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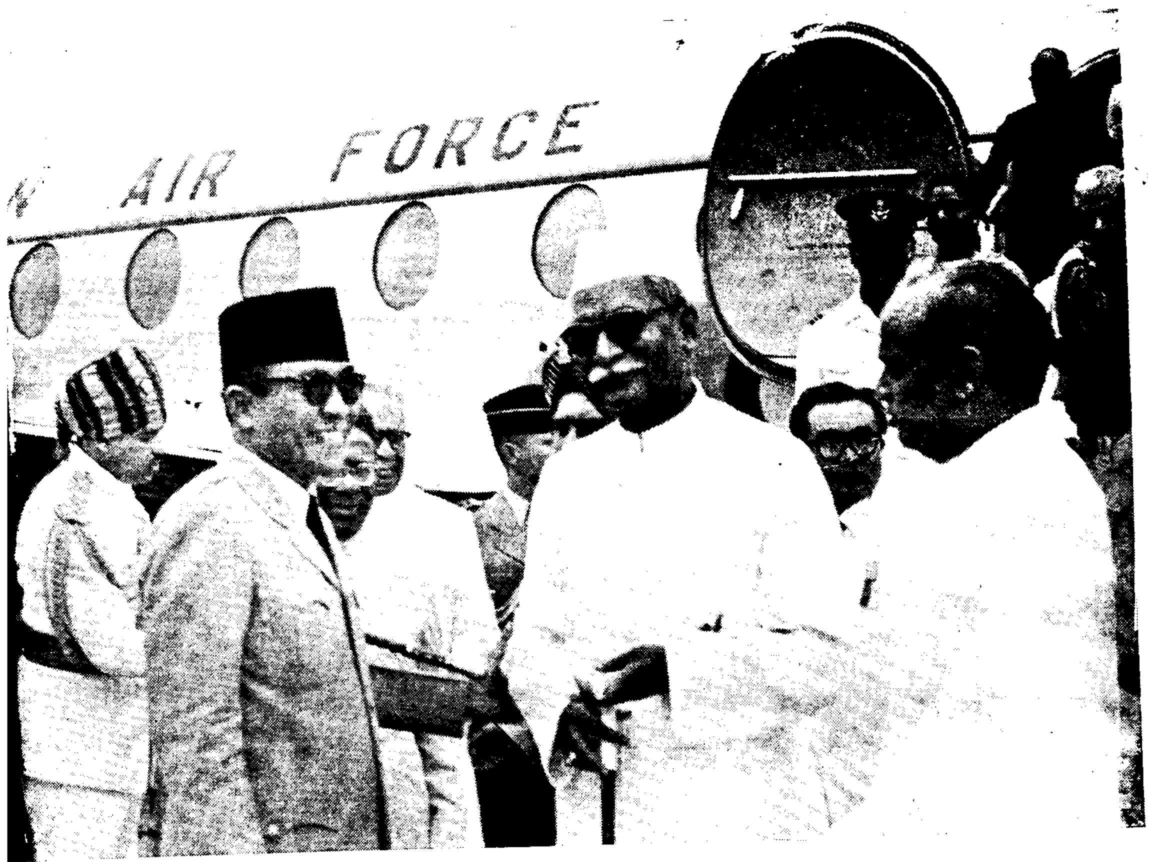

President Rajendra Prasad being received by the President of Indonesia, Dr. Soekarno, at the airport, Jakarta

Mr. Einar Gerhardsen, Prime Minister of Norway, inspecting a jet vampire at the Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., Bangalore

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri inaugurating the first meeting of th panel for Leather and Leathe Goods Industries in New Delh

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MAIN CONTENTS

COVER : President Rajendra Prasad being received by His Majesty the Yang De Pertuan Agong, King of Malaya, at the Kuala Lampur aerodrome.

(Indian Information seeks to provide a condensed record of the activities and official announcements of the Government of India. Because of space limitation many items appear in summarized forms. Such items should not be treated as complete and authoritative versions.)

Political & General

PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY TO FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE

Replying to a two-day debate on India's foreign policy in the Lok Sabha on December 9, the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, said, *inter alia*:

I would submit, in order to clear up any misapprehension that, first of all, when we say our policy is one of non-alignment, obviously it means non-alignment with military blocs. We cannot have a negative policy. The policy is a positive one, a definite one, and I hope, a dynamic one, but in so far as the military blocs today and the cold war are concerned, we do not align ourselves with either bloc. That itself is not a policy. It is only a part of the policy. And that is clear enough, and we have to lay stress on that because, unfortunately, in the world today, countries talk and act so much in terms of this cold war and in terms of military blocs and of fear of the one or the other, that one has to lay stress on the fact that we are not parties to the cold war and we are not members of or attached to any military bloc.

Nation's Security And World Peace

Having said that, of course, the policy can only be a policy of acting according to our best judgment, and furthering the principal objectives and ideals that we have. If you have friendship, to some extent you gain security; if you have hostility, you are somewhat endangered. Therefore, a deliberate policy of friendship with other countries goes further in gaining security than almost anything else. It may not succeed, of course; that is a different matter.

Apart from this, from the larger point of view of the world also, we have laboured to the best of our ability for world peace.

We realize that our influence in such matters can only be limited, because we are not in possession of, nor have we the capacity to possess, atomic or nuclear weapons. But still our influence has not been negligible, because, we do believe that what we have said in regard to peace has found an echo in people's minds and hearts in all countries, and because, also it was the right thing to do. I can say with some assurance that our influence on peoples generally all over the world in regard to this particular matter of peace has been very considerable. It is a privilege to be associated with peace, but it brings, a great responsibility, that we should not only try to live up to it and function so that we may advance the cause of world peace but in our domestic sphere also we should work on lines which are compatible with peace. We cannot obviously have one voice for the world outside and another voice and another action internally which conflicts with that.

Enlargement Of Freedom

Our foreign policy aims at an enlargement of freedom in the world, of colonialism being replaced by free and independent countries, of a larger degree of co-operation and all that. It is completely incorrect, if I may say so, to call our policy 'Nehru' policy. It is incorrect because all that I have done is to give voice to that policy. I have not originated it. It is a policy inherent in the circumstances in India, inherent in the past thinking of India, inherent in the whole mental outlook of India, inherent in the conditioning of the Indian mind during our struggle for freedom and inherent in the circumstances of the case today. I come in by the mere accidental fact that during these few years I have represented that policy as Foreign Minister to foreign countries and in this country, and I have spoken about it many times. We avoid, as far as possible, running down countries, even though we might differ from them, although we do not hide our sentiments, because we have felt that there is far too much running down of countries one by the other and creating bitterness so that people's minds are closed. You do not open a person's mind, normally, by running him down. He reacts violently in thinking or action. So we avoid doing that. There are many things happening in this world which we dislike very much. We do not talk about them except sometimes as a moderate expression of opinion. If they affect us intimately, of course we have to talk about them. But generally we avoid talking about things which do not affect us intimately or which do not affect basic causes like world peace, etc.

Sitting on the fence does involve an attitude of mind which, I think, is not correct. It is said there are only two ways of action in this world today. One must come down this way or that. Now, I repudiate that attitude of mind. If there are only two ways — if you accept that — then you certainly have to join the cold war, and, if not a military bloc, at least a mental military bloc — if not an actual armed bloc. I do not understand that attitude at all. I just do not see — I speak with all respect to the great countries—why the possession of great armed might or great financial power should necessarily lead to right decisions or a right mental outlook. I am not criticising anybody, but I am not prepared even as an individual, much less as the Foreign Minister of this country, to give up my right of independent judgment to anybody else in other countries. That is the essence of our policy.

Course Of Action

It may be, as Shri S. A. Dange said, 'Oh, you are friends with all, but sometimes you are more friendly with some people than with others'. That reminds me, of course, of that famous saying that 'all men are equal, but some are more equal than others'. It is true; it may be that occasionally because of some of our activities or some of our expressions, people, who themselves feel strongly about these matters this side or the other, feel that we are inclining too much on this side or that side. The fact of the matter is that we are following our own course of action as we judge right and incline on every side, whenever an opportunity offers itself, to be friendly with them. But it is true that in various matters — let us take economic matters and some other matters—we have past contacts which we certainly carry on. In the past, our economic life, rightly or wrongly, in trade, commerce etc., has gone in a certain direction. We have not tried to uproot it. We have tried to develop other directions too. We have tried to develop them as well as new ones, and that may give an impression that we have emphasized one and not the other. But, that is the point which Shri Dange laid stress on. He objected to our Chiefs of Staff going to England for certain conferences of military officers there and he thought that that meant some kind of lining up with the military apparatus of some countries of the Commonwealth. He also objected to our Navy joining in manoeuvres with some Commonwealth Navies, or chiefly the British Navy.

Joint Exercises And Naval Manoeuvres

We send our Chiefs of Staff to London occasionally to participate in what is called a joint exercise. We send them because it is a very good opportunity for gaining wider knowledge of modern methods in so far as one can get them there. I do not say that there are no other places where you can get them. But, it is not taking part in manoeuvres; it is not thinking of defence policy *vis-a-vis* other countries.

For instance, whenever there is a Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference and I attend it, there is, usually, side by side with it a conference about defence matters. We do not attend it. We have not attended because we have nothing to do with the defence approach or the peace and war approach of the United Kingdom or the Commonwealth countries.

But, it is quite another matter for us or for our representatives to see an exercise. An exercise means really discussing modern methods of war, usually in a room, and how old methods have been affected and so on. We have not got too many of those opportunities to do that by ourselves in this country. Where an opportunity offers itself, we have to take advantage of that — even in

other countries apart from Commonwealth countries.

A Navy or an Army must have some kind of practice. Our Navy is not big enough to be divided up into two forces fighting a mock battle, one with the other. So, we take advantage of naval manoeuvres and participate in mock battles, try to reproduce very very imperfectly of course, the conditions of warfare and learn from them. It is of the highest importance that our sailors, or for the matter of that our soldiers, should have practical experience in so far as it can be given.

Commonwealth Membership

The House knows that our Membership of the Commonwealth has not led us to forsaking any policy of ours being proceeded with. It has, in fact, rather helped us occasionally to put across that policy more strongly and more impressively.

Referring to the argument that because South Africa, a member of the Commonwealth, is pursuing a racial way, it is below our dignity to belong to the Commonwealth, the Prime Minister said:

I can very well understand that sentiment and that feeling against the racial policy of the South African Union. It is, I believe, among the many questions that trouble the world today, more basically wrong and dangerous for the future than anything else. It surprises me that those countries, particularly those who stand for the democratic tradition, those who voted for the United Nations Charter and for the Human Rights Convention, express themselves so moderately or do not express themselves at all about this racial policy of the South African Union. It is not a question of policy only. I say it is the greatest immorality, international immorality for a nation to carry on in that way. We have no desire or reason to interfere with what a country does. The South African Government can do what it likes in its internal policy. But, I say, even apart from the fact that in South Africa people of Indian descent are concerned and these people went under certain guarantees and therefore we have a special concern, we would have held these strong views about the racial policy of the South African Government.

The House will remember that the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Diefenbaker, when he was here spoke strongly and effectively against this racial policy. But some other countries do not do so.

Pakistan And Portugal

I wish to make it clear again that I am not criticizing the internal affairs of Pakistan or martial law. It is up to any people to have the kind of government they choose and it is not our concern, unless that government threatens us or functions against the canons of recognized international morality.

But what, naturally, has been a matter of some concern to me is how the democratic outlook, the democratic tradition is gradually disappearing or is being gradually converted into something, shall I say, a matter of some verbiage or words, and is not dynamic view of life and action. It is from this point of view that I have watched carefully the reactions of other countries to what had happened in Pakistan. When I found a constant apology in these other countries for what had happened in Pakistan and almost an attempt to show it has something not far removed from democracy, it really amazed me. There can be no greater attempt to delude oneself, and it showed me how far this type of mentality which the cold war is developing, has gone.

Take the case of Portugal. What government Portugal has is none of our business. But everybody knows that Portugal has, what is termed, a very authoritarian government — some kind of a dictatorship. Let them have a dictatorship. But Portugal again becomes the strong pillar of peace and democratic principles from another point of view. It shows that we have all, whether in the Communist countries, or non-Communist countries, become accustomed to use words in meanings which are distorted in some way to fit in with our approach to a particular problem. Here is Portugal — Goa we know well enough, and, what the Portuguese do there. There is not the remotest question of any civil liberty or freedom in Goa. Important people and important countries say little about Goa or Portugal, and what they have said in the past has been rather an encouragement to Portugal in Goa. Some months ago, there was an election in Portugal. It was one of the most odd elections that one has read about. We have seen criticisms of other elections in other countries, but the Portuguese elections, apart by some newspaper scribes, was calmly passed over.

So the point is not what policy, what programme, what the objectives and ideas of a nation are; but in this present cold war conflict, where does this nation stand - is it with us or not with us?

There is so much double-thinking, so much use of language in a double way, that if one is confused it is not surprising. I do not pretend to possess any peculiar wisdom or intelligence, but I do try to avoid to be wholly confused by this situation. I cannot lay down what the future will show. So far as we in India are concerned, I should very much like not to stray too much from the right path and to serve the cause of peace in India and outside, not only from the larger view point of the world but from the narrowest, opportunist view point of my own country.

PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MALAYA & INDONESIA

The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, left New Delhi on December 3 by special train for Calcutta on his way to Malaya and Indonesia. He was given a ceremonial send-off at the New Delhi Ceremonial Railway Station. He left Calcutta on December 6 and reached Kuala Lumpur the same day by plane on a two-day State-visit to the Federation of Malaya. He was received by His Majesty the Yang De Pertuan Agong, the King, and, Tengku Abdul Rehman, the Prime Minister of Malaya on his arrival.

The President left Malaya by plane on December 8 on a twelve-day state visit to the Republic of Indonesia and reached Jakarta the same day. He was given a ceremonial welcome by Dr. Soekarno, the President of Indonesia.

The President's party included Shri Humayun Kabir, the Minister-in-waiting.

Expenses On Ministers' Tours

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on November 19, Shri G.B. Pant, Union Home Minister, said that in the three years 1955-58, Rs. 20.30 lakhs were spent on tours of Union Ministers and Deputy Ministers in India and abroad.

The expenditure which was Rs. 6.52 lakhs in 1955-56 increased to Rs. 8.21 lakhs in 1956-57 but went down to Rs. 5.57 lakhs in 1957-58.

Permission To Proceed Against Govt. Servants

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 5, the Union Home Minister, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant laid a statement on the Table of the House stating that ten applications were received from private citizens between January 1956 and August this year seeking permission to prosecute Central Government officials on criminal charges. According to the statement permission was refused in five cases. In two cases the facts complained of were done in the course of lawful discharge of official duties, in another, details asked for were not forthcoming and in two there was no substance in the requests.

Permission was granted in one case while in another the petitioner was informed that such permission was not necessary. Two applications were pending and another had been withdrawn.

CENTRAL GOVT. ACTION ON LAW MINISTERS' RECOMMENDATIONS

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, on November 19, Shri R.M. Hazarnavis, Deputy Minister of Law, laid the following statement on the Table of the House indicating the latest position in regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the State Law Ministers' Conference held in 1957 so far as the Central Government were concerned:

Heavy Arrears And Delay In The High Courts

The steps taken for reducing arrears and avoiding delay in the disposal of cases by the High Courts have been intimated by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and U.P. Their communications are being considered. Replies from the remaining State Governments are awaited.

Additional Judges have been sanctioned by the Central Government since September 1957, as shown below:

Name of High Court	*No. of posts of Ad. Judges*	*Period for which sanctioned*
Andhra Pradesh	Three	Tow years
Bombay	Four	Till 31st Dec. '59.
Kerala	Two	One year
Mysore	Two	Two years
Orissa	One	Two years
Patna	Two	Two years

The State Governments were requested to furnish panels of suitable persons, drawn up in consultation with the Governors and Chief Justices of the High Courts for appointment as Judges. Information has been furnished by some of the State Governments and replies from the others are awaited.

Corruption in the Machinery of Courts

The High Courts of Bihar, Bombay, Kerala and U.P. have agreed in principle to the setting up of Vigilance Committees in some form with certain reservations. It is understood that in the districts of U.P. and Bihar, Anti-Corruption Committees are already functioning.

