the key industries has also to be kept in mind. With this object in view and consistently with the need for putting the local land, manures, cattle and human power to the most efficient and productive use, attempts will have to be made to maximise the local production of suitable food-grains, fruit, vegetables, oilseeds and other crops which may satisfy in full or in part the food needs of local people.

Therefore, it is not absolutely essential that all the food needed by the people of any prescribed area should be produced in that area itself or that only the food-grains that can be grown in that area should be consumed by them. There is to be commerce even in food-grains. But the local needs and possibilities in regard to the satisfaction of their food-grains should be given a high priority.

Any plan can be a success unless the co-operation of the Kisan masses and their organisations is obtained in a democratic manner. It is not compulsion but co-operative participation that is needed. Every village has to be encouraged to plan for its own development, but in harmony with the national plan and thus local initiative is to be stimulated. So, Kisan Congress and Village Panchayats have to be organised.

KISAN ORGANISATION

Every trained and certified agriculturist is to be encouraged to become a member of Kisan Congress.

Kisan Congress is to be made the medium through which the State is to (a) propagate improved methods of agriculture, (b) settle the areas under different crops through democratic opinion and also prices for different crops, (c) to fix the wages for agricultural workers, (d) organise cottage industries and subsidiary employment, (e) and otherwise serve as the champion and leader and organiser of peasant masses.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Agricultural labourers are to be helped to form their own Labour Congress on the same lines as the Kisan Congress. In areas where there are not enough workers to organise agricultural labourers separately, the latter are to be enrolled as members of the Kisan Congress and in all such places, the Kisan Congress should appoint a separate Sub-Committee to work for agricultural labour.

It is the duty of the Government to recognise and consult the Kisan Congress and Agricultural Labour Congress where it is also organised, whenever any important legislative or admini-

such measure is contemplated. Due representation should be given to these organisations on all Governmental Commissions and Councils. Every effort has to be made by officials to secure the aid and co-operation of these organisations in implementing and popularising new and scientific methods of agriculture. Where and when necessary, suitable subsidies are to be given to these organisations.

AGRICULTURE

Now that all intermediaries between the land-holding peasant and the Government are being removed, there are two ways by which re-organisation of agriculture has to be tackled

- (a) by making agriculture a remunerative enterprise
- (b) by making it efficient.

Adequate prices are to be paid for agricultural produce to cover (a) marginal costs of cultivation (b) minimum standard of living for peasants and workers (c) some provision for the raising of standard of comforts of agricultural masses.

Such prices are to be so fixed as to yield to agricultural masses approximately the same standard of remuneration, standard of living and of comfort as are enjoyed by small entrepreneurs, skilled workers, and industrial proletariat.

To achieve this two things are necessary. (a) Recognition by the society that agricultural work is atleast as valuable as other work and must be paid for equally well. So the present unequal distribution of national wealth between industrial masses and agricultural masses must be eliminated (b) to raise the standards of living and comfort of agricultural masses.

The other equally important means is to raise their standard of efficiency. For this purpose the following steps have to be taken. (i) compulsory free elementary education plus adult education (ii) basic education—training upto middle schools in improved methods of agriculture and associated crops (iii) introduction of improved machinery, seeds and manures (iv) agricultural schools—elementary, middle and

High schools - to be provided on a large scale so that every peasant youth gets the required minimum of agricultural education.

ARTISANS AND TRADE BOARDS

For the protection, regulation and development of workers employed by entrepreneurs and cooperative concerns in cottage industries, in both rural and urban areas (usually known as *artisans* in Europe), Trade Boards, consisting of equal representatives of both employers and employees presided over by a judicial officer appointed by Government, should be established.

These Boards are to settle the wages, hours and other conditions of employment.

LAND HOLDING

A maximum limit is to be fixed for the total extent of land to be held and cultivated with or without hired labour by any individual or members of his family. A Co-operative Farm is to be organised in every village. All excess lands are to be handed over to the village co-operative farm. Lands belonging to minors and physically incapacitated are to be temporarily handed over to the Co-operative Farm on payment of prescribed rents and such lands are to be returned when the minors attain majority and wish to take to cultivation, after receiving necessary agricultural qualification.

Lands are to be inheritable as source of employment. Sub-division of holdings below the prescribed minimum must be prohibited. Land-holders having more than 50 acres of wet land or 100 acres of dry land are to be free to sell their lands over and above the prescribed limit to co-operative farms or to peasants; the smaller peasants' organisations or the Co-operatives.

Holdings which are too small for economic cultivation and also for providing effective part-time work to their owners are to be transferred to co-operative farms on payment of prescribed rent. Full employment is to be provided for all agricultural workers and peasants.

Agricultural workers are to be provided with work through the Labour Exchanges.

TAXES

The present land revenue system is to be abolished. Agricultural incomes are to be taxed like other incomes from all other employments and industries. The tax exemption limit is to be the same as for non-agricultural incomes.

CO-OPERATION

Multi-purposes Co-operative Societies are to be organised in every village for co-operatising agricultural credit, marketing and stores, dairying, processing and house-building. Cattle and agricultural implements are to be held and utilised co-operatively, and manures, pestkillers, seeds are to be obtained and distributed co-operatively.

Experiments in co-operative cultivation have to be made on governmental as well as peasants' lands.

CO-OPERATIVE CATTLE AND DAIRY FARMS

Co-operative cattle and dairy farms are to be organised in every village to lower the present (a) prohibitive cost of cattle services per acre (b) economise cattle services (c) minimise risks of epidemics. Veterinary dispensaries have to be organised in every group of villages under the auspices of the relative insurance concerns, in addition to the State Veterinary hospitals.

CO-OPERATIVE PROCESSING INDUSTRY

Co-operative Milk Factories, creameries etc., have to be organised. Peasants are to be helped to organise, establish and manage all processing of their agricultural produce through co-operative concerns.

CO-OPERATIVE IMPLEMENTS

Collective harvesting grounds have to be provided in every village. Where necessary and possible, Co-operative Implements and Machines Societies have to be organised. Harvester machines are to be purchased co-operatively and installed for co-operative use. Tractors also may be utilised to cultivate agency, desert and virgin areas.

CO-OPERATIVE WORK SHOPS

Cooperative Work Shops are needed: (a) to separate the work places from the domestic quarters of cottage industrial workers, (b) these workshops are to be fitted up with upto date but simple machinery to be worked with power, (c) all allied and associated cottage industries to be located in work shops which are built close to each other or within the co-ordinated compartments of a common shed of workshop.

MANAGEMENT OF CO-OPERATIVES

- (a) Limited or unlimited liability can be chosen.
- (b) Direction of Co-operatives by democratically elected villagers is necessary.
- (c) Executive functions are to be discharged by paid officers controlled by provincial discipline but subject to local supervision by the co-operative directors and liable to be transferred on their recommendations.
- (d) Co-operative directors are to undergo elementary training in co-operative principles and practice and auditing.
- (e) Employees of the Co-operatives are to be trained specially in accounting, auditing and Co-operative management and discipline.
- (f) Co-operatives' employees have to be provided $\frac{1}{4}$ th to $\frac{1}{3}$ rd representation on the directorate of the Co-operatives to make them fully democratic.
- (g) Village Cooperatives are to be represented on District Co-operatives and the latter on provincial co-operatives.
- (h) In regard to control of each section of a multi-purposes co-operative structure, village sections are to be represented on and to control the district sections and those to be represented on and to control the provincial sections.

CO-OPERATIVE CANTEENS

- (a) Rural workers especially agricultural workers are to be freed from the worry of keeping their separate home kitchens and from the troubles of cooking by providing nutritive and balanced meals at cost prices in co-operative canteens.

(b) Landed peasants, artisans etc. are to be provided with electric stoves, heaters, lighting and fans at reasonable rates.

(c) People are to be encouraged to render servicing for themselves for domestic and personal purposes so that the number of persons engaged separately for such purposes can be minimised.

INSURANCE

Every peasant is to be encouraged to be insured for life, for old age, for health and also for endowments for education and housing of children; all these schemes being organised by the State.

CATTLE INSURANCE

Cattle Insurance has to be organised under the auspices of the State. 'Herd Books' to be maintained for developing pedigree cows and bulls and raising the standards of cattle breeding and registration of suitable bulls and castration of useless bulls are needed.

CROP INSURANCE

Crop Insurance is to be organised under State auspices. Contributions to the fund - (a) by peasants on acre basis and also on crop basis (b) the State to levy a compulsory fee on the sale of all agricultural produce (c) State to finance the whole administration of Crop Insurance.

FIRE INSURANCE

Every village has to be protected from fire by - (a) provision of tanks filled with rain-fed or canal water (b) provision of huge pots of water at different strategic points in the village and (c) the training of the local youth and Panchayatdars and officials in fighting fires.

OPEN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

Purchases in private godown are to be penalised and all agricultural produce is to be sold only in open markets through Farmers' and Consumers' Co-operatives, if need be, under the supervision of peasants' Congress.

National Agricultural Finance Corporation with its affilia-

and Provincial and District Corporations must be started. These are to help peasants' Co-operatives to start and finance their agricultural processing industry and dairy farming and cottage industries and are to be used only as a source of employment and not as an investment or as transferable capital.

