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COMMENTARY

THE BUNKER

MEMORIAL LECTURES

Jaffna College deserves to be congratulated on instituting the Bunker Memorial Lectures as a token of their grateful remembrance of the services of that great savant, the late Rev. Dr. Sydney Kittridge Bunker, who guided the destinies of the college for nearly three decades. Jaffna College has grown into full maturity as the leading educational institution in the North since its forerunner, the Batticotta Seminary was founded in 1823. And in the history of this magnificent growth the name of the late Rev. Bunker has found a niche.

The Rev. S. K. Bunker arrived in Colombo on Saturday the 30th October, 1937, having been appointed Principal of Jaffna College in succession to the late Rev. John Bicknell. It is recorded that representatives of the "Times of Ceylon" and the "Ceylon Observer" met the Rev. & Mrs. Bunker on board the ship. The words that the Rev. Bunker spoke on that memorable occasion are still full of significance to Ceylon:—

"From what I have read of education in Ceylon it seems imperative that Ceylon should have her own University developing an educational system which fits one for life in Ceylon. Education modelled to suit the country will not produce *unemployable* graduates but will stimulate the intellectual life of the Island. Choose the right type of education and the University will justify itself".

It is but fitting that Ceylon should honour the memory of such a man, and our thanks are due to Jaffna College for organising the Memorial Lectures, thereby affording an opportunity for all those who are interested in the wide range of subjects which were the Rev. Bunker's speciality and interest, to know more about them.

It is fitting too that the Memorial Lectures were inaugurated on the 17th and 18th of December, 1969, by Dr. K. G. Saiyidain, an outstanding educationist of international repute. His two lectures on 'Crisis in Modern Society' were in fact learned discourses on education, sublime and succinct. The text of the lectures which will be published in book form will no doubt be a valuable addition to the brief list of treatises on education available in Ceylon.

Dr. Saiyidain's thesis is in harmony with modern thought, yet modest and moderate. Some of his statements are a challenge to the die-hard and the puritan, prognostic and pungent as they are. Though in every age sensitive persons have felt that they are passing through a crisis, the crisis of today is deeper and far-reaching, says Dr. Saiyidain. The fundamental cause of this crisis is the lack of balance between power and vision, between mind and matter; which makes it difficult for us to locate ourselves in space and time, to travel in the world of ideas. Dr. Saiyidain's main contention is that we do not live in cosmic time and we do not have cosmic patience. We have problems in hand causing us grave concern and we have to act. To solve contemporary problems facing humanity we need to understand some basic facts. For instance, 1930 was not 40 years ago but really 100 or 150 years ago in terms of achievements within the last four decades. Though people may speak the same tongue they need not necessarily speak the same language. Resources of countries are being squandered away beyond their capacity.

Dr. Saiyidain declared resolutely that our actions and inactions in the modern context present to the youth a picture, to put it bluntly, that is ugly. If we fail to give a proper intellectual bias to the youth and awaken their social conscience, nemesis is certain, Dr. Saiyidain asserted. He made a strong plea for democracy in its purest form, one based on unity of spirit and outlook, one that does not confuse equality of opportunity with identity of opportunity, a democracy that chooses its priorities aright and guarantees social justice and egalitarianism.

The full impact of the Bunker Memorial Lectures is immeasurable, but their ramifications are bound to be far and wide. There is no better way of commemorating the great American Missionary who gave his youth, his all, for the institution he laboured to build.

Today's Far-Reaching Crisis Caused by Technological Progress

Man has always been passing from crisis to crisis: in every age, sensitive persons have felt that society is passing through a crisis. This feeling reflects man's constant striving and yearning and has been responsible for a good deal of progress. But today we are facing a deeper and more far-reaching crisis than ever before due to technological progress, observed Dr. K. G. Saiyidain, delivering the inaugural Bunker Memorial Lecture on the theme 'Crisis In Modern Society'.

Dr. Saiyidain went on to say that the modern crisis is largely due to technological progress outstripping spiritual insight and moral understanding. This dichotomy between technical progress and social conscience has made us mindless giants. The question now, he said, is whether man will bridge this gulf and have the intelligence and vision to direct the forces of change purposefully. Otherwise, he warned, a catastrophe will befall us; a nuclear, holocaust will utterly destroy the spiritual and intellectual treasures of mankind, ironically enough at a time when our civilisation is so highly advanced.

Dr. Saiyidain said we are living in an age of miracles—miracles not in the hearts and minds of men but in space and matter. We lack, he said, the willingness and sincerity to do what we know ought to be done. Man is unable to subordinate intellect to love and cannot distinguish between right and wrong.

He pointed out that there are some who think pessimism unjustified as civilised man has only lived some thousands of years whereas the cosmos is millions of years old. But, he remarked, "this conclusion does not give me consolation as I do not live in cosmic time or have cosmic patience". If, he pointed out, man could live thousands of years without getting rid of greed, avarice, evil, racial conflicts and all the other imperfections that plagued him, then, far from giving room for complacency, this should be cause for concern for all men of goodwill. Why, he asked, can't men rise to the level of prophets and sages, the men of God, when they can rise to such heights in science and technology. It's unwise, he said, to minimise the dangers and difficulties that confront us, though we should retain a sense of optimism.

Suicidal Arms Race

Referring to the suicidal arms race on which more was spent than on education and social welfare, Dr. Saiyidain said that the world was in unholy pursuit of more powerful means of destruction while allowing poverty and misery to co-exist. Man, he stated, is starving in the midst of plenty. Youth had begun to

see these things and was asking questions. The more sensitive and articulate among the youths were asking why if we could mobilise our resources to land on the moon, we couldn't mobilise them to solve the major problems facing us. They saw no reason why we can't keep our priorities straight. Some youths were resorting to force to solve these problems. If, Dr. Saiyidain warned, governments don't read the writing on the wall, they'll find it increasingly difficult to keep themselves in power.

He urged that youth be educated to see the problems clearly: they should be given a proper intellectual orientation and be trained to make the correct emotional responses. Otherwise they would make a success neither of their living nor of their life. He pointed out that mere theoretical knowledge was not enough: youths should be given opportunities to get involved in social service which would help to relate education and life. Youth, he said, face a crisis which can be solved only by them. They can destroy but they are unable to construct: this was true not merely of youth but even of those who are running the world. This was partly responsible for generating indiscipline. Youths see that when they use force, the authorities lay down their arms and accept even unreasonable demands.

Communication Gap

Focussing on the age-long dialogue between the generations, Dr. Saiyidain said that there has always been misunderstanding: this was part of the historic process and necessary for progress. But, he pointed out, in our generation we are witnessing a breakdown of communication different from the old. There was a growing tendency for the channels of communication to be blocked. We must keep them open in a democracy, he stressed, and learn to respond to the idealism of youth and mobilise it for the welfare of humanity instead of obstinately insisting on maintaining the status quo like the U.S. Government on the Vietnam question.