The High Court of West Bengal is opposed to the proposal. The High Courts in other States are still considering the matter.

Registrar for District Courts

The High Courts of Bihar, Bombay, Kerala and West Bengal have accepted the recommendation to attach a Registrar to District Courts. In fact in Bihar and Kerala the system is already partially in vogue. The High Court of Allahabad has pointed out certain difficulties in implementing the recommendation. However, the matter is being considered by them. The other States are also examining the question.

The High Courts of Bombay, Kerala, U.P. and West Bengal have been taking action to tighten up the High Court rules.

Service of Documents & Jury System

On the recommendation pertaining to service of documents through post, the High Courts of Bombay and U.P. have already made a provision for service of summons by registered post. The High Court of Kerala is taking necessary measures to amend the law for the purpose. The High Court of West Bengal has not accepted the proposal. The matter is under consideration by the other High Courts.

Concerning the recommendation to abolish the Jury System, it is found that this System is not in vogue in Kerala. The Bombay State has abolished the system of trial by jury except in the City of Bombay. U.P. has abolished the system. The other States are examining the matter.

NOTE:—*The implementation of all conclusions under this item is the responsibility of the State High Courts/State Governments.*

Separation of Judiciary from Executive

Andhra Pradesh:

The State Government propose to amend the Criminal Procedure

Code and certain special laws, to confer statutory basis on the scheme now in force in the Andhra area of the State. Provision will also be made for the direct control and supervision of Judicial Magistrates by the Sessions Judges.

Assam:

The State Government are taking steps to appoint a committee to go into the whole question.

Bihar:

The recommendations of the Committee appointed under the Chairmanship of Shri Justice Kanhaiya Singh to enquire into the working of the existing schemes in this behalf are under consideration.

Bombay:

A special Officer of the status of District Judge has been appointed by the Government for formulating proposals for a uniform judicial setup for the entire new State of Bombay and for unification of laws, including proposals for the separation of the judiciary from the executive where this is not operating. The State Government are also taking steps to promote necessary legislation for the unification of laws relating to separation now in force in the different areas.

Kerala:

Proposals are under consideration for the unification of the separation schemes now in force in the Travancore-Cochin area and the Malabar area.

Madhya Pradesh:

The State Government have reviewed the whole question and have decided to effect complete separation of judiciary from the executive in the Mahakoshal region on the lines prevailing in the rest of the State. Action in this behalf is in progress.

Madras:

No further progress has been reported.

Mysore:

The State Government have not reported any further progress except that the question of posting a Judicial Magistrate in Coorg is being considered.

Orissa:

The State Government have decided to introduce the scheme of separation in the districts of Cuttack, Puri and Balasore. No information is, however, available, whether the scheme has actually been implemented.

Punjab:

No reply has so far been received.

Rajasthan:

The State Government are appointing a committee to suggest a workable scheme of separation.

Uttar Pradesh:

No further progress has been reported.

West Bengal:

The State Government announced a scheme of separation in January, 1958. The scheme was to have been enforced from February, 1958. No further information, is, however, available.

Union Territories

Delhi:

This is a very small area and complete separation is not possible here. It consists of only one Tehsil and there is no system of sub-Divisional Magistrates. However, on the lines of the practice introduced in several districts in Uttar Pradesh, it is proposed to entrust cases under Chapter VIII to XII of the Criminal Procedure Code to some Magistrates, called Executive Magistrates. These Magistrates will also be in charge of miscellaneous work entrusted to them by the District Magistrate. The remaining Magistrates will be known as Judicial Magistrates and will try cases under substantive provisions of the I.P.C.

Manipur:

Nine-tenths of the area of the Territory is hilly. The tribal people are used to customary laws and not to written laws. Introduction of any scheme of separation will necessitate the appointment of three or four additional Magistrates without appreciable work. The Administration is, therefore, not in favour of separation for the present.

Tripura:

Separation will necessitate the appointment of ten additional Magistrates and will thus add to the cost of Administration. The Administration has no objection to separation in principle.

Arrangement For Central Government Litigation

Conclusions pertaining to heavy arears and delay in the High Courts, checking of corruption in the machinery of Courts and separation of judiciary from the executive concern the State Governments and have been brought to their notice; but the action by the State Government on these conclusions is dependent on action by the Central Government regarding arrangements for Central Government litigation which requires the Central Government to ensure that their entire work (including that of the Railways and the Special Police Establishment but excluding Income-tax work and work on the Original Side of the High Court of Bombay and Calcutta) is entrusted to the State Law Officers. All Ministries/Departments of the Government of India were addressed with a view to ascertaining whether they would have any objection to their cases being entrusted to the State Law Officers. The replies received from them are under scrutiny. The conclusion on arrangements for the State Government litigation in Supreme Court is a matter of adjustment with each State and action can be taken thereon only after the decision on the conclusions mentioned above is taken.

As regards the conclusion on the reduction of litigation expenses of Government the information furnished by the various Ministries/Departments regarding the existing arrangements for their advisory work in the various States and also whether they have any objection to their advisory work being entrusted to the Legal Remembrancers of the State are also being examined. The implementation of conclusion on legal aid to the poor rests on the State Governments who are considering the matter.

Extension Of Central Agency System

Nine States in India are now participating in the Central Agency System of the Centre, which co-ordinates and conducts Union and State Governments' cases before the Supreme Court. The States are: Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Bombay, Orissa,. Bihar, Rajasthan, the Punjab, Mysore and Assam.

For the purposes of training legal draftsmen, the attache system has been revived as recommended by the Law Ministers The training period has been extended from six months to a year. Attaches are now taken by rotation from the States so that each State is afforded an opportunity, at least once in every three years, to depute a person for training.

ATOMIC ENERGY IN THIRD PLAN

In reply to a question on the development of atomic energy in the Third Five Year Plan, the Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, made a statement in the Rajya Sabha, on November 27, in which he recalled the recommendations of the Atomic Energy Commission that one million kilowatts of nuclear power be installed by the end of the Third Five Year Plan period by setting up two atomic power stations, each station consisting of two units of a quarter million kilowatts each. He said, *inter alia*, that it was estimated that each of these units would take about four years to build. Government had decided that a minimum of 250,000 kilowatts of nuclear power be included in the power programme of the Third Plan. Exploratory talks with manufacturers of atomic power stations in other countries were in progress. As regards location, the matter was still under consideration. He added that the atomic energy to be developed would largely be done with our own resources, and that we would, if necessary, supplement them with other resources.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

In a statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha in reply to a question on December 4, the Minister of Food and Agriculture reviewed the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Work on implementation of the recommendations was being taken by the Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa, Mysore, U.P., Bihar, Manipur and Tripura. Replies from other States on the work done was still awaited.

As regards the recommendations of the Committee involving central legislation, the draft Bill prepared by Committee had been further revised in consultation with the Ministry of Law. It would shortly be placed before the Cabinet.

RECOGNITION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, the Home Minister, Shri G.B. Pant said on December 1, that half of Rs. 3 lakhs placed annually at his disposal for distribution among individuals and organizations accredited with service to the nation was spent during the current year.

Giving details of the amounts disbursed, he said that about Rs. 1,14,000 was given to individuals and their families in the political, social and philanthropic fields and about Rs. 35,000 to deserving institutions. Another sum of Rs. 1,500 was distributed among individuals in recognition of their outstanding deeds of valour and public good.

Relief To Political Suffers

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant stated on December 5 that, since 1957, a sum of Rs. 42,500 has been distributed by way of cash grants, interest free loans and warm clothing, to political sufferers in Delhi.

Till November this year Rs. 19,275 had been distributed as grants to 67 persons while Rs. 22,100 had been disbursed as interest free loans to 37 other political sufferers.

A sum of Rs. 3 lakhs is placed every year at the disposal of the Union Home Minister for giving monetary grants at his discretion to persons who have served the nation in political, social, philanthropic and other fields.

Gallantary Awards For Rajasthan Police

Gallantry awards have been made by the President to two officers of the Rajasthan Police for showing exemplary courage and devotion to duty in an encounter with a gang of dacoits in the State, it was announced on December 5.

Shri Balu Singh, R.P.S., Deputy Superintendent of Police, received the President's Police and Fire Services Medal for gallantry, while Shri Tane Rao, Head Constable, received the Police Medal.

The President's Police and Fire Services Medal for gallantry was awarded to Shri Jagdip Singh Pathania, Executive Officer of the Pathankot Municipal Committee for his role in bringing under control the devastating fire caused by exploding ammunition in Pathankot in February this year. The award was given for conspicuous gallantary, exceptional courage and leadership he showed in this operation.

Condemned Prisoners Pardoned

Twenty-six prisoners have had their death sentences commuted to imprisonment for life by the President in the first 10 months of this year, it was announced on November 22.

In all 122 prisoners under sentence of death submitted petitions of which 20 are still under consideration.

Almost 200 condemned prisoners were extended pardon in the three years 1955-57 out of a total of about 600 who asked for clemency.

Under the Constitution the President has power to reprieve convicts under sentence of death. State Governors have also similar powers over an offender infringing any law of the executive which vests in the State.

EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF UNESCO POSTS

An announcement from Paris on December 4 says that during

the concluding plenary session of the UNESCO. the Indian resolution on more equitable geographical distribution of posts in the Secretariat was passed on the same day by 48 votes to one with eight abstentions.

The Indian resolution opens greater possibilities for employment of nationals from Asian and African countries in the UNESCO Secretariat.

Land For Govt. Building Acquired In Delhi

In a written reply to a question regarding the land acquired by the Government in New Delhi during the current year for development and construction of houses, the Union Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, Shri K.C. Reddy stated in the Lok Sabha on December 3 that acquisition proceedings had been taken in respect of about 1,100 acres. Possession was taken of the bulk of the land in the year 1957-58 and the balance in 1958-59. The value of the award for compensation for the area was of the order of Rs. 1,41,00,000, of which payments had been made to the tune of Rs. 94 lakhs.

The land would be utilized for construction of Government buildings and the price after development was estimated to be about Rs. 7 per square yard, he added.

In a written reply to another question, Shri Reddy stated that upto September 30, 1958 about Rs. 33 lakhs had been spent through the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, on the construction of buildings for Central Government offices in New Delhi. About Rs. 60 lakhs would be spent on this account during the remaining period of the current financial year, he added.

CHIEF JUSTICE FOR BOMBAY

The President has been pleased to appoint Shri Justice Hashmatrai Khubchand Chainani, at present acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, to be the permanent Chief Justice with effect from the date he assumes charge, says an announcement of December 4.

Chief Justice For M. Pradesh

A Press communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on December 5 says that the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Ganesh Prasad Bhutt, at present acting Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, to be the permanent Chief Justice of that High Court, with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office.

Foreign Visitors To India

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 15, Shri G.B. Pant, Union Home Minister, said that about 29,800 persons from almost all countries in the world had been granted visas to visit India during this year up to the end of November. He added that 11,321 of these foreigners were tourists and 3,910 businessmen.

Muslim Immigrants From Pakistan

Nearly 51,700 Muslims, who came to India from Pakistan in 1956 and 1957, availing of the passport facilities, are now unwilling to return to that country, stated Shri Govind Ballabh Pant, in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 2.

He added that the number of immigrants settled till October 31 this year was 4,237. The Minister also said some Pakistani nationals had been observed indulging in undesirable activities.

Planning & Finance

INVESTMENT POLICY OF LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION

At the end of a debate on the policy of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said in the Lok Sabha on November 28, that the Government had not laid down any new policy for investment by the L.I.C. What had been done now as a result of experience gained, was that the policy had been definitely laid down on paper and given to the L.I.C.

Referring to some apprehensions which had arisen as regards the possible interpretation or use of some of the items of the policy, and some of the suggestions made, he said that after integrating all the services and the work of 240 companies into one, it would not be appropriate to start dividing them into different corporations, disintegrating the work of integration already accomplished. We had now, he continued, to work this to our best capacity and see that it succeeded. As it was, its work had been divided into five zones and those zones were working more and more in competition. Also, the work of the Corporation was being decentralized. Therefore, even though there was one Corporation, there need be no fear that because it was one monolithic structure, it would not be efficiently run.

Answering the criticism that the Investment Committee did not represent all regions and, therefore, there was a possibility of regions being neglected and the activities of investment being confined only to the more developed parts of the country, the Finance Minister drew attention to the fact that Investment Committee by its very nature was bound to be a small one and was bound to consist of people who had expert knowledge and experience of this kind of work. It could not therefore be made representative on a regional basis. But there were representatives of all regions on the Corporation itself and it was the Corporation which was ultimately responsible for the investment and the appointment of the Investment Committee. Thus the interests of all the regions were being safeguarded in the matter of the working of the Corporation.

A large part of the investable funds, were invested in Government securities, Central Government loans, State loans and loans of corporations and local bodies of all regions, and there was therefore diversification in the matter of utilization of these funds. Nearly 70 per cent of the funds were invested in Indian Government and other approved securities in the public sector.

It would not be possible, otherwise, for the Corporation itself to invest its funds in different small sectors in different parts of the country. As for utilizing funds for housing schemes, the Minister said that it was the policy of the Corporation to provide housing for at least 50 per cent of its employees within the next five years. The Corporation had already started work on this scheme. It was also setting apart every year Rs. 3 crores for giving loans to co-operative housing societies through the States.

Whereas security of investment must be the primary consideration, he agreed that it must not be made such a fetish of, that the whole activity becomes static. Some risks had to be taken somewhere, but the risks ought to be reasonable and not land the Corporation and the Government in trouble. Consistent with this policy, the LIC certainly would try to see that the investable funds were utilized in the best manner possible, for the good of the community as a whole and not merely for profit making. The work of insurance had to be done in such a way that people were attracted to it. There was no question of making any discrimination against other people who also took part in small savings or in provident funds. Such persons got more interest than the policy-holders even after getting profits.

As for investment of L.I.C. funds up to 30 per cent in any individual concern, he said that originally it had been 10 per cent; but there were 240 companies, and 10 per cent had been meant only for one company and not for 240 companies. Now, several companies invested in the same concern and such investments aggregated to more than 30 per cent in several cases. It was necessary, therefore, to see that they were safeguarded. Referring to a suggestion that in future this may not be done, the Finance Minister said that even in future he saw no reason why it should not be done. If 30 per cent or more were occasionally invested in concerns in the public sector or other concerns with a view to stabilizing the stock market there was nothing wrong in it, so long as it was not done in a careless manner. The question of speculation did not arise for the LIC when it bought at a time when the prices were low and sold them when they were high. He did not think that once the LIC purchased the shares, it should never part with them at any time; or, when it parted with them, it should never purchase them again. If it was profitable for the L.I.C. to change its stock and incidentally if it helped to stabilize the stock market, it did not amount to speculation at all. As a matter of fact, it was in the interest of the LIC itself to see that the stock market was stabilized, because it was the largest holder of shares. By its very nature, it was bound to be the largest holder of shares. It was the LIC which would suffer most if the stock market crashed. But it was not the purpose of the LIC, the Minister said, to play on the stock market or to utilize its funds mainly for stabilizing the stock market.

On the matter of surplus funds, under the provisions of the first Act of 1938, the former companies were entitled to retain, out of the surplus funds, a maximum of 7½ per cent as profits. But Government, as the main shareholder, reserved for themselves only 5 per cent of the surplus funds. Thirty companies had become insolvent, but Government had decided to pay the policy-holders their money as their policies became due. This amounted to about Rs. 70 lakhs. This amount would be drawn from that 5 per cent. This gave an indication, the Minister said, as to how the surplus funds were going to be utilized.

Integration Of Old And New Policies By L.I.C.

In answer to a question whether the Life Insurance Corporation has effected integration of old and new policies in every zone, the Minister for Revenue and Civil Expenditure, Dr. B. Gopala Reddi said in the Lok Sabha on December 10 that the Life Insurance Corporation intended to effect integration of old and new policies in stages and a beginning in that direction had already been made. The work was expected to be completed by about 31st December, 1961.

REPORT ON CUSTOMS PROCEDURE

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 15, Shri B.R. Bhagat, Deputy Minister of Finance, said that the Committee on Customs Procedure and Organization recently submitted its report to Government and that Government's decision on its recommendations would be formulated as soon as possible. Placing on the Table of the House an 11-point statement on the subjects on which the Committee had made interim recommendations, he added that Government had implemented with a few minor modifications., the first five recommendations. Recommendation No. 7 had not been accepted as the task involved in correlating about 40,000 items in the alphabetical index to the Indian Trade Classification with the Indian Customs Tariff would not be commensurate with the benefit that would accrue to the Customs Organization or to

the public from it. The rest were still under examination.