EVERY VILLAGE A CENTRE OF ALL ROUND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Hand spinning, weaving and elementary processing of agricultural produce have to be encouraged.

Elementary stages of various rural industrial activities subsidiary to agriculture are all to be encouraged. Peasants, agricultural workers and their women are to be encouraged to maximise their total employment and income through their activities in all these directions in their own farms and also households.

Every village has to try to develop maximum number of cottage and other industries and employment in their elementary stage. Their activities and mutual exchange of goods to be integrated through the local multi-purposes co-operatives.

Through the rising tiers of such multi-purposes co-operatives of single village, groups of villages, district and provinces, rural India is to become self-sufficing to the maximum degree in its economy.

Towns are to be dovetailed into this economy.

Electric power is to be utilised for agricultural purposes, cottage industries and processing industries.

Hours of labour are to be progressively reduced in proportion to the use of electric power, rise in the efficiency of peasants and workers and also in the increase in the total agricultural, industrial and other wealth of the country.

GRAIN STORES

(a) Grain stores of the improved type should be constructed by village panchayats with provincial grants.

(b) These stores are to serve double purpose (i) storage on

behalf of peasants for sale at a later but suitable time, (ii) to serve as Grain Banks and as Insurance against failure of crop and famine.

GRAIN BANKS.

(a) A compulsory levy of a prescribed portion of the production of grains — pulses, dry vegetables, fruits etc. has to be collected and stored in these banks as Insurance against famine.

(b) Loans are to be given in kind from these banks to agricultural workers during the lean months and also to landed peasants during the bad seasons at nominal rates of interest to cover costs of administration and wastage.

(c) Refrigerators and drying plants have to be installed in every village and worked with the aid of electric power for the benefit of all residents.

BANKS.

All Banks, Insurance, Mining, Electricity-production, distribution and Textiles are to be nationalised within a prescribed time, possibly each one industry at a time.

HOUSING

(a) Village panchayats are to undertake rural planning and housing.

(b) Houses for middle classes are to be constructed and sold or let at economic rates. Housing Co-operatives are to be organised to construct houses for middle class and well-to-do people and also to lease the existing houses and rent them out to middle classes and proletariat.

(c) Houses for agricultural workers and artisans are to be rented at less than economic rates and their construction costs to be recovered in a large number of easy annual instalments.

(d) The landed peasants, artisans and landless workers are to be encouraged to contribute in cash or in terms of labour or materials, a portion of the cost of the houses while the construction is in progress and thus minimise the total

public investment on such housing.

The public expenditure on such house construction is to be shared between village panchayats and Provincial Government.

CREDIT AND RURAL PEOPLE

(a) All existing debts of agricultural workers are to be cancelled or to be scaled down.

(b) They are to be freed from liabilities of inherited debts.

(c) Credit for landed and landless peasants is to be controlled and provided only by Cooperative Societies for productive purposes including maintenance of family and approved social functions.

(d) Rate of interest is not to be more than 2 per cent above the bank rate.

(e) Peasants are to be encouraged to deposit their small savings in Cooperative Banks.

(f) All private money-lending among agriculturists ought to be prohibited or minimised.

(g) Gradually all spare cash of agriculturists to be attracted into Cooperative Societies and to be utilised for the financing of agricultural operations.

VILLAGE PLANNING.

Every village is to have a plan for its economic development, to be worked out by the village panchayat and Co-operatives and to be accepted by a majority of all adults.

Reconstruction of Village Housing and the building of houses for the agricultural workers and others to be undertaken by Village Panchayats as per an agreed Village Development plan.

FORESTS.

[a] Forest wealth is to be preserved and developed.

[b] Forest administration is to be democratised by organising village panchayats and by ensuring that the local forest officials are subjected to the supervision and advice of Forest Panchayats.

[c] Economic and commercial potentialities of forest-

wealth are to be increased. Avenues of fruit trees and other trees of economic value have to be raised.

[d] Village topes are to be planted and protected to supplement forest wealth and Tree Planting campaigns have to be organised.

[e] Smaller forests of secondary importance are to be protected and developed as anti-erosion measure.

[f] Private ownership of forests, topes, drinking water wells, tanks is to be eliminated.

TREE PLANTING AND ANTI-EROSION.

[a] The spread of desert, salinity of soil and erosion are to be fought systematically through local, provincial and national efforts or programmes.

[b] Planting of economic trees such as Tamarind, bamboos, margosa, mango, palmyra, casuarina etc, must be encouraged to break the winds, to fight erosion, to provide shade and humidity and to supply timber, fuel and other products.

MANAGEMENT OF VILLAGE FACTORIES.

All the existing factories for processing purposes are to be taken over by Village Co-operatives and to be managed jointly with their present owners and their cottage industrial workers have to be taken as partners.

Groundnut expellers, Rice Mills, Oil-crushers, flour mills and such other mills are to be controlled by Village Panchayats and managed by Co-operatives.

The Agricultural and Processing Machinery and Implements Manufacturing industry must be nationalised and all the repair-shops and workshops to be cooperatively managed and controlled. Village artisans and blacksmiths and carpenters have to be provided special technical training facilities and modern implements in the cooperatives.

DRINKING WATER.

Every village is to be provided with as many wells as are needed for providing drinking water facilities and special

care has to be taken in this regard for the sake of Harijans and other depressed people.

SANITATION

Public trench latrines and also flush latrines of the cheaper model have to be constructed wherever possible, for the use of all sections of villagers, especially for women and every house-holder encouraged to construct a trench latrine in his yard.

IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE.

(a) Special efforts have to be made to exploit to the maximum degree all local rivulets and tanks and to catch up water from local rainfall, or streams, or drainage canals and utilise it for local irrigation or gardening purposes.

(b) Tube wells have to be sunk to obtain sub-soil water, besides digging ordinary wells by offering adequate subsidies.

(c) Economical methods of using water for irrigation have to be propagated.

(d) Methods of using irrigation for dry crops to insure them against failure of seasonal rains are to be popularised.

(e) Excess or surplus water is to be drained away from marshy lands by utilising such devices as in simple wind-mills, and sub-soil drainages.

(f) Irrigation and drainage facilities are to be fully developed and utilised to fight drought and erosion.

FRUIT PRODUCTION.

(a) Every effort has to be made to increase local production of different kinds of fruit in every village.

(b) Nurseries of fruit seedlings must be organised in every group of villages.

FISH CULTURE.

Suitable species of fish are to be raised in all local canals, tanks, and pools and even wells.

Nurseries of fish have to be maintained.

SERI CULTURE.

Mulberry trees and castor plants and other suitable plants have to be raised on all public grounds and road-linings and seri-culture to be developed as a village co-operative industry.

HONEY COLLECTION

Village panchayats have to maintain bee-hives to collect honey from, for the use of school children etc., Peasants have also to be encouraged to keep bee-hives.

SUGAR-CANE AND GUR

(a) Production of Gur from palmyra, date, palm and sugar-cane has to be encouraged.

(b) Sugar manufacture as a village industry is to be developed.

PULSES

Production of pulses to be encouraged for augmenting food supply.

OIL SEEDS

Production of different kinds of oil-seeds is to be specially developed for (a) oil extraction, (b) oil-cake to be used as cattle-feed and manure, (c) also as an ingredient of food. Neem seeds and such other oil-bearing seeds have to be collected through the local co-operatives and oil extracted therefrom. Production of oil for lighting purposes is needed, so that petrol and kerosene can be specially utilised for other more important national purposes.

PRODUCTION OF VEGETABLES

Every house-holder must be encouraged to utilise all spare ground around his house for production of vegetables, fruit trees and also for augmenting the total non-commercial production of protective food.

FIBRES

Raising of indigenous fibre crops in addition to jute has to be encouraged.

Palmyra and date fibres are to be produced on a larger scale.

Fibre manufacture is to be carried on as a village indus-

COMMUNICATIONS

Water-ways, railways and roads have to be developed in an integrated manner to maximise their usefulness and to lower the costs of communications for local, district and provincial purposes.

Irrigation and drainage channels are to be fully utilised for transport purposes.

All minor ports have to be developed and equipped with piers and other necessary facilities for developing their commerce.

Bullock carts are to be fitted with tyres to minimise the wear and tear of roads and to increase the bullock power and speed of bullock carts.

Lorries have to be run with coal gas as far as possible, to minimise the use of petrol for non-urgent transport.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

All municipalities are to get their public utility works executed either departmentally or through the Labour Cooperatives.

All municipal public utilities have to be owned, controlled and if possible managed by municipal authorities.

Municipal authorities are to take over as much of public canteen and hotel work, laundry, marketing, cinema and theatre-management work as possible and run it with the democratic co-operation of the consumers, workers concerned and the independent entrepreneurs.

CULTURAL EQUIPMENT FOR VILLAGE

Every village is to be provided with a school, library, separate play grounds for boys and girls, park, swimming pool, a theatre hall, if need be combined with a school, a public radio, wall news papers.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

Hand spinning has to be developed as a co-operative

home and cottage industry with some special cottages in every part of the village, wherein peasants and their women can spin whenever convenient and possible in their leisure hours also.

