



DR. PANJABRAO DESHMUKH'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

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ABSTRACT:

India is known as an agricultural country. Therefore, agriculture and farmers are the backbone of India. Even today about 65 to 70 percent of the people earn their livelihood by doing agriculture and agriculture related business. Also, the backbone of the Indian economy is agriculture. Because the progress of Indian economy depends on the development of agriculture. Even today, agricultural production accounts for more than 17 percent of the national income and 58 percent of the population of India, which is the largest in the world in terms of population, is employed by the agricultural sector. Considering the importance of agriculture



in the economy, it is necessary to increase the productivity of agriculture for the development of the country. But unfortunately the productivity of Indian agriculture is very low compared to other countries of the world.

Although Indian farmers have been practicing agriculture since ancient times, it has been considered backward in modern times. As a result, Indian agriculture remained backward. With the addition of more exploitation during the British era, Indian people had to face many severe droughts. But slavery to foreign powers alone is not the only cause of agricultural distress. Indian agriculture is dependent on the whims of nature. Hence it is described as seasonal gambling. In the presented research paper, A study of the contribution of Dr. Panjabrao alias Bhausaheb Deshmukh in the field of agriculture and the important work done by him as the first agriculture minister of independent India has been highlighted

KEY WORDS: Agriculture, Farmers Union, India Agricultural Society, Cooperative Credit Bank, Development.

INTRODUCTION:

"A personality is shaped by time and some personality traits are shaped by time itself. One of such personalities is Dr. Bhausaheb Deshmukh was nicknamed Panjabrao. Bhausaheb Deshmukh was born in a farmer family. Therefore, he had a close experience of how a debt farmer lives and lives. Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh's most intimate field is agriculture. Agricultural culture is the mother of all cultures so it needs to be developed. Agriculture is the primary industry for the development of human life, without agriculture the effort of human development is futile. Therefore, he worked tirelessly to develop the farming culture. He not only chanted the mantra "Farmers are happy and the world is happy" but also worked tirelessly towards it. His passion for the development of farmers was his breath. So he started working in a systematic manner to bring about the progress of the farmers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH:

1. To study the works of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh in the field of agriculture.
2. To review the reforms introduced by Panjabrao Deshmukh as the first Agriculture Minister of independent India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The research presented is mainly based on secondary material. For this research Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh's speeches, written materials, books, government publications, reference books etc. have been taken as support.

Work of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh:

Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh did not think only of certain classes, elements or individuals but he thought of the welfare of all the people of the country and the farming class. This was the root of the economic development of the whole of India in his broad public welfare thoughts. Some of the various works done by him are reviewed below.

Establishment of Farmers Union

Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh himself had experienced the suffering and misery of the farmers. He strongly felt the need for the liberation of this huge society which was suffering from ignorance, poverty, addiction, turban of customs and traditions, disease, unemployment, tyranny and oppression etc. They also wondered why no one paid attention to the suffering of these Bhumiputras as a primary issue of social importance. If farmers and laborers are united to develop all-round development, the discrimination of caste, religion and creed will automatically end. He also dreamed that a new ideal human society would take shape. His Madhya Pradesh Warhad Shetkari Sangh emerged from the same constructive mindset.

While asserting the importance and necessity of farmers union. Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh says, 'Farmers' organization is necessary to face other problems. Because farmers can be helped only through such an organization. Also it can become an effective platform to present their opinion and thoughts. Farmers Forum is the working of farmers union. It is not a political association but its aim is to help the professional development of farmers in the country. The approach of the Farmers Union is holistic. The basic purpose of forming the Shetkari Sangh is to bring all the farmers under its purview and to include all those who believe in the welfare of the farmers.'¹ In 1927, he formed a party named 'Madhya Pradesh and Warhad Shetkari Sangh' to pursue various problems and issues of the peasantry.

Establishment of Bharat Krishak Samaj:

Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh was empowering the peasants to empower the whole of India and Bhausaheb realized that the power to empower the peasants and to face injustice cannot be created without organization. Therefore, he also advised the Indian farmers. Once in his speech Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh had said that "the farmers of India should try to solve their problems by team power by forming their superior organization in the age of democracy"²

He pointed out that there is no organization for farmers only in our country India. The main occupation of our country is agriculture industry. Therefore, agricultural organization is essential. Many problems and schemes of the farmers of India were presented in the Farmers' Mela by making such a touching speech. Ashi urged the delegates present in the meeting to think closely and form the Indian Farmers' Association. Soon the organization of Bharat Krishak Samaj was formed and registered on 7th February 1955.³ Immediately on 3rd April 1955 a grand convention of Indian farmers was organized by Bharat Krishak Samaj.

