

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

(FIFTH LOK SABHA)

TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT .

[Petition No. 3 regarding unemployment of Agricultural Graduates and Post-Graduates and Agricultural Engineers.]



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
(1975-76)**

Shri Jagannath Rao—*Chairman*

2. Shri S. C. Besra
- *3. Shri Ishwar Chaudhry
4. Shri Biren Engti
5. Shri D. P. Jadeja
6. Shri Mallikarjun
7. Shri Ajit Kumar Saha
8. Maulana Ishaque Sambhali
9. Shri Shanker Rao Savant
10. Shri Shankar Dev
11. Shri Digvijaya Narain Singh
12. Shri Rana Bahadur Singh
13. Shri Rudra Pratap Singh
14. Shri S. N. Singh
15. Shri Tula Ram

SECRETARIAT

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Chief Legislative Committee Officer.*

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Senior Legislative Committee Officer.*

*Nominated with effect from the 20th August, 1975, *vide* Shri Hemendra Singh Banera resigned from the Committee with effect from the 3rd August, 1975.

TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

(FIFTH LOK SABHA)

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty-eighth Report of the Committee to the House on Petition No. 3 regarding unemployment of Agricultural Graduates and Post-Graduates and Agricultural Engineers.

2. The Committee considered the matter at their sittings held on the 6th July, 6th and 7th November, 1973 and 9th December, 1975.

3. At their sittings held on the 6th and 7th November, 1973, the Committee heard oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture/Planning Commission etc. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministries concerned for placing before them the material and information they wanted in connection with the examination of the subject.

4. The Committee considered and adopted their draft Report at their sitting held on the 9th December, 1975.

5. The observations/recommendations of the Committee on the petition have been included in this Report.

NEW DELHI;

Dated the 9th December, 1975.

JAGANNATH RAO,

*Chairman,
Committee on Petitions.*

REPORT

PETITION NO. 3 REGARDING UNEMPLOYMENT OF AGRICULTURAL GRADUATES AND POST-GRADUATES AND AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS

1.1. On the 19th December, 1972, Shri B. K. Daschowdhury, M.P., presented to Lok Sabha a Petition signed by Shri T. T. Jagtap and others regarding unemployment of Agricultural Graduates and Post-Graduates and Agricultural Engineers.

A. Petitioners' Grievances and Prayer

1.2. In their petition (See Appendix), the petitioners *inter alia* stated as follows:

"That according to the latest study prepared by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, about 16,000 Agricultural Graduates and Post-Graduates would be rendered jobless at the end of the Fourth Plan. This includes 700 Agricultural Engineering Graduates.

That it is necessary that immediate steps should be taken to absorb all Agricultural Engineering Graduates, who have spent not less than Rs. 15,000 for their B. Tech. Degrees. Avenues for employment for Agricultural Graduates should also be explored."

B. Comments of Ministries concerned

1.3. The Petition was referred to the Ministries of Agriculture, Industrial Development, Irrigation and Power, Education and Social Welfare (Department of Education), Labour and Rehabilitation (Department of Labour and Employment) and the Planning Commission for furnishing their factual comments, for consideration by the Committee. In their factual comments, the Ministries concerned have stated *inter alia* as follows:

I. Ministry of Agriculture

'...Various agencies have, from time to time, estimated the stock of agricultural graduates beginning from 1960-61. The Planning Commission, in the Third Plan document, estimated the stock in 1960-61 at 14,000....

Similarly, the stock at the commencement of the Fourth Plan, viz. at the end of 1968-69 has been estimated nearly to be 51,000 Agricultural Graduates. This figure includes about 10,000 Post-Graduates in Agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture has estimated the likely augmentation during the Fourth Five Year Plan as 19,660 Agricultural Graduate and 7,850 Post-Graduates.....

In a separate report compiled in 1971, the Ministry of Home Affairs has estimated the augmentation during the Fourth Plan Period as 29,000 Agricultural Graduates and 6,000 Post-Graduates....