Adequate quantities of cotton has to be locally produced wherever possible or to be made available from imports brought in by Central Co-operative Cottage Industries Union of the Province or District.

Payments are to be made to such half-time or full-time spinners on the basis of their production.

Handloom weaving also has to be developed as the supplementary industry to that of spinning in every village and the Village Co-operatives are to be strengthened by the taluk and district cottage industrial co-operatives and their workshops.

Every handloom weaver has to be encouraged to join the spinners' and weavers' co-operative societies by the state offering special assistance such as free management of the Co-operatives, accounting and auditing facilities, and regular supplies of yarn.

Co-operative Handloom Emporiums or special handloom sections in every Co-operative Products Emporium have to be opened.

Village Oil-Extracting (gunny) industry has to be reorganised on Co-operative basis.

The oil-extracting capacity of village gunnies is to be improved through research and demonstration.

Oil-seeds are to be supplied to the gunnies through Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies.

Every cottage industry is to be re-organised on co-operative basis.

New cottage industries are to be started by special efforts on co-operative basis and artisans trained in latest methods of work.

Regional, city and district co-operative Cottage Industrial Emporiums have to be organised and products of co-op-

atives alone to be exhibited, sold and popularised through them.

Provincial Cottage Industries Finance Corporations have to be organised with adequate funds and also with suitable liaison with the Reserve Bank and corresponding corporations for agriculture and industries to finance the various activities from production to distribution of cottage industries' goods.

VILLAGE PLANNING

Every village is to have a plan for its economic development, to be worked out by the village panchayat and Co-operatives and to be accepted by a majority of all adults. Reconstruction of village housing and the building of houses for the agricultural workers and others to be undertaken by village panchayats as per an agreed village development plan.

CROP PLANNING

Every village or a group of villages has to be provided with a plan for the production and supply of food-grains, pulses, oil-seeds, fibres and other agricultural products. Such an agricultural plan is to be so developed as to be fitted into a corresponding industrial development plan and the whole plan must be suitably fitted by necessary adjustments into the National or Provincial plan.

INDUSTRIAL PLAN

For every group of villages there should be a plan for industrial exploitation and utilisation of the locally available minerals and agricultural products, as well as human resources.

A polytechnic and an agricultural middle school have to be established with such branches of study as are suited to the local agricultural and industrial plan to ensure adequate supply of skilled and well-trained peasants, workers and organisers and refresher courses to be organised for improving the technical equipment and organising capacity of the organisers and others holding key positions.

A co-operative commercial and auditing and accounting and managerial institute has to be organised for every group

of villages (zone) or a group of such zones to provide well-trained co-operative leadership and organisers.

PLANS TO BE DEMOCRATICALLY WORKED OUT

These zonal plans are to be worked out locally, either independently or in conjunction with the national, provincial and district planning authorities or conjointly, one helping, correcting and leading the other.

Local initiative has to be prized most and to be encouraged by higher authorities

ZONAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

The Co-operatives, the representatives of the entrepreneurs' organisations (so long as entrepreneurs continue to function), of the independent artisans' representatives, the Kisan Congress and the organisations of the workers employed in the agricultural and other co-operatives, and the village panchayats are all to constitute the zonal planning authority.

The over-all supervision over the execution of the local plan is to be entrusted to and conducted by the Village Panchayat.

INCENTIVES FOR BETTER AND MORE WORK

Every facility has to be created for providing better and varied incentives by way of higher wages and salaries, better social and co-operative privileges and advantages and higher social recognition to induce peasants and workers to improve their efficiency, maximise their production and offer suggestions for greater and better production and otherwise enriching the society.

INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE AND FREEDOM

Individual kisans or artisans are to be entirely free to join or not to join any co-operative.

Whenever any conflict of interest arises within the rural zones of small scale and cottage industries, it is the latter that must be given preference.

Private enterprise in cottage and small-scale industries is either to be replaced completely by Co-operatives or to be

be retailed into an over-all co-operative regulation and control of such industries.

SOCIAL NEEDS OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR LONG TERM PROGRAMME

1. A scheme for Old Age Pension:— To this fund, there should be contributions from Government, employers and workers—Government offering two shares and the workers and employers the other two shares. and that too only during the period of employment whereas Government has to contribute through-out the period of unemployment also.

2. A scheme of workmen's compensation for agricultural workers:—Such compensation is to be paid out of a common fund to which 50 per cent contribution is to come from Government and the remaining 50 per cent is to be contributed by Government.

3. A scheme for Unemployment Insurance:—Contributions to this fund: 1/3rd should come from Government, 1/3rd from workers and the remaining 1/3rd from employers. Maximum period of relief should be 3 months. Willingness to work in cottage industries should be a qualification.

Wherever possible, all these contributions are to be made in kind by workers and employers. Such grain collection should be stored in villages in grain stores and utilised as Famine Insurance and Unemployment Insurance.

The above grain contributions that are to be made by employers as well as employees to the Unemployment Insurance Fund should be in addition to the present *mamool* wages in kind. That is, there should be 33 1/3rd increase on the present wages.

The proportions in which contributions are to be made and the amount to be contributed to the above mentioned three schemes are to depend upon the relative financial resources of the respective parties at any time. The above scales are expected to be indicative rather than imperative.

4. Labour Exchanges:—These have to be organised to regulate the movement and placing of agricultural labour in areas of seasonal rush-employment and also at all other times.

5. Labour Trains:—These have to be run to convey seasonal labour.

6. Labour shelters at all important railway stations have to be put up.

7. Houses—House-sites:—House sites are to be provided by District Boards and by Government on equal share basis. Houses are to be built on co-operative basis with 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ rd contribution from workers and the rest from Government. Workers' contribution has to be made in terms of labour or in long and easy instalments.

If rents are to be charged for the houses so built or for other houses, they must be less than economic. The houses are to become the property of workers in a period of 20 years by payment of annual instalments to cover their share of the cost of house-building.

8. Education:—Scholarships in all technical, middle and high schools should be given for a good portion of the youths of agricultural workers.

9. All hereditary debts to be cancelled.

10. Present debts are atleast to be halved. Namu, Cothi and other methods of credit have to be banned.

11. Marriage and funeral Co-operative Insurance Funds have to be started.

12. Rural Adult Education Societies, libraries, and reading-rooms have to be started by Government with 50 per cent contribution from them.

13. Protection of tenants:—

(a) Minimum tenure must be 5 years;

(b) Renewal right if the tenant is satisfactory.

(c) Maximum rent is to be half of the total grain produce or 1/3rd of all the produce including grain, sunhemp, second crop, fodder, vegetables etc.

Land Courts including equal representatives of both sections to settle rents and tenancy disputes have to be organised by Government.

FARM SERVANTS

8 hours of labour both for men and women. For excess hours of work during rush periods over-time payment should be made.

For all servants on annual or monthly contracts, every Sunday should be a holiday and there should be casual leave of 30 days in an year and 10 days of special leave for rest and recuperation.

It will be possible to satisfy the above needs of workers without in any way injuring the interests and lowering the present standard of peasants, only if the present level of agricultural produce are correspondingly raised and the total income of agricultural masses is raised. But such a rise in agricultural prices can be harmonised with general national progress only if the efficiency levels of work of both peasants and workers are raised by suitable educational and technical training as well as the application of better manures and implements and anti-pest measures, development of irrigation and drainage facilities.

Both peasants and agricultural workers have to realise their oneness of interests and the need for their common struggle in getting their due share from national wealth by minimising their present exploitation by urban commercial interests.

Insurance against unemployment, accidents and old age depends upon the measure of success achieved in raising the standard of efficiency of agriculture as a whole, in gaining as big a share in the national wealth as possible and their achievement in the realisation of their demands and generally in fixing the contribution of agriculturists to national wealth.

Through their present ignorance of the consequence of conflicts on the agricultural front and any possible future

conflicts only the urban and manufacturing interests will be benefitted by obtaining the fruit of their labour and agricultural produce at less than cost price and also by fixing agricultural prices at a specially depressed level based upon lower remuneration for their services.



REPLY TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE OF THE AGRARIAN REFORMS
COMMITTEE OF ALL INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE.

No. 1 and 2.— After the Zamindari system is abolished in most of the provinces excepting Bihar, where there has been much subinfeudation there will be generally only three categories of peasants (1) the Pattadar or the landholder; (2) the tenant, who leases out others lands more or less at rack-rent rates, and (3) the agricultural worker, who works for wages under the above two sections on daily or monthly or annual basis. It is difficult to say for some years to come how the land will come to be distributed between the landholding ryots and the tenant ryots because it is only after abolition of Zamindari system that the landholding ryots will be making up their mind whether or not to lease out their land and if so to what extent. But in such provinces as Madras and Bombay, landholding ryots have come to enjoy for a long time definite rights over their lands. It has been found that 1/5th to 1/10th of their land on the average has come to be leased out to tenant ryots, the exact proportion varying from district to district.

No. 3:— Today the landholding ryots have complete rights of evicting their under-ryots or share croppers after giving one year or 6 months' notice after the crop is harvested. But in some provinces, leases are not registered at all and so the tenure of a tenant is expected to be renewed year after year. In some cases 5 to 10 year tenures are guaranteed by Registered Lease Deeds.

