

Letter from South

## Progress of Warehousing in Andhra

WITH only four warehouses to start with in 1958, Andhra now has 24 warehouses established by the State Warehousing Corporation in addition to 10 set up by the Central Warehousing Corporation. The warehousing capacity in the State has increased during the last four years to 372,160 quintals of which 303,060 qnts, or about 81 per cent, is utilised by the members of warehousing societies for storing agricultural produce and other goods of the value of some Rs 1.66 crores. The Reserve Bank and the scheduled banks in the State have so far advanced more than Rs 2 crores to the cultivators on the strength of the receipts issued by the warehouses.

This impressive record of progress is disclosed in a review issued in connection with the 'Warehousing Week' observed recently throughout the country. A few of the factors which made this progress possible may be mentioned here. In the first place, agricultural producers in Andhra, who are the principal users of warehouses, are by and large an advanced section of the population who have shown themselves ready to take advantage of every facility provided for increasing production. Secondly, warehousing, besides affording protection to produce from loss through deterioration or in other ways, also enables the farmers to secure financial accommodation from the banks without much difficulty on the security of receipts from the warehouses.

The State Government is participating in the implementation of the warehousing programme by contributing 50 per cent of the share capital of the State Warehousing Corporation, amounting to Rs 10.85 lakhs. The State Government also nominates four officials as directors on the Board of Management of the Corporation besides associating the Minister of Agriculture with it. The remaining 50 per cent of the share capital is contributed by the Central Government which nominates five directors.

There is growing appreciation among the progressive agriculturists in the State of the utility of scienti-

fically-organised warehousing for storing produce before selling it and of the efficacy of the warehousing receipt, which is accepted by banks as a guarantee of the cultivator's credit-worthiness for advancing loans. The co-operatives, both credit and marketing, with whom most of the cultivators in the villages deal, are offered a special concession of 25 per cent on storage charges on the custom handled by them. Even otherwise, the storage charges are economical, being on an average only 16 p per qnt per month, while the rate of interest charged on advances given by the Reserve Bank on the security of the warehousing receipt ranges between 5 to 6½ per cent depending on the nature of the commodity stored. The commodities for which storage facilities are afforded cover a wide range and include all foodgrains and cereals, pulses, oilseeds, spices, chillies, fertiliser, agricultural implements and so on. The list can be extended at the discretion of the Corporation.

The pace at which warehousing spreads out into the remote villages will depend largely upon the pace of establishment of co-operatives in the villages and on how quickly the cooperatives are able to establish contact with the State Warehousing Corporation. Efforts are being made to avoid overlapping between the storage godowns set up by cooperative marketing societies, the warehousing facilities offered by the State Corporation and those offered by the Central Corporation. While the storage capacity of a cooperative godown is generally about 2,000 tons, State warehouses have a capacity of between 2,000 to 5,000 tons and Central warehouses have even larger capacity. The Central Warehousing Corporation directs its activities at terminal markets and marketing centres of all-India importance and provides specialised storage techniques like cold storage. The State organisation—functions at the regional" and State marketing centres.

Sanjiva Reddi and Group Politics

Though normalcy has apparently been restored in Congress politics

in the State, the feeling of uneasiness has not altogether disappeared. The question of the former Chief Minister, Shri D Sanjivayya, joining the Ministry is still unsettled. Shri Sanjiva Reddi has been discouraging speculation on the subject, contenting himself with the observation that the door is still "open" to Mr Sanjivayya to join.

A new President of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee has been "unanimously" elected — which in effect means that he enjoys the confidence of Shri Sanjiva Reddi. Shri G Brahmayya, the new Pradesh Congress chief, is no doubt a proper choice for the office because of his long association with the Congress organisation and his devoted work for it for nearly 30 years. even so he could not have been unanimously elected unless he had the backing of Shri Sanjiva Reddi as Chief Minister.

In this context what Shri Sanjiva Reddi said in Hyderabad on the relationship between the legislative and the organisational wings of the Congress and on tackling indiscipline in the organisation deserves notice, because it is the view of one who is still the Congress President. Shri Reddi underlined the need for cordial relations between the two wings of the party and as one of the means of achieving this he wanted the Pradesh Congress Presidents to have the status of Cabinet Ministers and the right to be consulted in the formulation of Government policies.

The idea that organisational chiefs should be consulted on Government policies has been mooted before though it does not seem to have been implemented with any satisfactory results, except where the same person is both Chief Minister and Pradesh Congress chief. What Shri Reddi meant when he said that Pradesh Congress Presidents should have the status of Ministers was that the Ministry should work in close liaison with the party's organisational wing and that the latter should not be treated as a sort of poor relation. If this is possible in practice, it

would be one way of avoiding conflicts between the two wings and also of repairing to some extent the loss of prestige that the Congress has suffered in recent years.

The State Congress leadership is very much preoccupied with the problem of checking indiscipline in the party ranks and is, exploring ways of enforcing discipline. But in the process of checking indiscipline and enforcing discipline, is

the present leadership sufficiently attentive to the need to preserve unity and cohesion in the party? Discipline is no doubt important for a political party but unity among members is equally important.

The question is: Can strong measures, or a show of strength by the leadership by expulsion of a large number of members for indiscipline help unity and remove groupism? Indiscipline in Congress is the direct consequence of

the group spirit manifesting itself in refusal to accept the decisions of the leaders for example, in the distribution of party tickets, at the time of elections. The root cause must be removed first. Shri Sanjiva Reddi as Congress, President may be anxious to eradicate indiscipline; but as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh he is being accused of keeping groupism alive by constituting his Ministry in the way he did.

## *a helping hand...*

As far back as 1921, Tata Steel established a Technical Institute in Jamshedpur to develop a cadre of fully qualified technical personnel to take up positions of responsibility in India's first steel works. Subsequently, the Company instituted training courses for skilled artisans and other categories of employees.

During the last four years, the Jamshedpur Technical Institute has planned and provided special training programmes to meet the urgent needs of Hindustan Steel. Over 1,800 technicians from the Government steel plants at Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur have availed themselves of the accumulated training experience and facilities placed at their disposal by Jamshedpur, where industry is not merely a source of livelihood but a way of life.