The following is the text of the statement on interim recommendations made by the Committee:

(i) Part deliveries should be extensively granted by Customs, subject to certain exceptions, in cases where clearance of imported consignments is likely to be delayed because investigation is considered necessary by Customs regarding valuation, tariff or import control classification etc.

(ii) Option should be given to importers to forego the observance of formalities relating to adjudication of Customs offences, and to pay promptly any fine fixed with a view to speeding up clearance.

(iii) Joint meetings now being held weekly between the Import Trade Control and Customs authorities to decide doubtful Import Trade Control cases should be held at more frequent intervals, if necessary, in the interests of industry and the national economy. The existence of this machinery for joint consultation should be widely publicized.

(iv) The present practice of consulting independent experts in matter of classification and valuation should be developed by formation of panels of officials and non-official experts in consultation with industrial and trade associations.

(v) Measures (as specified by the Committee) should be taken to improve the treatment of goods intended for the U.N./Diplomatic Missions.

(vi) A Customs Advisory Council should be set up at the Centre either as a separate entity or linked with the Import and Export Advisory Councils, to provide an effective forum at the Centre for the specific purpose of discussing pressing Customs problems on an all India basis.

(viii) Customs Advisory Committees existing at the ports should be revised and enlarged so as to make them more useful and effective.

(ix) Certain concessions should be granted to importers and exporters in respect of Bank Guarantees etc.

(x) The procedure for dealing with goods imported for display at International exhibitions in India should be revised to obviate genuine complaints.

(xi) The procedures regarding grant of drawback of import and excise duties paid on goods used in the manufacture of finished product should be simplified with a view to their being freely availed of by the business community and with a view to facilitating India's export trade.

CUSTOMS & EXCISE REVENUE FOR JUNE

According to the returns received in the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the total gross sea, land and air customs revenue collected in the Indian Union during the month of June, 1958, amounted to Rs. 7.54 crores as compared with Rs. 14.14 crores in the corresponding month of the previous year, says a Press Note issued by the Department of Commerce on December 10.

The comparison in the subsequent paras should be taken to refer to that of the current figures with those of the corresponding period of the preceding year.

Of the total customs revenue collections, import duties accounted for Rs. 6.16 crores as against Rs. 12.30 crores, export duties for Rs. 1.15 crores as against Rs. 1.32 crores and land customs and miscellaneous for Rs. 17 lakhs as against Rs. 31 lakhs and air customs for Rs. 6 lakhs as against Rs. 21 lakhs.

The total gross collection of Union excise duties amounted to Rs. 24.47 crores as compared to Rs. 19.96 crores.

During the three months, April to June 1958, the grand total of gross customs and union excise revenue realized was Rs. 108.85 crores as compared with Rs. 103.77 crores during the corresponding period of the preceding year. Of this amount, import duties accounted for Rs. 26.32 crores as against Rs. 4.07 crores, land customs and miscellaneous for Rs. 67 lakhs as against Rs. 95 lakhs, air customs for Rs. 22 lakhs as against Rs. 93 lakhs and Union excise duties for Rs. 76.95 crores as against Rs. 58.15 crores.

CUSTOMS ON INDIAN GOODS IN NEPAL

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 15, Shri B. R. Bhagat, Deputy Finance Minister said that no customs duty was levied by India on the goods imported from or exported to Nepal. The Government of Nepal was free to have its own customs tariff. Such a course had been thought desirable in view of commercial, economic and political considerations, he added.

Customs duty, the Deputy Minister further said, at the same rates, as were prevailing in India, was collected on foreign goods going to Nepal and credited to the Government of Nepal. Therefore, there was no likelihood of unfavourable competition with goods of foreign origin going to Nepal.

He laid on the Table of the House a copy of the Treaty of Trade and Commerce 1950 which governed the trade relations between the Governments of the two countries.

AID UNDER COLOMBO PLAN

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 10, Dr. B. Gopala Reddi, Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure, laid the following statement on the Table of the House showing the aid authorized to India under the Colombo Plan during the year 1958.

Technical Aid

Country.	No. of Indian nationals trained	experts sent.
Australia	4	10
Canada	2	10
Japan	3	7
New Zealand	-	5
U.K.	1	68
Total	10	100

Experts have been obtained in the following fields:

Horticulture, Medicine, Bio-chemistry, Hyper-tension, Mining Engineering, Librarianship, Seri-culture, Statistics, and Underground Coal mining.

Training facilities have been mainly in the fields of Agriculture, Dairy Development, Forestry, Tractor Maintenance, Tracer techniques, Company Law Legislation, Health, Education, Statistics, Machine tools, Business Management, Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Power and Fuel, Coal Mining, Telephones and Communications.

T. C. M. CONFERENCE IN DELHI

Addressing the U.N. Technical Cooperation Programme Conference at Delhi on December 9, the Finance Minister said India placed a high value on acquisition and spread of technical skills and he was glad that T.C.M. was assisting the Government in drawing up a scheme for establishing one of the four Central Regional Technological Institutes in India. The T.C.M. personnel in India, the Finance Minister said, were engaged in tasks which were of great significance, firstly, from the point of view of promotion of economic development and, secondly, as an exercise in fostering international goodwill.

India, he noted, had benefited greatly from the financial and technical assistance offered by friendly countries abroad. Indo-American co-operation in the field of development had broadened steadily since it commenced in 1950 with the signing of a general agreement under the Point Four Programme. The Technical Co-operation Agreement of January 1952 was a further step in advance, and this agreement was extended in 1957 on a long-term basis. U.S. assistance to India had come in various ways: the Point Four Programmes, the Technical Co-operation Agreement, PL 480 Programmes, and schemes financed out of the Development Loan Fund, the U.S. President's Fund for Asian Economic Development, etc. All this assistance had been applied towards the implementation of programmes covering a wide range — community development, multi-purpose projects, industry, mining, procurement of foodgrains, cotton and fertilizers, railway development, water supply, sanitation and health programmes, etc.

U. S. Loans To Private Industries

Replying to the question whether the approval of the Government of India would be taken before the U.S. Export—Import Bank and the Development Loan Fund advanced loans directly to industries in the Private Sector in India, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shri B.R. Bhagat said in the Lok Sabha on December 5, that no loans would be made by either organization to any private party in India unless such a loan had the approval of the Government of India.

Shri Bhagat added that it had been the practice with the U.S. Export—Import Bank and the Development Loan Fund to grant direct loans to private enterprises. In the case of India, however, except in one single instance decided upon in 1957, such loans had so far been channeled through the Government. Recently the possibility of direct loans to private Indian parties by the two institutions had been mentioned. This was however, a matter to be considered upon the merits of the project concerned when there were no negotiations for such loans.

LOANS FROM U. S. EXIM BANK

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 10, Dr. B. Gopala Reddy, the Minister of Revenue and Expenditure, laid a statement on the Table of the House regarding allocations for individual projects in the private sector out of the $ 150 million loan from the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

According to the statement, at present, a sum of about Rs. 25 crores has been tentatively earmarked for projects in the private sector under the agreement with Exim bank authorities. No specific allocations for individual industries in the private sector have been decided upon, as it is now proposd to adjust the allocations in accordance with the actual needs of the industries concerned after consideration of the applications received in response to the Public Notices issued earlier this year.

As on 1st December, 1958, the position in respect of the applicants approved and licences issued under the U.S. Eximbank Programme for the private sector industries concerned was:

		(Rs. lakhs)
Private Sector	*Approvals*	*Licensing*
Textiles	359.62	205.00
Chemicals	576.74	191.55
Engineering	296.29	174.00
Automobiles	235.50	—
Coal Mines	—	—
	15,82.74	6,01.64

The statement also indicated that there have been no worthwhile applications so far from private coal mines.

So far no drawals have been made from the loan. In accordance with the procedure for reimbursement under the Loan Agreement it is only after orders have been placed and payments made for goods on delivery from the foreign exchange resources of the country that Government can prefer a claim and obtain reimbursement from the U.S. Eximbank. The interest will be chargeable only from the time of drawal and on the actual amount drawn.

Japanese Loan To India

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Shri Morarji Desai, Union Finance Minister said that there was no proposal at present for a further credit from Japan, in addition to the 18-billion yen credit (about $50-million), an agreement regarding which was concluded in February 1958 and the $10-million credit offered by Japan later this year.

ANNUAL PLAN FOR MANIPUR

An announcement made on December 11 says that during the discussions between the Planning Commission and the Central Ministries and the representatives of Manipur Administration held recently, it was decided that the Plan outlay of Manipur for the next year, 1959-60, should be of the order of Rs. 1.59 crores as against an approved outlay of Rs. 1.25 crores in the previous year.

Agriculture has been allotted Rs. 8.69 lakhs. The allocation for Community Development and National Extension Service is Rs. 11.99 lakhs. Irrigation and Power and Village and Small Industries get Rs. 22.40 lakhs and Rs. 5.85 lakhs, respectively. The provision for Roads and Road Transport is Rs. 54.50 lakhs. Social services have been allotted Rs. 51.81 lakhs. There is a provision of Rs. 3.39 lakhs for miscellaneous services.

Under agriculture the main programmes envisaged are increase of the food potential and provision of artificial insemination centres for the development of animal husbandry. Large sized new co-operative societies are to be set up and it is proposed to open new community development blocks. Emphasis will be laid on the development of road communications and on the opening of new primary schools. Additional health facilities are also to be provided.

Annual Plan For Tripura

An announcement made on December 10 says, during discussions held recently between the Planning Commission, the Central Ministries and representatives of the Tripura Administration, it was decided that the Plan outlay of Tripura for the next year, 1959-60, will be of the order of Rs. 2.05 crores as against the expenditure of Rs. 2.4 crores last year.

The main programmes included for the next year are various schemes relating to agricultural production (such as Improved Paddy Seeds, Minor Irrigation Works, etc.), large-sized co-operative societies, expansion of Agartala Power House, expansion of elementary education and welfare of Backward Classes.

The provision for agriculture is Rs. 23.20 lakhs, for Community Development and National Extension Service Rs. 13.50 lakhs; for irrigation and power a sum of Rs. 12.00 lakhs; for Village and Small Industries Rs. 10.25 lakhs; for Roads and Social Services Rs. 65.00 lakhs; and Rs. 74.79 lakhs, respectively. There is also a provision of Rs. 6.08 lakhs for miscellaneous Development Plans.

Exchange Control Violations

Ten cases of contravention of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947, were adjudicated by the Directorate of Enforcement, Ministry of Finance, during the month of November, 1958. An aggregate penalty of Rs. 46,600/- was imposed on various parties including proprietors and partners of firms, companies, etc. In addition, the parties, in some cases, have been directed to repatriate the balances standing in their accounts in foreign countries.

Commerce & Industry

TRENDS IN EXPORT TRADE AND TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Moving the motion that the present trends in the export trade of India, and the state of the textile industry which contributes materially to that trade be taken into consideration, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Minister of Commerce and Industry laid a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on December 3. Recalling the heavy expenditure of foreign exchange in recent years due to imports of capital goods needed by the rapidly expanding industries, and the consequent adverse balance of trade with foreign countries, he observed, *inter alia*:

In 1954, our export earnings stood at Rs. 558 crores. In 1955, our exports reached the figure of Rs. 602 crores. A further improvement was recorded in 1956 bringing up the total for that year to Rs. 613 crores. This improvement was maintained for the first nine months of 1957.

But the effects of recession in economic activity in some of the highly industrialized countries of the world began to be felt in the last quarter of that year. In October 1957, exports shrank by Rs. 8 crores, and although there was some improvement in November, the downward trend was resumed in December 1957. Export earnings continued to decline over the first five months of the current year until the lowest point was reached in June when, partly because of the strike in our ports we earned only Rs. 28 crores.

In July, 1958 the earnings mounted up once again to Rs. 54 crores and in September 1958, the performance was on par with the figure of over Rs. 58 crores for the corresponding month in the last year.

The fall in export earnings during the first nine months ending June 1958 was due mostly to the impact of certain unfavourable developments in the world economic situation: it had in fact resulted largely from the decline in commodity prices, and from the set back in economic activity in some of the highly industrialized countries of the world, more particularly, in the United States and later, in Western Europe. The imports into industrially advanced countries suffered a significant decline during this period and consequently most of the under-developed countries dependent on the export of primary products, were unable to maintain a high level of imports. The export earnings of some of the South American countries declined by nearly 25 per cent and of some of our neighbours shrunk by as much as 20 per cent. On an average the unit value of the export of some of our primary products slumped during this period by as much as 18 to 20 per cent.

During the months January to September, 1957, the adverse balance of trade had aggregated to Rs. 265.8 crores. During the same period this year the gap between total imports and exports has come down to Rs. 157.5 crores only, while in September, 1958 we were able to realize a small surplus.

It is encouraging to note that in the face of falling demand, it was possible for us to secure quantitative increases in the export of tea, cashewnuts, tobacco and linseed oil. We also succeeded at the same time in improving significantly our cash earnings from the export of some of our manufactures, notably sewing machines, fire extinguishers, some small machinery items, leather manufactures, woollen piecegoods, and artificial silk fabrics. We have been able to maintain the exports of iron ore and other minerals at a reasonably high level. But the difficulties of the steel industry in the United States and in Europe have caused a short-fall in the international demand for Manganese ore, the import of which has been more keenly felt in producing areas, such as India, which are situated at considerable distances from the consuming mills.

If we succeed in outstripping the domestic demand for commercial crops by increasing their output, the large exportable surplus, thus obtained will help us earn the resources necessary to pay for essential imports.

There are other items which can reasonably be expected to yield increased export earnings. These are raw wool, hides and skins, coal, coffee and sugar. The real difficulty in all these items is one of production and prices.

Export Promotion Measures

It was in the year 1954 that the Commerce and Industry Ministry initiated special steps to build up the country's export potential. One of the first such steps was the formation of Export Promotion Councils for specific commodities with considerable export potential. The idea was to bring together producers or manufacturers and exporters with official representatives under one organization to make concerted efforts to step up exports to traditional markets and to introduce the commodities into new markets.

The Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council came into being in October 1954 and ten other Councils each dealing with a specific commodity were set up in the following years. The Commodity Boards for Coffee, Tea, Coir, Handicrafts and Handlooms were asked to pay special attention to export markets and the State Trading Corporation and the Export Risk Insurance Corporation were organized in 1956 and 1957 respectively in an effort to build up our export trade.

Steps were also simultaneously taken to strengthen the Directorate of Exhibition and Commercial Publicity, to revitalize the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics and to strengthen our Trade Representations abroad. In July, 1957, the Foreign Trade Board was set up to co-ordinate and guide the country's commercial effort and the Directorate of Export Promotion was organized to implement the Board's decisions and to provide prompt and effective service to the exporter. The Government are also constantly engaged in making it possible for exporters to improve the competitiveness of Indian products. Export duties have been withdrawn from all items except one or two; import duties paid on the imported content of as many as 80 items of export are now refunded; exporters are also able to claim refund of excise duty.

Special schemes for supply of accessories and raw materials, imported or indigenous, are in operation; measures for the control of quality have been introduced and railways are now offering special concessions to stimulate export traffic. The shipowners have also shown some awareness of the need to provide better shipping opportunities and to adjust freight rates in an effort to increase export cargoes from India. The impact of these efforts in diverse fields is bound to be felt on our export earnings at no distant date.

Textile Industry

Discussing at length the problems of the textile industry with special reference to the export of handloom fabrics, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, said *inter alia*: Export for the period January to September 1958 of both mill made and handloom cloth was about 467 million yards. On this basis, our annual exports for the current year would be of the order of 625 million. Judging from 1957 figures which stood at 878 million yards, the drop has been considerable.

In 1950, for example, we exported over 1100 million yards but in 1951, they dropped to 778 million yards and dropped further in 1952, to 602 million yards.

Apart from the general recession in the Western countries in the latter half of 1957, there has been a shrinkage in the international trade in cotton textiles. Many countries are setting up their own manufacturing units while some of our traditional customers have been lured away by attractive link arrangements or bilateral deals, to other sources of supply. Again, some importing countries have had, because of their own foreign exchange difficulties, to restrict imports.