Remarking that education by itself is not enough and

that universal education will not solve all the problems of democracy, Dr. Saiyidain pointed out that in our countries it is unfortunately the educated who are giving the wrong type of leadership: as people became more civilised, they seemed to become less honest and less cooperative. He advocated that education be oriented towards democracy and the building up of character and a sense of values. Universities, he urged, should stress the quest for knowledge rather than the mere accumulation of knowledge, and promote national integration and a sense of internationalism. Otherwise democracy's future was not bright. Universities should infuse a sense of moral integrity, he said. This was the great challenge democracy and education had to face.

Dr. W. L. Jeyasingham, President of Jaffna College, introducing the speaker, said he was a very distinguished son of India and a very great educationist. Since India had been the source of intellectual inspiration to us throughout the centuries, he said it was in the fitness of things that the speaker chosen to deliver the inaugural Bunker Memorial Lecture was from that great country which had produced so many seers and saints.

Paying a tribute to Dr. Bunker, Dr. Jeyasingham said he was a man of essentially religious disposition, who had an open mind on all issues and was receptive to new ideas. He had spent the entirety of his working life among the people of Jaffna and consummated the work of a long line of American educationists. The Memorial Lectures, he said, would deal with issues close to Dr. Bunker's interests. That was why "Crisis In Modern Society" had been chosen as the theme of the inaugural lecture.

Pointing out that academic institutions can't remain isolated from society but have to grapple with the major problems confronting it, Dr. Jeyasingham said that they have to bring discipline and intelligence to bear on an analysis of these problems. These problems, he said, are of a complexity unknown before, and were unfolding themselves in every sphere. The modern crisis, he pointed out, is of a dimension and nature which make solution difficult.

Agricultural Problems In The Jaffna District

Visvadamakulam:

This tank which has a capacity of 2,990 acre feet had originally been intended for a paddy scheme but after restoration in view of the suitability of the soil for subsidiary food crops it was decided to alienate land under it only for the cultivation of subsidiary food crops. The first youths were settled in 1966 and there are at present 159 youths settled on the scheme. But due to heavy rains in 1968 some of the lots were affected by water logging and fourteen of these youths have been given alternate lots. It has been decided to cut deep drainage channels in order to prevent this water logging. Each youth has been alienated 3 acres out of which 2 acres are for cultivation and one acre to be utilised for the homestead. The extents cultivated during 1968 and 1969 are 178 and 243 acres respectively. The gross annual income per allottee during 1968 has been estimated at Rs. 3,324/- and during 1969 at Rs. 4,054/-. This is the income which the allottee derived from the 2 acres under cultivation of chillies and does not take into account the income from plantains, onions, groundnuts etc. on the homestead. The highest income derived by one allottee in 1968 was Rs. 15,000/- and during 1969 Rs. 20,000/-.

The scheme will be expanded up to 305 allottees and action will be taken to settle an additional 100 allottees during 1970.

Thiruvai Aru Youth Settlement Scheme:

This scheme borders on the left bank Main channel of the Iranamadu tank. The scheme consists of 102 allotments of 3 acres each out of which 2 acres will be irrigable. The original scheme envisaged the construction of wells but it was subsequently decided to implement a lift irrigation scheme. Lift irrigation facilities have now been implemented and water would be issued from January 1970. As the soil is clayey it is possible to plant chillies only by January or February and therefore it was decided to allow the allottees to grow a three month variety of paddy which would be harvested in time for the planting of chillies. 180 acres have been cultivated with paddy. It is intended to cultivate 198 acres under chillies during Yala 1970.

by J. M. SABARATNAM, B. A. (Lond.)
Addl. Govt. Agent, Jaffna

Mirusuvil Youth Settlement Scheme:

This is the only girls youth scheme in the Island. 50 girls most of whom had passed through the Farm School were allotted one acre each for the cultivation of subsidiary food crops at Mirusuvil which is 18 miles from Jaffna. The allottees had to construct the necessary wells and so far 37 wells and 42 troughs have been constructed. The subsidies available were not sufficient to meet the cost of construction of wells and most of the allottees had to get assistance from their parents to complete the work. The crop had to be hand-watered and this entails laborious and long hours of work. The Irrigation Department has now investigated into the possibilities of irrigation through P. V. C. pipes and flexible hoses from the troughs which have been constructed.

In order to supplement their income a weaving centre has been established and four sewing machines donated by the Co-operative Unions have been made available to them. In spite of the poor income derived by the allottees, they have put in long hours of work and are enthusiastic and hopeful about their future. Once the irrigation problem is solved the future of the scheme could be ensured. That 49 allottees should have stuck it out for 3 years shows that they have grit and determination. It is hoped that Government would be able to construct the necessary houses and if this is done the future of the scheme would be bright.

Lift Irrigation for Cultivation of Highlands:

The Ministry of Lands has implemented a scheme by which the highlands in colonisation schemes could be brought under the cultivation of subsidiary food crops during the Yala Season. This is being implemented in the Akkarayan and Vavunikulam areas. During 1968, 50 acres under Vavunikulam were cultivated. During 1969 due to the non-availability of water no cultivation was possible. During 1970, 150 acres under Akkarayankulam and 283 acres under Vavunikulam would be cultivated with chillies.

Development of Animal Husbandry:

Emphasis in this District is being placed on the breeding of poultry and dairy cattle. In order to improve the breeds of poultry and cattle, issues of breeding material as day old pul-

lets broilers, bull calves and goats are made by the Veterinary Dept. Artificial insemination centres have been established in this District and are located at Tinnevely, Uduvil, Maviddapuram, Alaveddy, Pandateruppu, Chankanai, Vaddukoddai and Manipay. In addition to these there are also six stud centres and three modified stud centres also in operation in this District. The success of expansion of poultry breeding in the District are indicated by the purchase of eggs by the Marketing Department during the last three years—1966-67, 18,526, 67-68, 132,126, 68-69, 266,022. The following statistics give an indication of the nature and volume of work carried out by the Department:—

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Issues of Breeding Materials by Financial Year:

	66-67	67-68	68-69
Chicks	118,309	84,061	60,011
Broilers	951	1,466	1,939
Ducklings	551	203	—
Bull calves	21	14	6
Piglings	—	—	2
Stud Bulls	—	—	—
Goats	—	7	10
Artificial Inseminations :	3,087	3,656	4,405
Castrations :	595	599	677
Stud Services :	1,479	1,387	1,414
Immunization of Poultry :			
Ranikhet	142,122	176,061	203,923
Fowl Pox	79,767	98,976	1,5338
Livestock :			
Haemorrhagic Septic- caemia	2,217	2,704	5,476
Foot & Mouth Disease	527	791	774
Black Quarter	10,711	3,787	8,551
Anthrax	—	1,810	96

Stud Centres: The Old Stud Centres in six areas of the District continue to function. Modified Stud Centres: Three Modified Stud Centres have been established recently.

