

January $\frac{14}{15}$: 69

My dear Dr. Rao:

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated January 13: 69. I am very grateful for your comments. This is the type of interaction which I would like to see grow further.

Unfortunately the Financial Times report was a gross distortion of what I had actually said. I only referred to the need of viewing agricultural development not merely in terms of self-sufficiency in food but in terms of its over-all economic implications. For example, I referred to the difficulties already being experienced in a few States in the marketing of maize. I also pleaded for a more critical and deep analysis of the scientific and economic implications of self-sufficiency in food. It was only casual that I mentioned that in a year like 1967-68, we are theoretically self-sufficient, but what is important is to sustain higher production over a long period of time. I referred to the analysis of Dr. S.R. Sen where a 19 per cent fall in production was caused by the drought and said that probably in a country like ours a buffer stock of about 10 million tonnes (taking this years expected production of 100 million tonnes) could be useful for sometime, but I also stressed that this may be difficult since nearly Rs.1000.00 crores will be locked up in this process. My talk was extempore and was intended to a group of scientists assembled in the Science Congress. I did not realise that there was a Press Correspondent, until while going out he asked me a few more questions.

I shall look forward to discussing this and allied matters in detail with you one of these days. I was interested in several views you expressed at the recent interview. Can you give a lecture under the auspices of the Pusa Research Society, on this whole question? If you can indicate when you can give a lecture, I shall request Dr. R.K. Mehta, Secretary, Pusa Research Society, to organise it.

With my best regards,

Yours sincerely,

M.S.
(M.S. Swaminathan.)

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