

## Taking Sarvodaya To The People

Taking Sarvodaya To The People By R. R. Keithahn Gramdan sarvodaya is a movement of the people towards total freedom. It grew out of India's great non-violent struggle for political freedom. But it was always a fundamental part of that significant struggle. It is true that it was primarily a movement of the national leaders; but to their credit and to the credit of Gandhi in particular, they had a profound sense of the deep-felt needs of the people and always tried to make the immediate program that of the people. One remembers so well when Vinoba came to the Madurai district. With hesitation we set for ourselves a goal of 25 gramdans. Then we were experiencing unusual success. Vinoba asked, "How do you explain this?" I replied, "You have sensed what is already in the hearts of the people; that is why there is a remarkable response". Of course, this was but partly true. Food, clothing and better housing are certainly felt-needs of the people. Thus the "land to the tiller" program strikes a responsive note in the heart to the needy. The khadi program has had remarkable success in a land of need at a time of great world industrialisation. It helps the helpless who have no money to buy cloth to clothe themselves. Thus there are always ready responses to a cottage or village industries program that meets a real need. It is true that we need good technicians and capital; we need to solve the problem of marketing. However, in the original Khadi and Village Industries Program we started at such a simple level that these latter needs were insignificant. The wastes of the village were used to meet real needs.