# ALL-INDIA KISAN SABHA

Proceedings & Resolutions of the Thirteenth Session

Dahanu, May 17-22, 1955

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June 1955

#### **PROCEEDINGS**

The 12th Session of the All-India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) which was held at Moga decided to hold the 13th Session in April, 1955 in Maharashtra or, if the Maharashtra Provincial Kisan Sabha (MPKS) was not prepared to hold it, in Bihar. Though the time between the two Sessions was short, such a decision was taken in order to normalise the holding of the Annual Sessions and the enrolment time for membership, as well as to review the work done on the lines of the decisions taken at Moga. The Maharashtra PKS decided to hold the Session in May, at Dahanu, in Thana District, a small coastal town near the Warli area.

The Central Kisan Council (CKC) met 6 times during the session, but the attendance was not satisfactory, only half the number of members attending. The following members were present:

(1) Indulal Yajnik, (2) Nana Patil, (3) N. Prasada Rao, (4) Jagjit Singh Lyallpuri, (5) B. Srinivasa Rao, (6) Baba Gurmukh Singh— all office-bearers— and (7) Achintya Bhattacharjee, (8) Bhowani Sen, (9) H. K. Konar (10) Master Hari Singh, (11) H. S. Surjeet, (12) Chowdhary Ghasiram, (13) Thakurbhai Shah, (14) S. G. Sardesai, (15) S. V. Parulekar, (16) Tulsidas Jadhav, (17) K. A. Keraleeyan, (18) E. M. S. Namboodiripad, (19) E. Gopalakrishna Menon, (20) Y. V. Krishna Rao, (21) Ramachandra Misra. Shri. Bankim Mukherjee and Shri. Sankardayal Tiwari attended the CKC meetings on special invitation. (Shri. Kashinath Jadhav arrived late and could not attend).

The new CKC which met immediately after its election, was attended, besides the above, by Shri. B. D. Deshmukh and Shri. Rajendra Deshmukh from Marathwada.

The first item taken up by the CKC was the irregularities in the payment of membership fees. The General Secretary had reported that Rajasthan PKC had not paid

even the previous year's membership fees and Telangana Kisan Sabha had not paid the arrears of Rs. 200 towards membership fees of the same period. He had also reported that some PKSs, had not yet paid their membership quota for the year and that Andhra and Telangana PKSs had not enrolled members this year for the reason that all the Kisan Sabha workers were engaged in the general elections in Andhra, which fell just in the period of the enrolment campaign. The CKC took a serious view of the failure on the part of the Rajasthan and the Telangana PKSs in not paying even last year's dues and censured them and demanded their immediate payment. It also criticised the PKSs who had not paid the membership fees for this year in time and called upon them to pay the whole membership fees before they participate in the Delegates' Session. (All the defaulting PKSs who were attending the Session, except Rajasthan, paid up their membership fees before the 19th, i.e., the first meeting of the Delegates' Session. Rajasthan had cleared off last year's arrears and paid only Rs. 80 towards the current year's fees and requested time till August to pay the rest. The CKC gave the necessary permission.)

The CKC next discussed the question of representation to Andhra and Telangana in the Session. It decided to recommend to the Delegates' Session the proposal that in view of the special circumstances in which these two provinces could not enrol members this year, they should be allowed to send delegates and AIKC members, on the basis of last year's membership.

The next question discussed was about the resolutions to be put before the Session. Apart from others, the following were decided upon to be moved:

- (1) On Taxation and the Taxation Enquiry Commission's Recommendations.
- (2) On Falling Prices.
- (3) On Rural Indebtedness and Rural Credit.
- (4) On Land Acquisition Acts.
- (5) On Evictions and for Land.

- (6) On Peace (which should include the Bandung Conference and the Far East situation).
- (7) On Development Plans.

The CKC discussed the draft resolutions that were placed before it on all these issues except the last one and made various changes in these drafts. The final drafts were then prepared and placed before the Delegates' Session.

A discussion had taken place on the issue of development plans, but as it was found that no conclusions could be arrived at on the approach of the Kisan Sabha towards these plans, the issue was left open and so no resolution on it was placed before the Delegates' Session.

Discussion had taken place on the question of betterment levy also. Some members held that where the actual development had taken place, we should not oppose betterment levy wholesale but should demand the exemption of uneconomic holdings from such levy. They gave the instances, where peasants themselves were coming forward to contribute towards a part of the cost of the construction of irrigation projects, which really benefited them and which they themselves were demanding for long. But other members argued that we should oppose betterment levy falling on the holdings of all peasants, irrespective of whether they were economic or not and were also of the opinion that if on the plea that those who could pay should pay we wanted exemption only for uneconomic holdings, peasant unity and struggle against landlordism would be disrupted. So, as the question was important and could not be clinched in such a short time, it was finally decided to defer the discussion.