Unfortunately no stipulations are generally made as to how land and its fertility are to be protected.

and improved by tenants or how tenants have to be compensated for the unexhausted improvements made by them when they are evicted or when their lease period is over.

As for share-croppers, the rent is generally half and half. But in the case of poor soils, it is only $\frac{1}{3}$ rd for the landholding ryot and in that of better soil, it is $\frac{1}{3}$ rd for the tenant.

The first one was 3-(a)-(i)—Rents are determined by local customs and also by local bargaining which depends upon the previous year's crops and the seasonal condition as well as the prevailing agricultural price levels.

There is no such thing as regulated enhancement, abatement or remission of rents. If prices go up and the season is good, there may be some enhancement from year to year. But if conditions worsen, there may be abatement. There is no regular system of remission; if the actual crop realised is less than the rent payable, generally a landholder is unable to recover the balance. Good landholders gracefully remit such balances. Even then the tenant loses almost all his investment and much of his labour. Some times some tenants are obliged to resort to stealthily removing a portion of the crop before it is publicly harvested in order to insure themselves against any losses.

No. 3 (ii):—Till now except in Bombay, there has been no legislation to regulate the time, and manner of enhancement or reduction of rent. Prolonged and costly court proceedings are resorted to settle disputes over rents, their arrears etc. Legislation is badly needed to simplify the settlement of such disputes or problems.

(iii) Yes—

The rent generally absorbs more than $3/8$ ths of the gross produce if we include in it all the by-products and joint products of a crop in the whole crop-year and some-times ranges upto $3/4$ ths, the actual proportion depending upon the nature of soil, crop and also the previous agricultural year. There is no doubt that the rents now collected from the landholding ryots are too high and must be reduced.

- (v) Legal protection is needed for providing for compensation, for improvements made and not fully utilised by under-ryots. Care should be taken to define improvements, as apart from annual repairs and manuring etc.
- (vi) At present the wasteful means of courts are utilised for the recovery of arrears of rents. A less costly and protracted means ought to be devised and legalised for this purpose.
- (vii) Generally 6 months or a year's notice is given for ejectment and the minimum tenure is one year and the maximum 10 years.
- (viii) No such rights are today conceded to tenants.
- (ix) It is difficult to estimate the average area held by each category of ryots.

No. 4:— It is wrong to work towards only the Co-operatives to the rapid or gradual elimination of individual peasants. Lease-holding need not be banned altogether. Because, there would always be some landholding ryots who must get their lands cultivated for short or long periods by tenant ryots for various social reasons. Individual units will continue to be the general type of farming in India.

- (ii) Co-operative farms have a great future and have to be encouraged.

(iii) Collective farms can be formed from out of unoccupied Government Lands.

Individual farming has certain special merits. It liberates the agriculturist from his traditional fear of subordination to another.

It satisfies his urge for control over a peice of land and also for creative activity, initiative and enterprise.

It compensates him in part for the specially onerous efforts needed and sufferings to be endured in agriculture.

It excites all that is best in a Kisan's spirit of initiative and enterprise and leadership.

It induces every peasant and his family to put in their best efforts and continually tend the soil, cattle and crops, fruit trees, despite the most hazardous conditions obtaining in agriculture.

It has all the advantages of decentralisation of power and economic drive and liberation of millions of peasants from evils of bureaucratisation and official corruption and authoritarianism, associated with too much of State regulation and control in Collective and State Farms and to some extent in Co-operative Farms and also freedom from corruption and oppression of minorities, so much prevalent in factious-ridden co-operatives of our villages and countryside and the risks of inefficiency and corruption associated with Collective and Co-operativ enterprises.

The above are mentioned in addition to the well-known virtues of smallholding in agriculture.

Therefore it is wrong and too premature for the Congress to think of any agency other than the

individual landholding ryot as the basic category and entrepreneur.

Experiments may and ought to be made with other categories of enterprise in agriculture such as Co-operative Farming, Collective Farming and State Farming in order to see if they will yield better results in the shape of greater yields, better utilisation of man-power and land and water and electrical resources, protection and improvement of soil, and better employment for people on land, greater protection from unemployment and underemployment, a higher standard of living for all employed on land, and more than anything else, greater and more ennobling and more progressive stimulation and satisfaction of the creative and progressive incentives for leading a more productive, democratic, self-reliant and cooperative life.

At the same time, we have to keep in mind the rising and legitimate ambition of every landless peasant and the too small peasants to have their own holdings and to enlarge their present small holdings until they become economic holdings.

When the economics of 'uneconomic' holding is studied, care should be taken to evaluate the tremendous and almost inestimable psychological satisfaction derived by the owners and their families from their ownership and cultivation of even small patches of land, apart from the higher credit-worthiness associated with it and the utilisation with all their creative energy and the growth of their personality, of their spare time upon the cultivation of those small patches of lands and the production of vegetables, small quantities of food grains, including oil-seeds, cotton and even tobacco

for personal consumption and the resultant rise in the personality and personal status of the peasants concerned.

Therefore it is necessary to fix the maximum limit for the holdings of big landholders in order to make available their surplus lands to the landless peasants and the smaller holders and satisfy their juster and more productive urge for land.

At what stage is the maximum limit for holdings to be fixed? This will depend upon the nature of the land, rain-fall, sub-soil water resources, irrigation facilities, the kind of crops grown and such other considerations. It will also depend upon the number of small peasants to be satisfied, the degree of success being achieved by cooperative farming, the strength of the spirit of enterprise and agricultural leadership obtaining among peasants. Therefore the maximum limit is variable from time to time and also in accordance with the nature of its industrial and agricultural equipment. There should be no such thing as a minimum limit for holding. It will be the height of folly to fix any such minimum limit and thus dispossess all other holdings less than that minimum. Yet it would be a wise policy to fix a variable limit for an economic holding and try to help those who have less than that to purchase small extents of land to reach upto that economic limit of holding. This can be done in one of two ways or both. They can be allowed to purchase at market price other smaller holdings or obtain portions of the surplus lands of big landholders or be granted some land from the hitherto unoccupied but cultivable Government waste lands.

Suitable legislative steps may have to be taken to prevent these economic holdings to be further sub-

divided. Indeed similar steps will have to be taken to prevent the sub-division of all those other holdings which are larger than the economic holding but are within the maximum limit permitted in order to ensure the advantages of both the economic holding as well as the large holding permissible in our agricultural economy.

RIGHTS OF HEIRS

Regarding rights of heirs (brothers, sisters ect.,) suitable legislative steps may be taken to ensure adequate compensation for the loss of their shares or equitable shares in the net incomes obtainable from the family holding; these compensations and shares in incomes being reduced in a progressive manner in proportion to the other properties and non-agricultural incomes derived by the co-partners in the property.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVES

Every effort should be made by the State to encourage the small holders to come into agricultural co-operatives in order to achieve almost all the advantages of ownership of land and individual contribution to creative work on land and also the cooperative enterprise and large-scale cultivation. If, for instance, the majority of small holders in any village are willing to go into a cooperative, the minority may be expected to join it, subject to the conditions that, if within the first 3 to 5 years cooperative farming does not yield better results, the minority may exercise its right to leave it with their former lands or their equivalents etc.,

- No. 5. (a) Cooperative farming should be made to depend entirely upon its own proved efficiency and superi-

ority over individual farming in order to induce small-holders and even others to join the Cooperative enterprise. No special spoon-feeding should be given to the cooperatives only to satisfy our fascination for Co-operatives. It is unwise to discourage individual farming because of our prejudice and to encourage Cooperative Farming because of our fascination without any consideration for their economic, social and psychological results and achievements. So long as individual farming is amenable to suitable State and social regulation, control and leadership and carries out the social crop-planning decided upon by the Village Panchayat or District Agricultural Council and is able to produce maximum possible crops and assure a decent and rising standard of living to the land-holding peasant and to agricultural workers concerned, it ought to be treated as an asset and a treasure in our national economy and as the bed-rock on which our Cooperative Commonwealth has to be built up.

(b) At the same time all other accessory services needed by agriculturists such as credit, processing, preservation, storing, marketing and obtaining of seeds, manures, machinery, consumers' goods can be cooperatised in order to liberate the peasant from middlemen and their profiteering and also from the hazards of marketing.

(c) We have full faith, borne out of the experiences of our Kisans during the last 100 years in adapting to changed conditions that Cooperative Farming and Cooperative Agricultural servicing were to be found to be more economical and serviceable and tolerably democratic, they will plump for

Co-operatives without any special inducements or coercion from the State.

Whatever assistance the State may seek to render to the Cooperatives, it should lie in the direction of controlling, and checking up their accounts, their business operations, their organisation, their elections and politics and ensuring their proper democratic organisation, activity and control and also in minimising the risks and their possible adverse influences upon the initiative, creative urge and development of personality of their individual members.

