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The extensive discussion on the limitations of household budget studies as well as the time series data for purposes of projection should be of value to those who attempt forecasting.

The book will be found interesting and useful by a wider circle—general readers as well as specialists—though its primary appeal is to the European politician.

G. PARTHASARATHY

*Report of the Study Team on the Working of the Co-operative Movement in Yugoslavia and Israel*, Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, Government of India, Delhi, 1960. Pp. iii + 118.

This is the Report of the Study Team sponsored by the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, Government of India. The team was sent to Yugoslavia and Israel, countries where the co-operative movement has made a distinct impact on the economy, and has proved its viability and strength. The sponsors of the team had rightly anticipated that the experience of these countries will suggest many lessons to learn for this country.

The terms of reference given to the team were fairly comprehensive. It was required to study in detail the institutional framework within which various co-operative agencies function, the activities encompassed by the movement, agencies operating the movement, the inter-relation between these agencies, the method of training and education and relationship between the co-operative sector and other economic sectors. The team was required to make a special study of co-operative farming, co-operative marketing and service co-operatives in these countries. In the six-men team the Government officials concerned with the general developmental and co-operative activities and officials of co-operative societies were equally represented.

The team spent about five weeks in Yugoslavia and a similar period in Israel. Looking to the short period of time and handicap of not knowing the languages of the countries visited, the team has done a commendable job in faithfully describing the genesis, structure and working of the co-operative movement in these countries.

This achievement of the team can be further appreciated in view of the complicated nature of co-operative organizations in these countries, and the vicissitudes to which they were subjected during the last few years. In Yugoslavia, the co-operative movement in the post-war years was made an instrument in fulfilling the objectives of the collectivization and socialisation of the economy. The state farms were given top priority and next to them Peasant Workers' Co-operatives were placed. These co-operatives were essentially collective farm organizations. Co-operation in other fields was largely absent as most of the functions were looked after by the State Planning department.

With the general shift in the state policy towards more and more decentralisation of power and a general reversal of the policy of 'statism', other forms of

co-operatives were also experimented. Though the overall objective of socialisation of means of production, including land, was never questioned, the means for achieving it were revalued. Equal emphasis was laid on general purpose co-operatives which are nearer to our service co-operatives, but are more comprehensive in their scope and embrace activities like ploughing, sowing, harvesting and thrashing of the farmer's fields. Actually, these activities of the general purpose societies are becoming important day by day and the socialisation of processes in agriculture is growing apace. Besides these, various other patterns of co-operation are evolved to suit the specific needs of the community. There is a fear, however, that there is an over-multiplicity of organizations, specially of various types of business unions and overlapping of their functions—a point which the team has failed to note.<sup>1</sup> Similarly, because of the greater stress on 'market' in the economy of Yugoslavia in recent years, instances of 'competition' among the co-operatives are also not wanting. These facts should be mentioned while appreciating the achievements of co-operative movement in Yugoslavia which by all accounts are considerable.

Like Yugoslavia, the movement in Israel had also a special ideological orientation. The movement was initiated by the pioneer settlers in order to disable the British mandatory authorities in the then Palestine from interfering in their economic activities. It was given an ideological bias by the desire of the pioneers to live collectively. With the passage of years and incoming of Jews with diverse social and cultural backgrounds one typical form of co-operative settlement, viz., *Kibbutz* was found insufficient to cater to emotional and ideological requirements of all the settlers and new forms of co-operative settlements like *Moshav Ovdim*, *Moshav Shitufi* and *Moshav Olim*, each with varying degree of collectivity in the economic activities and personal living emerged. The team has given a lucid account of the organization and functioning of these various types of settler's organizations.

While these organizations have a distinct ideological bias, several co-operative organizations which have come into existence to provide certain services to these settlements are inspired by more pragmatic considerations. The organization of credit, marketing, transport, education and training is adapted to suit the needs of specific situations. The same is true about consumer co-operatives. Excepting the case of credit, which is a weak link of the co-operative movement in Israel, other forms of service organization, most notably marketing, have made a phenomenal progress.

Such a dynamic and all-embracing movement is bound to have its own problems. The growth of the collective settlement, *Kibbutz*, is stunted, though these organizations still claim undivided loyalty from the people born and brought up on *Kibbutzim*. The new emigrants are finding it difficult to get fully assimilated in the existing organizations, though some of these organizations like the marketing organization have made special efforts to get adjusted to their requirements. Hired labour by various co-operatives is creating another problem. The rate of capital formation in the co-operative sector is being hindered by unjudicious taxation. In spite of these shortcomings the viability of the co-operative movement in Israel and its capacity to grow is beyond question.

1. Another study team sponsored by Sarvodaya Movement which visited the country during the early part of 1959, has many pertinent points to make in this regard. See Report of Study Team to Yugoslavia, Sarva Seva Sangh, Varanasi, 1962, pp. 72-82.

There are many lessons which India can learn from the experience of the co-operative movement in Yugoslavia and Israel. The team dealt with all the good points of the movement in these countries and have examined their efficacy in Indian setting. But they have failed to stress adequately two points, which need to be emphasized. One, the experience of these two countries further confirms that the co-operative movement is essentially an ideological movement. In both the countries the movement has worked in the context of certain widely held tenets like, an abhorrence for the exploitation of man by man and, an acceptance of the idea of the social ownership of means of production. In Yugoslavia the ideological bias is more explicit, but in Israel also, the fact that all the co-operatives have flourished under the "roof-organization" of Histadrut—the Israel labour movement—is a pointer in the same direction. It also suggests that if the basic characteristic of the movement—its non-exploitative and communistarian character—is kept in forefront, all the adjustments which become expedient can be made without a fear of polluting the movement. With a firm ideological base, even the legislation by which the movement is governed becomes of secondary importance. It may come as a surprise to many that the Israel's Law of Co-operative is exactly patterned after Bombay Co-operative Societies Act of 1925!

While this is a lesson with a normative ring, there is another lesson which needs all the emphasis in a backward country like India. For the agricultural co-operative movement to become virile and pervasive it is essential that the marketing of the products should be fully taken care of. In Yugoslavia, where a number of concessions are given to the private peasant, they are under obligation to sell their products to co-operatives, excepting a small portion which they can sell to the direct consumers. There is a similar element of compulsion in Israel as far as the marketing of agricultural products is concerned. Learning from the experience of these countries, one can maintain that it is time that in India also the main emphasis is shifted to the co-operative marketing of agricultural products.

The report of the team suffers from an ambiguity in grappling with these broad issues of ideology and policy. It does not suffer from any such handicap in its description of the organization and functioning of the co-operative institutions in these two countries, which it had done with great clarity and economy.

V. S. VYAS

*Farm Studies in Iraq (An Agro-Economic Study of the Agriculture of the Hilla-Diwaniya Area in Iraq)*, A.P.G. Poyck, Laboratory of Agricultural Economics of the Tropics, Agricultural University, Wageningen, H. Veenman En Zonen N. V., Wageningen, Netherlands, 1962. Pp. 99.

This is an outcome of the study, conducted by the author to collect the data regarding the agricultural economic conditions and prospects which would be needed for an evaluation of the proposed Irrigation Project in Iran and drainage project in Iraq. This study has the objective of providing the agricultural basis for the technical designs.