Shri. S. V. Parulekar, Chairman of the Reception Committee, informed the CKC of the obstacles put forward by the state, district and local officials in the way of holding the Session. The District Magistrate had refused permission to hold the open rally or to have cultural shows. The local officials demanding of the house-owners who had lent their houses for the Session, to remove the thatched sheds, etc., constructed for the purpose; the police were going round the villages threatening the people and spreading various

rumours and so on. The question of what to do, if the refusal to hold the rally and use the loudspeakers, etc., were persisted in, was considered and it was decided to send the General Secretary and the Chairman of the Reception Committee to Bombay to meet the Government for getting permission, and to hold the rally in a neighbouring plot, if still the permission were refused.

#### DELEGATES' SESSION

The Delegates' Session started at 2 p.m. on 19-5-55, with Shri. Indulal Yajnik presiding. 184 delegates attended the Session. The Chairman of the Reception Committee, Shri. S. V. Parulekar, welcoming the delegates and visitors, informed the delegates of the difficulties they were encountering in holding the Session. Next, the President formally opened the proceedings of the Session with a rousing speech. Resolutions on Martyrs and Condolences were moved from the Chair and adopted.

Next, the recommendation of the CKC regarding the representation of Andhra and Telangana PKSs in the Session was taken up for consideration. This was objected to by some delegates. They held that, since there was no constitutional provision for continuing last year's membership when fresh enrolment was not done, it was wrong to give representation on the basis of previous year's membership. Finally, on the proposal made by Shri Bankim Mukherjee, it was decided that not more than 20 delegates might attend the Session from each of the two provinces.

Then proposals for the election of the new president were called for. Shri. Harkishen Singh Surjeet proposed the name of Shri. Nana Patil, which was seconded by Shri. N. Prasada Rao. There being no other proposal, Shri. Nana Patil was declared elected as President for the yext year amidst thunderous applause.

A resolution on the refusal of visas to fraternal delegates from Poland and Indonesia was passed.

The next question taken up was the resolution condemning the action of the Bombay Government in refusing permission to hold the open rally. Shri. T. S. Jadhav suggested that since we were still intending to approach the Government for seeking permission, the language should be moderate. Certain other delegates also suggested the same and so the resolution was suitably amended and passed.

Messages received from fraternal organisations were read. Shri. Mithabhai Parsana, Treasurer of the Saurashtra Khedut Sangh, personally greeted the Session on behalf of the Khedut Sangh.

The Annual Report was next submitted by the General Secretary, with an introductory speech. He had pointed out, how in various provinces, where serious planning out of work and campaigning had been done, the movement had progressed and how the main organisational task today was building up the organisation as a militant, fighting organ of the kisans and agricultural labourers and for that, how the primary units had to be built up and how the functioning of the Kisan Sabha should be democratised. The first day's Session ended with that.

The discussion on the report took the whole of the morning session on 20-5-55. Representatives from almost all provinces attending the Session, spoke on the report, supplementing it. In fact, a lot of information regarding the problems facing the provinces or the work done, which was not given in the report or was inadequately dealt with, was given in these supplementary reports. The main criticism of the report was that though it gave a description of the work done in the provinces, it did not pose the problems facing the kisans or the experiences gained from the struggles carried on in the intervening period. Shri. Harikrishna Konar from Bengal reported that in Bengal, a large number of Kisan Sabha workers did not agree with the resolutions passed at Moga on the question of ceilings and agricultural labour organisations.

In the evening session, Shri. Indulal Yajnik moved the resolution on peace, which was seconded by Shri. Bhowani Sen. The resolution on solidarity with the working-class struggles in Kanpur and Amritsar was moved by Sri. Ban-

kim Mukherjee and was supported by Shri. Madhavarao Gaekwad. Both these resolutions, with slight amendments, were passed unanimously.

Then the resolution on tax burdens was moved by Shri. S. G. Sardesai and seconded by Shri. Sankardayal Tiwari and Dalip Singh Tapiala. Some amendments moved were accepted by the mover and the resolution, as amended, was unanimously passed.

The evening session closed at 8-30 p.m.

