

Canal digging programme continuing spontaneously

Spontaneity of people's participation in the canal digging programme is due as much to their eagerness to double food production as to their earnestness for involvement in the national reconstructional work."

But the massive voluntary participation in canal digging from Dinajpur up in the north to Cox's Bazar down in the south is marked by the solitary sense of national dignity 'nation is ours, mouths are ours and food must be ours.'

We must have no respite but to double our food and feed our people ourselves, Mr Thakur Dhar Banik, Union Parishad member of Sarail under Brahmanbaria told BSS on Thursday. We have enough beggings in the past, no begging row on, he added.

Thakur Dhar Banik walked all the way from his union with a large number of people to volunteer his labour in the re-excavation of the Boalia-Naizur canal seven miles away.

A. CHOWDHURY

Prof. A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Secretary General of the BNP formally inaugurated the project. Information and Broadcasting Minister, Mr Habibullah Khan, Whip of the BNP Parliamentary Party, Mr Harun-ur-Rashid and local member of parliaments took part in the canal digging.

The canal will have multi-purpose utility, preserving water for irrigation during dry season and draining out flood waters during monsoon, says Khoda Bakht of Chunta, waters — both deluge and shortage — are our problems for monsoon and dry seasons. This canal, Khoda Bakht said would drain out flood waters in the monsoon and provide irrigation facilities during dry season.

"We were never given any programme in the past to participate in a massive way in national reconstructional work" says an elderly farmer of the village Panishwar.

THREE CROPS

Miah Hossain, a seventy five year-old landless peasant of Teghar was categorical to say 'if we can successfully re-excavate the canal to develop a dry season irrigation system, cultivation of three crops including two paddy crops would be possible. He continued, 'as for me, I have no problem to volunteer my labour and added a general welfare will be my welfare.'

Mr. Majibur Rahman an octogenarian farmer of village Kalikachha who was rather surprised to see a large gathering of about 50 thousand people including women and school children told the reporter that population had been increasing at a faster rate but production of food had not been increasing proportionately.

He said we can not sit idle any more. Time has come to use our hands and change our

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own lot. The elderly farmer also stressed for making the population control and family planning programmes a success for sheer survival.

The five-and-a-half-mile long derelict canal flowing through four union — Sarail, Panishwar North, Kalikachha and Chunta — will be completed in two phases, Mr. Nizamuddin, Sub-divisional Officer of Brahmanbaria told the reporter.

He said the first phase of four mile long Boalia portion was expected to be re-excavated by the end of January. The Naizur portion would be dug by the middle of February.

The SDO said by this time four cross dams had already been constructed. Electricity has also been taken at the project site to carry out day and night work to complete the project in the stipulated time.

Six separate teams for motivation, advice, discipline, supervision sanitation and co-ordination have been formed to make the project a success.

Mr. Nizamuddin added that the other two similar re-excavation projects in the sub-division were expected to begin very soon.