High Power Committee

A high power committee was set up early in 1958, on which all interests were represented, to go into the several problems of textiles. Certain specific suggestions were made by the Committee to improve our exports and Government have adopted several measures in pursuance of these suggestions.

In the import policy programme for the current half year, facilities have been provided to exporting mills to obtain their requirements of textile chemicals and dyes; in the case of co-operatives, they have been enabled to import finer counts of yarn in addition to dyes. We have also permitted mills to obtain their requirements of special machinery. Facilities for importing foreign cotton have also been provided subsequently on the recommendations of the Cotton Textile Mills Federation.

The Committee noticed that a large majority of the machines in existence today were installed more than 40 years back and had outlived their usefulness. Against this background, the Committee also referred to the definite preference in the markets abroad for flawless cloth produced only on automatic looms and indicated that our mills in due course should equip themselves with a large number of such looms.

Automatic Looms

Intervening in the debate on the motion, Shri Manubhai Shah, the Minister of Industry, said on December 4, that the Government had decided that 12,000 spindles and 3000 looms should be the minimum economic unit. In other countries it was 25,000 spindles and 600 looms. Referring to amalagamation or combination of uneconomic units, he said that it was possible only at Agra, Kanpur, Ahmedabad or Bombay where there were many mills. Comparing the automatic looms in India with those of Japan, the Minister said that Japan had 9 million spindles, less than three fourths of India's total. While there were 200,000 in India, they had about 81,000 looms in the organized industry. They had reached a figure of 68 per cent for automatic looms. Out of the entire industry, 68 per cent of the loomage in Japan was automatic and India had only six per cent.

Over and above the 3000 automatic looms that the Government had provided for in their Export Promotion scheme, the three labour unions had agreed to consider the introduction of 2500 automatic looms every year in 1959, 1960 and 1961. Of course, this introduction would be subject to the code of the Indian Labour Conference regarding modernization without any retrenchment.

Apart from the introduction of automatic looms, steps for carding and blow room were taken by the Government and in the introduction of spinning and preparatory stages India had the most up-to-date machinery. Next to the textile industry which consumed about Rs. 40 crores worth of foreign exchange for import of long staple cotton, other industries which consumed foreign exchange for the import of raw materials, were the engineering and chemical industries.

Shri Shah desired that these industries should be enabled to export their products through these various intensive schemes of export promotion.

Export Of Raw Cotton

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 4 the Commerce Minister, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, said that it was expected that the entire quantity of five lakh bales of raw cotton released for export during the current season, beginning from September 1958, would be exported.

The Government had recently halved the export duty for certain varieties of raw cotton. The crop estimates showed that the production of raw cotton during the current season would be of the order of 52 to 54 lakh bales, while consumption by mills might be about 45 lakh bales, he added.

Export Of Ivory Goods

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 9, the Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri said that the countries which imported ivory goods from India were, Czechoslovakia, U.S.A., Panama Republic, West Germany, U.S.S.R., Panama Canal Zone, Gold Coast, Tangier, Japan, Cuba, Canada, Belgium Congo, Libya, Norway, Hongkong, Bahrein Is., Belgium, Thailand, U.K., Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, Singapore and Burma. The figures of export of ivory goods for the years 1956, 1957 and 1958 (Jan.-Sept.) were:

Year	*Value.*
1956	Rs. 70,000
1957	Rs. 6,02,000
1958 (Jan.-Sept.)	Rs. 3,18,000

Replying to another part of the question the Minister said that it was a fact that the price of ivory had gone up considerably during the last ten years.

PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF COFFEE

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha regarding the steps taken by the Government to increase the foreign market for Indian Coffee, the Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Satish Chandra said on December 9, that the Coffee Board was supervising the classification of coffee into different grades and selecting better varieties for export.

The present arrangements for marketing and publicity, both at home and abroad were being reviewed by an Expert Committee, he added.

Out of an estimated production of 43,500 tons, for the crop year 1957-58, 43,350 tons had already been received in the Pool upto the end of the 31st October, 1958.

(c) For 1958-59 production is estimated roughly at about 44,000 tons.

PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF CYCLE

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha about the number of bicycles manufactured in India in 1957, the location and number of large-scale and small-scale units and the number and value of bicycles exported from India, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, laid the following statements on the Table of the House on December 4:

Number Of Bicycles Manufactured In 1957:

Large-scale sector	790,579
Small-scale Sector	108,823

Large-scale Factories In Production

Bihar ..	1
Bombay ..	1
Delhi ..	2
Madras ..	1
Punjab ..	6
U.P. ..	6
West Bengal ..	3

Small-scale Units In Production

Delhi ..	14
Punjab ..	22
U.P. ..	5
Madras ..	1
Andhra ..	1
West Bengal ..	8
Bombay ..	5
Rajasthan ..	4
Orissa ..	1
Madhya Pradesh ..	4

Country-wise export of cycles from India, January-August 1958

Country of export	*No.*	*Value Rs.*
Maldives	3	659
Malaya	4	820
Saudi Asabia	3	290
Afghanistan	56	7019
Nepal	2	200
Total:	68	8988

EXPORTABLE SURPLUS OF CEMENT

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, the Minister for Commerce and Industry, stated on December 2 that in the coming years, a surplus of more than two lakh tons of cement might be available for export. During the current year, it had been decided to export two lakh tons of cement to neighbouring countries like Ceylon, Pakistan, Persian Gulf Ports, Aden, Cambodia, etc. He also said that the exact quantity and the countries to which exports would be made in future would be determined from time to time.

Asked about the price of cement in the export markets, the Minister said that generally speaking, the cost of manufacture of Indian cement was somewhat higher than the cost in some of the main cement-producing countries.

Credit Facilities To Exporters

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 15, the Minister for Commerce, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, said that the Reserve Bank of India had recently brought export bills within the purview of its Bill Market Scheme. This measure was introduced to help commercial banks afford larger credit facilities to exporters.

The Minister, however, added that it was not possible to make a precise assessment as to what extent this measure would help to increase exports.

DRAWBACK OF CUSTOMS DUTY

A press note issued on December 9 says, as a measure of export promotion, the Government of India have decided to allow drawback of Customs duty paid on imported materials used in the manufacture of Public Address Equipment exported out of India. And further schemes for manufacture in bond of Punch cards and Ready-made garments from imported materials have also been authorized.

Rebate On Excise Duty

A Press Note issued on December 12 says that the procedure for export out of India of articles under claim for rebate of duty on excisable goods used in their manufacture has been extended to waterproof canvas as well.

It is already applicable to ready-made apparel, tents, sugar products, cotton bags, umbrella cloth, *chaddars*, pillow cases, table covers, embroideries, laces, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, ground sheets, cotton solar hats, cotton flannel, motor car dusters, cotton quilts, cotton scarves, cotton tapes etc.

VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 11, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Minister of Commerce and Industry, said that the total values of imports and exports during the period July 1 to September 30, 1958 were Rs. 172 and Rs. 163 crores respectively.

No targets were fixed for imports and exports, but imports and exports were allowed in accordance with the licensing policy of the Government of India, he added.

SUPPLY OF RAW FILMS

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 9, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Minister of Commerce and Industry, stated that with the measures adopted by Government, the requirements of raw films in the country would be adequately met. He also said that Government were aware of the widespread demand among the film producers, artists and the public for relaxing the restrictions on import of raw films.

Shri Shastri observed that before the introduction of restriction on the import of raw films the average import into the country had been of the order of 300 million feet a year. Of this 40 million feet a year had accounted for the requirements of the Films Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The requirement of the private sector had been therefore, of the order of 250-260 million feet a year or about 125 to 130 million feet per half year.

It had been agreed, Shri Shastri said, after consultation with the Film Federation of India that there should be an overall cut of 30 per cent in the quantum previously imported, and on this basis the total net requirements of the private sector had been placed at 90 to 95 million feet

per half year. According to the current policy of a quota of 60 per cent general and 60 per cent soft, the import per half year would be 70.75 million feet. About 40 million feet would be imported by the State Trading Corporation on rupee account.

The Minister said that about 112 million feet would thus be available against the requirement of 90 to 95 million feet. In addition, provision had been made under the Export Promotion Scheme for the grant of special licences to established importers for importing raw film to make films meant for export.

INDO-U. S. AGREEMENT ON CONVERTIBILITY

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha Shri B.R. Bhagat, Deputy Minister of Finance said on December 5, that applications for investments in India had been received from certain U.S. firms under the convertibility agreement between India and the U.S.A. He added that two such applications had been approved so far. A Statement laid on the Table of the House indicated that guarantee for a sum of $ 2,30,000 for one company had been approved by the Government of India. The firm's object is to increase the manufacturing capacity of elevators. In the second case investment guarantee had been approved for $ 3,78,000 for the manufacture of adhesive tapes, sutures, surgical plaster, baby care products, pharmaceutical products for family planning, etc.

PROPORTION OF INDIGENOUS PARTS IN AUTOMOBILES

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 11, the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, gave the percentages of indigenous parts in different main models of automobiles manufactured in India. The percentages, as in April 1958, were:

Cars	
Hindustan Ambassador	60%
Fiat '1100'	37%
Standard Vanguard	33%
Standard '10'	30%
Truck and Bus chassis	
Tata-Mercedes-Benz	53%
Dodge (Medium diesel) 165" W.B.	52%
Dodge (light-petrol) 126" W.B.	26%
Dodge Power Wagon	26%
Leyland 'Comet'	38%
Leyland Royal Tiger/Titan	9%
Jeep	
Willy's CJ-3B	58%

Purchase Of Coal Mining Machinery

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on December 10, the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel, Sardar Swaran Singh said that the National Coal Development Corporation was considering the purchase of a few items of heavy earth moving machinery, spares and workshop equipment under the U.S. Defence Excess Property Scheme. The book value of these items came to 4 million dollars, and the sale would be on a Government to Government basis and the items would be charged at 5 per cent of their book value.

Some of these items, he said, might have gone out of manufacture in the U.S.A. but could nevertheless be regarded as serviceable in Indian conditions. He added that the purchases were being made on the condition that the equipment would be found suitable after actual inspection.

Targets For Coal Production

Replying to another question the same day, the Minister said that the production of coal during the year upto the end of October, 1958, in the public and private sectors separately, were N.C.D.C. Collieries 2.99 million tons, Singareni Collieries 1.74 million tons and Private Sector 32.73 million tons. He also disclosed that a sum of Rs. 10.7 crores was likely to be spent during 1958-59 on coal production in the public sector.

The amount spent in previous years were: 1956-57 Rs. 1,04,70,000 and 1957-58 Rs. 3,32,65,000.

In answer to another part of the question he said that the targets of production both in the public and private sectors namely, 15 and 45 million tons respectively were likely to be achieved.

Coal Production In Public Sector

Replying to a question regarding the target of coal production in the public sector during the Second Plan period and the production so far achieved, Shri G.P. Sinha, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel, laid a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on December 15.

Shri Sinha said that a target of 10.5 million tons of additional production, which would raise the total production in the public sector to 13.5 million tons by the end of the current Plan period, had been entrusted to the National Coal Development Corporation (Private) Ltd.

Against the target of 0.5 million tons to be realised from the existing 11 State Collieries, an increase of 0.44 million tons over 1955-56 had been registered by the end of 1957-58.

As regards the remaining 10 million tons of additional production, with the exception of 1.2 million tons which were to be raised through new workings adjacent to the existing Kurasia and Bhurkunda collieries, the entire output had to be realised through new mines set up in virgin areas. So far, 3.5 million tons had been exposed for open cast mining and 0.12 million tons had already been raised during the last few months, he added.

BOKARO STEEL PLANT

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel, stated on December 5, that a preliminary contour survey for India's fourth steel plant under the Public Sector at Bokaro had been done. A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs was expected to be spent before the end of March 1959, he added.

Plant & Machinery For Rourkela Steel Plant

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Sardar Swaran Singh Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel, told the House on December 10 that the plant and equipment received at Rourkela site up to the end of October, 1958, was 1,94,780 tons, — 57 percent of the total — and out of this 86,676 tons had been erected. The Minister said the exact cost of this was not readily available. He also disclosed that the remaining equipment was being shipped according to schedule.

PRODUCTION OF METALS

Replying to questions on the annual production of aluminium, copper, zinc and lead, and the present consumption needs in regard to such metals and the extent of shortfall in production at the end of the Second Five Year Plan, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister of Industry, laid the following statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on December 11.

Our annual production of aluminium, zinc, copper and lead during the year ending 1st April, 1958, was, as under.

Aluminium (unwrought)	7,888 tons
Copper (unwrought)	7,734 „
Lead (unwrought)	2,270 „
Zinc (Concentrates only)	6,888 „

(Zinc metal is not made in the country at present).

The present annual consumption of all these four metals in all forms is:

Aluminium	27/28,000 tons.
Copper	45,000 „
Lead	18/20,000 „
Zinc (as metal)	50/55,000 „

The gap between our indigenous production and demand by the end of the Second Five Year Plan is estimated, as under:

Aluminium	22,000 tons.
Copper	40,000 „
Lead	15,000 „
Zinc	50,000 „

Supply Of Copper To Small Industries

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on December 3, says that according to the import policy for the period October 1958 to March 1959, the requirements of copper for small scale industrial units are to be met through canalized imports. Arrangements have accordingly been made to import sufficient quantity of copper through the State Trading Corporation.

Since it will take some time for the imports to arrive, it is proposed to continue allotments to the small scale units for the month of December 1958 from the stock with the Controller of non-ferrous metals. Allotments for the period ending November 30, 1958, were made by the Controller, and for the month of December 1958 will be made by the State Director of Industries concerned.

PROGRESS OF N. R. D. C.

The activities of the National Research Development Corporation of India have been expanding since its establishment in December 1953, according to the Fourth Annual Report of the Corporation ending March 31, 1958.

During the year 1957-58, three processes went into commercial production, 17 licences were negotiated, the new development projects involving an expenditure of Rs. 4.03 lakhs were instituted and two developmental projects were completed.

Fiftynine inventions were reported for development by 18 research institutions and some private individuals, thus bringing the total number of inventions reported upto the end of March this year to 447.

The National Chemical Laboratory, Poona, has contributed the largest number of inventions numbering 63, followed by Central Leather Research Institute, Madras (42), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Schemes (32), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (30), Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore (26), Central Electro Chemical Research Institute, Karaikudi and Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad (25 each), Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Calcutta (22), National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun and Shri Ram Institute for Industrial Research, Delhi (18 each). Out of 59 inventions, 6 were reported by the private individuals.

Five new applications were received for patents. Of these, three were from the Ministry of Defence and one each from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Some of the new projects instituted and included in the N.R.D.C. Development Projects were: refining of cotton seed oil, white cement from felspar, and fluidized bed technique for textile processing. The projects relating to pine oil and infant foods were completed. During the year under review, 17 licence agreements for the commercial development of the following 16 processes were negotiated:

Brick and Block Making Machine, New Foaming Agents for production of Low Density Foamed Concrete, Ethylene Dichloxide, Pine oil (2 licences), Mineral Wool, Electronics Multi-Tester, Demineralization of Graphite, Malted Milk and Allied Products Powder, Composite Protein Food, Infant Foods, Sealing Device for Containers, Ceramic Capacitors, Liquid Rubber and Electrolytic Cuprous Oxide.

Thirtyone processes were made available free of royalties. Fifteen Non-Technical Notes and Circulars were issued for the general public during the year.

Several enquiries about the investigations available with the Corporation were received from foreign countries. Arrangements for the dvelopment of Indian Patents in foreign countries, e.g., N.R.D.C. of U.K., Canadian Patent Department and Patent Department, T.N.O., Holland had been finalized.

The indications are that contributions of the national research efforts to industrial production are gradually becoming significant. By the end of 1957-58, plants for 4 major processes were in commercial production and commercial production of 6 major processes was expected to commence during 1958-59. With gradual acceleration in the rate of progress, 40 processes in all may be expected to be producing goods worth Rs. 3.25 crores per annum by 1960-61. This production may appear small in the context of the industrial production of 1380 crores in 1960-61, but would be significant against a commercial production of Rs. 2 lakhs in 1957-58.

Production Of News Print In Nepa Mills

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 11, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, laid the following statement on the Table of the House:

During 1955, 1956 and 1957, the actual production of newsprint by Nepa Mills was 2,563, 10,792 and 14,645 tons respectively. The Mills have rated capacity of 30,000 tons per year or 100 tons per day. The current year's rate of production is about 23500 tons per annum.