The total requirements of Agricultural Graduates and Post-Graduates for the public sector during the Fourth Plan period, according to this study, have been estimated to be 12,000 and 4,400 respectively. If the requirements for research at the State level for the agro-service centres and the banking sector are included, the requirements would be a few thousands more. The study has not been able to assess the requirements of the private sector.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, in their Position Paper prepared in connection with the formulation of the Fifth Plan, have estimated that 9,000 Agricultural Graduates and 4,660 Post-Graduates would become surplus by the end of the Fourth Plan period. In addition, there would be a surplus of 1,915 veterinary graduates and 600 Post-Graduates by 1973-74 besides 700 Agricultural Engineers. Thus, a total of 16,000 Agricultural Personnel would go without jobs, according to the estimate of Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Due to various difficulties in reporting systems and absence of manpower consciousness, and a changing pattern of programmes, these estimates are differing from each other.

According to the Report of the Working Group on Agricultural Manpower, at the beginning of the Fourth Plan, the stock of Agricultural Graduates was 52,000. At the end of 1971, it has been estimated at 68,000. On present indications, it would be 78,000 and 1 lakh in 1974 and 1979 respectively.

The growth in the Agricultural Graduates Stock was phenomenal i.e. 9,000 in 1952 and 51,000 on the eve of the Fourth Plan due to the rapid expansion in Agricultural Education. In their Position Paper, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has estimated that during the Fifth Plan period, the output of Agricultural and

Agricultural Engineering Graduates would be 40,000 and 1,400 respectively. With the present intake capacity of Agricultural and Agricultural Engineering Colleges, and the existing stock of unemployed Graduates and Post-Graduates, there would be no need for 'expansion' of Agricultural Education Programmes in terms of number of institutions or admissions during the Fifth Plan period....

The problem of utilisation of Agricultural Personnel has been engaging the attention of the Department of Agriculture for quite some time....

Though Agricultural manpower is employed for the most part by the Central and State Governments, the manner in which the stock is being utilised is not known in all its bearings. Only fragmentary information is available. The large majority is of course engaged in extension work at block level, in administration and as Technical Officers (as subject-matter specialists) at district and State levels...the distribution broadly indicated that 25,000 Agricultural Graduates out of the total stock of 51,000 were utilised by the Government.

Two special schemes, viz., Farm Graduates Scheme and Agro-Service Centres have been started during the Fourth Plan so that the special knowledge and experience in the field of Agriculture may be used to increase the food production and provide proper guidance to the farmers and, at the same time provide self-employment to the Agricultural Technical Personnel.

The Farm Graduate Scheme is being operated by the State Bank of India. It has also been approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and commended to all the State Governments....

This Scheme envisages provision of financial assistance to prospective Graduate Farmers having requisite technical qualifications and having worthwhile farm development projects of Agricultural Production but unable to undertake them due to lack of sufficient resources. According to the latest information available, nearly 157 Graduate Farmers have been granted loans under this Scheme in various States.

The Agro-Service Centres Scheme, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, is being operated by the Ministry of Agriculture, and has the following objects:

- (i) To provide self-employment opportunities to Engineers, Diploma-holders, Agricultural Graduates, etc.

- (ii) To provide on-the-farm maintenance and repair facilities for Agricultural Machinery and implements.
- (iii) An easily accessible source of supply for spare parts, fuel, etc.
- (iv) Supply of Agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers, pesticides, etc.

2,500 Agro-Service Centres are to be set up during the Fourth Plan Period."

II. Planning Commission (Employment and Manpower Planning Division)

"In order to ease the problem of unemployment of the educated, the Government of India had initiated various programmes in 1971-72. Two schemes under this category namely, the Rural Engineering Surveys and the setting up of Agro-Service Centres envisages the employment of a sizeable number of agricultural graduates besides engineering graduates and other highly technically qualified persons.

