

UNIT 4 LESSON 2 RICE

ACTIVITY II

Chemmanam Chacko is a master satirist who has fought many a battle with the system through his writings, laced with scorn and sarcasm. He says, 'Socio-political sphere is much meek and limited compared with earlier times. Society has changed and with it, have the mass sensibilities.' Consider his poem 'Rice' as a satire on the farmers who are forced to switch to cash crops when the market for food crops fell. Prepare a write-up.

'Rice' is a poem originally written in Malayalam by Chemmanam Chacko and translated into English by Prof. Ayyappa Panicker. The poem hints at the recent trends in farming in our country and its reducing importance due to the move towards commercial crops and its benefits. The poet here returns to his homeland with a doctorate on making toys with husk. But to his surprise, he finds the cash crops in the place of Paddy- cultivation.

India is largely an agrarian country. In the contemporary world, We find people keep themselves away from agriculture except for remunerative crops. There has been noticeable changes in the cropping patterns mainly due to some socio-economic factors like increasing need of income, changing life styles. Influencing modern technology etc. People change with the change. They don't realize the fact that shifting from cash crops to food crops is essential for meeting the food sufficiency in our country. The poem mirrors this truth. While the poet has come home eagerly to have athikira rice and to be a part of the farming community by making husk-toys, his father says with a pride that 'not like fools' he is doing a better work . He says this with content, watching the machine making rubber sheets. The father considers this change as wise and profitable. The poet satirically ends the poem by saying if they could get husk from the centre to make toys with it. It is a hit at the society's attitude of accepting anything not bothering of or considering the consequences. The poem criticizes the present scenario prevailing in agri- sector. Thus it highlights the growing need for farming to satisfy our basic needs and the effects of commercialization.

UNIT 4 LESSON 2 RICE

ACTIVITY III

Instead of a system of values, we have the market ruling us. Making decisions for us. Consider this statement in the light of the poem “ Rice” by Chemmanam Chacko.

India is an agrarian country and agriculture, the main occupation of the people. Since Indian agriculture has to feed a large population, the production of food crops is the first priority of farmers in our country. But, in recent times, there has been a change, a shifting pattern – from food crops to cash crops and also decline in the use of land for agrarian purpose because of various other commercially advantageous uses of land.

Food is the basic need of mankind. But more importance is given to commercialising agricultural production. With the changing agriculture scenario and global market competition, there is exploitation and misuse of the available resources. As a result commercial farming exists. It is evident as there is decline in area producing food crops.

Earlier days, marketing of agri-products had no difficulty as the farmer sold his produce to the consumer on a cash or barter basis. Now-a-days most of the products are sold for earning money. Most of the farm lands are owned by people who have no interest in agriculture. The products are graded for export. The demand and profit of it determine the supply and value. Cash crops could earn more profit than food crop. Hence, efforts have been done for further increase of productivity of cash crops and changes in crop pattern. It can be said that farmer is a mere tool who is used for the purpose of productions of flourishing market value. Ultimately farming has lost its traditional value instead got a commercial recognition. To some extent all these can be said to be an aftermath of commercialisation, modernization and globalization.