The Government of India have not, so far, invested any capital in this concern. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have invested Rs. 60 lakhs.

The distribution of Nepa newsprint is done by the Nepa Mills themselves through the agents appointed by them as well as directly to the newspapers, printers and publishers.

Complaints, if any, against the agents, are dealt with by the Nepa Mills authorities.

GOVT. COMPANIES TO DROP USE OF "PRIVATE"

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 3, Shri Satish Chandra, Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry, said that it had been decided to exempt Government companies from the requirements of section 13 of the Companies Act, 1956, under which companies registered as private limited companies had to use the word "private" in their names.

PANEL FOR LEATHER GOODS INDUSTRIES

The Panel for Leather and Leather Goods Industries was inaugurated by the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, in New Delhi on December 8.

The industry Shri Shastri said was organized mainly on a small scale, although there were a few big tanneries in Madras, Kanpur, Calcutta and Bombay. There were about 725 tanneries in the country, only 74 of which employed more than 50 workers. The industry was almost entirely in the private sector. The large units manufacturing leather and leather goods employed about 9,950 persons and their total investment was Rs. 10 crores. The small scale industry employed over 7,63,000 persons.

Government had taken a number of steps to increase the production of leather and leather goods. The import of raw hides and skins and leather and leather goods had been restricted. The export of raw hides and skins had been banned, while that of leather and leather goods had been completely decontrolled.

Footwear Industry

Speaking about the footwear industry, Shri Shastri said, the bulk of the requirements were manufactured by a large number of small scale and cottage units spread all over the country, with chief centres at Agra, Kanpur, Bombay and Calcutta. There were at present 12 large-scale units manufacturing footwear. Units employing less than 50 workers and using upto 2 H.P. power, had been exempted from the excise duty of 10% *ad valorum* imposed on footwear manufacture in the large-scale units.

Among the problems facing the industry were the need for exporting fully tanned and dressed leather, organization of proper flaying and collection of raw hides and skins, need for standardization, research and export of finished products.

Village Leather Industry

Referring to the village leather industry, Shri Shastri said, the financial assistance given to the industry increased from Rs. 3.04 lakhs in 1953-54 to Rs. 23.22 lakhs in 1956-57. Eighty-three flaying centres, 21 model tanneries and 8 training-cum-production centres were functioning at the end of December 1957. The industry had been taken up for intensive development in the village and small industries sector. The All-India Khadi and Village Industries Commission proposed to set up 3,000 flaying centres during the Second Plan. Training institutions had been started at Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and other places and a research institute had been set up at Madras.

In every State, Shri Shastri continued, schemes had been formulated to provide better credit facilities to village artisans and small industrialists. The State Bank of India had agreed to extend credit facilities to this industry in some of the pilot project areas. The State Governments were also carrying out schemes for the development of the leather industry. About 380 industrial co-operatives had already been organized. The Central and State Governments were encouraging them by purchasing their products, in some cases by giving price preference. The National Small Industries Corporation had set up a wholesale depot at Agra to stock finished goods and distribute them to different centres in the country. Machinery was also being supplied on hire-purchase. The small units had been exempted from payment of excise duty on the manufacture of shoes and other footwear. Efforts were being made to implement a voluntary scheme of quality control for East-India tanned leather.

Export Promotion

Government had taken a number of steps to stimulate exports, like the grant of rebate of duty paid on imported materials which had gone into the production of finished materials for exports, setting up of the Export Risks Insurance Corporation and Export Promotion Councils, removal or relaxation of export controls and export duties etc. Concessional rail freight rates had also been introduced for export consignments. The grant of special concession in income-tax on export performance was under consideration. The foreign exchange earnings from leather and leather goods amounted to nearly five per cent of the total earnings, he added.

INVESTMENT IN OIL INDUSTRY

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 5, the Minister of Mines and Oil, Shri K.D. Malaviya disclosed that the total investment in India in the petroleum industry was approximately Rs. 244 crores out of which Rs. 214 crores represented foreign investment and Rs. 30 crores Indian capital.

The investment included working capital in the companies distributing major petroleum products and the refineries in the country including the Assam Oil Co., which has exploration and production activities also. The Standard Vacuum Oil Company's estimate included the participatory scheme for exploration in West Bengal area.

Referring to the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase Indian capital investment in the industry, the Minister said that the Government had already made some investment. They were taking action to set up two new refineries in the Public Sector and had made considerable investment in the oil exploration programme through the Oil & Natural Gas Commission.

Government had also a 25 per cent share with the Standard Vacuum Oil Company in the participatory scheme for oil exploration in West Bengal. Government would also have 33 1/3 per cent share in the Rupee Company to be incorporated with the Burma Oil Company/Assam Oil Company as partners for production and transportation of crude oil from the Nahorkatiya Oilfields in Assam, Shri Malaviya added.

Symposium On Oil Resources

An ECAFE symposium on the development of Petroleum resources began at New Delhi on December 3. Shri K.D. Malaviya, Minister of Mines and Oil, said in the course of his inaugural address that the area available for oil exploration in India was more than 400,000 sq. miles. He also pointed out that while the Oil and Natural Gas Commission was working on exploration, much valuable work was simultaneously being done in the private sector by the oil companies.

During the symposium a sub committee was created to suggest a uniform practice for the presentation of production and other statistical data in terms of some standard units.

Steps To Check Fall In Jute Prices

In reply to a "Call Attention" notice in the Lok Sabha on the subject of the decline in jute prices Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Minister of Commerce and Industry explained on December 8, the steps which had been taken or were proposed to be taken to arrest the downward trend.

Shri Shastri observed that the production of jute and *mesta* in the country had shown during recent years an appreciable increase. In 1953-54 the production amounted to 37.47 lakh bales and the area under jute and *mesta* was about 18.84 lakh acres. The production in 1958-59 of both jute and *mesta* was estimated at 62 to 65 lakh bales and the area under cultivation was only 18.94 lakh acres. It was realized that the increased production was largely due to the special efforts made by the cultivator coupled with the assistance rendered by the Government under the Grow More Jute programme towards improved methods of cultivation, utilization of better seeds, etc.

The average price for Assam middle in 1953-54 was Rs. 29.5 per maund. The price which prevailed in the recent months for this same quality ranged from Rs. 24 to Rs. 27 per maund. Though there had been some decline in prices in the recent months, the return to the cultivator taken as a whole could not be deemed to be unduly low considering the increased production from the same acreage. Nevertheless in the interest of continuing increase in production and maintaining steadiness in price, the following measures were taken recently.

The East India Jute and Hessian Exchange fixed margins which would be payable if prices went below a certain level.

The Indian Jute Mills Association reaffirmed its intention to stick to the minimum prices for Hessian and Sacking fixed in February 1958.

The Association had also asked the member mills to increase their purchase of raw jute upto three months' consumption. The mills were later being persuaded to purchase and hold stocks upto four months' consumption.

Import of raw jute had also been considerably curtailed during this year. For a short period from the end of May upto the middle of July licensing was practically suspended. It was also decided that import of raw jute should be restricted to qualities not produced in India.

With a view to making the internal prices more stable, it was proposed to canalise the export of a limited quantity of raw jute through the State Trading Corporation.

Special measures were being taken to provide adequate wagons for the movement of jute from the producing areas to Calcutta.

From the long term point of view, consideration was also being given to the question of increasing the holding power of the cultivator by measures such as the acceleration of the programme for the establishment of cooperative marketing societies, warehouses and godowns.

HANDICRAFT BOARD MEETS

Addressing the general meeting of the All India Handicrafts Board in New Delhi on December 1, the Vice-Chairman of the Board, Shrimati Kitty Shiva Rao, said that increasing interest was being shown by foreign buyers in Indian handicrafts.

The progress made in the quality and design of Indian handicrafts had been favourably commented upon by a number of foreign visitors connected with designing and trade. At the same time, emphasis was being laid on further improvement of quality goods rather than the cheaper varieties.

Indian handicrafts, she said, have lately established for themselves a name not merely in India but in many countries abroad. Big departmental stores in Italy have recently decided to promote sales of Indian handicrafts in considerable quantities at three or four cities in that country. As a matter of fact, more interest was being shown in Indian handicrafts in the external markets than at home.

In this context, the Vice-Chairman referred to the proposed cut in the Second Plan allocation for handicrafts from Rs. 9 crores to Rs. 5 crores, and said that finances, technical assistance, designing and experimentation, were particularly required in the production of goods of high quality.

Grants For Development Of Handicrafts

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 9, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri said that the Government of India have granted financial assistance to State Governments for the implementation of specific schemes for the development of handicrafts. The amount of such financial assistance during the years 1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59 (upto-date) was, he disclosed, as follows:

	Grant. *Rs.*	*Loan.* *Rs.*
1955-56	11,52,975	7,69,250
1956-57	39,09,046	16,13,781
1957-58	43,69,655	26,29,015
1958-59 (upto-date).	30,16,053	2,40,400
Total	1,24,47,729	52,52,446

Besides this, the All India Handicrafts Board was running, the Minister added, three Centres for the production of handicrafts and the expenditure sanctioned for these Centres was as follows:

	Rs.
1955-56	25,245
1956-57	60,780
1957-58	75,950
1958-59 (upto-date)	1,18,580
Total	2,20,555

TRAINING CENTRES FOR HANDICRAFTS

The Government of India, on the recommendations of the All-India Handicrafts Board, have already made a total grant of Rs. 7.52 lakhs to the State Governments for setting up 41 of the 58 training centres approved for various handicrafts in the country.

In *Madras State*, there will be seven training centres, one each for weaving of blankets, carpets and druggets; for weaving of carpets and druggets out of sen hemp; for art metal industry; for bell metal industry; for the manufacture of fancy leather goods; for sculpture, and for the manufacture of aloe fibre products.

Bihar will have eight training centres, two of which will also be production centres, for calico printing, toy making, and the manufacture of dolls, baskets, glass bangles, papier mache goods and lacquerware and lac painted goods.

In *Andhra Pradesh*, three training centres will be for toy making, including one for Kondapalli toys at Kondapalli. The other training centres will be for ivory and horn industry and for basket making. Apart from providing aid to the Vocational School of Arts and Crafts at Dharwar, *Mysore* proposes to have three training centres for brassware, rattan crafts and wooden toys.

There will be four training centres for *bidri* industry, ivory industry, wooden toy industry and cane and bamboo industry in *Uttar Pradesh*. For Bombay training centres for sen hemp fibre industry, mat weaving and toy and doll manufacture in NES Blocks have been sanctioned.

West Bengal will have a training centre each for hand block printing, lacquerware, horn industry and mat weaving, as well as a production centre for artistic durries. In *Assam* training centres for doll and toy making, cane and bamboo industry will be set up. *Orissa* will have a training centre for filligree-cum-horn industries, the *Punjab* for carpet weaving at Palampur and *Madhya Pradesh* for dyeing and printing at Indore. In *Rajasthan*, financial assistance will be provided to the Artistic Craft Training Institute at Jaipur.

PILOT PROJECT FOR COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

It was announced on December 1 that goods worth over Rs.226 lakhs were produced in the 24 pilot projects for cottage and small-scale industries during the two years ending March 31, 1958. The projects at present cover 12,300 villages, with an area of 16,800 sq. miles and a population of six million. The following figures show the significant contributions of some of the projects. Kakinada-Peddapuram, produced Rs. 95.8 lakh worth of goods, Neyyattinkara Rs. 39.5 lakh, Bihar Sharif Rs. 25.3 lakh and Sanganer Rs. 14.8 lakh. Of the total production of Rs. 226 lakhs, goods worth Rs. 188 lakhs were marketed through co-operative and other organized agencies.

The scheme of pilot projects for cottage and small-scale industries was initiated on April 1, 1956 in 24

Community Development blocks which had entered the post-intensive phase, with the object of developing an intensive and co-ordinated programme of cottage and small scale industries by providing industrial extension service and liberal financial assistance.

The programme consists of schemes sponsored by the various all-India Development Boards, such as the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, the All-India Handloom Board, the Small-scale Industries Board, the Central Silk Board and the All-India Handicrafts Board. A few of the schemes have been directly financed by the State Governments, and also from the unspent money under the Community Development budget.

The growth of industrial co-operative societies in the pilot projects has been a marked feature of the programme. On March 31, 1958 there were 936 industrial co-operative societies with a membership of 31,000 and a paid up share capital of Rs. 9.6 lakhs. In addition, there were also 1,599 multi-purpose co-operatives functioning in the project areas, with a membership of 117,000 and paid up share capital of Rs. 33.6 lakhs.

The total amount of loans advanced by the co-operatives was about Rs. 20.6 lakhs, as against a paid up share capital of Rs. 43.2 lakhs.

Under the various schemes started in the project areas, nearly 25,000 persons secured full-time employment and 52,000 part-time employment.

Excepting the projects of Kakinada-Peddapuram in Andhra Pradesh and Nutan Haveli in Tripura, practically all the others have had arrangements for training. The number of training centres varies from project to project. On March 31, 1958, there were 148 training-cum-demonstration centres functioning in the pilot projects, exclusive of Ambar Charkha Parishramalayas which also impart training in Ambar spinning. Under the programme, 7,660 persons have already completed their training in the various crafts and 1,983 are undergoing training.

Communications

INDIAN RAILWAY EQUIPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS

Problems relating to indigenous manufacture of various items of stores required by the Indian railways which are at present being imported from abroad were discussed at the fourth meeting of the Indian Railway Equipment Advisory Committee held in New Delhi on December 2.

The Committee's members include representatives of certain Central Ministries, the engineering and manufacturers associations, the National Small Industries Corporation and representatives of manufacturers of railway equipment.

The meeting was inaugurated by the Deputy Railway Minister, Shri S.V. Ramaswamy, who expressed satisfaction that the purchases made by the railways from indigenous manufacturers had gone up from Rs. 68 crores in 1951-52 to Rs. 130 crores in 1957-58. During the latter year, he said, purchases amounting to Rs. 45 crores had to be made from abroad of items of stores which are not produced in the country or are in short supply.

Shri Ramaswamy congratulated the Committee on the work done by it in locating and assessing idle manufacturing capacity in the country for increasing domestic production of goods. A number of major items like steam locomotives, coaches, wagons and underframes were no longer being imported. He called upon Indian industrialists to assist in the development of production of stores at present imported, including rail cars, electric multiple coaches, electric signalling equipment etc. He emphasized the need for the manufacture of railway stores by small scale industries, as sole reliance on big industries alone would not result in a balanced economy.

Shri Ramaswamy disclosed that he had requested the Railway Minister to undertake "quantity budgeting" of the railways' requirements of stores. This would be a novel idea in India and the results of this, when passed on to manufacturers in the country, he felt, would enable them to adapt themselves to produce goods according to the planned needs of the railways.

Punctuality Award Scheme

Striking improvements in the punctuality of trains have been recorded in the Bilaspur region of the South Eastern Railway, as a result of a "Punctuality Award Scheme" introduced at the beginning of 1958, it was announced on December 3.

During September this year, the punctuality performance in the Bilaspur region was an all-time record, and this was further improved during the first three weeks of October.

Under the scheme, drivers and guards operating passenger trains are grouped together in closely integrated teams working in common links. The control room maintains a running record of the scores of each team, and, on the basis of daily scores, a monthly average is worked out. Cash prizes are then awarded to the team scoring the highest total in a given month. There are 37 such teams in the Bilaspur region.

DOUBLING OF RAIL SECTIONS

It was announced in New Delhi on December 12 that the Planning Commission has approved the partial doubling of the Bina-Bhopal section of the Central Railway and the Anuppur-Katni section of the South-Eastern Railway,—a total length of just over 104 miles.

The doublings have become necessary due to the increase in traffic on account of higher production in the coalfields of Central India.

On the Bina-Bhopal section, a total of 38.50 miles will be doubled — from Bhopal to Salamatpur 22.75 miles, Pabai to Bareth 11.75 miles and Bina to Bina Bridge it is proposed to double fully the 4 miles.

On the Anuppur-Kani section, track between Anuppur and Sahdol, a distance of 25.50 miles, and to double partially the Sahdol-and the Government Oil Factory, Kohzikode.