Under this Rural Engineering Surveys Scheme, surveys are being undertaken in rural areas in chronically drought-affected districts for formulation of schemes covering provision of irrigation, electricity, drinking water and road facilities and also for improvement of land and water management practices. The recruitment of survey parties is almost complete in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Mysore, West Bengal, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. About half the number of survey parties has been recruited in the States of Assam, Bihar, Rajasthan and Kerala. The programme of recruitment has been initiated in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Orissa and the posts were sanctioned by Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir in April, 1973. Upto the end of March, 1973, employment has been provided to about 887 engineers, 484 agricultural graduates and 1,939 supporting staff under this scheme. It is expected that by the end of 1973-74, the scheme is likely to generate a total employment potential of 5,862 comprising 1,200 engineers, 726 agricultural graduates, 728 technical staff, 253 Ministerial staff, 80 skilled and 2,875 unskilled workers.

Under the 'Half a Million jobs Programme', introduced in 1973-74, for educated job seekers, various State Governments and Union Territories have formulated schemes for creating employment opportunities for various categories of educated job seekers

including agricultural graduates and post-graduates. These schemes are expected to provide employment opportunities for about 5,000 agricultural graduates/post-graduates in agriculture during 1973-74. Some of the typical schemes formulated by States/Union Territories under the 'Half a Million Jobs Programme' which offer employment opportunities to agricultural graduates/post graduates and diploma holders are given below:

- (i) Appointment of Gram Sevaks in Blocks.
- (ii) Strengthening of Agriculture Departments by appointing additional agricultural personnel.
- (iii) Appointment of agricultural graduates in Cooperative Marketing Societies for strengthening them in order to step up agricultural inputs distribution.
- (iv) Self-employment of agricultural graduates/post-graduates by providing them necessary finances to take up farming.
- (v) Setting up of agro-service centres by agricultural graduates.

The Government of India have thus initiated several schemes which would ease the problem of unemployment among agricultural personnel. In the Fifth Five Year Plan, the efforts to create additional job opportunities for various categories of personnel including agricultural personnel will be intensified.

Projections of Demand in the Fifth Plan

The National Commission on Agriculture in its Interim Report recommended one Agricultural Extension Officer (A.E.O.) for a population of roughly 10,000 to 12,000 or 5 to 6 A.E.Os. per block. This recommendation is presently under consideration of the Government. On this basis, the additional requirement of Agricultural Extension Officers at the block level during the Fifth Plan period is roughly estimated at 19,000.

With the Nationalisation of the Scheduled Banks in July, 1969 and the diversification of activities of these banks, the scope for employment of agricultural graduates in Banks has considerably increased. The Nationalised Banks have an extensive programme of opening branches in rural areas to mobilise deposits and to advance loans to agriculturists. The Department of Banking has made projections of the demand of agricultural graduates in the banking sector during the Fourth Plan period and upto the end of 1980. According to these estimates, the requirements of agricultural graduates

during the Fourth Plan period would be about 400 and an additional 3,000 during the Fifth Plan period.

During the Fifth Plan, 1,500 Agro-Service Centres are proposed to be set up each year or 7,500 Centres during the Plan period. The scheme envisages employment of 10 persons per Agro-Service Centre. It is expected that about ten per cent of those who secure employment under the scheme would be agricultural graduates and on this basis, about 7,500 agricultural graduates are likely to find employment under the scheme.

Besides the above areas with prospects of substantial employment, there are likely to be considerable opportunities for employment in the Central and State Government Departments, on agricultural farms and research stations, in activities like soil conservation, forestry, dairying, in colleges and universities and in schools and training institutions, apart from the private sector where the demand has been growing."

III. Ministry of Education

"There are two Regional Training Centres of the Government of India at Tractor Training Centre, Hissar and Tractor Training and Testing Station, Budni which take up the training of entrepreneurs selected by the Agro-Industries Corporations for setting up of Agro-Service Centres in addition to their regular training programmes. 8 posts at each of these Training Institutions requiring technical qualifications are sanctioned. In addition 13 Training Cells (one in each of the States) have also been established which are organised by the State Agro-Industries Corporations. 39 Engineering graduates are deemed to have been employed by these Training Cells. We have also a Central Cell at Headquarters to control the entire scheme. This Cell is also manned by 6 Engineering Graduates."

