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on 12-4-70

-- in the Chair

The items in the resolution that needed careful examination were the following issues :

- (2) Linking of minimum wage with floor prices.

Mr. Masani conveyed the views of Mr. B.P. Singh which were that no one who does not cultivate his land should own it (land to the tiller). Prof. Ranga felt that tenants should have security of tenure for a period of ten years. If the landholder desired to resume his land within the ten-year period, he could do so only if the landholder wished to cultivate the land himself. If he wanted to retransfer after three years, the first option should be to the tenant from whom he had taken over the land. Prof. Ranga was of the opinion that such a right to resumption must be made available to the landholder twice. In other words, he should have two options spread over two ten-year periods. In the event of the landholder wishing to sell his land, the first option should go to the tenant - the price payable being the market price fixed by auction or by a land tribunal to ascertain what is just and fair compensation. In this connection, the question of State loans to tenants to enable them to pay the purchase price should also be considered.

The National Headquarters was requested to obtain the following data in this regard

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- (3) Ceiling legislation in the various States and the average size of holdings as they really obtain.

In regard to the linking of a minimum wage with a floor price, the National Headquarters was asked to obtain the following data

- (1) Legislation in various states regarding the minimum wage for agricultural labour,
- (2) the actual remuneration received by agricultural labour notwithstanding such legislation,
- (3) the latest body of principles adopted by the Agricultural Prices Commission in regard to determining agriculture prices.

Apart from relief during periods of drought and famine, the question of relief during periods of cyclones and floods was considered. Prof. Ranga was requested to move a resolution in the Lok Sabha calling for the setting up of a famine/cyclone/food relief fund. Such a resolution should consider

- (1) appropriate kinds of relief in keeping with the nature of the calamity
- (2) writing off debt repayment and tax arrears in such situations.

Prof. Ranga suggested adding the following item to the Resolution adopted by the Raubaneswar Convention, viz. the question of cancelling *on the death of the* borrower hereditary *debts* incurred by landless labourers who are *mostly tribals* or Harijans and which were taken on usurious terms.

The meeting then terminated.