Mileage Of National Highways

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on the State-wise mileage of national highways Shri Raj Bahadur, Minister of Transport and Communications, laid on December 8 the following statement on the Table of the House:

States	*Mileage*
Andhra ..	1412
Assam ..	796
Bihar ..	1189
Bombay ..	2192
Delhi ..	44
Himachal Pradesh ..	222
Jammu & Kashmir ..	328
Kerala ..	260
Madyha Pradesh ..	1404
Madras ..	1050
Manipur ..	98
Mysore ..	536
Orissa ..	851
Punjab ..	795
Rajasthan ..	450
Sikkim ..	39
Uttar Pradesh ..	1423
West Bengal ..	933

Indian Ships For Import Of Machineries From U.S.A.

An announcement made on December 2, in a Gazette of India Extraordinary says that the United States authorities have, at the request of the Government of India, agreed to waive in part the requirement of using ships registered in the United States for the import of machine tools and machinery under the United States Export-Import Bank Programme.

This cargo can be shipped in vessels registered in India upto 50 per cent of the total movement. By this procedure the Indian importers will be availing themselves of Indian tonnage for the purpose of importing machinery and machine tools under the programme.

BROADCAST OF TIME SIGNALS

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 4, Dr. M.M. Das, Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, said that it was proposed to broadcast time signals on a frequency of 10 mega cycles on an internationally accepted schedule, in about two or three months time. He explained that the maintenance of standard frequency and standard time to a high precision was one of the normal functions of a standard laboratory like the National Physical Laboratory and this laboratory had been maintaining them for some years, and the precision was being constantly improved. He added that it was proposed shortly to utilize one of the transmitters of the Overseas Communications Service under the Ministry of Communications to broadcast the time signals.

Accurate time signals are important for scientific and other purposes, such as, study of propagation of radio waves, longitude determination, navigation by ships and aeroplanes, etc. On account of distance, signals from foreign stations are feeble and their reception is difficult and uncertain.

The building at Kalkaji in the grounds of the Overseas Communications Service, for which a sum of Rs. 70,000 was provided, is ready and the precision quartz clocks and the equipment for inter-comparison of these clocks have already been installed. Part of equipment consisting of the special quartz crystals and time control units costing Rs. 1,25,000 have been imported. Further expenditure that will be involved will be that of maintaining the station only.

There are at present 10 stations in the world which are broadcasting time signals on an international schedule. But, there is a large gap between the stations at Tokyo in Japan, Lower Hutt in New Zealand and Turin in Italy, and the initiation of the broadcast services from Delhi will bridge this gap. It is accepted international procedure that signals from other stations are used by each station to achieve a high degree of accuracy.

Food & Agriculture

FISH PRODUCTION & FISHERIES RESEARCH

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 4, the Minister of Food and Agriculture stated that the Central Fisheries Extension Units have assisted the State Governments of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Mysore and Delhi in the following activities: for increasing fish production in the country; locating spawn and fry collection centres; organizing supply of spawn to deficit States; demonstrating improved methods of pisciculture, techniques for induced spawning of major carp; use of modern fishing gear and improved methods of fishing in reservoirs and inshore waters and improved techniques of fish preservation and utilization of fish by-products; training Block Development Officers and village level workers in Community Development and National Extension Service Blocks; popularizing modern and improved techniques for increased fish production by organizing talks, cinema shows, issuing of pamphlets and participating in melas and exhibitions.

Central Fisheries Technological Research Station

The Central Fisheries Technological Research Station was established at Cochin (Kerala) in August 1957. It undertakes investigations on the various aspects of fishery technology, namely, study and design of nets and other gear likely to prove suitable to our waters, both in-shore and off-shore; investigations on materials for the making of twines, nets etc., suitable materials for tanning and preservation of nets, and different kinds of anti-fouling composition for boats and vessels; and training of fishermen and others in improved methods and techniques of boat con-tsruction.

A Processing Wing has been added to the Technological Station with effect from September 4, 1958, and the following research investigations are proposed to be carried out in this Wing.

Investigations on the processing of fish; investigations on utilization of fish products, such as fish oils, fishing glass, guano, fish-meal, fish glue etc., utilization of sea weeds and other marine products; and evolving commodity standards and grades for various fishery products and basis for a system of fish inspection to ensure good quality of fish and fish products for sale in the markets.

There is a provision of Rs. 20.30 lakhs for this project under the Second Five Year Plan.

Extraction Of Oil From Sardines

Investigations on improving the method of extraction from oil Sardines so as to get better yield, and also to improve the quality of oil are in progress at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Station, Mandapam, State Fisheries Technological Research Laboratory, Kozhikode and the Government Oil Factory, Kozhikode.

Zonal System Of Food Movement

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 12, the Minister of Food and Agriculture said that in order to minimize smuggling of rice from the Northern Rice Zone a five-mile no-movement belt was created in October last in the Punjab along the border of that State with the States of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. A similar belt was created along the borders of Andhra Pradesh and Mysore with the States of Bombay, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa with the object of preventing the smuggling of rice from the Southern Rice Zone in November, 1958.

To take adequate steps to prevent unauthorized movements of foodgrains from one Zone to another was the responsibility of the State Governments concerned, he added.

PURCHASE OF RICE IN SOUTHERN ZONE

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, the Minister of Food and Agriculture said on December 9 that in the Southern Rice Zone, the Government of India had purchased rice only in four of the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. The quantity of rice purchased by and actually delivered to the Central Government was about 1,69,000 tons from January 1, 1958 up to November 30, 1958.

The rice procured in Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere went to the Central Storage. Allotments were made there from by the Centre to the States in accordance with their relative needs. During the current year up to the end of October, 1958, about 8000 tons of rice was supplied to the State of Madras and about 68,000 tons to Kerala State, said the Minister.

Procurement Of Rice In Punjab

In a written reply to a question Shri A.P. Jain, Minister of Food and Agriculture, said in the Lok Sabha on December 4 that the Punjab Government had been authorized to procure rice on behalf of the Government of India by a system of levy on licensed dealers and millers. The millers were required to sell to the State Government 75 per cent of the stocks of rice held by them at the commencement of the order and 75 per cent of the daily production thereafter. The rice procured under the levy system would be paid for at the controlled prices notified for the State of Punjab.

Foodgrains Allotted To Punjab

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on the allocation of food-grains to the Punjab during 1958, the Minister of Food and Agriculture said on December 12 that as both were in surplus in that State, it was not considered necessary to allot foodgrains to the Punjab during the year 1958 in order to supplement the grain locally available. However, about 3,400 tons of wheat were allotted from Central Government stocks up to the end of November, 1958, for distribution in the hilly areas of the State.

Replying to another question, the Minister said that the stock of rice held in Central depots situated in the Punjab, as on November 1, 1958, was about 1,900 tons. Out of the total quantity of rice procured in the Punjab, about 89,750 tons were transported from the State to different places during the 12 months ending October 31, 1958.

Wheat Prices In U. P. Fixed

For controlling the rise in prices and preventing the hoarding of wheat in the State of Punjab, the Central Government have issued a notification under the Essential Commodities Act, according to an announcement made on December 5. The notification directs that the price at which wheat shall be sold in any locality in the State of Punjab shall be the average of the price during the three months preceding the date of the issue of the notification.

This notification will remain in force for a period of three months.

CONTROL OF WHEAT PRICES IN PUNJAB & M. PRADESH

To control the rise in price and to prevent the hoarding of wheat

in the State of Uttar Pradesh the Central Government issued a notification under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, according to an announcement on December 1.

The notification said that the price at which wheat should be sold in any locality in Uttar Pradesh should be the price which was the average price of that commodity during the previous three months preceding the date of the notification.

The notification would remain in force for a period of three months.

Wheat From Australia Under Colombo Plan

The Government of Australia supplied in October, 1958, about 9.45 thousand tons of wheat costing approximately Rs. 31 lakhs, as a gift under the Colombo Plan, said the Minister of Food and Agriculture, in a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 1.

NUMBER OF LICENCED RICE MILLS

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, the Minister of Food & Agriculture gave the following figures on December 10:

Andhra Pradesh has 4905 rice mills registered or licensed upto October 1, 1958 of which 1217 were set up after April 1, 1957. The number of rice mills registered or licensed in other States upto October 1, 1958 and the number of such mills set up after April 1, 1957 respectively, are as follows:

Assam 257 and 90; Bihar 1268 and 263; Bombay 3159 and 82; Kerala 2078 and 282; Madras 7206 and 437; Madhya Pradesh 1486 and 470; Orissa 102 and 13; West Bengal 500 and 6; Delhi 1 and 1; Tripura 5 and 14; Manipur 46 and 3;

Punjab has 1200 licensed rice mills, Uttar Pradesh 1294 and Rajasthan 3.

RELIEF TO WATER-LOGGED AREAS IN U. P.

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Shri A.P. Jain, said on December 10 that the sowing of Rabi Crops had been delayed in a number of districts in Uttar Pradesh owing to heavy rains.

To expedite the sowing of the crops by the removal of water from the fields, the Central Government had given Rs. 19.5 lakhs to Uttar Pradesh in January, 1958 for expenditure on drainage schemes during 1958-59. This amount was recently supplemented by a further provision of Rs. 20 lakhs, the Minister added.

RESEARCH & AGRICULTURE

KILLER FOR SUGARCANE PEST DISCOVERED

The Sugarcane Research Laboratory, Lucknow, has succeeded in its search for a parasite to destroy the notorious top-borer caterpillar which is responsible for the annual loss of 20 per cent of the sugarcane crop of India, it was announced on November 20. No other insecticide had yet proved effective in controlling this pest.

The Lucknow Sugarcane Laboratory undertook to find out a parasite to kill this pest in the beginning of this year. In March 1958 some larva of a parasite 'Melwa Arnetipenis', indigenous to the western districts of U.P., were sent to Pugalur in the Trichinopoly District of Madras for experimental purposes. With the collaboration of the sugar factory there, field tests were undertaken and the parasites were introduced in a farm heavily infested with the top-borer caterpillars. The parasites proved very effective in killing the caterpillars and it was estimated that by the end of the last month 70 per cent of the caterpillars were destroyed.

Symposium On Tropical Fruits

Shri A. P. Jain, Minister of Food and Agriculture, inaugurated an international symposium on the "Origin, Cytogenetics and Breeding of Tropical Fruits" on December 1.

Jointly organized by the Government of India and the Horticultural society of India in collaboration with the U.N.E.S.C.O. the symposium formulated the future breeding programmes of tropical fruits.

River Projects & Power

AID TO ANDHRA FOR IRRIGATION SCHEMES

In a written reply to a question Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, stated in the Lok Sabha on December 12 that the Andhra Pradesh Government requested for an additional allotment of Rs. 2 crores for improvements to Kurnool-Cudappa Canal and Rs. 1.27 crores for the Rajolibunda Scheme.

An additional provision of Rs. 74 lakhs — Rs. 40 lakhs for the Kurnool-Cudappa Canal and Rs. 34 lakhs for Rajolibunda during 1958-59 had been agreed to by the Planning Commission, of which, Rs. 24 lakhs for the Rajolibunda scheme would be the Central loan assistance, provided the remaining amount was contributed by the State Government.

Irrigation Facilities Under Major Projects

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 9, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, said that the targets of additional area to which irrigation facilities were to be provided under major irrigation schemes during 1956-57 and 1957-58 were 1.66 million acres and 0.72 million acres respectively.

The area which benefited from these supplies during 1956-57 was 0.71 million acres. Complete information for 1957-58 was not available, he added.

Education & Culture

ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Committee set up by the Education Minister in September last to review the programme of activities of the All-India Council for Secondary Education and to examine the present set-up of the Council and recommend its future reorganization, has suggested that the Council should be reorganized to function as an Advisory Body representing all the States and other interests in the field of Secondary Education.

It has also suggested that a separate Directorate should be set up under the Ministry of Education which will function as an attached office of the Ministry and discharge all advisory and executive functions performed at present by the Council.

The other recommendations of the Committee are:

(1) Sufficient powers should be delegated to the newly constituted directorate and adequate flexibility should be retained in the operation of the Field Advisory Service; (2) if necessary, a Standing Committee of the Advisory Council might be set up along with other technical committees; (3) the Ministry should examine the feasibility of setting up regional units for more effective implementation of the activities of the Council, and (4) the Field Advisory Staff should be drawn from State Governments on deputation for specified periods. The deputation should be for a maximum period of 3 years, ensuring adequate representation among all States without prejudice to the efficiency of the Field Advisory Staff.

The inquiring Committee reviewed the programme and activities of All India Council for Secondary Education and generally agreed that the activities so far undertaken by the Council had served a useful purpose.

The Committee also felt that the important work of review and evaluation of the progress of Secondary Education throughout the country still remained to be done. It, therefore, stressed the need that this work should be dealt with expeditiously and the Government should conduct the review and evaluation as early as possible.

The Committee's recommendations in regard to some other activities of the Council are:

The Committee expressed its satisfaction at the work done by the Extension Service Centres in revitalizing the attitude of the teacher and the methods of teaching through their in-service training programmes. The Committee thought that the report on the evaluation of this project would give a better idea of the working of the project and that the report should be made available at an early date. The Committee recommended that there should be greater co-operation between the Extension Services and the State Governments

The Committee noted that while the seminars organized by the Council on general and special subjects had served the teachers by making them aware of the problems involved, the time had come when such seminars should be organized on a regional and district level, giving maximum possible opportunity to as many teachers as possible.

The Committee recommended that the scheme to establish Science Clubs should be expanded and co-ordinated with schemes for improvement of science teaching at the elementary stage.

The Committee felt that great emphasis should be put on the conversion of the High Schools into Higher Secondary schools and the concept of the multi-purpose schools needed to be more clearly understood.

MULTI-PURPOSE SCHOOLS

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 10, Dr. K. L. Shrimali the Minister of Education said that so far 1042 multipurpose schools had been opened in different States. Of these 378 were in West Bengal, 164 in Bombay, 135 in Madras, 112 in Kerala, 43 each in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, 38 each in Rajasthan and Mysore, 30 in Madhya Pradesh, 25 in Bihar, 17 in Assam, 8 each in Jammu and Kashmir and Tripura and 3 in Orissa.

Replying to another part of the question, the Minister said that a student passing from a Higher Secondary Multipurpose School could take up the three-year degree-course straightaway, whereas a student 'matriculating' from an ordinary secondary school would have to take the four-year course, or attend one year's pre-University course, before taking the three-year degree course.

In answer to another question on the same subject, the Minister said that the progress in regard to the conversion of secondary schools into multi-purpose schools would be achieved during the Second Plan period.

TRAINING OF TEACHERS FOR TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 10, Dr. M.M. Das, Deputy Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, said that five centres had been selected for the training of graduate teachers

for technical institutions. These were: Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; Bengal Engineering College Sibpur, Howrah; College of Engineering Poona; Roorkee University, Roorkee; College of Engineering, Guindy, Madras. Selection of centres for the training of Diploma-teachers was under consideration, he said.

As to the steps so far taken by the Government to implement the scheme for training of teachers for technical institutions, arrangements were being completed for the implementation of the scheme, he added.

Improved Courses For Technical Education

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 15, Dr. M. M. Das, Deputy Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, said that the All India Council for Technical Education had framed courses in Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Mining and Chemical Engineering; Metallurgy; Textile Technology; Architecture; Commerce; Applied Art; Management Studies, and Printing Technology. He said that the courses had been framed primarily as a model for the organization and improvement of technical education in the country. He felt that they were serving that purpose in a very useful manner in respect of courses conducted both at polytechnics and at university institutions.

The Minister further added that all State Governments had recognized the National Diploma in Engineering awarded by the All India Council for Technical Education as equivalent to a university degree for purposes of appointment to superior posts and services. The National Certificate was recognized for subordinate posts and services.

The National Diploma in Commerce was recogniezd as equal to B. Com. degree by all State Governments excepting Bihar, Bombay and Assam.

The question of recognition of the Diploma was under the consideration of these three State Governments.

Dr. Das also disclosed that the Inter-University Board had decided that universities might permit the holders of National Diploma to do post-graduate courses, if they were satisfied with the capabilities of individual candidates concerned.

Vocational & Technical Trades

Under the Craftsmen and Displaced Persons Training Scheme, 22,273 persons were undergoing training in various vocational and technical trades at the end of October 1958, as compared with 21,973 at the end of previous month, it was announced on December 4.