IV. Ministry of Industrial Development

"This Ministry has no specific comments to offer, though it is felt that so far as manufacture of agricultural machinery/implements is concerned, the preference in the matter of employment appears to be given to mechanical engineers rather than agricultural graduates. The nature of work being mechanical fabrication, it is understood that these industries have a preference for technicians trained in the discipline of mechanical engineering."

C. Views of the Vice-Chancellors of Agricultural Universities etc.

1.4. The Vice-Chancellors of various Agricultural Universities and other concerned Educational Institutions in the country were also

requested, through the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture) to furnish their views on the subject. In their replies sent by the different Agricultural Universities etc., almost all of them are of the positive view that there should be a Placement Bureau in each Agricultural University for assisting the graduating and post-graduating students in finding suitable employment.

1.5. Various Agricultural Universities have also made some suggestions for augmenting the employment avenues for agricultural graduates etc. Some of the suggestions made in this regard are as follows:—

1. PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, LUDHIANA

(i) There is a great need for agro-service centres in rural areas. Such centres for custom hiring of machinery for all agricultural operations can be opened by agricultural engineers if bank loan facilities are made more liberal and easy to obtain.

(ii) In many Government Departments, jobs which are well suited for agricultural engineers or can as well be done by them as by civil or mechanical engineers, qualifications of agricultural engineers have not been included because of tendency to avoid change, prejudice on the part of senior civil and mechanical engineers sitting in top positions, and other reasons. If a commission could go into this aspect on an all-India basis, it would improve a lot of frustration and open up new opportunities for agricultural engineers.

(iii) The agricultural engineering sections in the departments of Agriculture and Soil Conservation need to be strengthened in all States. The non-availability of agricultural engineering graduates in sufficient numbers in the past was perhaps one of the reasons for not expanding these sections and providing agricultural engineers at district levels, but the supply position has much improved now and this can be done.

2. MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, RAHURI (MAHARASHTRA)

Agricultural Engineering Graduates be given priority over civil/mechanical/Diploma holders while manning the posts in soil and water management programmes, seed processing plants and mechanical cultivation units of the State Department of Agriculture.

3. INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, KHARAGPUR

There should be closer liaison between the State Governments, State Agro-Industrial Corporations, private organisations etc. with

Universities/Institutions producing Agricultural engineering graduates. Entrepreneurship training programme should be encouraged by establishing a few training centres in the country.

4. COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF UDAIPUR

(i) The Government and other autonomous bodies and industries should inform the Universities for making necessary changes in the course contents, from time to time.

(ii) The financing agencies should also develop working relations with the educational institutions for processing the project or schemes submitted by graduates for self employment.

5. MARATHWADA KRISHI VIDAPEETH, PARBHANI

Besides the usual employment avenue of Agricultural Graduates like, Department, Zilla Parishad, Agricultural Universities, etc., the Agricultural Graduates should be absorbed in large number in banks. The jobs of the B.D.O.'s and in the Cooperative Departments are such that Agricultural Graduates would do better and work more efficiently. It is proposed that B.D.O's must be Agricultural Graduates and the preference should be given to the Agricultural Graduates in manning the posts in Co-operative Department. The Agricultural Graduates should necessary be appointed as Gramsevak and Agricultural Assistants by increasing their pay.

6. TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, COIMBATORE

There is need for intensifying extension work in the villages and to do so we need strong research support. Area planning for development of agriculture to reap the maximum harvest, growing the best suited crop, will help in assessing the potentialities in this regard.

7. COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, ORISSA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNOLOGY BHUBANESHWAR

At present, agricultural engineering works are being managed through engineers of other disciplines namely mechanical, electrical, civil etc. Works of Agricultural engineering nature should be given to graduates/post-graduates in Agricultural Engineering only.