There are various other factors in the District which have to be taken into account in planning the future of agricultural development. A systematic survey into the potential of groundwater in the Peninsula which is the key to all its agricultural development has been initiated and has been in progress since 1965. Four hundred observation wells have been selected for obtaining data of the groundwater and based on this data a tentative water balance can now be prepared. The present consumption of water for domestic and agricultural uses is estimated at 40,000 acre feet per annum. In a normal year such as 1966, the recharge due to rainfall is estimated at 90,000 acre feet with a discharge to the sea of 50,000 acre feet. However if rainfall is low as in 1965 or 1969 cultivation would have to be limited. It would however, be possible to compute the safe yearly rates of withdrawal from the aquifer and advice given on extents which can be cultivated during the next season.

Action is also being taken to open all drainage lines in the irrigation schemes. Encroachment surveys are being done and action is being taken to evict all encroachers.

The opening of access roads to colonisation schemes is one of the problems which needs immediate attention. Although irrigation is available in schemes like Tenniyankulam, Maruthankulam, Murukandykulam, Kodaikaddinakulam and Ambalaperumalkulam the lack of a good access and public transport has been in the way of allottees developing these lands. The use of machinery and the release of necessary funds should enable the opening up of these roads in 1970.

The success of agricultural development in the district is due to the planning of the proposals from the level of the cultivation committees and M.P.C.SS under the guidance of the Government Agent and Divisional Revenue Officers. Village Level Committees, Divisional Committees under the Chairmanship of the D.R.OO and District Committee with the G.A. as Chairman have been very active not only in formulating the proposals but in its day to day implementation. The Extension Staff of the Department of Agriculture has to be given credit for the very good work done in increasing yields, in the use of agro-chemicals and the adoption of new cultural practices. In the final analysis however the credit goes to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture who have initiated and spearheaded this drive for self-sufficiency which has brought prosperity and a new future to the prosperity of the country's citizens resident in the rural areas.

A Truly Multipurpose Coop

The Inuvil MPCSS (established in 1953) is one of those multipurpose cooperatives which really live up to the name. Apart from dealing in consumer goods and textiles, it runs a bakery, a handloom unit (whose products are disposed of through the Textiles section) and a Rural Bank. It also purchases, under the GPS, onions, chillies and potatoes. The Union also runs 3 retail depots.

The audited Statement of Accounts for the period 2-2-68-1-2-69, shows that the Union has made a net profit of Rs. 29,282/75. The Union which has a membership of 696, has accumulated Savings to the value of Rs. 86,271/37 cts. The Textile section made a profit of Rs. 16,561/06, the Bakery a profit of Rs. 3,303/56 and the depots' profit amounted to Rs. 20,273/01 cts. The Rural Bank showed a profit of Rs. 2,549/09.

During this period the Society had given out Rs. 135,358/60 as agricultural loans, mostly for onions and potatoes. The Rural Bank lent out Rs. 87,000/- as medium term loans and Rs. 155,833/- on pawns.

Presiding over the annual general meeting, Mr. V. Nallathambi appealed to the members to give their fullest support to the Society by surrendering all their produce to it and paying up all outstanding loans. Stressing the need for Savings, he said that members must increase their savings deposits and even non-members should be encouraged to deposit their savings in the Rural Bank.

Mr. T. Murugesu HQI Development suggested that the society hold general meetings frequently, even oftener than once in 3 months. Assuring them of departmental assistance, he appealed to them to work unitedly for the progress of the Society: while debate and discussion should be encouraged, no one should try to obstruct the smooth functioning of the Society. He also stressed the need to build up reserves and to hold training classes frequently.

Mr. P. Selvaretnam, Administrative Secretary, NDCF emphasised the importance of training classes which helped members to become aware of their rights and duties. The Society, he said, should try to improve the lot of all the villagers, including non-members.

The following were elected to fill the vacancies in the Committee: Messrs. S. Nalliah, K. Nadarajah and T. Kumarakulasingham.

Cooperate With Union, Members Urged

Presiding over the annual general meeting of the Jaffna Cigarette Tobacco Growers' Societies' Union, its President Mr. C. K. Sinnathurai urged affiliated member societies to cooperate fully with the Union.

He pointed out that since costs of production have risen, the prices of cigarette tobacco should be increased.

Presenting the annual report, the Secretary stated that after the ban on the export of Malayalam tobacco, Jaffna's tobacco growers had profitably switched over to the cultivation of cigarette tobacco. But with the introduction of a new variety of cigarette tobacco, on departmental advice, and the rise in the costs of production, cigarette tobacco was proving un-

profitable to the farmers, he said. He expressed his pleasure at the fact that 20 of the affiliated societies were doing well and pointed out that some societies had switched over from cigarette tobacco to potato cultivation. He deplored the fact that some member societies had not been paid for the beedi tobacco they had supplied: the Union had made representations to the

Govt. Agent, Jaffna, to take the necessary action.

Mr. E. W. Alexander RI stressed that the Union could not function satisfactorily without the whole-hearted assistance of the affiliated societies. He suggested that the societies should fully pay up their share capital. He wanted the Union to take steps to purchase beedi tobacco from its members and make arrangements to sell it.

At The Helm Again

The following were re-elected office-bearers of the Northern Division Cooperative Federation at the 32nd annual general meeting held recently: Messrs. R. Rajaratnam (President) and R. C. S. Cooke (Vice-President). The following were chosen to fill the vacancies in the Committee: Messrs. T. K. Rajasekeran, V. Thambipillai, C. M. Markandu, S. Arunasalam, V. Suppiah, A. Shivasunderam, A. Ponnuthurai, S. V. Sabaratnam, J. F. X. Jayaseelan, K. Rasiah, K. Abdul Hani and S. Candiah.

Teachers Have Reason to be Disgruntled

The London "Times" Educational Supplement carries a feature with the caption 'Without Comment'. It is made up of snippets culled from various sources. Some years ago I came across this entry which may be of interest to you: of a group waiting at a railway station, every one will differ from the others in most respects—their profession or occupation, their likes and dislikes in food and drink, favourite films and film stars, political and religious affiliations. But they would all share one qualification: they are all experts on education. My experience in Ceylon has convinced me that Mr. and Mrs. Everyman's educational expertise is not peculiar to England.