The next sitting started at 8 a.m. on 21-5-55 with greetings by Shri. Bapurao Jagtap, President of the Bombay Provincial Trade Union Congress. Shri. E. M. S. Namboodiripad moved the resolution on rural indebtedness and rural credit, which was seconded by Shri. Nikunj Behari Chowdhary. A number of amendments which were moved were accepted by the mover and those rejected were not pressed and the resolution was unanimously passed.

The next resolution taken up was on land acquisition moved by Shri. Harikrishna Konar and seconded by Radhakrishna Bohra. With some amendments, the resolution was unanimously passed.

Shrimati Godavari Parulekar, the beloved leader of Warlis, next moved the resolution on Goa, which was seconded by Shri. Sardesai and Shri. Purushottam Naik. In the course of their speeches, they announced the decision of the Maharashtra PKS to send a batch of volunteers to offer satyagraha in Goa. Immediately, the delegates from Marathwada announced that the Marathwada PKS would also send a satyagraha batch soon to go to Goa. The resolution was passed amidst great applause.

The afternoon sitting, the last of the Session, was held at 4 p.m. The resolution on the question of prices was moved by Shri Harkishen Singh Surjeet, which was seconded by Shri K. Gopala Rao. Chowdhary Ghasiram also spoke on the resolution, describing the deplorable plight in Rajasthan. The resolution was unanimously passed, after incorporating some amendments.

The other resolutions passed were: on evictions and

for land moved by Shri. Jagjit Singh Lyallpuri and supported by Shri. Madhavan Pillai, Sunil Sen and Bhairav Bharateeya; on the question of Ceylon Indians, moved by Shri. Palaniappan and seconded by Shri. Sankaranarayanan; on repression moved by Master Hari Singh and supported by Swami Kumaranand, Bhau Saheb Deshmukh and Sankara Narayanan Thampi.

Next, the statement of accounts was moved by the General Secretary and passed.

The Delegates' Session closed at 9-0 p.m. amidst thunderous slogans.

On the evening of 22nd a huge procession, culminating in a big rally on the beach was held, 95% of those attending being Warlis. The meeting was addressed by Shri. S. V. Parulekar, Godavari Parulekar, Baba Gurmukh Singh, Nana Patil and Bankim Mukherjee. Peace signatures on the spot were collected totalling about 5000. The rally concluded with cultural programmes by the Bombay Squad.

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#### **MESSAGES**

From TRADE UNIONS INTERNATIONAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY WORKERS (TD of WFTU)

Dear brothers,

The 13th Session of the All-India Kisan Sabha is being held in a period during which new victories have been won by the peoples on the front of peace.

The success of the history-making A-A Conference in Bandung shows that the people's determination of peace is an immense strength capable of banning colonialism and barring the way to the war policy of international imperialism.

The Indian workers have given to this fight a great contribution whose concrete expression we find in the policy of peaceful co-existence prosecuted by your great country.

Experience shows that improvement of the workers' living conditions and their social and cultural elevation are closely tied to international relaxation, to the reduction of war expenses and to free development of the economic and cultural relationships between all peoples of the world.

In the actual world situation the workers' essential task is fighting for peace and we are certain that the AIKS will do its utmost so as to make the population of the Indian countryside worthily represented in the World Assembly of Peoples for Peace to be held in Helsinki and that it will give its tremendous contribution to the collection of signatures against the use of atomic weapons.

Land hunger and the constant threat of evictions, the insupportable burden of ground rent and taxes, the lack of rural credits and the crisis of the farm products' prices, increase of wages and full employment are the immediate

problems whose solution is waited for by hundreds of millions of peasants and agricultural workers in India.

This solution can be achieved only through a constant and consistent united struggle by all concerned masses in close alliance with the working class and with all peaceand progress-loving forcess.

The resolutions adopted by the 12th Annual Session of the AIKS showing a just direction to the organisational problems and demands are decisively proving that the AIKS is at the head of the peasant masses and rural poor in India.

The agricultural workers and peasants of the entire world wish that the wide influence and popularity enjoyed today by the AIKS be concretely expressed in a great and united mass organisation of the workers on the land leading the millions and millions of peasants and agricultural labourers of India toward victory.

Forward toward victory of your demands!
Forward toward progress, well-being and peace!

Yours fraternally, Ilio Bosi •General Secretary.

From DPP SARBUPRI, DJAKARTA, INDONESIA.