As it is, the experiences of many provinces with these highly developed forms of agricultural cooperatives (both agricultural and servicing sections) are of limited duration and so they cannot be very much relied upon for any rapid drive by the State in their development. So far as the Madras and Bombay experiences with the agricultural servicing cooperatives as well as the village panchayats can be said to indicate anything, it is that our villagers are yet unable to elect proper panchayatdars, that so many of the panchayatdars as well as kisans are victims to factional spirit which condones corruption and inefficiency and too many panchayatdars and their presidents are more interested in suppressing or oppressing the minorities, in misusing the funds of the cooperatives and in holding on to power than to serve the cooperatives. Therefore it is most essential that in the hope of holding our individual kisans, we should not saddle them with another oppressing agent, masquerading with the cooperative status of president or secretary.

Therefore, a judicious mixture of Government administrative control, cooperative over-all demo-

cratic direction and the power of recall vested in the people and the selection of panchayatdars by lot from out of a panel of candidates elected by the voters will have to be worked out in actual practice by every province in accordance with local conditions in order to make the agricultural cooperatives a truly democratic economical and progressive element of organisation and leadership in our rural economy. It is clear, therefore, that the case of the cooperatives as opposed to that of individual partner has yet to be established before the State can come to sponsor it as the most progressive element.

No. 5. (b) GOVERNMENT OWNED CULTIVABLE WASTE LANDS

Regarding utilisation of Government-owned cultivable wastes, we are in favour of reserving the largest portions for the development of cooperative Farms where they are in the midst of highly cultivated lands and to the collective and State farms where they are far away from established villages and are recovered from forests or sandy or malarial tracts which are at present sparsely populated.

Some of the provinces have already adopted the policy of reserving such lands for allotment to scheduled castes. This has to be modified to some extent so that greater emphasis will be laid upon the need of small holders to retain economic holdings than upon the caste to which they belong. But preference may be shown even in building up the economic holdings to scheduled castes. However the definition of scheduled castes has also to be enlarged in order to embrace any other depressed castes of agricultural occupations.

Similar preference may be shown to Adibasis wherever they are found in the plains and even greater preference regarding the arable lands recovered from the hills and valleys which they have always considered as their own preserve.

These lands are not to be granted to anyone with the right of sale or mortgage. They must be cultivated largely according to the crop-planning laid down by the local District Agricultural Councils or the State. No purchase price should be charged by the State. The State should be prepared to make these lands fit for cultivation, provide credit without interest, to construct and supply freely houses for kisans and sheds for cattle and implements and seeds for the first five years in order to make the cultivation of such lands either cooperatively or collectively economical and progressive. These lands when granted to individual peasants ought not to be allowed to be leased out and whenever the grantees or their successors are unable to cultivate directly, they should lapse to Government which would be free to allot them to a Cooperative or a Collective Farm or to any individual peasant.

No. 6. (a) SIZE OF AN ECONOMIC HOLDING

As with the maximum holding, so with an economic holding, it depends upon many factors such as seasons, soils, rainfall, under-ground water resources, irrigation and drainage facilities and the stature and strength of cattle available as well as the education, skill, managerial capacity of the peasant. But generally speaking, it is what an intelligent average peasant can conveniently cultivate with one or at the most 2 pairs of bullocks with the help of one or more of his brothers or a parent as well as his wife and children. It may

run upto 25 to 30 acres of dry land depending upon rain fall or it may be fixed as low as 5 acres of partly garden land and partly irrigated land. Therefore this has to be fixed from District to District, some times, from village to village and it has to be re-examined and refixed periodically once in 5 years.

No. 6. (b) MAXIMUM SIZE OF THE ECONOMIC
HOLDING

How many times the size of an economic holding should be the maximum holding? This depends upon the ability of the peasant to manage the holding, his spirit of enterprise and his skill in agriculture and organisation and also his available resources. At the same time, we cannot afford to allow too large holdings to be held by individual partners, in view of our great need to distribute as much land as possible among the maximum number of landless agriculturists and give them the satisfaction of land-ownership either singly or jointly through Co-operatives. Therefore 50 acres of wet land, both garden and irrigated; or 100 acres of dry land or 150 acres of land in famine zones and desert areas may be taken for the present, as the rough and ready maximum limit to be allowed for a family of agriculturist. So the maximum holding may come to be 6 to 10 times the minimum holding.

No. 7. (a&b)

The owners of maximum holdings, as well as those having more than economic holdings should be prevented from purchasing any more lands.

The surplus land of those who have more than economic holdings can be allowed to be purchased at prescribed price levels by those who have less than an economic holding, as well as those who have less

than the maximum holding - preference being given to the former.

(c) **COMPENSATION PRICE FOR LAND
PURCHASES FROM PEASANTS.**

As for the price to be paid, it should be fixed in relation to previous price paid by the owner, if it had been purchased, the improvements made or the average price prevailing in that area during the previous 5 years. In view of the fact that land has till now been treated by peasants as their only Savings Bank and avenue for investment of the labour, enterprise and savings, no arbitrary method of paying compensation ought to be thought of, lest it should shatter the confidence of crores of peasants in their only means of livelihood, investment and property.

If and when the purchased land-price in any area is considered too high to be in a line with average market price or within the means of the new settlers in or outside the co-operatives, it is the duty of the State to settle the portion of that purchase price to be paid by the purchasers, be they individuals or Co-operatives.

This would ultimately mean that the whole community in which peasants will be in a great majority will be paying a confidence-price for lands purchased for the purpose of their distribution to the landless people and thus maintaining the morale of agricultural classes.

No. 7. (d) **CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS**

So far as the economic holdings are concerned, necessary legal steps will have to be taken to prevent their sub-division and to ensure that they are cultivated jointly by all members of the family or by such members as are competent agriculturists.

As for the remuneration of the other members who will be denied the right of sub-division we have already made our suggestion above.

Regarding the existing uneconomic holdings our aim should be to bring more and more of them to the economic level and the rest of them should be gradually persuaded by force of experience and the proven advantages of Co-operative cultivation to come into Co-operatives.

No. 8.

CO-OPERATIVE METHOD TO BE COMPULSORY OR VOLUNTARY?

It may be made compulsory so far as agricultural servicing is concerned, provided the other conditions regarding its democratic functioning and efficient running are carefully developed (see the earlier warnings) and sufficient steps may be taken to prevent corruption, factious politics and introduction of provincial politics into the running of the Co-operatives.

No. 8. (c)

RESTRICTION OF SUB-DIVISION AND FRAGMENTATION OF HOLDINGS

Voluntary co-operative efforts have not succeeded in Punjab. Hence the Bombay legislation. Legislative sanction is necessary to prevent fragmentation and bring about consolidation. The minority has to be obliged to accept the majority's decision wherever reached in favour of these reforms.

No. 8. (d)

It is necessary that a part of compensation money to be given to zamindars should be reserved for investment to finance agriculture.

No. 9. (a)

SIZE OF A CO-OPERATIVE FARM

All the considerations mentioned in regard to fixation of the size of the farm applies to this question also. In addition to that, we have to inquire and

find out and also make experiments with such points as how many members can make the best co-operative general body without giving room to factions, unashamed suppression by faction leaders and suppression and victimisation of minority. Moreover we have to find out how many competent leaders and organisers will be available from out of how many general body members. In view of the fact that till now our co-operatives, even for servicing purposes, have shown only a poor record of democratic management of persons and funds and in raising the morale of the members, it is advisable for our Government to make very cautious move to start small co-operatives with not more than 100 members and a suitably small capital etc. We may, to start with, organise small farms in villages all linked up with each other or affiliated directly to the District Co-operative Society.

No. 9. (b)

We have to encourage landholding peasants to join the Cooperative Society and give them shares in proportion to their lands and also cattle and implements and other equipment they pool into Cooperatives. We ought to encourage agricultural workers also upto the required number to join any such co-operative Society. All the members of a Co-operative Society previously landed or landless should be treated as equals, and be remunerated as per the contribution they make either of managerial work or other skilled or unskilled work. The dividend to be paid on the contributions of land etc., is to be treated as a fixed charge on the Co-operative Farm.

No. 9. (c)

Within the first 3 or 5 years any member may be allowed to resign from the Co-operative Society and claim the return of his lands as well as his stock in good condition. Unless we provide for this facility,

it will be difficult to persuade our peasants to join the Co-operative Society or to control the vagaries of the factious panchayatdars or to warn the landless members against 'go slow' tactics or irresponsible activities. Care should be taken to see that these Co-operatives are truly co-operatives and not imposed combines.

As for remuneration to anyone employed under the Co-operative Society, it should be at the prevailing market rates

Regarding the distribution of the income of any co-operative, payment of rent or dividend for land and other investments come first.

The interest on borrowed capital coming next.

Depreciation fund coming third.

Annual improvements and permanent improvements coming fourth and fifth.

Reserve Fund coming sixth.

Development of working capital, sharing with the above, the seventh place. The balance is to be distributed between common good fund and the annual payment to members in form of bonus etc.

For the first 5 years it may be necessary to suspend allocations to reserve fund and permanent improvements in order to increase what can be distributed to members and thus make co-operative cultivation attractive.

No. 9. (d) Expulsion of any member from a Co-operative Society should be provided for but subject to quasi-judicial appeal to the Government.

No. 9. (e) Substantial land-holding ryots can be best induced to join the cooperatives, if they are given permanent or long term directorships to be obtained from the limited electorate of similar substantial bias or through the offer of managerial posts within the Co-operative Society. But it is to be examined

whether their entry into Co-operatives subject to the conditions is worthwhile. These are at present academical questions.