A Nightmare

Today Education is a nightmare. The extent of horror of the nightmare varies from country to country. But it is endemic in the academic world. The revolt of the student body and the bewildered efforts of the powers that be to deal with it are phenomena seen in many parts of the world. Whoever ventures to probe the malady, proclaim its causes and prescribe a remedy will be a very rash person. I possess neither the genuine expertise nor the rashness needed for such a venture. Whatever expertise I possess, cannot be much better than that of the railway station group. But one cannot in the prevailing climate take part in an educational gathering without giving thought, however haltingly and tentatively, to this theme.

By S. Handy Perinbanayagam

I have been in the thick of things. I have been at the receiving end of the rod, the sparing of which according to an ancient and oft-quoted maxim, spoils the child. I have been a school teacher, who seldom, if ever, used the rod. Whether my young charges have been spoiled, thanks to my failure to use the rod, is for others to say. All I can say is that they are not worse off than their more fortunate contemporaries who savoured the delights of the rod on their backs and buttocks and palms. I have also been a school head with a student population of over a thousand and a teacher strength of almost seventy five. There I am sure I never used the rod and tried to persuade others to practice my anti-rod philosophy. I cannot say that my effort was a phenomenal success because it is impossible to uproot in one tiny spot of the world a philosophy and a practice believed in and propagated in the major areas of the globe. I did not impose an order forbidding corporal punishment. I merely tried to create a climate of opinion favourable to a more humane way of life in the school. How far I succeeded, I cannot say.

Psychological Infection

Why this autobiographical interlude? Infection is not merely physical. It is psychological as well. A teacher's thinking, attitude, values, philosophy of life infect his pupils. In fact the basic presupposition of all education is that a teacher can, and does, influence the thinking and be-

haviour of his pupils. If a teacher is not expected in some measure to give a tone and a trend to the thinking and life pattern of the learner, technological gadgets like the radio and television can easily take the teacher's place. Among the grievances set forth by the rebellious undergraduates of America, France and England, is the absence or meagreness of teacher-learner contact. I have found in experience that the best way, if not the only way, to have a school function smoothly and bear good educational fruit is to establish rapport between teacher and pupil and between school head and his colleagues. Most schools do succeed in achieving a measure of rapport, for otherwise they simply cannot function. A sustained reign of terror will be self-defeating. Likewise a school head who never forgets that he is lord of all he surveys will never win the cooperation of his colleagues. To build up understanding and goodwill, you need time. A teacher must strike roots, grow with the school and into the school and into the school community. A teacher who is transferred by telegraph every six months, is a victim of frustration imposed on him by his employers—the State. The governmental bureaucracy has taken over whole and entire the ethos of its imperialist predecessor. The employee, unless he belongs to a militant trade union, has merely to obey orders. I am not saying that no teacher should ever be transferred. I am only saying that transfers

should not be haphazard or even routine. They should be exceptional. Teachers particularly seem to be the worst victims of this administrative philosophy. The world over, the teacher has been, and regarded as, a respectable long-suffering, embodiment of middle class virtue—particularly those of a negative quality like forbearance, self-restraint, dread of being obstreperous, making scenes etc. Direct action, challenge to authority, standing up for one's rights do not belong in the teacher tradition at least in Ceylon. Teachers here, as elsewhere in other lands, or where this picture of the teacher prevailed, are not there merely to teach chemistry, history and mathematics but also to impart morality by word and deed and serve as an exemplar of virtue. He or she just should not set a bad example. To a group of men and women steeped in this tradition and at best unconsciously subscribing to its values, militancy is unthinkable. Their masters know it. But the worm has begun to turn. Teachers going on strike was rare anywhere. The N.U.T. in England, I know, has threatened to call a strike more than once. But I am not sure they have at any time called one. In America they have struck. The latest I know of took place in New York, where they defied a court order and went on strike. Such militancy is likely to spread. Neither the employer nor the employee can regard the strike as the best means of settling disputes. They are at best clumsy and

crude expedients—a view expressed by G. D. H. Cole, one-time leader of the Trade Union Movement in Britain. But often that is the only course open to the employee and he cannot forget it purely for reasons of elegance and tidiness. Quite recently, Harold Wilson and Barbara Castle were forced to eat humble pie when they were compelled by the trade unions to abandon the penal legislation they sought to enact against wild cat strikes.

Meaningful Role

The State is not a profit-making concern. Its resources come from the people and are spent on them. Its employees have good reason to expect more humane and more equitable treatment. The State should be a model employer, not merely in regard to emoluments paid to its employees. A mere taskmaker who wants to impress upon his employees his omnipotence seldom gets the best service. A national state cannot imitate the ways of foreign overlords. The grievance of Ceylon's teachers is that they have no meaningful role in the nation's educational

enterprise. In defining the nation's educational goal or planning the details of implementing the nation's educational programme, the teacher is merely the State's humble servant to be ordered about and carry out commands from above. Today the administrative machinery is employer, judge and policeman. It is an open secret that the teaching profession is a disgruntled group with little hope of redress. What I said about rapport between teacher and learner is equally valid for employer and employee. An employee held in remote control and excluded from all share in the planning and fashioning of policy cannot develop any enthusiasm for the mere execution. It is worth mentioning that a Select Committee of Parliament which studied the recent upheavals in Britain's Universities has recommended that University teachers and students should be given substantial powers in University administration. A disgruntled and aggrieved teacher is hardly the proper person to impart knowledge, stir up a passion for the acquisition of knowledge or foster

wholesome attitudes in the learner's mind. Mine is not merely a plea for fair dealing for teachers. It is also a plea on behalf of their young charges. One who is a bundle of grievances cannot be an easy person to live with or learn. One who feels inhibited and shackled will communicate his discomfort to all who have dealings with him. A teacher who is himself fettered and sat upon and driven from pillar to post is rendered incapable of communicating any passion for freedom or interest in learning to others.

To the best of my recollection, nearly every teacher group that gave evidence before the National Education Commission of the early sixties complained of favouritism, interference by politicians, arbitrary transfers, total failure of communication between the powers at the top and the field workers. The remedy proposed by the Commission and the thinking that prompted the recommendation, I think, are as worth looking into, as they were when they were made.

Modern Crisis Fundamentally A Spiritual One

Is the modern crisis a political or a social or an economic or an intellectual or a moral one?

This was the question posed by Dr. K. G. Saiyidain during the course of the 2nd Bunker Memorial Lecture he delivered at Veerasingham Mandapam. Bishop S. Kulendran presided.

Dr. Saiyidain made the point that the crises in the various spheres were not entirely unrelated. But back of all these crises was a spiritual crisis. Compassion and love were no longer current coin; people talk at one another rather than to one another, intent only on scoring debating points, he said.