World Agricultural Conference and Exhibition:

Initially, the Union Ministry of Agriculture adopted a generous policy to provide financial and other assistance to the Indian farming community. But within four to five years, India's farming

community stood on a solid financial footing. The Bharat Krishak Samaj had earlier started organizing agricultural exhibitions at the national level. In the year 1956, the second session of Bharat Krishak Samaj organized an Agriculture and Food Exhibition. The exhibition was inaugurated by Ajit Prasad Jain. At that time Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh in his speech mentioned the need for food and agriculture exhibitions and he assured that Bharat Krishak Samaj would take responsibility for holding these exhibitions if the Central Government cooperated.

The Bharat Krishak Samaj had passed a resolution in March 1958 and decided to hold an International Agricultural Fair and Agricultural Exhibition in Delhi in 1959-60. In 1959 Delhi was to hold the 11th Conference of the International Association of Agricultural Producers. It was decided to hold this exhibition from December 11, 1959 to February 14, 1960, so that if the World Agricultural Conference and Exhibition is held in the same period, many countries of the world can participate in this exhibition. Before announcing this decision, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh held a meeting of all the central officials in his agriculture office and discussed the matter in detail.

As the first agriculture minister of independent India, The work done by Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh will be remembered for a long time. He had done all that could be done in his governmental power for the welfare of Indian farmers. But Bhausaheb did two very important things. These were the establishment of the Bharat Krishak Samaj in 1955 and the World Agricultural Congress and Exhibition in 1959-60. India can never forget these two important things. When Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh was the Minister of Agriculture, he organized a World Agricultural Conference and Exhibition in Delhi in 1959-60 on behalf of his Bharat Krishak Samaj. This was the first agricultural exhibition in the whole world. So the eyes of the whole world were on India.

Founder of various farmer welfare organizations:

Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh's most important and intimate field was agriculture. Bhausaheb was the first Agriculture Minister in the Union Cabinet from 1952 to 1962. His political career was significant. Bharat Krishak Samaj in 1955 and the first World Agricultural Conference and Exhibition in 1959-60. The intention behind it was to impart global agricultural knowledge to the farmers and bring about an agrarian revolution. Bharat Krishak Samaj was founded by Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh became the father of Akhil Bharatiya Krishak Sangathan.⁵ Similarly, he had established many organizations and institutions of national and international nature. This farmer welfare organization has helped a lot in uplifting the standard of living of Indian farmers.

National Agricultural Co-operative Buying and Selling Union

On the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, on 2nd October 1958, the 'Rashtriya Krishi Sahakari Khardi Vyti Sangh' was established by the Bharat Krishak Samaj, a very useful organization for the farmers. The motive behind setting up this institution was the first step towards enriching Indian farmers. President of Bharat Krishak Samaj Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh himself went to Japan in September 1958 to attend the regional session of the International Council on Food and Agriculture. Before going to Japan, he took the entire responsibility of registering the National Agricultural Cooperative Buying and Selling Association. S. Chavan (Assistant Director, Delhi).⁶ Then J. S. Dr. Chavan promptly fulfilled that responsibility and informed that this organization was registered on October 4, 1958. It was given to Panjabrao Deshmukh when he was in Japan. So he was very happy. He informed about the establishment of this organization at the meeting of Food and Agriculture Council in Japan. At that time, everyone was of the opinion that there was an urgent need for such an organization at the all-India level. Chief Director of Food and Agriculture Council Mr. B. R. Sen and other delegates present welcomed her with joy.⁷

Everyone was delighted with this organization which was set up with an eye to the maximum interest of the farmer for the purchase and sale of agricultural implements required for agricultural business all over India. The organization plays an important role in promoting inter-state and international trade of these products by creating cooperation between producers and sellers of Indian agricultural produce and other products. In the year of establishment of the National Agricultural Co-

operative Purchase and Sales Union, pulses were exported from India to the European market. Dates and ammonium sulphate were procured from abroad. Products made from jute. were sent to Russia. In return, So. They imported ammonium sulphate from Russia. 8 Dates were also imported from Iran and Iraq. As cabbage seeds were better abroad than in India, they were imported into India and given to horticultural farmers in India at cheaper prices. Due to this beneficial work of National Agricultural Co-operative Purchase and Sales Union, the agricultural producers understood the importance of this organization.

India Farmers Cooperative Credit Bank:

The idea of Bharat Krishak Sahakari Patpedhi for the farming community in India was in the mind of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh. The idea that it should be a bank entirely owned and run by Indian farmers was first put forward by Bhausaheb in the Srinagar Farmers' Meet in 1954. In 1958, he presented a definite resolution on this issue in the convention of the All India Association of 'Bharat Krishak Samaj'. Later in 1960, when Bhausaheb went to Japan for the International Food and Agriculture Conference, that resolution was also presented there. Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh was invited. Therefore, Bhausaheb had started the operation of Bharat Krishak Sahakari Credit Bank after coming from Japan.

