

II

SUGGESTIONS.

Barsi dal industry is an old one and having long experience in dal processing since 1932. The number of dal mills gradually increased and finally reached to 22. The centre has been the pioneer in manufacturing dal and it has earned a good reputation in Maharashtra State and outside. Hence, it is absolutely essential to see that the industry grows in future on better footings vis-a-vis the business competition of new centres outside Maharashtra State. The economy not only of Barsi town, but of the entire taluka, rests largely on the working of dal industry. Employment prospects of very many people are linked directly and indirectly with this industry. It has provided an opportunity for dispersal of industrial activity within Solapur district. These facts strengthen the plea to better activate the industry for putting out a higher order performance. For this, a few hints are given below.

- (1) Improvement in plant and machinery of the mills and adoption of the most modern technique of production so as to improve the productivity of the plant.
- (2) Undertaking supplementary production activities based on the by-products of the mills such as manufacture of cattle feed by using husk and conversion of the lowest grade dal into besan. The mill will thereby improve their earnings.
- (3) Employment of expert personnel for purchase of raw materials and sale of the produce.

- (4) Strengthening of the capital base of the units to enable them to meet their financial needs fully.
- (5) Tapping raw material sources from other states to make the mills work for as longer duration as possible. The mills would be in a position to absorb a little extra cost on longer distance transport of raw material to Barsi. This would perhaps provide new market outlets to Barsi mills for disposing their products. Diversification of markets would thus provide a cushion against the threat of competition from the emerging centres of production outside the state.
- (6) Need to extend the area of pulses crops within Maharashtra State itself. Special facilities for this are already announced by the Central government under its new 20-point economic programme. Now, canal water of the Ujani Project is irrigating the lands of Solapur district. It is necessary to seize this opportunity to convince the farmers to take up to the cultivation of pulses more than before. Improved varieties of pulses seeds should also be provided to them at the same time. Prospects of higher yields by using new seeds which are presently being used in northern states of the country coupled with facilities of water supply would certainly induce the farmers to opt for pulses crops in the wake of higher price level of raw materials and dal products.

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