Dr. Saiyidain pointed out that one of the causes for the failure or limited success of democracy was that our minds had not been rid of superstition, self-seeking and the other relics of the past. Freedom had come to the developing countries as a part of certain historical changes. But unless, he emphasised, this outer freedom was matched by inner freedom, it would neither be stable nor a reality. He stressed the importance of the capacity for unhampered thought: freedom of thought was more important than freedom of movement. But men feared thought because it is subversive. There is unfortunately a tendency, he said, to seek the easy way to success, without paying the price of freedom.

Jockeying For Power

Dr. Saiyidain deplored the fact that in developing countries, some leaders of inferior calibre were jockeying for power and position instead of concentrating on national reconstruction. The common people who had been promised all the good things of life were impatient: they thought that

the good things would fall into their laps like manna from heaven, without steady, hard, serious, honest work. He pointed out that Nehru had emphasised that national reconstruction is even more difficult than winning freedom. Where the people had responded positively as in Japan and Germany, they had been able to achieve success in a short time. But, sadly enough, the response in our countries was on the whole negative: habits do not change so easily as the constitution. It has been said, he remarked, that God cannot change the condition of men unless they change their minds. The pull for power, horse-trading, the measuring of everything in terms of money value—all this had corrupted the community. Deploring the unholy rivalry for power and the plums of office, Dr. Saiyidain said that the rulers did not think of themselves as servants of the people. Serving the people is the real function of a civilised government, he emphasised, and drew attention to Gandhi's example: Gandhi had identified himself with the lowest of his countrymen. Both in poor and affluent countries, he said, nepotism, and jobbery had become widespread. The honest man who comes into this atmosphere soon gives up after a few attempts at honesty. Thus democracy was tending to lose an honest and efficient civil service.

The essence of democracy, he stressed, is give and take. This called for powers of the head and heart. He cited the example of Gandhiji who was ready to listen to all points of view.

A Mockery Of Democracy

Referring to the problem of minorities, Dr. Saiyidain said it was of particular significance in a democracy. There could be constitutional guarantees of equality but an insensitive majority could nullify all this in practice. Oppressing the minorities would make a mockery of democracy. While the majority should not oppress the minority, the minorities also should learn to respect the views of the majority and make the necessary adjustments. Condemning separatist tendencies as 'a menace' he said that in a plural society the majority must try to win over the minorities by treating them fairly. Unity in diversity should be the aim: unity of spirit but not uniformity of behaviour and practice. Democracy should actively encourage variety instead of trying to put everyone in the same mould. Uniqueness and originality should not be crushed.

Referring to the language problem, Dr. Saiyidain said that language touches at the very roots of culture. It is for that reason that people like Moulana Azad were not in favour of the policy of forcing the official language on the South or setting time limits. In the life of a nation 5 or 10 years more meant nothing. He cited the case of Russia where the authorities had followed a policy of developing all the national languages and even the smaller dialects.

Referring to the place of English, Dr. Saiyidain said that while the mother tongue should be the medium of instruction, yet undue haste and

(Continued on page 4)

RESEARCH INSTITUTE ESSENTIAL

The establishment of a Research Institute by your Society is essential to provide your members with the necessary technical advice and know-how. I therefore appeal to you to set apart a substantial amount for this project.

This was the advice given by Mr. R. C. S. Cooke, Vice-President NDCF, at the 19th Annual General Meeting of the Vali East Cooperative Plantain Sales Society. He also suggested that they try out improved methods of cultivation.

Mr. P. Manickavasagar D AEO advised them to give up

outmoded methods of cultivation and adopt modern mechanised techniques.

Mr. T. Murugesu HQI (Development) warned plantain cultivators that a bleak future lay ahead of them unless they took steps to prevent diseases and adopt improved methods of cultivation. He urged them to give up traditional ways of cultivation and follow improved methods of cultivation which would give higher yields. He suggested that members be taught the new methods of cultivation and also be made more fami-

liar with the management of the affairs of the Society.

Mr. K. S. Muthuvetpillai SRDO also spoke.

The following were elected to fill the vacancies in the committee: Messrs. M. Velayuthar, S. Arumugam, S. Muthuvelu, K. Tharmalingam and V. Thirunavukarasu.

The Society which was formed to promote the economic interests of the members and more particularly to develop the production and marketing of plantains has made a net profit of Rs. 5,878/44 during the period 1-9-68—31-7-69.

Modern Crisis Fundamentally A Spiritual One

(Continued from page 3)

making the question one of prestige was undesirable. We should make full use of English books and even use it as the medium of instruction wherever it is advantageous. He stressed that we should exercise caution lest we bring down the already unsatisfactory standards of education.

Dr. Saiyidain emphasised that persons of different faiths should receive equal treatment at the hands of the national authorities. Religion being an intensely personal matter, no one else had the right to intrude into that sanctuary. There should be full liberty of belief. Referring to the demand made by some in India that Muslims should Indianise themselves which in effect meant to Hinduise themselves, Dr. Saiyidain said that no self-respecting religious minority can accept such a test of loyalty.

He urged educationists to inculcate in their charges high ideals and loyalties. He pointed out that values like humanism and tolerance were taking on more and more an international and cosmopolitan character. Either we should learn to swim together or we would have the dubious satisfaction of sinking together.

Work Is Worship

Dr. Saiyidain drew attention to the fall of standards in a highly commercialised world. Most craftsmen had lost pride in standards. This was a malady whose roots can spread like cancer through social and political life. Gandhi had stressed that all true work is blessed: it was a powerful means of Education. Therefore man should strive to attain perfection through work. Since work is worship, the doing well of whatever is worth doing, has not merely practical results but also moral

and intellectual repercussions. As Shaw had said, the true joy in life is in being a force of nature instead of being a feverish bundle of grievances.

Dr. Saiyidain appealed to educationists to help to bring about the primacy of values like compassion, truth and justice. It is up to us, he said, to choose our destiny: the welfare of all (sarvodaya) should be our aim. The greatest failure, he stressed, is the failure to be fully human. Living under capacity was worse than hunger. Men and women would never find themselves unless they lost themselves in great causes.

Introducing the speaker, Bishop S. Kulendran said that a scholar is honoured all over the world. As long as there has been life on earth there has been crisis, he remarked, but now we were facing a crisis in the most acute form. Something similar had happened 1500 years when the Roman Empire broke up. But then it was mostly political: today the crisis was intellectual, it was in the sphere of ideas. The crisis was due to the tremendous influx of ideas caused by the advance of knowledge and the spread of education. Today ideas are tumbling over one another, he said.

Inviting Disaster

Bishop Kulendran observed that in democracy there was a temptation not to apply any criteria to ideas: therefore one idea was as good as another. But in communist countries, rigid criteria were applied to ideas. He stressed that unless democracies applied criteria to ideas, they would be inviting disaster. These criteria, he emphasised, must be firmly based on the eternal verities: nothing else would do.