8. KANKAN KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, DAPOLI, DISTT. RATNAGIRI (MAHARASHTRA)

(i) Emphasis should be laid on practical training with a view to increase self-employment of graduates. Self-employment includes private farming supplemented by supply services and private consul-

tancy as a business. Agricultural graduates may be encouraged to give technical advice to farmer on payment basis.

(ii) Comprehensive programme of research in Agriculture should be taken by the Agricultural Universities because programme of agricultural development and Extension is based on research. This will provide additional job opportunities particularly to the post-graduates.

(iii) Massive programme of educating farmers and strengthening extension agency should be undertaken. The present Extension agency is very inadequate in respect of number of persons and their technical competency.

(iv) Co-operative Credit Societies at the village level which provide short term finance and other agricultural requisites should be encouraged to employ agricultural graduates who will render technical advice to the members of the Society along with the finance and agricultural requisites.

D. Evidence of the representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture, Planning Commission etc., before the Committee

1.6 The Committee at their sitting held on the 6th and 7th November, 1973, examined the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture (Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Department of Food and Agriculture), Planning Commission, Ministry of Labour (Department of Labour and Employment), Ministry of Irrigation and Power, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare (Department of Education), Ministry of Heavy Industry and Ministry of Finance (Department of Banking) on the points raised in the petition.

1.7. The Committee discussed with them the questions regarding the existing unemployment problem among the Agricultural Graduates, Agricultural Post-Graduates and Agricultural Engineers and the different steps so far taken and proposed to be taken by the Government to ease this problem.

1.8 In his evidence before the Committee, the representative of the Planning Commission stated that according to their estimate, 8915 Agricultural Graduates, 4660 Post-Graduates and 705 Agricultural Engineers would be surplus at the end of the Fourth Plan.

1.9. The Committee enquired what was the number likely to get employment keeping in view the surplus expected at the end of Fourth Plan and the expected stock during Fifth Plan. The representative of the Planning Commission stated:—

“We want to give technical expertise to poorest of the people in villages. It has been decided that it is possible only if

there is one Agricultural Graduate for 10,000 of the population which is approximately equivalent to 2,000 families. So the decision was taken not to increase seats beyond 5100 per year. That makes a total of 25,500 over the Fifth Plan period. The anticipation is, we will be able to meet the demand and at the same time convey expert knowledge on agriculture to our farmers."

1.10. The representative of the Planning Commission further stated that in addition to the extension programme for employment of Agricultural Graduates, which had been recommended to State Governments, the nationalised banks were utilising the services of Agricultural Graduates, in connection with their own services, there were custom services, Agro-Industries Corporation set up all over the country, which were employing them. Then agricultural education itself would take some of the Graduates and Post-Graduates. The representative of the Department of Banking informed the Committee that at the end of March, 1973, the Agricultural Graduates who had been employed by the Nationalised Banks and Reserve Bank of India was 1728.

1.11 In regard to scope of employment opportunities for Agricultural Graduates in the rice mills in the country, the representative of the Department of Food stated that there was scope for Agricultural Graduates for greater employment in the sector of modernisation of rice mills. Of 60,000 to 70,000 units they had, this scheme of modernisation touched about 9,000 to 10,000 which were basically battery of hullers or shellers or a combination of both. These were in the private sector. Some mills were being set up by the Food Corporation of India and here there was certainly scope for employment not only for Graduates but perhaps also for some Engineers. In the private sector, in the last few years, they had tried to have this scheme of modernisation gather some momentum but, unfortunately, it had not produced the desired results. There had been legislation on this and they had added some condition in the Act. Secondly, as it got off the ground, it would be ultimately for the owner to employ these people and they should certainly endeavour and see that not only the Agricultural Graduates but the food processing and other specialists were involved in this to the extent possible.