No. 9. (f) The co-operatives should be managed by officers of the provincial co-operative service, but subject to the control and direction of local panchayats. Such officers should be liable to be transferred, if the majority of local general body demand it.

Ne 9. (g) Government should be willing to advance Credit (both long term and short term) offer, scientific skill, services of improved implements and of the agricultural co-operative officers to these co-operatives. In this it may give first preference to the co-operatives even while being ready to offer these facilities to individual peasants. These preferences will be the result of the local socio-political conditions and no one can be dogmatic about them.

No. 9. (h) As for payment to labour, it can be based both on time as well as piece work contribution. It depends upon the nature of work. It can be both in kind and cash. No useful purpose can be served by laying down any definite conditions at this stage.

No. 9. (i) As it has been found necessary in Russia, so in India, we may after all come to find it necessary to leave with as many peasant-members as possible, small areas of their own holdings for their individual cultivation and exploitation in order to stimulate their individual enterprise and industry.

No. 9. (j) Co-operative incomes should be charged to income-tax in the same way as other agricultural income in order to avoid discrimination to the thousands and lakhs of co-operators as against crores of individual peasants.

No. 10. (a) If agriculture is properly rehabilitated and re-organised, equipped adequately and processing and servicing are organised on modern lines

with the skilled and trained personnel hailing from amongst agriculturists themselves-but all organised on a decentralised co-operative basis, it must be possible to absorb atleast half of the newly educated peasant youths in the new employments which will become available in the reorganised agriculture and its accessory industry and avenues of employment. It is also possible to provide full employment to a very large number of the present under-employed agricultural masses. The present estimates so generally and facilyly made by industrial-minded economists of 25 per cent of the rural population and easily 30 per cent of agricultural population having to be driven to towns and employed in industries and urban services are due to their wishful thinking. If decentralisation and diffusion of industry and their co-operative reorganisation were to be achieved simultaneously with agricultural, reorganisation, our rural economy may not find it necessary to send to towns more than 12½ per cent of our rural population. Even that much of movement of population will raise such unmanageable problems of urban housing, health, hygiene, water supply, communications etc., that it would appal and strain the organising genius of the whole nation during the next 20 years. Therefore we should think more in terms of keeping people in the village and providing them with a choice of varied employment associated with agriculture. Moreover we must turn our face against the orthodox economists' prescription that rural incomes and wages should be kept lower than those of towns in order to induce rural people to go in search of urban employment. It must be the principal aim of our Congress Governments to try to bring about, at the earliest, parity between wages and remuneration of rural and urban;

agricultural and industrial people and rural crafts and urban servicing.

No. 11

MINIMUM PRICE

Just as industrial and agricultural workers are sought to be assured by the latest Minimum Wages Act, the fixation and enforcement of minimum wages and just as during the war, Government made provision for average profits over a 5 year pre-war period for industries before fixing the prices of industrial goods and just as the latest Social Securities Act protects workers from the risks of old age, accidents, child-bearing and ill-health so also, agricultural prices must be fixed in order to afford peasants minimum protection against vicissitudes of economic cycles and world markets.

Till now, it has been a one-way traffic in the distribution of national income - agricultural resources being drained into the coffers of the non-agricultural interests. There has never been any attempt made to establish parity between agriculture and other industries. The prices and wages and salaries to be paid and their respective shares in national income and wellbeing.

Let us remember that the parity economics has to be accepted as the main instrument for achieving equality of opportunities and income according to Gandhiji's ideals.

Till now industry alone has been vouchsafed protection from foreign imports, and the incalculable risks and losses of economic cycles and dumping etc. by being assured minimum profits through bounties, protective duties etc.

PROTECTION TO AGRICULTURE

So far as agriculture is concerned, no effort has been made to protect peasants from the incalculable

and inescapable and periodical calamities like famines, floods and cyclones over which peasants have no control and under which millions of peasants are being crushed. It is the duty of the State to provide adequate protection against such calamities.

Similarly, outbreak of fires, cattle epidemics and their consequences are too much for the resources of peasants alone and a State effort has to be made to provide adequate insurance against them.

IRRIGATION FACILITIES

Thirdly the supply of water for dry and wet cultivation through irrigation canals, tube-wells and other sub-soil water resources, the anti-erosion and afforestation measures and protective measures against crop pests have all to be given a top priority by the State if agriculture is to be made a tolerably secure means of livelihood.

CROP INSURANCE

The State Crop Insurance has to be organised in order to help peasants-both cooperative and individual- to share in each other's good and bad results of cultivation and the State may have to bear a portion of these insurance costs.

The above insurance and developmental schemes have got to be organised by the State at an early date in order to place agricultural enterprise atleast on the same footing of stability and security as manufacturing industries and services. This is a part of Parity Economics.

MINIMUM PRICES

The other facet of Parity Economics is to fix the minimum prices for agricultural produce and minimum wages and salaries for agricultural labour. Krishnamachari Committee (1945-46) has already

outlined a scheme for the maintenance of minimum prices. During the war, Government of India has worked a scheme for maintaining the minimum price of cotton. The details for the schemes for different crops can be worked out by the Government once the principle is adopted.

MINIMUM WAGES

According to the Minimum Wages Act, in 3 years time minimum wages and salaries will have to be fixed and enforced for agricultural labour. How can land-owning peasants be expected to satisfy the provisions of that Act, unless they are themselves assured of minimum prices for their produce? How minimum wages be fixed unless they can be related to some stable and ascertainable scales of agricultural prices? Agricultural prices and wages are so interdependent and inter-related that they have to be fixed more or less simultaneously in relation to each other and enforced by the State.

At what levels the minimum wages for agricultural workers are to be fixed? Surely we must make an earnest effort to bring about parity between industrial wages and agricultural wages. How long can the Society be blind to the insistent clamour of agricultural workers for parity with industrial workers for equal effort, skill and training and equipment? Therefore it is necessary for Congress to make up its mind to achieve this much-needed parity within the next 10 or 15 or 40 years:

TRAINING FOR AGRICULTURISTS

But this is bound to bring to the fore the urgency of the problem of raising the efficiency of implements, labour, organisation and enterprise of agriculturists like all others in other industries. Agriculturists also must be provided adequate opportunities to

train themselves in the various technicalities, operations and activities of agricultural work and they should be willing to obtain the highest possible proficiency in the science and practice and financing of agriculture. As in Holland and Denmark, we must organise agricultural teaching in our elementary, middle and high schools and provide the basic educational methods to crores of our kisans with the requisite minimum as well as maximum training.

Until our Provincial and General Governments begin to come to grips with these various elements of Parity Economics they will not be able to afford a higher standard of living either for agricultural workers or for landholding peasants or for both, whatever may be their good wishes.

(i) All this would mean that for years to come the urban classes, especially those engaged in industries and services will have to be willing to pay much higher prices for agricultural produce than at present. (ii) And they should be prepared for a reorganisation of their service and employment, pattern of income in order to allow the processing of agricultural products, and servicing of agriculture to be carried on in villages and by intelligentsia springing from peasant ranks. Whether they would be prepared for this considerable adjustment in what has come to be their vested interest is a matter of politics, the fortunes of which will depend upon the relative organised and political strength of peasants.

One thing is clear that both the land-owning and landless ryots and all the artisans and servicing workers, associated with agriculture will have to make a common cause and they will be bound to do so by their common need for protection and

progress-in first of all obtaining from out of the national income their just share and then dividing it up as between themselves as per an agreed formula.

No. 12. HARMONY BETWEEN PEASANTS AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.

It is necessary that rapid steps are taken to minimise all causes for friction between landholding peasants and agricultural workers especially over the question of wages and salaries to be paid to the latter or over the settlement of rents and their payment. If any industry is to be treated as a public utility and agriculture should be given the first place.

Society can get on without anything-but not without food and clothing. Therefore it is its duty to prevent any strikes in it. But that is possible not so much by law or force as by the creation of such tolerable and decent conditions of life for all those engaged in agriculture. So far, peasants have gone on producing food grains, oil-seeds, cotton and fibres as if impelled by their own individual passion for serving the society, and not so much by any considerations of cash returns. These conditions are changing. The mischief of World Markets, economic depression and violent oscillations of price levels over which peasants have no control have made them 'price conscious,' and also, 'wage conscious,' and indications are available that strikes in agriculture also are capable of being organised and of causing incalculable harm. How can this danger be averted ?

First of all peasants and agricultural workers must be insured against the mischief of World Markets. world economic depressions and consequent oscil-

tations of prices on national and international scale. Hence the need for minimum prices for agricultural produce.

Agriculturists must be satisfied that their work, contributions, services, sacrifices are valued as much and remunerated as well as the work and services of industrial proletariat and professionals and servicemen. Otherwise it will not be possible nor can it be just to permanently and effectively penalise a food or fibre strike. Hence the need for parity economics and the four-fold basic agricultural insurance schemes against famines, crop failures, or outbreak of cattle-epidemics and fire.

