

भारत डाक-टिकट शताब्दी

1854 - 1954



Director, B.P.Pal,

8, I.A.R.I.,

New Delhi-12.



Fresh Move For Shifting Of Central College Of Agriculture From
Indian Agriculture Research Institute to Patiala.

Motivated by the desire to create a Central College for Agriculture of a high standard, the Union Cabinet decided to locate it permanently at I.A.R.I. in 1951, after careful and detailed deliberations. A Palatial hostel and Warden's bungalow were built in record time, laboratories, lecture halls, library, land for cultivation by students, Dairy and Engineering facilities were adequately arranged. The Director, Dr. Pal, Principal, Dr. Mirchandani, and other heads of the Division took a leading part to locate the College at the Institute. Such services were appreciated in public by the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture (Shree K.M. Munshi), at the time of opening ceremony of the College Hostel under the presidentship of Hon'ble Maulana Azad and at the occasion of the Convocation in Parliament-House under the presidentship of Pandit Jawahr Lall Nehru. Since that time the college had been doing an excellent piece of job, affiliated with the Delhi University. None of its old students, so far a good 250 to 300 passed from this Institution, remains idle and are either posted at good jobs or joined various research institutes. The Central College has achieved such reputation all over India that at the commencement of this term, about 500 applications were received but only 50 or say 10% could be admitted, only those securing high divisions in their previous careers. The usefulness and popularity of the college is therefore clear and there is imperative need for expanding the college instead of shifting from its present central location and damaging the established reputation.

It is most shocking that the spokesman of the College are propagating misleading accounts that bulk of the teaching is done by Research Staff and research is suffering. Full provision exists for teachers for every subject. The establishment was decided with concurrence of the present director, by a highly representative Committee. It is surprising now to hear of such unfounded statements. It is a different matter that due to lowest ebb of efficiency prevailing at this Institute, the college vacant posts are not filled and neither any sympathetic and quick action is taken with regard to other proposals for the improvement of the College. Regarding suffering of research, less said the better. Suffice it to mention that the yields of various crops grown at this Institute where all the sections are working so closely, are astoundingly low as compared with those of an average cultivator. This fact was even admitted, by Shree K.M. Munshi at so many public occasions.

Fortunately, it is said, that our beloved Prime Minister and Members of the Planning Commission, were not impressed by the above reasons and they rightly decided that college should remain at I.A.R.I. and be developed here. This decision was hailed by all-except the Director who has now come forward with new obstacles that land is not available and buildings will cost several lakhs. This is again misleading. A workable area of land is already with the College and some more of the Institute waste land can be developed. In addition near the college Hostel, three lecture rooms can be constructed at no appreciable cost. This will make the college almost an independent Division of I.A.R.I.

The new move for shifting the college to Patiala is actuated not for improvement in agricultural education but for various unpatriotic, selfish and communal motives, some of which are:-

i. Palaces at Patiala cannot be looked after due to huge cost of maintenance and repairs and the responsibility for the same

same.....

is apparently being transferred to the Government of India, under the pretext of opening a college.

ii. Director of the Institute having "played with the time" and succeeding in getting himself appointed and confirmed in the place of Dr. Mukerjee, during the regime of Shree K. M. Munshi, now shirks the important work of running the college and the heads of the Institute have to follow him. The attitude and trend of all of them was highly favourable when Shree K.M. Munshi desired the shifting of the college to I.A.R.I.

iii. The Head of the Division of Agriculture is doing the duties of the Principal on honorary basis and he is more interested in liquidating the College rather than improving it. This is really heart-breaking. Appointment of a whole time Principal or designating one of the senior lecturer as Principal, will solve the whole problem. Lecturer in Agriculture at this college who was drawing about Rs. 800/- P.M. has been appointed Principal of the Banaras Agriculture College (an equally important Institution). His place can be filled with an experienced hand who should be designated as Principal for administration and head of Agriculture teaching.

India as an agricultural Country has yet to play its part for increasing food production, through its various Community and extension schemes. Although such a vast country, it has few Agricultural Colleges of high standard. The Central College of Agriculture though a growing Institution is by far the best Institution of its kind from every aspect. I.A.R.I. has done research for the improvement of agriculture right from the beginning for the last half a century but how much of this research has benefitted an average cultivator is not known to anybody in the Country? How long shall the present state of affairs be allowed to continue? The sole motive of the Cabinet, underlying the establishment of this college at I.A.R.I., is very laudable, in that, the results of the day to day research would be known to the students and through them the same would be propagated to those who go out in the fields to work. By having a college near the seat of research many other secondary advantages accrue as a matter of course. For those students who are inclined for research this knowledge will infuse spirit for further promotion of research and thus the torch of knowledge would be kept alive for generations to come.

Lastly, but not the least, it can be clearly gauged that shifting the college from its present location to Patiala will mean subjecting the college to local politics and thus depriving other parts of the Country to take advantage of this excellent institute. Thus all motives which went to the establishment of this Central Institute will be defeated in near future.

The present standard of education will not be maintained due to obvious reasons. This year P.E.P. S.U. wanted 30 students to be admitted in this College but they were informed to send six best ones. Even these best six candidate were far below the standard of other hundreds applicants in merit and hardly two could be admitted for giving representation to the state.

Copy to Members of the Cabinet and the Planning Commission.