1.12. The Committee desired to know whether it was a fact that most of the public sector undertakings preferred Mechanical Engineering Graduates to Agricultural Engineering Graduates and that was why a large number of Agricultural Engineering Graduates were unemployed. The representative of the Indian Council of Agricul-

tural Research stated that preference for Agricultural Graduates varied. Graduates from I.I.T. Kharagpur were able to get jobs relatively more easily than some others. He added that many Companies thought that in case of Agricultural Engineering Graduates, the overall knowledge of basis engineering might not be as good as that of a person who had done B.E. in Civil or Mechanical Engineering.

E. Observations/Recommendations of the Committee

1.13. The Committee note that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, in their Position Paper prepared in connection with the formulation of the Fifth Five Year Plan has estimated that 9,000 Agricultural Graduates and 4,660 Post-Graduates would become surplus by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan. In addition, there would be a surplus of 1,915 veterinary graduates and 600 Post-Graduates by 1973-74, besides 700 Agricultural Engineers. Thus, a total of 16,000 Agricultural Personnel would have gone without jobs, according to the estimate of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan. The Committee believe that by now many more Agricultural personnel might have joined the ranks of their unemployed brethren to further increase the staggering figures of 16,000.

1.14. The Committee also note that according to the Report of the Working Group on Agricultural Manpower, at the beginning of the Fourth Five Year Plan, the stock of Agricultural Graduates was 52,000. At the end of 1971, it was estimated at 68,000 and it would be one lakh in 1979.

1.15. They further note that in their Position Paper, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has estimated that during the Fifth Five Year Plan, the output of Agricultural and Agricultural Engineering Graduates would be 40,000 and 1,400 respectively. According to this Position Paper, in view of the present in-take capacity of Agricultural and Agricultural Engineering Colleges, and the existing stock of unemployed Graduates and Post-Graduates, there would be no need for 'expansion' of Agricultural Education Programmes in terms of number of Institutions or admissions during the Fifth Five Year Plan.

1.16. The Committee feel that the unemployment problem in general is bad but it is all the more disconcerting when seen amongst the category of specialists like Agricultural Graduates, Agricultural Post-Graduates and Agricultural Engineers. Basically, the Indian

economy is an agricultural economy where more than 70 per cent of its people earn their livelihood by working on the fields.

1.17. The Committee are aware that though great strides have been made in the agricultural sector in the recent past, it has not as yet been completely modernized so as to make it self-sufficient to feed the entire country by the indigenous production only. As such, there cannot be two opinions on the point that the modernisation of Indian agriculture is required to be achieved for making the country self-sufficient in food production. The Committee feel that this can to a large extent be accomplished by utilising the educational attainments of our Agricultural Graduates, Post-Graduates and Agricultural Engineers, about more than 16,000 of whom were estimated to be without any gainful employment at the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan.

1.18. The Committee feel that unemployment among the Agricultural personnel is bound to sap the initiative and enthusiasm in these young Agricultural specialists who have undergone years of learning and practical training during the period of their study, which would result in an irreparable loss to the economy of the country.

1.19. The Committee, however, note that the Government are not oblivious to the gravity of the problem of unemployment among the Agricultural Personnel as the problem of utilisation of these personnel has been engaging the attention of the Government for quite some time. The Committee note that the Government have already taken some steps like implementing special schemes, viz., Farm Graduates Scheme and opening of Agro-Service Centres, which the Committee think, besides providing employment to a number of young Agricultural specialists are useful in increasing the food production by taking advantage of their special knowledge and experience in providing guidance to the farmers.

1.20. The Committee were informed that during the Fifth Five Year Plan, 1500 Agro-Service Centres were proposed to be set up each year or 7,500 Centres during the Plan period. The scheme envisaged employment of 10 persons for each Agro-Service Centre.

The following other measures undertaken by the Government in relieving the seriousness of this problem would also need special mention:—

- (i) Rural Engineering Survey;
- (ii) Half-a-Million jobs Programme.

The Committee were informed that these Schemes were expected to provide employment opportunities for about 5,000 Agricultural Graduates/Post-Graduates in Agriculture during 1973-74 itself. The Committee would like to be apprised of the actual achievements of these Schemes till date by an action taken note.