Of the total number of trainees at the end of October, 1,855 were displaced persons and 789 women. Besides, under the Apprenticeship Training Scheme, 574 displaced persons were receiving practical training in production work in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

There were 324 instructor trainees at the Central Training Institutes at Koni-Bilaspur and Aundh, and 29 women instructor trainees at the Industrial Training Institute for Women at Delhi at the end of October.

Assistance From U.S.S.R. For Technical Education

An agreement between India and the U.S.S.R. designed to promote further development of economic co-operation between the two countries was signed in Moscow on December 12. The agreement provides for the supply of equipment as a gift to India from the Soviet Union, amounting to a sum of Rs. 36 lakhs for the laboratories of physics, electrial engineering, radio engineering and television, eletronic devices, geodesy and central scientific and technological research at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. The Institute, the second in the chain of the four higher technological institutions being established by the Central Government, has already been receiving considerable assistance in the shape of equipment and professors through UNESCO from out of the Soviet contributions to the U.N.O. Fund.

The agreement also provides for the training of 50 Indian engineers in the U.S.S.R. for a period of two to three years with the object of strengthening the teaching staff in the various technical institutions in the country. The entire cost of training which will commence in 1959 will be borne by the Soviet Government. A large number of the trainees will be drawn from among bright graduates of Indian Universities, who on completion of their training in the U.S.S.R. will work as teachers in the technological institutions. A number of Soviet professors and teachers will also be deputed to India to work on the teaching staff of the Indian institutions. It is expected that this measure will greatly help in relieving the shortage of highly qualified technical teachers in the country.

The agreement further contemplates publication in India of selected Russian text books in engineering. The Government of the U.S.S.R. has undertaken to make available to India translation into English of such text books as may be selected for the purpose.

GERMAN ASSISTANCE FOR MADRAS INSTITUTE

Replying to a question on the nature of assistance to be given by the Government of West Germany for setting up the Higher Technological Institute at Madras, the Minister of Scientific Research & Cultural Affairs, Shri Humayun Kabir, said in the Lok Sabha on December 2, that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany had agreed to provide the following assistance in the establishment of a higher technological institute at Madras:

(i) workshop and laboratory equipment and library; total value not exceeding DM 15 million (or approx. Rs. 1.8 crores).

(ii) 20 German professors to serve at the Institute for a period of about 4-5 years.

(iii) 4 German foremen for the workshops of the Institute for a period of not less than two years.

(iv) Facilities for the training of 20 Indian teachers in German institutions.

The construction of the building, the Minister added, would start as soon as the detailed plans, which were under preparation, were ready. It would take about five years for all the buildings of the institute, staff quarters and hostels to be completed.

Efforts, he said, were being made to admit the first batch of students in July-August, 1959.

U. N. Social Welfare Fellowships

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education in New Delhi on December 4 says that the United Nations have offered five to seven fellowships for observation abroad in any of the following fields during 1959:—

Social development (general); social welfare administration, community, family and child welfare, migration, social defence, rehabilitation of the handicapped, housing and town and country planning, population, statistics and research and human rights and fundamental freedom. The duration of each fellowship is normally from three to six months.

INDIAN STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, the Union Minister of Education, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, said on December 2, that according to the latest available information, the number of Indian students studying or receiving training in the U.K., the U.S.A., Germany and the U.S.S.R. as on 1.1.58 was 3,850, 3010, 1,129 and 113 respectively.

Replying to another part of the question, the Minister stated that the students proceeding abroad under the various schemes of the Government of India were selected for higher studies/training only in such subjects in which adequate facilities were not available in the country.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HARIJAN STUDENTS

All Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students who pass their annual examination are receiving Government of India scholarships for further studies, says an announcement of December 4.

Since this scheme came into being in 1952-53, the number of candidates had been increasing by almost 10,000 per year. It was 20,658 in 1954-55, 31,451 in 1955-56 and 39,485 in 1956-57. When the initial scheme of granting scholarships to the Scheduled Caste students was started the number of awardees was only 114.

The grants have also progressively increased, from Rs. 15 lakhs in 1951-52 to Rs. 200 lakhs in 1957-58. Since 1952-53 the increase has been to the tune of almost Rs. 40 lakhs per year. The total expenditure incurred, since the commencement of the scheme, is Rs. 592 lakhs.

Since last year, the system of making *ad hoc* payments through the Heads of Institutions has been started. This enables the students to carry on their studies till their applications for scholarships are sanctioned. The *ad hoc* payments made to a student is later adjusted in the scholarship amount.

The scheme of scholarships to the Backward Classes, originally confined to the Scheduled Castes, was extended in 1947 to the Scheduled Tribe students as well. In 1949 the students of other Backward Classes also became eligible for these educational grants.

From 1954-55, Overseas Scholarships were started and six candidates received them in the first year. The number of scholarships was increased to 12 per year from 1955-56. Provision has also been made for the grant of free sea passage to 12 students who obtained merit scholarships for studies abroad from foreign governments or under the schemes of the Government of India.

Aid To Dependents Of Political Sufferers

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Dr. K.L. Shrimali said on December 5, that the details of the scheme to grant educational concessions to dependents of political sufferers had been worked out. These concessions would be given from the next academic year. The estimated expenditure on the scheme, Dr. Shrimali thought, would be about Rs. 6 lakhs for the year 1959-60.

The Central Government would bear 50% of the expenditure incurred by the States and the entire expenditure incurred by the Union Territories in implementing the Scheme, Dr. Shrimali added.

According to the Minister's statement laid on the Table of the House, the scheme would provide, *inter alia*, the following benefits:

(a) special consideration in the matter of admissions and awards of studentships and half-fee in all recognized institutions;

(b) free seats in hostels attached to recognized institutions; and

(c) a limited number of stipends and book grants to scholars from the primary to the post-graduate levels.

The concessions would be admissible to:

(i) children of Political Sufferers and grand-children of pre-deceased sons of Political Sufferers.

(ii) Political Sufferers whose income does not exceed Rs. 300/- p.m.

For the purpose of this scheme the term "Political Sufferer" was defined as follows:

Political Sufferer means a person who suffered imprisonment or detention of not less than 6 months, or who died or was killed in action or in detention, or was awarded capital punishment, or became permanently incapacitated due to firing or lathi charge,

etc., or lost his job or means of livelihood or a part or the whole of his property on account of participation in the national movement for the emancipation of India.

The scheme would be administered by the State Governments /Union Territories. The Government of India would give subsidies to the State Governments so that half the expenditure incurred could be met with this, while the subsidies to Union Territories would meet the entire expenditure incurred by them.

AID TO MEDICAL COLLEGES

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 12, Shri D.P. Karmarkar said that the provision of Rs. 6.5 crores made in the Second Plan for the establishment of new Medical Colleges and for the extension of the existing ones has already been allocated.

Financial assistance, he added, was sanctioned according to the following pattern:

Establishment of new Medical Colleges

Non-recurring Rs. 80 lakhs for 100 admissions, i.e., Rs. 80,000 per admission. Central assistance would not exceed 75% of this ceiling.

Recurring Rs. 8000 per student. Central assistance would not exceed 50% of this amount.

Expansion of existing medical colleges

Non-recurring Rs. 60,000 per student, Central assistance should not exceed 75% of this amount.

Recurring Rs. 8,000 per student, Central assistance should not exceed 50% of this amount.

The Government of India would not give any financial aid in respect of admissions exceeding 100 in any medical college.

It had been decided to give financial assistance for the establishment of the Medical College, Kurnool, and the Medical College, Bikaner on an *ad hoc* basis, as follows:

Medical College, Kurnool:

Rs. 15 lakhs for the purchase of equipment; and a sum not exceeding Rs. 7 lakhs during the plan period from October, 1957 to March, 1961 for meeting 50% of the recurring expenditure on the College.

Medical College, Bikaner:

The Government of India agreed to pay a grant-in-aid of Rs. 4.8 lakhs spread over a period of three years on the basis of 50% of Rs. 8,000/- per student for 40 admissions per anum.

The entire expenditure on the Medical College, Pondicherry, was being borne by the Central Government.

The following grants had been sanctioned to the various State Governments during 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59 in respect of the expansion of medical colleges and establishment of new ones.

The Minister further said that during 1958-59, according to the new procedure, three-fourths of the total amount of Central assistance would be released to the State Governments by the Ministry of Finance in nine equal monthly instalments beginning with May, 1958, as ways and means advances and final sanction for the grants would be issued by the Ministry of Health only in the later half of February, 1959.

A sum of Rs. 140.5 lakhs had been provisionally allocated as Central assistance to State Governments for the expansion of Medical colleges and establishment of new ones during 1958-59.

Payment would be made to the State Governments in accordance with the formula mentioned above during 1959-60 and 1960-61 also, he added.

RESEARCH ON CLOUD PHYSICS

In reply to a question, Dr. M. M. Das, Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, disclosed in the Rajya Sabha on December 1 that the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research had set up a Rain and Cloud Physics Research Unit in New Delhi to conduct fundamental research on cloud physics, specially in relation to mechanism of rain formation in clouds.

The object, Dr. Das added, was to utilize the knowledge so gained for exploration of the potentialities for rain-making in this country. A fully satisfactory technique for artificial inducement of rain in clouds, under meteorological conditions obtaining in tropical areas, such as India, was yet to be developed he said.

STUDY OF SOUTH INDIAN LANGUAGES

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 15, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, laid a statement on the Table of the House outlining the various steps being taken for the promotion of the study of South Indian Languages in the North Indian Universities.

According to the statement, the Universities of Aligarh, Banaras and Delhi have made provisions for the teaching of South Indian Languages with financial assistance from the University Grants Commission. The Universities of Aligarh and Banaras are making arrangements for the teaching of Tamil and Telugu and the University of Delhi is pursuing plans to provide for the study of Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. The proposals of the Universities of Saugar for the teaching of Telugu and of the University of Bombay for the teaching of Tamil and Malayalam on a sharing basis with the University Grants Commission are under examination of the Commission.

The University of Agra has provision for courses in Tamil, Telugu and Kannada in the Institute of Hindi Studies. The University has made a proposal for the re-organization of the Departments of Tamil, Telugu and Kannada at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,16,900/- (R) and Rs. 81,000/ (NR) during the remaining part of the Plan period. The consent of the University/State Government to its share on the additional cost has not yet been received from the University by the University Grants Commission.

The University of Gujarat has a scheme for the introduction of Kannada. The scheme is yet to be finalised.

The University of Calcutta has provision for examination in South Indian languages at the under-graduate stage and Colleges sometimes make arrangements for the teaching of these languages according to requirements.

The schemes of the Central Universities viz., Aligarh, Banaras and Delhi are to be wholly financed by the University Grants Commission, while the proposals of the State Universities are to be financed by the University Grants Commission at 50 per cent of the recurring and 66 2/3 per cent of the non-recurring expenditure. The balance of the recurring and non-recurring expenditure is to be met by the State Government/University.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF N. C. C.

The National Cadet Corps celebrated its tenth anniversary on December 7, 1958.

The National Cadet Corps was established by an act of Parliament in 1948 and thirty-five thousand boys and girls from schools and colleges joined the Corps during the year of its inception. The present strength is 1,80,000 — six times the figure of enrolment in the first year.

In addition, the Auxiliary Cadet Corps, a sister organization which was started in 1953, commenced with an initial strength of 5,000 cadets. It has so far taken in 8,00,000 junior school cadets from all over the country, irrespective of sex or class distinctions. The organization has expanded rapidly and there is a proposal to upgrade the head of the Corps to a Major-General. In the early stages a Colonel was the Director of the Corps.

There are fourteen circles of the Corps throughout the country to service schools and colleges in all the States. But there is no compulsion in joining the force. Naval and Air Wings and a separate Girls Wing were added to the Corps during the course of these five years and the activities of these wings have grown. More and more facilities for Naval and Air training are now available to the cadets and the Army Wing has various types of units like the Infantry, Armoured squadrons, Artillery batteries, Engineer platoons, Signal sections, Medical companies and Electrical and Mechanical Engineer sections. Visits to foreign countries of N.C.C. Cadets have been sponsored and these have been reciprocated by other countries. Adequate reservations have been made in the Armed Forces for direct entry of N.C.C. Cadets into the Army, Navy and Air Force.

A sum of Rs. 65 crores has been earmarked for their expansion during the Second Five Year Plan. It is planned to raise the strength of the N.C.C. to 3½ lakhs during this period at a total cost of Rs. 27 crores, to be shared equally by the centre and the States. Likewise the target set for the A.C.C. enrolment is 20 lakhs at a total cost of Rs. 38 crores, out of which approximately Rs. 8½ crores would be shared by the Centre.

To train the NCC and ACC cadets there is a nucleus of regular Armed Forces Officers, Junior Commissioned Officers or Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers. They act as guides and instructors and maintain a close supervision at all times. But the main responsibility of training the cadets in the colleges and schools devolves on their professors and teachers who are given appropriate pre-commission training at a special NCC Officer Training Centre located at Kamptee and are thereafter commissioned as Officers in the National Cadet Corps.

FACILITIES FOR IMPORT OF BOOKS

The Government of India have decided to continue during the current import licensing period — October 1958 to March 1959 — the concession to importers of books and periodicals announced in July 1957.

Under the concession applicants seeking import licences for books and periodicals are exempted from the payment of licence fees. They are also not required to submit income tax Verification Registration or Exemption Numbers in their applications.

Health

SCHEME TO DEVELOP AYURVEDA

The scheme for the development of Ayurveda, including the Homoeopathic, Unani and Nature Cure systems of medicine, included in the Second Five Year Plan, was being implemented and would continue up to the end of the Plan period, said Shri D. P. Karmarkar, Minister for Health, in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 9.

The Minister added that Central assistance was given on the following basis during the Plan period: (i) to meet the recurring cost of maintenance of research beds in selected institutions for approved research schemes upto a maximum of Rs. 2,000 per bed per annum, (ii) for ad hoc research schemes on the merits of each scheme, and (iii) for the improvement of the existing teaching institutions and for the establishment of new teaching institutions in States.

Central assistance was given for the improvement of such teaching institutions which have been included in State Plans. The pattern of Central assistance for that purpose was 75 per cent of the non-recurring expenditure (including the cost of expansion of college buildings) subject to a ceiling, and 50 per cent of the recurring expenditure on the college (and not the hospital) during the Second Plan period.

MALARIA INCIDENCE IN DELHI

In reply to a question on the increase in the incidence of malaria in Delhi this year Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Union Health Minister, said on December 1, that prompt action was taken to spot all fever cases in the affected villages by house to house visits and all those who had symptoms of malaria were treated. The situation was now fully under control. In pursuance of the Eradication Programme in the area, action had also been taken to intensify the control measures to afford complete coverage and to prevent transmission.

The Minister added that Government had investigated the causes of the increase. These were:

(1) Extraordinary heavy rains;

(2) Intermittent floods;

(3) Inhabitants of villages in the area three miles north of Delhi and especially residents of Burari village, situated on the right bank of the River Jamuna, evacuating with their animals to the urban areas;

(4) Villagers returning from the neighbouring villages, which were not under the Malaria Control Programme of Delhi Administration, after the recession of the floods; and

(5) The difficulty of the existing staff of the anti-malaria organization to cope with the continuously increasing construction on all sides.

T. C. M. Grant For Malaria Eradication

The United States Technical Cooperation Mission has given a grant of Rs. 2.8 crores, to the Indian Malaria Eradication Programme, it was announced on December 2. This has brought the U.S. contribution to the scheme to Rs. 4.8 crores for this fiscal year and its total contribution since the inception of the programme, to Rs. 23.77 crores. The latest U.S. grant was in continuation of Indo-American cooperation in the malaria programme with which the United States has been associated since its beginning in 1952.

With the new dollar aid, India will import about 7,000 long tons of DDT insecticide, 450 jeeps and jeep trucks, 720 microscopes, 5 million chloroquin tablets, and books and laboratory equipment.

Delhi Health Schemes

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 10, Shri D. P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, gave details of progress of schemes for the construction in Delhi of a State Health Laboratory, a Health Centre at Mehrauli and a Hospital building at Shahdara, and expansion of the Hindu Rao Hospital.

He said that all the four schemes were in the process of being transferred to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi from the Delhi Administration.