This Coop Has Liberated Workers

Speaking at the annual general meeting of the Jaffna Cooperative Lorry Transport Society, its President Mr. V. Ponnuthurai reminded the members that the Society had helped to liberate them from the clutches of the mudalalis. He appealed to the President of the Jaffna Harbour Services Union to which they are affiliated, to help them to obtain more transport contracts.

Mr. P. Selvaretnam, Administrative Secretary NDCF, pointed out that teething troubles were to be expected but they should try to put things right as soon as possible. He suggested that since the membership is small, they could hold frequent general meetings.

Mr. G. W. Alexander, R. I. advised them to take steps to recover all dues and pay greater attention to the financial position of the society. He suggested that they keep the accounts up to date and find more avenues of earning revenue.

Mr. E. Chellappah, Coop Inspector, urged the members to give their fullest support to the Society and help it to progress. He advised the Committee members to meet once a month and take a keener interest in the Society's welfare.

Mr. J. F. Sigmaringam, President Jaffna District Cooperative Harbour Services Union, said the Society was doing an important job and been helpful to the Union in the execution of its duties: this was a source of great encouragement to the Union. All the Union's affiliated societies, he said, complained that they hadn't enough work and weren't being paid enough. The Union was doing its best to find more work for all its members. As for the rates, if the Government paid the Union more, it would increase the rates to affiliated societies. He assured them that the Union would give the Society all possible assistance.

The following were elected to the Committee: Messrs. V. Ponnuthurai, V. Singaram, V. Subramaniam, V. Krishnapillai, A. Pathmanathan, C. Retnam, N. Ramaswamy, S. Sellathurai and E. C. Selvarajah. Messrs. V. Ponnuthurai, V. Krishnapillai and V. Singaram were elected President, Vice-President and Secretary respectively.

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தகுதியான ஊழியர்களைச் சங்கத்தில் அமர்த்த வேண்டும்

சங்கத்தின் கணக்குகள், நடைமுறைகள் முதலியன செம்மையாக விளங்க வேண்டுமானால் படித்த தகுதியான ஊழியர்களைச் சங்கத்தில் அமர்த்த வேண்டும். இவை அனைத்தையும் கூட்டுறவு உத்தியோகத்தர்கள் செய்வார்கள் என எதிர்பார்த்திருப்பது சங்கங்களுக்கு அவமானமாகும் என காரியாலயப் பரிசீலகர் திரு. T. முருகேசு அளவெட்டி ப. நோ. கூ. சங்கத்தின் வருடாந்தப் பொதுக் கூட்டத்தில் பேசுகையில் குறிப்பிட்டார். இச்சங்கத்தை மேலும் உயர்ந்த நிலைக்கு வளர்க்கவேண்டுமானால் அங்கத்தவர்கள் கூட்டுறவுபற்றி நன்கு அறிந்திருக்க வேண்டும்.

எனவே அங்கத்தவர்களுக்கான வருப்புக்கள் விரைவில் இச்சங்கத்தில் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட வேண்டும். அதற்கு எம்மால் இயன்ற உதவியை அளிப்போம் என தொடர்ந்து பேசுகையில் தெரிவித்த அவர் ப. நோ. கூ. சங்கத்திற்கு இச்சங்கம் ஓர் எடுத்துக்காட்டாக விளங்குகிறது என்று குறிப்பிட்டார். இக்கூட்டத்திற்கு தலைமை வகித்த திரு. வ. பொன்னம் பலம் பேசுகையில் தமது ஊரே தமது கூட்டுறவுச் சங்கம் என்ற முறையில் தாம் இயங்கி வருவதாகக் குறிப்பிட்டார். சங்கம் வெங்காயத்தில் பெற்ற இலாபத்தை மற்றும் இலாபங்களுடன் சேர்க்காது விவசாயிகளுக்கே பிரித்துக்

கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்று சில அங்கத்தவர் கேட்டது பற்றி வ. ஐ. மே. சபைத் தனது திரு. மு. கணபதிப்பிள்ளை உரையாற்றும்போது குறிப்பிடுகையில், சங்கம் வெங்காய விநியோகத்தால் பெற்ற கமிஷன் மூலம் இலாபம் அடைத்திருந்தால் அதைப் பிரித்துத் தரும்படி கேட்பது முறையல்ல வென்று கூறினார்.

இச்சங்கம் பல நோக்கு என்ற பெயருக்கேற்ப பல நோக்கங்களை செம்மையாகச் செயற்படுத்தி வருவதால் தான் சிறப்புடன் விளங்குகிறது என்று குறிப்பிட்ட அவர், ஒவ்வொரு நோக்குக்கும் வெவ்வேறு கணக்குகள் வைத்திருந்தால்தான் அவை ஒழுங்காக நடைபெறுகின்றனவா என்பதை அறியமுடியும். நாளாந்தம் நடைபெறும் நடவடிக்கைகளைத் தவறாது உரிய புத்தகங்களில் அன்றாடம் பதிவு செய்யவேண்டும், இப்பதிவுகள் முறையே செய்யப்பட்டனவா என சங்கத்தில் உட்பரிசீலனை மூலம் அறியவேண்டியது அவசியம் என்று வலியுறுத்தினார்.

தொடர்ந்து அவர் பேசுகையில் மாதாந்தத் திரட்டுச் செய்து மாதவந்தம் வரவு செலவினங்களை நிருவாக சபையார் பார்வையிட்டு வருவார்களேயானால் புத்தகங்கள் எழுதத்தாமதம் கிவிட்டன என்றே பிழையாக எழுதப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன என்றே கருது இடமிருக்காது என்றார்.

வ. ஐ. மே. சபை நிருவாகக்காரியதரிசி திரு. பொ. செல்வரத்தினம் பேசுகையில் முன்பு வெளியிடங்களிலிருந்து வடபகுதிக்கு வருவர்கள்



மன்னார் மாவட்ட கூட்டுறவுச் சமாசத்தின் புதிய அலுவலகத்தை உணவு விவசாய அமைச்சர் மாண்புமிகு M. D. பண்டா திறந்து வைத்தார்.

இங்குள்ள விசேட தலங்களை ஆவலுடன் சென்று பார்க்கத் தவறுவதில்லை. இன்று இங்கு வருபவர்கள் அத்தலங்களைப் பார்ப்பது மாத்திரமல்ல, இங்குள்ள கூட்டுறவு நிறுவனங்களையும் அத்தகைய ஆர்வத்துடன் சென்று பார்வையிடுகிறார்கள். அந்நிறுவனங்கள் பொருளாதார வளர்ச்சியில், கூட்டுறவு இலட்சியத்தில் எவ்வாறு இயங்குகின்றன என்பதை அறிந்து கொள்வதற்கு அதிக அக்கறை காட்டுகிறார்கள். இதற்குக் காரணம் இச்சங்கப்போல முன்னோடியான

சங்கங்கள் இங்கு இருப்பது தான் என்றார்.