1.21. The Committee were also informed that the National Commission on Agriculture in its Interim Report recommended one Agricultural Extension Officer (A.E.O.) for a population of roughly 10,000 to 12,000 or 5 to 6 A.E.Os per block. On this basis, the additional requirement of Agricultural Extension Officers at the block level during the Fifth Plan period was estimated at 19,000. As this Scheme has a very big potentiality of employing the Agricultural Graduates, the Committee would like to be apprised of the present stage of this Scheme and its achievements by an action taken note.

1.22. The Committee have learnt from the Planning Commission that the Nationalised Banks have an extensive programme of opening branches in rural areas to mobilise deposits and to advance loans to agriculturists. The Department of Banking has made projections of the demand of Agricultural Graduates in the banking sector upto the end of 1980. According to these estimates, the requirements of Agricultural Graduates during the Fourth Plan period were about 4,400 and an additional 3,000 during the Fifth Plan period. The Committee hope that the work on the implementation of this scheme is progressing according to the schedule and they would like to be apprised of the achievements made thus far by an action taken note.

1.23. The Committee were informed that modernisation of Rice Mills has also quite a considerable potentiality for increasing the employment opportunities for the Agricultural Personnel. The Committee are hopeful that modernisation of these Mills in a phased manner would already have been receiving due attention at the hands of Government.

1.24. The Committee hope that with increasing tempo of implementation of all these Schemes and also formulation of some such Schemes with allied objectives, the unemployment problem amongst the Agricultural Personnel will be fully obliterated besides benefiting the country from their knowledge and expertise in improving the agricultural base of the country as also augmenting the agricultural production, which is the crying need of the hour.

1.25. The Committee are also sure that in order to increase the employment avenues for the Agricultural Engineers, the curriculum

of study in Agricultural Engineering Colleges in the various Agricultural Universities should be so oriented as to include within its scope some basic elementary and fundamental subjects of other Engineering disciplines like Civil and Mechanical.

1.26. The Committee would also wish the Government to examine the implementation of various important suggestions made by the different Agricultural Universities in the country as mentioned above.

1.27. The Committee are of the view that there can be considerable scope for employment of Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates in Fertiliser and Pesticides industries. The Committee desire that the Government may examine the extent to which these industries can provide additional employment to Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates and formulate definite plans for providing them employment in this field.

1.28. The Committee feel that Agricultural Universities can also play a useful role in devising and implementing new schemes having employment potential for Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates. In this connection, the Committee would like to mention the lead being given by the Pantnagar Agricultural University by setting up farms and workshops in its jurisdiction in association with its qualified Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates, thus providing them with employment.

1.29. The Committee would also like to mention the recent scheme launched jointly by the Indian Bank and the I.I.T., Madras, to help young entrepreneurs who are graduates from colleges and institutes of engineering, technology etc., to set up their own industrial/servicing units.

1.30. The Committee desire that Government may consider how more such schemes can be launched specially for Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates.

1.31. The Committee feel that a National Register of Agricultural Engineers and Agricultural Graduates and Post-Graduates may be maintained by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on the lines of a similar National Register being maintained by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, as it would serve a useful purpose in the placement of qualified persons in suitable jobs.

1.32. The Committee are of the view that it is the responsibility of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research as the coordinator of

Agriculture Education in the country to see that Agriculture Education is job-oriented and meaningful and with this end in view the I.C.A.R. should consider the question of conducting a review of the curricula in the various Agricultural/Universities in the country.

1.33. The Committee recommend that Government should evaluate the performance oriented programmes such as the Agro-service Centres, Agriculture Extension Officers Schemes etc. and point out the shortcomings in the implementation of those programmes.

NEW DELHI;

Dated the 9th December, 1975.