Bhausaheb faced many unexpected obstacles while creating the Bharat Krishak Cooperative Credit Bank. His reason is that as recently as 1959-60. The first World Agricultural Conference and Exhibition organized by Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh's Bharat Krishak Samaj made Bhausaheb and his Bharat Krishak Samaj a hot topic not only in India but also in world politics. All over the world Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh and Bharat Krishak Samaj were introduced.

First General Lok Sabha Election

In the year 1942 Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh had officially joined the Congress. Also, in 1945, he announced that his Wahad Shetkari Sangh party had also merged with the Congress. Later on 15 August 1947, India became independent. At that time, the Prime Minister of India Pandit Nehru said, "Service to India means service to the people of India, freedom means the end of poverty, ignorance and inequality."⁸ During this period, the work of the Constitution Committee for the Indian Constitution began. The Constitution of India was adopted on 26 November 1949 and the Constitution of India came into force on 26 January 1950. Now India had become a democratic republic in true sense. Elections are the key to democracy. In this Lok Sabha election, Congress party got huge majority. Out of the total 489 Lok Sabha seats, the Congress party got 364 seats. Among the candidates elected by the Congress party, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh was also there. Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh was the leader of the Bahujans, he was a constant striver. He used to make tireless efforts to achieve his goals.

Work done as Union Agriculture Minister:

After India became independent in the year 1947, many problems and questions existed before our country. India's freedom did not come easily. A great price was paid for freedom as the united India was divided on the basis of religion and two nations India and Pakistan were born. Due to the partition of India and Pakistan, many problems arose. The effects of partition, refugee issues and problems, merger of institutions, communal hatred and riots were the problems that arose. But more than these questions and problems, the most serious problem facing post-independence India was the scarcity of food grains.

In the year 1948 Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh first went to the World Food Conference in Washington, USA. He was sent as the representative of India. He did not let go of this first good opportunity. In this conference, he presented his strong views about India's food problem and the basic problem of agriculture. who studied agriculture further. It was none other than Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh that he was given the post of Agriculture Minister in the first Nehru Cabinet. At that time, wheat, barley and millet were being imported from America under 'PL 480' in independent India. As a result, the people of India started getting food. Indians used to wait for a ship that would bring this

grain. Also, will America stop exporting food grains? This fear was also felt constantly. Every year India had to spend two billion rupees on food grains. "If you give me these two billion rupees, I will solve the food problem"⁹ he used to say with great confidence.

During the 10 years from 1952 to 1962, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh was the Agriculture Minister of India. During this period, he did revolutionary work keeping Indian agriculture and farmers at the center. Because of the great work done by Panjabrao Deshmukh, the farmers of Punjab used to proudly call him 'Panjabrao Punjab'. In the year 1954 Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh went to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) as the leader of the Indian delegation to the session of the World Food and Agriculture Council. In this session, he gave information about the efforts being made for the improvement of rice farming and the progress of food grain production. In the same year, he went to Tokyo as the head of the Indian delegation. His speech on rice farming in this conference had such an impact that in 1956 Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh was selected. In this convention on November 12, 1956, he appealed to all nations, big and small, to make efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty from the world. Addressing the farmers at that time, Bhausaheb said, "Farmers of the world should take the credit for doing a great service to humanity by establishing global granaries for the development of farmers and agriculture and thereby providing grain to drought-stricken countries."¹⁰

Even now on the eve of the 21st century many learned journalists have unequivocally declared that the greatest revolution of the 20th century was the agricultural revolution. Full credit to Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh and his India is given to the farming community. Between 1954 and 1962, India became self-sufficient in food grains. In a total of ten years from 1952 to 1962, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, was the Minister of Agriculture of India and it was during this period that the biggest agricultural revolution took place. That's why farmers Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh is considered as the 'Father of Indian Peasant Revolution'. The Government of India also honored this Bhoomiputra for his work in agriculture by conferring the highest title of 'Krishiratna' in the field of agriculture.¹¹ It will be known even after the year 2024 that he became the first 'Krishiratna' in independent India.

FINDINGS:

Dr. Panjabrao alias Bhausaheb Deshmukh has made significant achievements in the field of agriculture when he was the Union Agriculture Minister. This achievement will never be forgotten by the Indian farmers and the Government of India. His remarkable work has been recorded in golden letters in the history of modern India. Such well-known people's leader should be appropriately honored and honored for his work by giving the highest Indian civilian title 'Bharat Ratna'. Such is the feeling of common people in India. Recently The 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Panjabrao Bhausaheb Deshmukh was celebrated with great gaiety. On this occasion, the Government of India has minted a 125 rupee coin to honor his work.

Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh was the Union Agriculture Minister from 1952 to 1962. His agricultural performance during this period is important. His work in the field of agriculture helped to improve the standard of living of Indian farmers. Development and welfare of farmers was his breath. Therefore, he was obsessed with agriculture and the development of farmers throughout his life. His achievements as founder and founder of various farmers' interest organizations are important for the establishment of Bharat Krishak Samaj, organization of World Agricultural Conferences and Exhibitions.

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