இச்சங்கம் 1-1-68—31-12-68 வருடத்தில் வெங்காயவிற்பனவில் ரூ 25550/10 ஐயும், நெசவு நிலையம் மூலம் ரூ 574/10 ஐயும் கிராம வங்கி மூலம் 744/54 ஐயும் இலாபங்களாகப் பெற்றுள்ளது. சுத்த இலாபமாக 12672/55 ஐப் பெற்றுள்ளது.

நிருவாகசபையின் வெற்றிடங்களுக்கு திருவாளர்கள்; க. கந்தையா, மு. கந்தையா, வ. பொன்னம்பலம், வே. சுப்பிரமணியம் ஆகியோர் தெரிவு செய்யப்பட்டனர்.

யாழ்ப்பாணக் கூட்டுறவு மருத்துவ மனைகள் போன்றவை இங்கு அவசியம்

இந்திய குடிப்பதி மேன்மைமிகு வி. வி. கிரி கருத்து

“இலங்கைத் தீவைச்சேர்ந்த யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் கூட்டுறவு மருத்துவ மனைகள் செயற்படுவதுபோல் நமது நாட்டில் பஞ்சாயத்து யூனியன் பகுதிகளிலும், நகரங்களிலும் கூட்டுறவு மருத்துவ மனைகளை அமைக்கலாம்” என்று இந்திய குடிப்பதி மேன்மைமிகு வி. வி. கிரி அவர்கள் மதுரையில் நடைபெற்ற ஒரு வைபவத்தில் கூறியுள்ளார்.

தமிழ் நாட்டில் இத்தகைய மருத்துவமனைகள் தோன்ற வேண்டும் என்று வலியுறுத்தி தமிழ்நாடு கூட்டுறவு யூனியனின் வெளியீடான “கூட்டுறவு” சஞ்சிகை மார்ச்சு இதழில் “கூட்டுறவு மருத்துவமனை” என்னும் ஆசிரியத்

தலையங்கத்தைத் தீட்டியுள்ளது. அதில் யாழ்ப்பாணக் கூட்டுறவு மருத்துவ மனைகளை குடிப்பதி உதாரணமாகச் சுட்டிக் காட்டியதை அது குறிப்பிட்டுள்ளது.

தமிழ்நாட்டில் ஐந்து சுகாதாரக் கூட்டுறவுச் சங்கங்கள் அங்கத்தவர்களுக்கு மருத்துவ வசதியை வழங்கும் பணியில் ஈடுபட்டுள்ளன என்று தனது தலையங்கத்தில் மேலும் தெரிவித்துள்ள அச்சஞ்சிகை, “யாழ்ப்பாணத்திலுள்ள கூட்டுறவு ஆஸ்பத்திரிகளைப்போல சொந்தக்கூட்டிடங்களையோ, நவீன கருவிகள் முதலியவைகளையோ இச்சங்கங்கள் பெற்றிருக்கவில்லை” என்றும் குறிப்பிட்டுள்ளது.

கூட்டுற வங்கி...

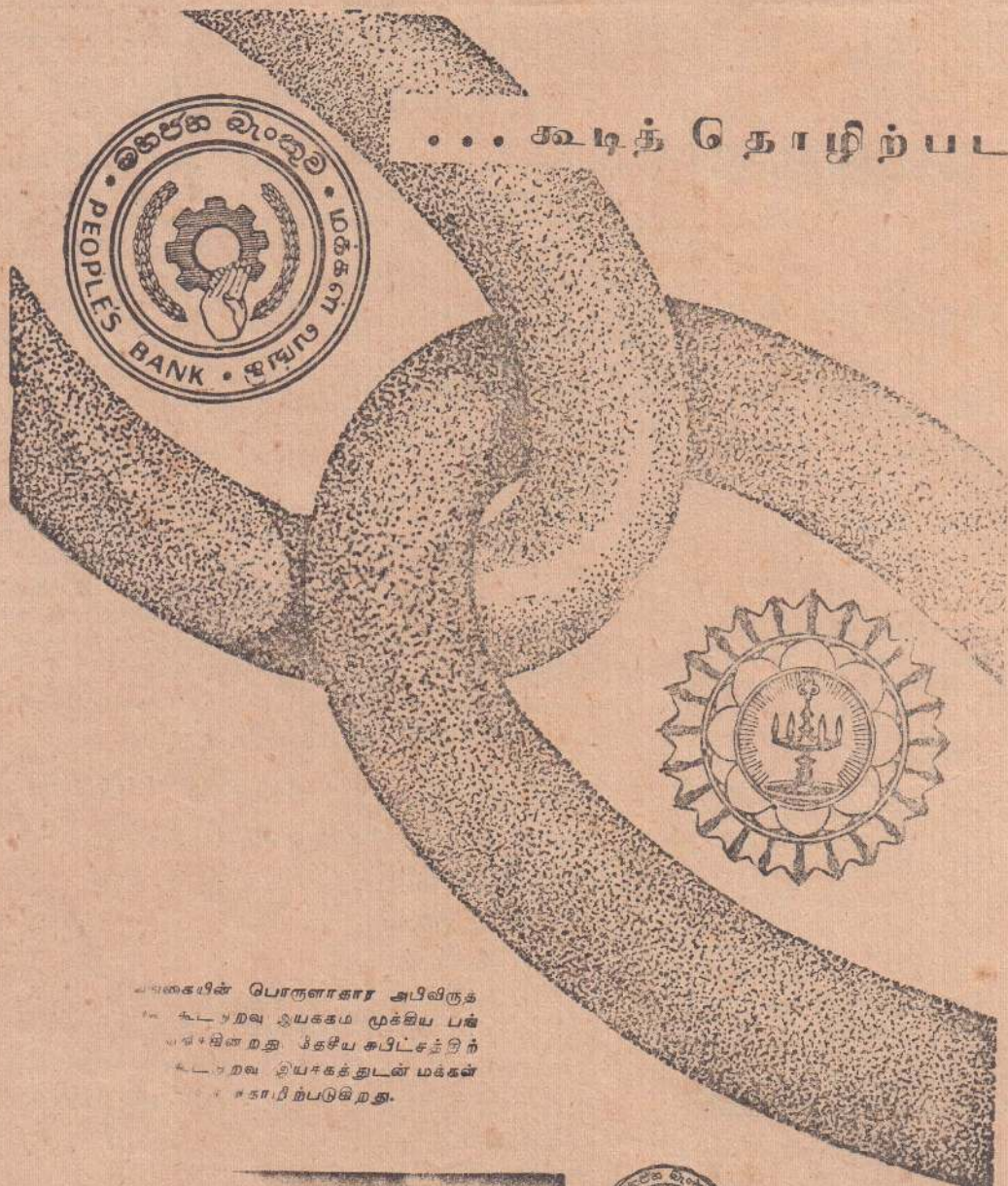
[7-ம் பக்கத் தொடர்ச்சி]
சேமிப்புகள் ரூபாய் ஆயிரம், இரண்டாயிரம் என உள்ளன. தமிழ்நாட்டில் உள்ள ஆரம்ப வங்கிகளில் இந்த வகையில் சுமார் ரூ. 31 கோடி வரை வரையில் சேர்ந்துள்ளது. கூட்டுறவு வங்கிகளின் கடன் பெறும் அங்கத்தினர் தன்னை யறியாமலேயே தமது கணக்கில் சிறுசுச் சிறுக சேமிப்பை வங்கிகள் உபயோகமான காரியத்துக்கே பெருமளவில் கடன் உதவி புரிகின்றன. இதன் காரணமாக, நாட்டில் உற்பத்தி பெருகிறது. புதிய ஆஸ்திகள் உருவாகின்றன. தவிர்க்கமுடியாத சில சடங்குகளுக்கும் கூட்டுறவு வங்கிகள் கடன் கொடுக்கின்றன. ஆனால், மிகக் குறைந்த அளவு கடனையே இக்காரியங்களுக்கு அவைகள் வழங்குகின்றன. இதனால் அங்கத்தினர்களின் சிக்கன வாழ்க்கை முறைக்கு இந்த வங்கிகள் வழி வகுக்கின்றன. சுருங்கக் கூறுமிடத்து, Hasten to save. Hesitate to spend என்பதற்கொப்ப மக்களிடையே சேமிப்பு மனப்பான்மை வளர்த்தோங்கவும் சிக்கன வாழ்வு சிறப்படையவும் கூட்டுறவு வங்கிகள் பணி புரிந்து வருகின்றன. தங்கள் அங்கத்தினர்களின் பொருளாதார நலனைப் பாதுகாக்கின்ற