JAGANNATH RAO,

*Chairman,
Committee on Petitions.*

APPENDIX
LOK SABHA
PETITION NO. 3

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 19-12-1972)

TO

LOK SABHA
NEW DELHI

The humble petition of Shri T. T. Jagtap, District Buldana (Maharashtra) and others

SHEWETH:—

1. That according to the latest study prepared by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, *vide* news item appearing in *Patriot* dated the 11th September, 1972, about 16000 Agricultural Graduates and Post-Graduates would be rendered jobless at the end of the Fourth Plan. This includes 700 Agricultural Engineering Graduates.
2. That it has been recommended by the I.C.A.R. that "there will be no need for expansion of Agricultural programmes in terms of numbers of institutions or admission during the Fifth Plan period".
3. That the success of the Green Revolution was due to the combined efforts of Agricultural Scientists and farmers. Any set-back to agricultural production will lead to serious depletion of our food reserves, leading to import of food-grains and consequent depletion of foreign exchange.
4. That it is necessary that immediate steps should be taken to absorb all Agricultural Engineering Graduates, who have spent not less than Rs. 15,000 for their B. Tech. Degrees. Avenues for employment for Agricultural Graduates should also be explored. In West Bengal, many Agro-Service Centres are proposed to be set up to provide employment to Agricultural Graduates. Similar Centres should be set up in other States. Rural Engineering Surveys should be started.

5. That the Agro-Industries Corporation should recruit Graduate Apprentice Agricultural Engineers just like Hindustan Steel Ltd. by means of open competitive examinations, give them training and absorb them. The Corporation should also diversify their activities.
6. The State Farms Corporation and the Seeds Farm-Corporation should also recruit qualified Agricultural Engineers and Graduates.
7. That Agricultural Universities have been set up in almost all States and the maintenance of standards in such Universities as well as coordination is done by the I.C.A.R. There is also B.Tech. and M.Tech. course in Agricultural Engineering in I.I.T., Kharagpur. There are at present great disparities in standards, in some Universities there being 38 per cent turnout of First Divisioners and in other Universities as much as 80 per cent. For example, whereas the number of First Divisioners in B.Tech. Degree in Agricultural Engineering in I.I.T., Kharagpur during 1971 was 86.4, that in G.B. University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, was only 34.37. In the Agricultural University at Hissar, the turnout of First Divisioners in Agricultural Engineering was 57.4 in 1969. This low turnout is obviously due to the fact that these Universities insist on overall grade point average of 3.75 out of 5 for the First Class. It should be brought down to 3.50 to make it equivalent to 65 per cent of eligibility marks for First Class in I.I.T. Kharagpur and other I.I.Ts. for B.Tech. Degrees.
8. That the I.A.R.I., New Delhi, should absorb a number of Agricultural Engineers and Graduates in the Research Scheme sponsored by I.C.A.R.
9. That the intake of students in M.Sc. (Post-Graduate Course) in I.A.R.I. should be increased and all these with O.G.P. (Overall Grade Point Average) of 3.50 out of 5 should be given an opportunity to enrol for M.Sc. courses.
10. That a scheme of "earn while you learn" should be introduced by I.A.R.I. and all Agricultural Universities. There should be employment opportunities in the University Workshops or Corporation and there should be placement Officers in every Agricultural University.
11. Private and Public Sector Industries getting licences for manufacture of agricultural machinery and tractors, bull-

dozers, harvesters, earth-movers, etc. should provide employment opportunities to Agricultural Engineering Graduates in preference to Mechanical Engineering Graduates.

12. That if the above suggestions are not implemented expeditiously, there would be large scale unemployment of Agricultural Graduates and Engineers, leading to frustration and non-utilisation of available resources in men and materials so vitally needed for the success of the Green Revolution.

and your petitioners as in duty bound will every pray.

SL. No.	Name of Petitioner (S)	Address	Signature or thumb impression
1.	T. T. Jagtap (B. Sc. Agri.) and others	At—Walti, Poost-Harni, Ta—Chikhli, Distt. Buldana (M. S.)	Sd/-

Countersigned by: Shri B. K. Daschowdhury, M.P.