But it is another matter if for the time being a scale of agricultural prices and based thereon, a scale of agricultural wages are fixed and are agreed upon, one section of agriculturists, that is the landholding peasants or the agricultural workers were to threaten to go on strike. That will have to be treated as a threat to the Society and particularly so to the agricultural industry and agricultural community. Such strikes will have to be penalised. But if both the landed and landless agriculturists are dissatisfied with the scale of agricultural prices fixed by the Society from out of which agricultural wages can be derived, and if they all wish to go on strike, their combined strike cannot be said to be unjustified. But it will be such a serious threat to the prevailing economy, that such a threat can be resolved only by political action by all interests concerned.

The wage fixation and labour conciliatory machinery provided by the Minimum Wages Act and Trade Disputes Act are enough to ensure timely fixation of agricultural wages, their enforcement and settlement of disputes whenever they arise.

But their satisfactory working will depend so largely upon the degree of organisation prevailing among landholding ryots and agricultural workers. Unless their organisations come to embrace the majority of them, win their confidence and cooperation, it may not be possible to avoid disputes and strikes between these two sections of the agricultural classes.

No. 15.

INHERITED AGRICULTURAL DEBTS

The inherited portion of the existing debts of agricultural workers must be completely written off. The other portion should atleast be halved.

As regards the debt of land-holding peasants they should also be suitably scaled down and they should be made payable in 20 to 30 annual instalments and carry only 2 per cent interest.

So far as small holders having only economic holdings and smaller holdings are concerned, 'controlled credit' has to be introduced and it should be distributed only through Cooperative Societies in the shape of commodities and consumer goods needed by peasants. The debt relief legislation so far passed in different provinces and the measures taken to reduce agricultural indebtedness and eliminate the mischief of money-lenders are so many and so intricate that we cannot give any detailed consideration in this connection. It needs special and detailed consideration.

Ways and means for penalising private money-lending to agriculturists have to be explored.

PROBLEM OF FORCED LABOUR

Forced labour is as much due to peasants' indebtedness as to feudal conditions. With the abolition of Zamindari system and untouchability and the introduction of controlled credit, it ought to be possible for Kisan Congress and Congress organisations to eliminate forced labour. But energetic propaganda is needed both by the State and voluntary organisations

to expose those who demand forced labour. Legally it must be banned and made a cognisable offence.

No. 14. IMPROVED IMPLEMENTS AND MARKETING FACILITIES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

(i) Surplus producers and self-sufficient producers should also be helped with the services of grain elevators and State and Cooperative Grain Stores and Stores of Agricultural Machinery, Manures etc. State and Cooperative processing and marketing facilities at cheap and economic rates should also be made available. Their sons, brothers and other dependents have to be given fullest facilities to get themselves trained in the highest technical, financial, organisational, and marketing aspects of agriculture and its associated processing, and servicing employments so that the general level of technical and other efficiency of agriculture can be rapidly raised.

(ii) As regards the inadequate and token producers all the above facilities have to be provided as far as possible freely. In addition, their men and women have to be trained to develop garden (fruits, roots, vegetables, flowers etc.) cultivation and cottage industries, bee-hiving, seri-culture, poultry keeping, dairy farming etc., so that they can provide for themselves full employment under the leadership of their local multi-purposes Cooperative Society. Moreover every effort has to be made both by the State and Society to encourage these producers to maximise the total production of all possible agricultural products that will minimise their own needs and those of the local community for food purchases or imports.

No. 15

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS - TO IMPROVE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF PEASANTS

As has already been stated by us, one of the most important pre-requisites for the radical improvement in the social and economic conditions of our peasants is to raise the general and technical educational level of our peasantry. Mere compulsory elementary education is only a beginning in this direction. Adult education can do little more than preventing its wastage. A network of agricultural schools from the village to provincial scale and refresher courses and colleges are needed and much more than what is being spent at present on all our educational institutions, including Universities, has got to be spent. Will our Government find so much money? The answer will largely lie in the future political strength of our rural masses.

No. 16

LAND TAXES

The Kisan Congress has always maintained that the present land tax is regressive in its incidence and most unjust when compared to the way in which industrial incomes have been dealt with. The possession of land by any peasant only means that he has got this means of occupation through which he tries to find a source of living as best as he can. Any tax on it can only mean a tax on his means of living. It is worse than a professional tax. It is unjustified. When it is the duty of the State to provide every one with full employment, failing which to pay him an unemployment allowance, is it not unfair to tax the peasant for holding and using the land in order to find for himself and his successors full employment instead of troubling the State for insurance against unemployment?

And to tax a peasant in proportion to the area of land he possesses and cultivates, irrespective of the fact whether it yields him a living partial or full-or any net income at all is to tax his very instrument of production and means of livelihood which is most unfair. To tax all those peasants whose incomes from their lands are not enough to maintain them, not to speak of decency, is to discriminate specially against peasants as opposed to non-agriculturists whose net incomes from business or professions are exempted from income tax right upto Rs. 3000/-. In pre-war days land revenue used to be the biggest source of provincial budget. It is no longer so. Even the moderate-minded Taxation Enquiry Committee considered the present land revenue system as unjust and oppressive and one-sided. The Travancore Government has already replaced it by income tax on agricultural incomes subject to minimum exemption limits.

It is always open to the State to charge in a business-like manner water-rates for irrigation facilities and survey and settlement and land record expenses. It is also possible for State to insist that a minimum portion of the grain produced on any holding should be sold to it at the prescribed economic price in order to ensure a minimum supply of grains to be later distributed among the poorer classes at cost price.

It is not advisable to compulsorily collect income tax on agricultural incomes in terms of food grains. But it should be open to peasants to pay in kind to Government.

For local Panchayat purposes those peasants who have more than half the economic holding may be expected to contribute not more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of their actually realised gross produce, provided

those who have more than economic holdings can be made to contribute from 5½ per cent to 7½ per cent in accordance with the gross produce realised. Similarly 10 per cent of the Sales Tax realised by the State from any village shall be left to the Village Panchayat.

These are the two experiments of local taxation on agriculture which may be made in order to provide adequate funds for Village Panchayats to achieve local social and economic betterment. But the best thing to do is not to impose any tax at all on agricultural incomes below a fixed limit as in the case of income tax on business profits and tax all agricultural incomes above that limit in the same way as the present non-agricultural incomes.

Special legislation is needed to protect the interests of tenants under the landholding ryots. They must be protected against rack-renting. They should be assured at least 5 years tenure on wet lands and 10 years on dry lands with the right to continuing the tenure for another 5 years or 10 years respectively. They should not be evicted except for proven spoilage of the fertility of the soil or the non-fulfilment of the local food plan or when the owner wishes to cultivate it himself for not less than 2 years. There should be no rent collection when the crop fails or when it is not more than As. 8/- of the average crop. In case where landholder shares equally in the investment in cultivation expenses, he may be entitled to half the realised gross produce even when only a sub-normal crop is realised.

As for the quantum of rent, it should never be more than one half of the gross produce or less than half of the net income, when all the crops, bye-products, joint products are taken together.



APPENDIX

Questionnaire of the Agrarian Reforms Committee

Q 1. Describe the various systems of land tenure in your province as now are and would be after Zamindari Abolition and state the extent of land held at present under each of the systems.

Q 2. State the various kinds of interests below ryot and their degree of importance in number and the extent of land held by each of them.

Q 3. (A) What are the existing rights and obligations of ryots, under-ryots, share croppers and agricultural works in relation to

(i) Determination, enhancement, abatement and remission of rents

(ii) Settlement of rents in the first instance—the time and manner of enhancement or reduction by suits in the courts or in settlement proceedings.

(N. B. If there are any sub-ryots who take land on lease from those ryots who hold it directly from the Government or Panchayat, whatever payment in kind or cash they make to the ryots is to be considered as "rent" for the purpose of this questionnaire)

(iii) Should there not be Land Tribunals with equal number of representatives of ryots and sub-ryots for settling fair and equitable rent and adjusting other relations between them?

(iv) The incidence of rent—what proportion of actual gross production is being paid as rent—whether rents in general are heavy and should be reduced

(v) Making improvements and getting compensation specially in case of under-ryots

- (vi) Procedure for recovery of arrears of rents
- (vii) Conditions governing tenure and ejection
- (viii) Permanency, heritability and transferability of tenants' rights
- (ix) the average area of land held by each category of cultivators

(B) What changes do you propose in respect of the above rights and obligations now that Zamindari System is being abolished-specially in respect of transfer, sub-letting and share-cropping?

Q 4. Is it possible to have only one category of ryots? If so, how do you propose to achieve it?

Types of Farming

Broadly speaking there can be the following types of farming:

- (i) Individual unit worked with family labour and casually employed hired labour.
- (ii) Co-operative farm in which ownership of land is retained by the individuals concerned but managed co-operatively.
- (iii) Collective Farm-in which the peasant community concerned or a group of peasants have no rights of individual ownership and the ownership of all the land vests in that community.
- (iv) A State farm would be organised on State lands

Q 5. (A) (a) What are the possibilities in your province for the development of farms defined as a Co-operative farm, a Collective farm and a State farm within the next five or ten years?

- (b) How do you propose to make the individual farming unit referred to above a more efficient and productive element in our agricultural economy?
- (c) By what steps can the individual farmer referred to above be induced or helped to join a Co-operative farm?