மன. அவர்களிடையே கடமை, கண்ணியம், கட்டுப்பாடு ஆகிய சிறந்த கொள்கைகளை தக்க பிரச்சார நடவடிக்கைகள் மூலம் கூட்டுறவு வங்கிகள் வளர்ந்தோங்கச் செய்கின்றன.

மனிதனை மனிதனாகப் போற்றும் பொருளாதார இயக்கமே கூட்டுறவு. முதலளித்துவ அமைப்புகளைப் போன்று கைமுதலுக்கு முக்கியத்துவம் வகிக்காமல் மனித உழைப்புக்கே முக்கியத்துவம் வழங்குகிறது கூட்டுறவு வங்கிகளில் ஈடுபட்டுள்ள பொதுநலத்தலைவர்களும், ஊழியர்களும், அதிகாரிகளும் அங்கத்தினர்களின் நன்மைக்காகவே சேவை செய்கிறார்கள். அங்கத்தினர்களிடையே வறியவர், செல்வர என்ற பேதாபேதம் பார்ப்பது கிடையாது. எல்லோரும் ஓர்குலம், ஓர் இனம் என்ற கொள்கைக்கேற்ப கூட்டுறவு வங்கிகளில் ஈடுபட்ட ஆணவரும் ஒரு குடும்பத்தாரைப் போலவே எவ்வித பாடுபாடு மின்றிப் பயன்பெற்று வருகிறார்கள்.

மக்களின் பணியே மகேஸ் வரன் பணி என்ற மேலான தத்துவத்துக்குக்கேற்ப, கூட்டுறவு வங்கிகள் புரிந்துவரும் சேவை நாட்டிற்கு என்மென்றுமே தேவை.

—கூட்டுறவு



மக்களின் பொருளாதார அபிவிருத்திக்கு கூட்டுறவு இயக்கம் முக்கிய பங்கு வகிப்பதைத் தக்கிய சுபிட்சத்திற்கு கூட்டுறவு இயக்கத்துடன் மக்கள் சேராதிருக்கிறோம்.

வாழ்க



வடபகுதி ஐக்கிய மேயர்வைச் சபைக்காக பதிப்பிக்கப்பட்டு வெளியிடப்பட்டது.

19. மொ.வி....

- (6 ம பக்கத் தொடர்ச்சி)
- (4) கூட்டுறவுச் சங்கங்களை அமைப்பதற்கு கிராமமே இலட்சியக்கூறு என்ற கட்டாயமில்லை.
 - (5) குறிப்பாக விவசாயத்திலும், கிராம முன்னேற்றத்திலும் எல்லாவகை ரசாங்க சேவைகளுக்கு மிடையே ஒத்திசைவு குத்தல் வேண்டும்.
 - (6) கூட்டுறவு இயக்கத்திலே மரபு வழிவந்த உருவங்கள், நிறுவனங்கள், செயற்படும் முறைகள் பற்றி இலங்கைக் கூட்டுறவாளர் விடாக்கண்டர்களாய் இருத்தலாகாது.
 - (7) நகரப் புறங்களிலும், கிராமப் புறங்களிலும் கூட்டுறவுச் சங்கங்களி றுறுசீரமைக்கப்பட்டு சுறுசுறுப்பாக அபிவிருத்தி செய்யப்படல் வேண்டும்.

20. தகவுரைகளைச் செயற்படுத்துதல்

- (1) இவ்வறிக்கை சுடிய வரை விலே சிங்களத்திலும், தமிழிலும் வெளியிடப்படும் என்று எண்ணுகிறோம்.
- (2) பெ துமக்கள் வாசிக்கும் பொருட்டும் பரவலான ஆய்வுக்கும் மும்மொழி சுளிலும் இவ்வறிக்கையின் சுருக்கம் வெளியிடப்படல் வேண்டும்.
- (3) மூன்றாம் பகுதியிலே செய்யப் பட்டுள்ள தகவுரைகள் ஒன்றோடொன்று பின்னிப் பிணைந்திருப்பதனால் அவற்றை ஒன்றாகச் செயற்படுத்த வேண்டும்.
- (4) தேசிய கூட்டுறவு அபிவிருத்திச் சபை நிறுவப்படுவரை இவ்வறிக்கையின் தகவுரைகளையும், ஆலோசனைகளையும் செயற்படுத்துவதற்கு வழிபடுத்துக் குழு ஒன்று நியமிக்கப்படல் வேண்டும். (முற்றும்)