

Dr.M.S. Swaminathan,
Director.

PA/5900

25th December, 1967

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My dear Dr. Sirohi,

Thank you very much for
your kind letter No.4204 dated
Decr. 23 : 67. I am very grateful
to you for the information you have
given.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(M.S. Swaminathan.)

Dr. A.S. Sirohi,
Professor,
Division of Agril. Economics,
IARI, New Delhi

Back to me.

MSS:nji

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Dr. A.S. Sirohi
Professor.



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D.O. No 4204.
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
NEW DELHI (INDIA)

Dated the 23rd Dec., 1967.

My dear Dr. Swaminathan,

This has reference to a telephonic call from your office regarding furnishing some information on the Bengal Famine Commission in India. I give below in detail about the famines which took place in India in British regime. During the East India Company between 1760 and 1857 ^{important famines} were those of 1770, 1784, 1802, 1824 and 1837. Excepting the first in the list, these famines did not receive the same elaborate attention, ^{(either} at the hands of the Government, or of the historians, as the famines of the latter half of the nineteenth century. It was in the period following 1858 that proper system of prevention, insurance and relief evolved through many experiments and failures. In this period fall several great famines such as that of north-west India in 1860, of Orissa in 1865, of Rajputana in 1868, of Bihar in 1873, of South India in 1876 and the two widespread famines of 1896 and 1899-1900. The Orissa Bengal famine 1865-67 affected five crores of people. The great loss of life in this famine led to an inquiry presided over by Sir John Campbell, and the Government announced their definite policy to save life at any cost. In the Bihar famine of 1873 the Government erred in the direction of indiscriminate charity and excessive expenditure. The great South India famine of 1876-8 involved a mortality of 52 lakhs. This led to the appointment of the first great Famine Commission ~~in 1876~~ presided over by Sir Richard Strachey. The report of the Commission was published in 1880. Among the steps taken by the Government may be mentioned the introduction in 1878 of a Famine Insurance Grant by which a sum of Rs. 1½ crores was provided in the annual budget of the Government of India to be spent on direct relief if there was a famine, and on the construction of public works of a protective nature if the year was normal. ^{The report of the Commission was published in 1880.}

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

A. S. Sirohi
(A.S. Sirohi)

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan,
Director,
IARI, New Delhi-12.