

AGRARIAN ORGANISATIONAL PATTERN

(881)

The following is the text of the resolution on agrarian organisational pattern passed by the Indian National Congress on January 10, 1959, at its 64th session at Nagpur :

The Congress, having considered the Report of the Agricultural Production Sub-Committee, records its general approval of the Report and endorses the recommendations made therein. In particular, the Congress is of opinion that :

1. The organisation of the village should be based on village panchayats and village cooperatives, both of which should have adequate powers and resources to discharge the functions allotted to them. A number of village cooperatives may form themselves into a union. All permanent residents of the village, whether owning land or not, should be eligible for membership of the village cooperative which should promote the welfare of its members by introducing progressive farming methods and improved techniques of cultivation, developing animal husbandry and fishery and encouraging cottage industries. In addition to providing credit and discharging other servicing functions, it will arrange for pooling and marketing the agricultural produce of the farmers and for storage and godown facilities for them. Both the panchayat and the cooperative should be the spearheads of all developmental activities in the village and, more especially, should encourage intensive farming with a view to raising the per acre yield of agricultural produce.
2. The future agrarian pattern should be that of cooperative joint farming, in which the land will be pooled for joint cultivation, the farmers continuing to retain their property rights, and getting a share from the net produce in proportion to their land. Further, those who actually work on the land, whether they own the land or not, will get a share in proportion to the work put in by them on the joint farm.
3. As a first step, prior to the institution of joint farming, service cooperatives should be organised throughout the country. This stage should be completed within a period of three years. Even within this period, however, wherever possible and when generally agreed to by the farmers, joint cultivation may be started.
3. In order to remove uncertainty regarding land reforms and to give stability to the farmer, ceilings should be fixed on existing and future holdings and legislation to this effect, as well as for the abolition of intermediaries, should be completed in all states by the end of 1959. This does not mean any ceiling on income, as it is expected that, by intensive cultivation as well as by additional occupations, rural incomes will rise. Such surplus

land should vest in the panchayats and should be managed through cooperatives consisting of landless labourers.

4. With a view to assuring a fair return to the tiller, a minimum or floor price should be fixed reasonably in advance of the sowing season with respect to each crop, and arrangements should be made to purchase directly, whenever necessary, the crops produced.

5. The introduction of State trading in wholesale trade in foodgrains is welcomed and should be fully given effect to.

6. Every effort should be made to bring the uncultivated and waste land into cultivation. The Central Government should appoint a Committee to devise suitable measures for the utilisation of this land.

7. The Congress trusts that the steps indicated above will be taken by the Central and State Governments at an early stage; and that the Congress organisation, in cooperation with others, will help in every way to mobilise mass enthusiasm and arouse initiative and a spirit of self-help in the millions of farmers in the country.

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