

## WELCOME SPEECH\*

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SRI. RAJYAPAL, FELLOW-DELEGATES AND FRIENDS,

I AM happy to have this privilege of extending to you all a hearty welcome to this historic city of Lucknow to participate in the deliberations of the Tenth Annual General Meeting of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics. It is a particular pleasure to welcome in our midst our distinguished foreign visitors, Prof. J. Neyman, Director, Statistical Laboratory, University of California, U.S.A., and Dr. F. Yates, Head of the Statistics Department, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, England, both very eminent statisticians of international reputation.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to learn that the Society has completed ten years of its useful life. The importance of the activities of the Society to the nation is evident from the fact that it has enjoyed the privilege of having the President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, as the President of the Society from its inception. In spite of his multifarious and onerous duties, he takes keen interest in the activities of the Society and has inaugurated most of its Annual Meetings. I am sorry that this time, owing to his very heavy preoccupations, he has not been able to inaugurate the present session of the Society. However, it is very fortunate that in his absence, Sri. K. M. Munshi, Rajyapal, Uttar Pradesh, who has been intimately associated with the Society as its Honorary Member since 1951 when he was Minister for Food and Agriculture in the Government of India, is inaugurating this Conference. His presence in our midst to-day, in spite of his very heavy preoccupations, evinces his keen interest in the activities of the Society and his appreciation of the role the Society is playing in the agricultural development of the country. I need scarcely say that as the Minister for Agriculture, U.P., I am in deep sympathy with the aims of the Society and am happy to have this opportunity of associating myself with its work.

This is the second time that you are holding your session outside Delhi and I take it that in choosing Lucknow as the venue of your

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\* Welcome Speech delivered on 20th January 1957 on the occasion of the Tenth Annual Meeting of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, at Lucknow.

deliberations, your Society has paid a compliment to the contributions in the field of agricultural statistics made by this State. As you are aware, the Department of Agriculture has a full-fledged Statistical Section devoted to the application of statistical method in agricultural research, improvement of agricultural statistics and assessment of developmental projects. Thanks to its pioneering work, we have been able to bring about a great deal of improvement in the estimation of yields of food crops by the method of random sampling. This Section has also developed appropriate sampling techniques for assessment of developmental projects and has made valuable contributions to the theory of design of experiments which are of great help to agricultural research workers in the investigation of their problems. In this Department, there is also a Statistical Unit under the Director, Sugarcane Research, Shahjahanpur, which has done useful work in statistical methods as applied to sugarcane research. Besides, there is in the Department an Agricultural Economics Section, dealing with various problems in agricultural economics, which has made useful studies on such topics as farm management, farm accounting, etc. There is a Statistical Section under the Cane Commissioner, U.P., for undertaking crop-cutting surveys on the sugarcane crop in the Cane Development Zones; carrying out sample surveys for estimation of the cost of production of sugarcane crop and developing other statistical work of the Department. In the State Government, we have the Economics and Statistics Department, which is responsible for assembling data required by Government in the execution of its economic and other policies. There is also a full-fledged Statistical Section in the Planning, Research and Action Institute of the State Government, which is doing valuable work in relation to planning. Outside the Government, we have, among others, the Departments of Anthropology, Psychology, Economics, Pharmacology and the J. K. Institute of Sociology and Human Relations in the Lucknow University, which have made useful contributions in their special fields by the application of statistical methods.

Although valuable work has been done by the Statistical Section in the Department of Agriculture in effecting the much-needed improvement in the statistics of yield of principal food crops, considerable work still remains to be done to place the agricultural statistics of the State on a sound basis permanently. During the First Five-Year Plan period, the main emphasis has been on placing the work of random crop-cutting surveys on principal food crops in the plain areas of the State on a permanent basis. This objective having been achieved, emphasis during the Second Five-Year Plan is being

shifted to the extension of crop-cutting surveys to non-food crops and improvement of preharvest forecasts of both area and yield of crops on the basis of random sampling. Attention is also being directed to effecting improvement in the quality of the primary data relating to area reported by the *Lekhpals* (formerly called *Patwaris*) by rationalized supervision of the area records on the basis of random sampling. We also propose to launch a random sample survey in the near future for obtaining statistically precise estimates of area and yield of crops for the hilly regions of the State, which as you are aware, are still non-reporting areas.

As you know, we have a decentralized system of statistical organization in this State and share the views of your Society that a specialized Statistical Section, such as we have in the Agriculture and other departments, cannot function efficiently unless it works in the closest co-operation and day-to-day contact with the Department in which it has been established. Much of the success which the Statistical Section in the Department of Agriculture has achieved is the outcome of its living contact with the day-to-day problems of the Department and with its Departmental Officers and workers. In consonance with this policy, a full-fledged Statistical Section is being established in the Department of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries with a view to making available to this Department the latest available statistical techniques in investigating problems peculiar to these fields and for collection of live-stock and fisheries statistics.

I am particularly happy that your Society has given due consideration to educating public opinion in regard to the important role of statistical method in agricultural research and planning by holding symposia on topics of current interest and organizing popular lectures at your annual sessions, and by publishing suitable articles in your Journal. I would, however, emphasize that the activities of the Society need to be further intensified in this direction as the lay public is still not much aware of the need for utilizing statistical method in agricultural research and planning in order to ensure the best utilization of our somewhat limited resources. I would, therefore, like the agricultural statisticians to put their heads together and consider what further efforts should be made in this direction, even if that may mean some reorientation in the programme of work of your Society.

I am glad that your Journal, of which six volumes have already been published, continues to maintain its high standard and is now classed among the best statistical journals in the international sphere. I note with the greatest pleasure that the Hindi supplement has been

a part of your Journal from the beginning and continues to be its regular feature. I would, however, point out that mere translation of abstracts of articles and papers in Hindi, although very valuable, is not adequate for creating popular statistical literature in Hindi. I would, therefore, urge the Society to encourage publication of original articles in Hindi and direct its efforts towards bringing out standard statistical textbooks and other literature in Hindi. The official language of this State is Hindi and the Government of this State would very much welcome speedy production of such literature. As you are aware, our State Government are keenly appreciative of the work the Society has already done in this and other directions and have been giving an annual grant to the Society.

I once again welcome you all in our midst. I have no doubt that your deliberations will provide a great stimulus to the work for improvement of agricultural statistics and application of statistical method in agricultural research and planning on which we have already made some headway in this State.