

The President while addressing the agriculturalist community promised that, after his election, he would devote his energies for a Green Revolution in the country. This slogan which was first raised by Malik Khuda Bukhsh Buchha, means making country self-sufficient in all agricultural products. Malik Sahib had held the portfolio of Agriculture Minister in the cabinet of Prime Minister Bhutto who in his election campaign promised that the lands which were being tilled by the tenants would become their property. But after coming into power, he, through the new slogan of Green Revolution, tried to befool the masses.

Agriculture is not my subject but a meeting with an agricultural expert of international repute, created the interest. On return journey from Algeria where I had participated in an Islamic Seminar, I had to stay for a few hours on Rome Airport. It was in 1972. In those days an International Conference on agriculture was being held in Rome. An agricultural expert who was also in the waiting room, seeing my Pakistani dress came near to me. He asked why the agricultural experts of Pakistan abhorred reading books. It was a strange question and I could not oblige him with a satisfactory reply.

He told that he was the member of the group of fifty agriculturists who under the leadership of Mr Gunnar Myrdal, an agricultural economist of interna-

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tional repute, had prepared a report about the agricultural prospects of South Asia. This detailed report had been published under the title of "Asian Drama, Poverty of The Nations". In this report it was observed that farmers of this region were hardworking. If they be made owners of the lands they cultivated, they might revolutionise the agriculture of their countries. However to achieve this objective it was necessary that import of agricultural machinery be banned in those countries.

He added that the agriculture minister of Pakistan in the above mentioned conference talked of green revolution in his country and demanded twenty thousand tractors for this purpose.

It was enquired from him whether he had studied the report 'Asian Drama'. Mr Buchha expressed his ignorance about the report. It gave the impression that it was thrown into the waste-paper basket.

The agriculturist claimed that India and some other countries had adopted that report in letter and spirit. Various steps were taken to make tenants, owners of the lands. The lands of India were less fertile than Pakistan's yet it had become self-sufficient in all agricul-

Green revolution

Prof Rafi Ullah Shehab

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tural products.

This discussion greatly interested me as its recommendations were in accordance with the teachings of Islam. On my return I purchased the book consisting of 2000 pages. Its library edition was in three volumes. An Indian cheap edition in one volume was also available. Its study supported the observations of the said agricultural expert. On page 1385 it was recommended that agricultural machinery in the countries of the region be banned.

The present writer through a detailed review of this book, introduced it here. It was established that the recommendations contained in the report were in accordance with the teachings of Is-

lam. But there was no response. None of agricultural experts or the Ulama took notice of this book which had earned Nobel Prize for its author Dr Gunnar Myrdal. Apparently the reason for ignoring this report was that it envisaged elimination of feudalism while the political scene of our country was dominated by these very people. How they could implement a report which would have eliminated them from the country.

India had taken a number of steps to eliminate feudalism. Most impressive was the campaign by Shari Wanovv Bhaway, a prominent disciple of Mahatama Gandhi. He toured the whole country convincing the feudals that transfer of land to their poor tenants was in the interest of the country. Indian film industry had played its part and a number of films were prepared which magnified the negative effects of feudalism on the economy.

The present writer had a chance to view two of these films 'Mali' (Gardner) and 'Two Bigga Zamin' (Two Acres of land). These activities to eliminate feudalism in India, reminded me of a similar order by the Holy Prophet (PBUH) when he or-

dered the big landlords to hand over the lands in excess of their actual needs to their landless brethren. It is unfortunate that none of our Ulama ever referred to this order of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Instead they wrote in support of feudalism. The book written by Syed Maudoodi in that context became more popular as it was distributed on a vast scale.

The writer in 1979 was working as an Officer on Special duty in the provincial secretariat. Once I had a chance to accompany Mr Z.A. Hashmi on his tour of Agricultural University, Faisalabad. During an informal meeting I enquired from a professor of the university about the above mentioned report but he expressed his ignorance about it. However he promised to study it and to ask his colleagues to do so. Even then nothing was heard from them. It seemed that like Malik Khuda Bukhsh Buchha, most of them belonged to the feudal class.

Now the President has talked of Green Revolution once again. This objective can only be achieved by adopting the above mentioned report in letter and spirit. It is expected that he will compel the agricultural experts of the country to study this report and evolve a methodology for achieving the objective of Green Revolution as had been achieved in our neighbouring country India.

E-mail queries and comments to:
rafishehab@nation.com.pk