- (d) Should not the development of co-operative farming be dependent upon its proved efficiency and superiority over individual farming?
- (B) (a) What is the present policy of your Government regarding the utilisation of
- (i) Government-owned cultivable wastes
 - (ii) Unoccupied lands, wastes and forests acquired from Zamindars
 - (iii) The surplus lands to be acquired from or surrendered by the big landholders
 - (iv) Reclamation of the present uncultivable lands, and
 - (v) What are the anti-erosion measures taken or to be taken?
- (b) What are the respective extents of such different kinds of lands?
- (c) Should the government lands be utilised for organising State farms or collective farms or both?
- Q 6. (a) What do you consider should be the size of an *economic holding*
- (i) **Economic Holding** Let us assume that a holding to be economic must provide a surplus on the ascertained costs of production, sufficient to provide security for lean years and for fluctuations in market prices and a fair standard of living for the cultivator and his dependents and fair wages to agricultural labourers and contribution to insurance funds,
 - (ii) In fixing the size of a holding the idea of Balanced Cultivation and Regional Sufficiency (ref: Congress Economic Programme Committee's Report) should be kept in view and holding means the total land held by a cultivator.
 - (iii) Please explain precisely what do you consider a fair standard of living for a cultivator or an agricultural labourer in regard to food, clothing,

housing and other necessities and amenities of life.

- (iv) What size of holding can a good pair of bullocks plough?
- (v) What size of holding can an average cultivator and his family cultivate efficiently with or without hired labour?

- (b) What should be the maximum size of a holding per family or working adult?
- (c) How many times the size of the Economic Holding should be the size of maximum holding?

Q 7. (a) Should not those individuals owning the maximum extent or above be prevented from acquiring any more land?

- (b) Should not the sales of land over and above the economic holding of any one be limited to those who have less than economic holdings?

- (c) What price should be paid—and on what basis—for all surplus lands to be acquired from those having more than the maximum holding?

- (d) Do you advocate the creation of an impartible economic holding and what measures do you suggest for maintaining such a unit?

Q 8. (a) Should the co-operative method be compulsory in respect of credit, marketing, consolidation of holdings and purchase of seeds, manures and other agricultural requirements, if majority of cultivators agree to it?

- (b) If so, should it not be through the multipurpose co-operative society?

- (c) (i) Have any measures been adopted to restrict sub-division and fragmentation of holdings? if so, with what results?

- (ii) Have any measures been adopted to promote consolidation of holdings? If so, with what results?

(iii) What measures do you propose for consolidation of holdings?

- (d) Is it possible for your Government to reserve a part of compensation money given to the

Zamindars for investment at a prescribed rate of interest in a co-operative society to ensure adequate supply of cheap rural credit?

Q 9. Co-operative Farming

- (i) What is your estimate of the size of a co-operative farm? What technique and management would you adopt in working co-operative farms?
- (ii) How would you initially form a co-operative farm? Whom would you admit to the membership of the co-operative farm? Would it be possible to admit landless labourers to the membership of co-operative farms?
- (iii) If so, on what conditions?
 - (a) Would you permit the member of a co-operative farm to resign his membership?
 - (b) If so, under what conditions?
 - (c) Will he be entitled to the return on land, implements, cattle, capital etc., initially contributed to or to compensation?
 - (d) Would you provide any priority in payments to be made on account of land, capital, labour, and other contributions?
 - (e) Indicate the methods of computing compensation.
- (iv) Do you contemplate that under certain conditions, a person could be expelled from membership? If so, give details.
- [v] What are your proposals to make admission to the co-operative farms attractive for substantial cultivators?
- [vi] What method would you suggest for providing management and auditing of accounts for any collective system? If so, please give full details of the powers and working of plenary meetings and the executive committee?

[vii] What assistance do you think Government should provide in the shape of

- [a] implements and animals
- [b] scientific and technical skill, and
- [c] finance

and what control and powers the Government should have over these farms in the interest of efficient and democratic management?

[viii] [a] What method would you adopt in distributing the produce of the co-operative farms? What would be the basis of payment to workers? Would you adopt payment on the basis of work days or productivity? What provisions, if any, would you like to make for

- [a] reserve fund
- [b] increasing common amenities,
- [c] improvement of the farm, and
- [d] workers' share.

[b] Do you propose to allow out of total co-operative, collective or state holding any land by way of allotment for the exclusive use of individual members?

[ix] What measures do you propose to popularise and encourage the establishment of co-operative farms?

[x] Should not the co-operative farms be taxed in the same way as other similar institutions?

Q 10. [i] What is your estimate of the number of persons now subsisting on land who are likely to be displaced, if the overall changes suggested above are given effect to? How would you absorb them by development of suitable cottage industries—auxiliary, processing and consumers goods?

[ii] Has your province adequate number of artisans such as black-smiths, carpenters, masons, leather-workers, potters needed to attend adequately to the agricultural needs? Are they sufficiently trained and skilled and if not, what scheme do you propose to raise their efficiency, earnings and status?

Q 11. [i] Should not a minimum price for agricultural produce be assured? What machinery should be established for the purpose?

[ii] Should there not be parity between prices of non-agricultural products and services and agricultural products and services? In what way such parity may be attained and maintained?

[iii] Should not each village try to raise to the maximum possible extent raw materials for consumers goods needed by the local people consistent with the extent and quality of land of the village?

[iv] Is it not advisable for the Government to restrict exports of food and raw materials from a village or a group of villages to proved surpluses?

Q 12. [i] What steps do you propose to relieve the burden of indebtedness of landed peasants as well as agricultural workers? To what extent have the Provincial Debt Relief Legislation and the present rise of agricultural prices lightened the burden of such indebtedness.

[ii] Do you suggest the advisability of introducing "controlled credit" only to be made available to peasants through functional supplies in kind such as manures, cattle, building materials, implements and other producers and consumers goods through multiple co-operative society?

[i] How soon can your province give effect to the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, relating to agricultural workers? What special steps your government should adopt in order to settle disputes and establish harmonious relations between land-owning peasants, ryots and agricultural workers?

[ii] Should agriculture be regarded as a public Utility Industry and should strikes and lock-outs in the industry be allowed?

[iii] What steps have been so far taken and with what success to put down "forced labour"? what additional steps do you now propose to be taken in this regard?

Q 14. There are generally four types of agriculturists:

[i] surplus producers to whom agriculture is a profitable concern

[ii] self-sufficient producers whom agriculture keeps fully employed.

[iii] inadequate producers to whom though agriculture is the main source of employment yet not paying enough to make both ends meet.

[iv] token producers to whom income from their own lands is not the main means of living.

Indicate how the state can assist agriculturists referred to in [iii] and [iv] in getting full employment in agriculture and cottage industries and agriculturists referred to in [i] and [ii] in the enjoyment of their rights and in the discharge of their obligations to state and society.

Q 15. Should it not be one of our main aims to raise the educational levels [general and technical] of agriculturists and thus raise their efficiency? How soon would your Government be able to organise a net-work of agricultural middle and high schools and refresher-courses and colleges?

Q 16. [i] Should there not be a direct tax on agriculture to replace the existing "rent" [as understood under Zamindari System] or land revenue? If so, should it be a progressive income tax on agricultural income? If not, what other alternative method of taxing agricultural incomes do you propose? Should not holdings smaller than an economic holding be exempted from such a tax? Should not such a tax be progressively graded?

[ii] How far will it be possible to realise all dues payable to co-operatives and village panchayats by cultivators in terms of produce only?

Q 17. What steps have your government so far taken or propose to take for

- [i] improvement of cattle-breeding and fighting cattle epidemics and increasing the production of fodder by reservation of some area for pasturage, tree planting and afforestation?
- [ii] river management, multipurposes projects, irrigation, contour bunding, famine prevention, drainage, cheap electricity, canal navigation etc?
- [iii] increasing total food production by way of fruit gardens, vegetables, pisciculture, bee-hiving, sheep-rearing, deep sea-fishing, poultry, dairy farming?

Statistics:

Please supply statistical information under the following heads:

- (1) Area under cultivation and cultivable wastes
- (2) Area held by ryots and under-ryots under cultivation and the average incidence of their rents

- (3) Statement of total agricultural population, landless agricultural labourers and the average area per head or per family of landholding agriculturists
- (4) Distribution of area held by agriculturists- percentage of families with less than 2 acres, 2 to 5 acres, 5 to 10 acres, 10 to 20 acres, and 20 to 30 acres and 30 acres and above. (For rough and ready comparison one acre of wet land may be considered as equivalent to two acres of dry land).
- (5) Percentage of families living mainly as sharecroppers (on batai or barga system) and agricultural labourers
- (6) Percentage of lands cultivated by family members or ryots or under-ryots, by share-cropper and by agricultural labourers
- (7) Passage of agricultural land from the hands of actual cultivators into those of non-agriculturists.
- (8) What are irrigated and non-irrigated acreages in your province?
- (9) What schemes and projects are on foot for increasing green and farm-yard manures, making of silage, composts out of waste and for utilisation of chemical manures?
- (10) What steps do you suggest for bringing more effectively to the notice of peasants the results of scientific experiments and better methods of cultivation? Do you not think that Kisan Congress and other popular organisations should be specially utilised by Government in this connection?

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