ON BEHALF OF 500,000 PLANTATION WORKERS OF SARBUPRI SEND WARMEST GREETINGS TO YOUR CONFERENCE STOP WE HOPE GREAT SUCCESS FOR BETTER LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS COMMA FULL NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND WORLD PEACE STOP MARSASUKARTO OUR DELEGATE IS UNABLE TO ATTEND CONFERENCE BECAUSE HE DOES NOT GET VISA FOR INDIA

From AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' AND EMPLOYEES' UNION, MOSCOW, USSR.

DEAR COMRADES ON BEHALF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS AND EMPLOYEES SOVIET UNION WE SEND FRATERNAL GREETINGS DELEGATES 13TH SESSION AND ALL THOSE WORKING IN AGRICULTURE OF INDIA STOP SINCERELY WISH CONFERENCE SUCCESS IN WORK DIRECTED AT FURTHER STRENGTHENING ORGANISATIONS AGRICULTURAL WORKERS COMMA DEFENCE VITAL INTERESTS OF TOILERS INDIAN VILLAGE AND ESTBLISHMENT THEIR UNITY COMMA PRESERVATION AND CONSOLIDATION PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP AMONG NATIONS STOP ON BEHALF OF PRESIDUM SEGURAZDOV PRESIDENT CC AGRICULTURAL WORKERS AND EMPLOYEES UNION.

From AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST WORKERS' TRADE UNION, WARSAW, POLAND

ON OCCASION OF YOUR THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION WE SEND YOUR DELEGATES AND THROUGH THEIR INTERMEDIARY ALL AGRI-CULTURAL AND FOREST WORKERS OF INDIA OUR HEARTIEST FRATERNAL GREETINGS AND EXPRESSION OF OUR SOLIDARITY POLISH TRADE UNION MEMBERS WATCH WITH GREAT IN-TEREST THE INCREASED ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF FREE INDIA IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE THE EVER TIGHTENING PEACEFUL AND FRATERNAL COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES TO OUR MUTUAL ADVANTAGE BEHALF OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF OUR AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST WORKERS ON BEHALF OF THE POLISH PEOPLE WE WISH YOU GROWING UNITY OF ALL WORKERS IN DEFENCE OF THEIR IN-COMMA IN THE STRUGGLE FOR BREAD AND WORK FOR PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP AMONG PEOPLES OF ASIA AND AMONG ALL PEOPLES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD INFORM YOU AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE ANNOUNCED VISIT OF OUR DELEGATION COULD NOT BE REALISED OWING TO LACK OF ENTRANCE VISA FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION KAZIMIERZ NOWICKI CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST WORKERS TRADE UNION IN POLAND

#### From RUMANIAN AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, RUMANIA.

DEAR BROTHERS WE WISH YOU FULL SUCCESS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION TO STRENGTHEN THE UNITED ACTION OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS AND OBTAIN BETTER LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS STOP ON THIS OCCASION WE ASSERT OUR FRATERNAL SOLIDARITY WITH YOU AND EXPRESS FRATERNAL SOLIDARITY WITH YOUR RESOLUTE STRUGGLE ALONGSIDE ALL INDIAN PEOPLE FOR DEMOCRACY PROGRESS AND WORLD PEACE STOP POPESCU CHARMAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE RUMANIAN AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.

From TRADE UNION OF AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY WORKERS, BULGARIA

CENTRAL COMMITTEE TRADE UNION OF AGRICULTURAL AND FORE-STRY WORKERS OF BULGARIA GREETS CORDIALLY DELEGATES TO THE ALL INDIA KISAN SABHA SESSION AND WISHES YOU FRUITFUL WORK FOR THE WELFARE OF INDIAN WORKING PEOPLE AND FOR CONSOLIDATION OF WORLD PEACE STOP KLISSAROV PRESIDENT

From TRADE UNIONS FOR LAND AND FORESTRY, BERLIN.

Dear brothers,

We have received your invitation to the 13th Congress of the All-India Kisan Sabha, Dahanu. This invitation pleased us very much and we wish to express to you our heartfelt thanks.

We look upon this invitation as an expression of the mutual fraternal feelings existing between the working people of your great and beautiful country and the working people of the German Democratic Republic.

We would like very much to be able to accept your invitation to send a delegation to your important conference. Unfortunately the shortage of time makes it impossible for us to obtain an entry visa into your country.

In spite of this we are convinced that the present difficulties should not prevent us from strengthening and extending our friendly relations.

The Secretariat wishes your Congress, in the name of the land and forestry workers of our organization, the greatest success and sends you fraternal greetings in the struggle.

May your Conference represent a further step forward in your struggle for unity, democracy, prosperity and for the maintenance of peace among the peoples.

> Yours fraternally, Svihalek (Chairman) Central Board of the Trade Union for Land and Forestry

From THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF LAND, ROME, ITALY.

Dear brothers,

On behalf of the two and half million Italian farm workers, share-croppers and small growers organised in the National Confederation of Land, we are sending to the 13th Annual Session of your organisation our warmest greetings.

The agricultural workers of Italy are engaged in a hard struggle for better wages, social security and full employment, for agrarian reform and for the defence of their products. Therefore, they are looking with profound sympathy and solidarity at the fight you are carrying on in India for the same aims.

In the certainty that your Session will constitute an important milestone in the Indian agricultural workers' and

peasants' struggle for national independence, well-being and peace, the agricultural workers of Italy send your Session their fraternal wishes of best success.

Yours fraternally,
For the National Confederation of Land
Ledo Tremolanti,
General Secretary.

### From CYPRUS FARMERS' UNION, NICOSIA, CYPRUS

Dear brothers,

On the occasion of your 13th Annual Conference, the Central Committee of the Cyprus Farmers' Union of the agricultural workers and peasants of Cyprus, are sending to you the warmest fraternal greetings.

We wish your Conference the best success in your fight for better living and working conditions, for land reform,

for the development of a peaceful economy.

We are sending our warm and fraternal greetings to all agricultural and forestry workers and working peasants of India who are carrying on every day the big battle to bar the way to imperialism, and to ensure well-being, freedom and peace.

With the guidance of our TUIAFW and the international solidarity of the agricultural and forestry workers and the working peasants, we will ensure a lasting peace and better

life to all working peoples of the world.

Long live the 13th Conference of All-India Kisan Sabha! Long live the working peasants of India!

Long live our TUIAFW!

Long live the international solidarity of the peasants of all the world over!

Long live peace and friendship among the peoples of all the world over!

With best wishes,

Fraternally, Chambis Michaelides General Secretary From ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS, DELHI.

Dear Comrade,

On the eve of the Annual Conference of the AIKS, the AITUC on behalf of the Indian working class sends its warmest greetings to the peasant masses and agricultural workers of our country through your organisation. In its struggle for land reforms, for fixing a ceiling on land holdings, against eviction, for fair prices for agricultural commodities, etc., the peasantry of our country can rely on the support and solidarity of the Indian working class. The certain gains that had been won both by the workers and peasants were possible because of the unity and struggle of the masses organised in trade unions and kisan sabhas.

The AITUC wishes the Conference every success in its efforts to further strengthen its organisation and mobilise the peasantry in order to effect radical land reforms in our country. The AITUC once again expresses its warmest greetings to the AIKS.

With greetings,

Fraternally yours, Secretariat.

From NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDIAN WOMEN, DELHI.

In our agricultural country, the kisan holds a very important position and as the producer of the food for the nation, should have all the advantages, such as food, clothing, shelter, education and medical aid. When we ask for the rights of women and work for the defence of children, we always remember our kisan sisters and their children, who form the bulk of our population, and have always taken a prominent part in the struggle for their rights and also shouldering the responsibilities of work along with their husbands in the fields.

We wish you all success in the work you are doing for these, who are the backbone of our country and send you our greetings.

Anasuya Gianchand, Joint Secretary. From GENERAL ENGINEERING EMPLOYEES' UNION, BOMBAY

Dear Comrade,

We have to inform you that we have been able to enrol about 400 workers belonging to General Engineering Employees' Union and General Kamgar Union as Reception Committee members. We also hope that we will be able to muster few more workers as the members of the Reception Committee within a short time that is at our disposal. We wish to inform you that about 20 workers from different factories and office-bearers of our union would be attending the Conference as delegates.

We are, in our day-to-day propaganda, trying to put before the working class of Bombay the importance of this Conference and most of all the important role which the working class and the peasants will have to play in the days to come. We are very glad to inform you that the workers of Bombay have every feeling of appreciation for the great and tremendous problem which this Conference has set itself to solve in the interest of the peasants, the working class and all the working masses as a whole. We wish your Conference a grand success and trust that your Conference will be successful in keeping proper and correct perspective on the lines of which the working masses in co-operation with the peasants should march to achieve the cherished goal of socialism. We once again express our fraternal feelings and greetings, and wish the Conference all success.

> Yours fraternally, M. V. Gopalan, Organising Secretary.

Messages of greetings were received from the following also:

Shri N. M. Joshi, veteran trade union leader; Bombay State Mithagar Kamgar Federation; All-India Peasants' and Workers' Party.