PAEDIATRIC CENTRE FOR BOMBAY

The Union Ministry of Health has approved the establishment of a paediatric centre in Bombay since the existing facilities for teaching paediatrics in the various colleges in the State are not adequate. The Centre will be located in the J.J. Group of Hospitals and the Grant Medical College, Bombay. It will be set up with assistance from the Union Government.

It was proposed to open five paediatric centres under the Second Plan. Two centres, one each in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, have been functioning for some time.

NEW INSECTICIDE DEVELOPED

Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad, has developed a process for making insecticide by chlorinating turpentine, which compares favourably with D.D.T. as regards pesticidal action, said Dr. M.M. Das, Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, in reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 1.

The cost of production of this insecticide, the Minister added, was estimated to be about Re. 1.00 per lb. The present sale price for technical D.D.T. was Rs. 2.25 nP. per lb. The Minister said that arrangements for commercial development of the material were in hand.

In reply to another question he said that the raw material needed for the production of this insecticide was available in India.

Social Welfare

PROGRESS OF CENTRAL SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD'S SCHEMES

Fifty-six Welfare Extension Projects (Urban) have been sanctioned in various States by the Central Social Welfare Board and some of them have started functioning. These form a part of the 100 projects to be started during the Second Plan period, for providing welfare services in crowded areas of large cities. The assistance of many organizations, like Social Service Leagues, the Red Cross Society, the Bharat Sewak Samaj, and others have been enlisted for this purpose. 72 integrated Welfare Projects in Community Development areas have been sanctioned. Of these 4 are in Stage I Blocks.

The Board has also sanctioned so far 28 schemes for condensed courses for training women both for School Final and Middle School Examinations, required as a basic qualification for their becoming Gram Sevikas, midwives etc.

The Bharat Sewak Samaj has completed all preliminary arrangements for setting up night shelters in cities for the helpless, and have submitted 11 schemes in this behalf for nine towns. These are now under consideration of the Board and the shelters are expected to start functioning shortly.

Economic Schemes

One hundred and sixty craft instructors are now being trained in Ambar Charkha in six different Vidyalayas. The second batch of craft instructors is being trained at the Handicrafts Training College, Bombay. This training is part of the scheme for starting economic programmes in the Welfare Extension Projects which will provide gainful work during leisure hours for women with family responsibilities.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has so far sanctioned nine production units with two or three different schemes for each Unit under the After-Care Scheme of the Board. These Units are being attached to After-Care Homes to train inmates in selected crafts and to help them to earn an income while staying at home. Twenty-four Homes and 46 district shelters where new entrants come in and stay before being sent on to a Home, have also started functioning.

Survey Of Handicapped

The Ministry of Education has requested the Central Social Welfare Board to undertake a survey of handicapped persons in the Welfare Extension Project areas, so that rehabilitation services can be planned for them. A questionnaire has been prepared by the Board, which is being circulated to the Project Implementing Committees, which will get this survey done through the project personnel.

SOCIAL WELFARE IN THIRD PLAN

The Central Social Welfare Board at its 23rd meeting held in New Delhi, on December 4, 1958, considered the progress of various welfare programmes under the Board. The meeting was presided over by Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh, Chairman of the Board.

One of the important subjects that was considered by the Board was the preparation of a blue-print of the social welfare programmes for the Third Five-year Plan period. It was also decided to request the Planning Commission to set up a Committee consisting of the representatives of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Community Development, Planning Commission and the Central Social Welfare Board with the officials of State Governments in charge of Welfare programmes for women, children and the handicapped to prepare a comprehensive Plan for Social Welfare for these groups.

Further, during the meeting, the future set up of the welfare extension projects of the old pattern and the integrated type was taken up. To give effect to the idea of democratic decentralization it was decided that suitable steps should be taken from now onwards to encourage the setting up of independent Mahila Mandals and strengthen them suitably in order to make them competent to take up the work as and when it devolves on them, possibly by the end of the Second Plan.

The Board then reviewed the progress of the After-care schemes sponsored by the Board, and undertaken by the Home Ministry in co-operation with the State Governments. The progress under this scheme was found very discouraging due mainly to technical, administrative and financial difficulties at the State level and due to the difficulties arising in the day to day administration of these Homes with powers inadequately delegated to the Managing Committees.

The Board decided to request the Ministry of Home Affairs to take effective steps to see that their instructions to the State Governments were strictly followed. It also decided to request the Minister for Home Affairs to take up these matters at meetings of the Zonal Council.

Provision For Slum Clearance Scheme

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Shri K. C. Reddy, Minister of Works Housing and Supply said on December 9, that the original provision of Rs. 20 crores for slum clearance schemes aided by the Union Government was likely to be reduced as a result of the re-appraisal of the Second Plan. The value of 102 slum clearance projects sanctioned till then, he disclosed, was about Rs. 8.94 crores. The States and Union Territories drew Rs. 51.20 lakhs during the first two years of the Second Plan and a sum of Rs. 2.23 crores from the Centre was now at their disposal for the implementation of the Scheme during the current financial year.

According to the revised scheme, three-fourths of the year's allocation would be given by the Centre to the States as advance in nine equal monthly instalments which would be adjusted at the end of the financial year, on the basis of actual expenditure incurred by the States.

TRANSIT CAMPS FOR SLUM DWELLERS

The Delhi Development Authority proposed to set up transit camps for people living in the slum areas, announced Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, in the Lok Sabha on December 9.

The Minister added that the places where these camps would be set up were: Bhagh Amba area off old Rohtak Road (Serai Rohilla); Padam Chand's land opposite Bagh Amba (Serai Rohilla); Andha Mughal; and Industrial Area near Moti Nagar on Najafgarh Road.

These camps were to have 288 tenements. The tenements were proposed to be allotted to persons evicted from the slums in the Nabi Karim Area, but however, he said, if any of the residents of the 'Dujana House' chose to go to any of these sites they would be shown preference.

Family Planning Boards In States

Family Planning Boards have been formed in all States, except Jammu and Kashmir, according to the progress report on the Family Planning Programme for the month of September, 1958. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Kerala, Madras, Mysore, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have appointed full-time family planning officers.

Up to September, 1958, the total expenditure, including the amounts sanctioned and advances made to State Governments, was about Rs. 17.81 lakhs.

Sixty seven rural and 20 urban clinics in Madhya Pradesh, one urban clinic in Bombay and six urban clinics in Kerala were opened during the month. The total number of clinics set up so far is 812.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR D.P.S. OF EASTERN ZONE

The decision to set up industries in refugee townships/colonies by giving certain facilities to the industrialists to set up industries in these areas was taken in 1953. Rs. 75 lakhs were provided for 1954-55, and Rs. 100 lakhs for 1955-56. In the Second Plan period, a provision of Rs. 560 lakhs has been made for the Eastern region.

For setting up medium industries Government assistance is given by making available suitable factory sites, electricity and water supply, and advancing loans upto 50 per cent of the value of fixed assets in the shape of land, buildings and machineries to be installed by the industrialist.

The industrialist is bound to employ, as far as possible, workers from among the displaced persons.

Twenty three medium industrial schemes involving Government expenditure of Rs. 296 lakhs have so far been sanctioned. These industries are expected to provide employment to about 12,000 displaced persons. Six of these are already functioning and the rest are in various stages of completion. About 3,000 displaced persons have already found employment.

In addition, small and cottage industries are being set up in refugee townships/colonies since a decision to that effect was taken in 1956. These industries are set up through the agency of private companies, individual entrepreneurs and Cooperative societies and the West Bengal Government.

In the case of cottage industries, financial assistance is given only to D.P.s. While in the case of small industries, assistance is given also to non-displaced persons provided the majority of beneficiaries are D.P.s. Production centres in small-scale and cottage industries are intended to be transferred ultimately to co-operatives. In all these cases, heavy government aid is provided in the form of grants, loans, technical training etc.

In the Eastern Region, 120 schemes of small/cottage industries and production centres involving an expenditure of Rs. 95.82 lakhs have been sanctioned.

It has now been decided to set up the "Rehabilitation Industries Corporation" with capital provided by Government, which in turn will set up industries on its own or in partnership with private enterprise. It will also take up allied activities such as the running of training and apprenticeship institutions.

Family Planning Clinics In Second Plan

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 12, Shri D. P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that there was no specific scheme to establish family planning clinics districtwise in the country although all districts were likely to be covered under the present scheme.

It was proposed that 500 well equipped and staffed centres should be opened in urban areas and 2,000 in rural areas during the Second Five Year Plan period. It was also proposed that as far as possible a family planning clinic should be opened in each maternity and child welfare centre, primary health centre, dispensaries, hospitals and medical teaching institutions.

In rural areas, the centres were to be associated with the existing primary health centres. Each centre would normally cover a population of 50,000.

The Minister also gave details of staff requirements, expenditure and pattern of assistance for rural and urban centres.

GRANTS FOR FAMILY PLANNING

The Union Ministry of Health has revised the pattern of sanctioning grants to voluntary organizations for the opening or maintenance of family planning clinics in rural areas, says an announcement of December 5.

According to the revised scheme, grants will be sanctioned to clinics in rural areas opened by voluntary organizations at the rate of 100 per cent of the actual recurring expenditure incurred during the entire period of the Second Five-Year Plan.

Grants will continue to be sanctioned at the rate of 100 per cent for the first year and 80 per cent for the subsequent years of the Second Five-Year Plan to family planning clinics of voluntary organizations in urban areas. Grants for free distribution of contraceptives and at subsidized rates will continue to be given at the rate of Rs. 1,500 for one year both for the rural and urban clinics.

MADRAS SCHEME OF FAMILY WELFARE

In a written reply to another question Shri D. P. Karmarkar said that according to available information the Government of Madras had instituted the following schemes of steriliztion:

(i) Scheme for payment of subsidy to selected private medical practitioners in Madras city for vasectomy operations for a period of one year. The rate of subsidy was Rs. 25 per operation for a period of 12 months from the date on which a surgery was first approved for subsidy under the scheme; the rate was to be reviewed and revised from year to year. The subsidy was restricted to cases of operation on persons with an income of Rs 200 and less per mensem.

Under the scheme, four private medical practitioners having enough surgical experience and nursing home facilities had been appointed.

(ii) Scheme of payment of special remuneration of Rs 2 for each case operated to the canvassers and tutors in family planning to canvass and send cases of vasectomy to approved surgeries or Government hospitals.

(iii) Scheme in Madras city called the 'Madras City Public Employees' Family Welfare Scheme, under which concessions had been extended to public employees in Madras City, seeking surgical methods of family planning. Under this scheme, public employees in Madras city who had attained the age of 32, in the case of men, and 26 in the case of women, and who had not less than three living children were eligible to avail themselves of the concessions extended under the scheme. For men undergoing vasectomy operation a cash grant of Rs. 15 each, and for women undergoing salpingectomy operation a cash grant of Rs. 25 each was payable under this scheme. To perform vasectomy operation under this scheme, two surgical teams had been set up — one at the Government General Hospital and the other at the Government Stenley Hospital, Madras. As salpingectomy was being performed usually immediately after delivery and as the medical units in which such patients were admitted for confinement were performing the operation on willing patients, no separate surgical unit for salpingectomy was being set up under this scheme.

(iv) The Director, Indian Institute for Population Studies Madras, was directed to conduct an attitude survey of fathers under the Madras City Public Employees' Family Welfare Scheme for which a sum of Rs. 1,500 was sanctioned as grant.

Labour & Employment

FINDINGS OF COURT OF INQUIRY INTO CHINAKURI ACCIDENT

The report of the Court of Inquiry, which investigated the Chinakuri Colliery accident of February 19, 1958, published on December 6 in a Gazette of India says that the death of many workers in the mine was, in all probability, due to asphyxiation caused by an outburst of methane from a hidden splinter seam. The Court was of the view that this must have happened about 20 or 30 minutes before an explosion occurred in the mine. The explosion might have been caused either by a flame shooting out from the loco inlet or a smouldering piece of cloth in one of the two lamps found in one of the workings. Either of them could have ignited an explosive mixture of methane and air. Coal dust must have played its part in the propagation of the explosion. The second and third explosions, which occurred the next day, must have also been due to methane.

The Court, in its report, has stated that the danger, whatever it was, must have been too sudden and unexpected to allow the workers to save themselves by running away from it. This led to the conclusion that either of the two things must have happened, viz., that the men must have been suddenly overpowered by carbon monoxide or that there was a sudden drop of oxygen in the air from an unexpected emission of gas. Had the men been overpowered by carbon monoxide, the report says, there would have been some movement among them, however slight, before they actually succumbed. The fact that there was none, made it more probable that this danger was caused by a sudden shortage of oxygen in the air, which could only have been due to sudden release of gas under pressure, the released gas displacing the normal air.

Breach Of Bye-Law

The Court has held that the management had contravened the Loco Bye-law 3(2), which provides that "no locomotive shall be used underground unless it is of a type approved by the Chief Inspector by order in writing and unless it is maintained in its designed condition." The designed condition of a locomotive used in a mine, the report says, evidently included the provision of a flame-trap on the inlet side, which, however, on examination in this case, was found missing. The owners had stated that they were misled by the flame-proof metal label rivetted in the body of the loco and by the instruction in the manual, which referred to the flame-trap, and that they installed the loco underground in good faith. But another instruction in the manual stated that, when fitted, air inlet flame-traps require cleaning every 50-60 hours weekly. The report points out that evidently there was no such weekly cleaning, for the very first attempt to clean it would have led to the discovery of the absence of flame-trap. The Court has held that the fact that the suppliers had rivetted the flame-proof certificate in the body of the engine, without fitting the flame-trap on the inlet side, and at the same time did not inform the owners beforehand of this, could at best be held an extenuation but not a full condonation of the breach of the conditions under which locomotives were permitted to be used.

As for making the owners pay at least a part of the cost of inquiry, the Court refrained from making any order to that effect as it had not been able to arrive at a definite finding that the accident was due to any carelessness or negligence on the part of management. The report says that the management had no responsibility for the outburst of gas which they could not foresee or prevent, and as regards the source of ignition, it was not possible to fix definitely the source.

Inspection Reports

During the inquiry, the Court found that proper steps were not always taken in time to dilute the gas. The inspection reports further revealed that coal dust was not properly cleaned at certain areas and that stone dusting arrangements were not always satisfactory. Also, the registers of explosives and the attendance registers were not maintained properly and there was a certain amount of perfunctoriness in the entries in the inspection reports.

The Court also felt that the need for a competent ventilation officer, as required by the regulations, is obvious.

The report says that in the light of the output figures made available to the Court, it could not be said that the management was anxious to increase production even at the cost of safety of workers.

As regards the charge of negligence on the part of Mines Inspectorate, the report says, the inspection reports placed before the Court disproved this. There was no occasion for the Inspectorate to take any drastic action against the owners as the latter rectified as promptly as possible any defect pointed out to them.

Rescue Operations

The Court has held that the rescue team did not take sufficient air samples from the underground workings which they visited, and that it would have been useful if sufficient air samples had been taken. It has suggested that sample equipment should be part and parcel of the breathing apparatus donned by the leader of a rescue brigade. The court, however, has paid tribute to 'those who guided the rescue operations under extremely difficult conditions.'

Regarding sealing operations, the report says that although the sealing was imperfect, it was impossible to say, all things considered, that the management was wrong in deciding to seal off all the openings except No. 2 pit or that the Department of Mines was wrong in advising the management in that direction.

The Court has held that the decision to flood the mine after the incident was right and proper.

Although no amount of stone-dusting could have prevented coal dust in playing its part in propagating the methane explosion, the Court has suggested that further research was urgently called for on methods of preventing propagation of coal dust explosion.

Recommendations

The Court's major recommendations are:

(a) In all gassy mines, an automatic recording water gauge should be fitted to the main fan at the surface. This will help to show if there is an outburst of gas. Besides, it will help to show whether there are any unusual conditions in the mine;

(b) in gassy mines, especially where the seam appears to have less than its normal thickness, bore holes should be put down upto a distance of 10 ft. periodically over 100 yards to explore whether there is an approaching seam or whether there is excessive liberation of gas;

(c) no apparatus should be accepted as certified flame-proof without the report of the engineer or the representative supplying the equipment that he has personally seen that it is properly assembled and is in safe condition. It should be made illegal to attach the official flame-proof label to the equipment unless it is rendered flame-proof with flame-traps and similar devices and is in order;

(d) appointment of one or more mechanical engineers to the staff of the Mines Inspectorate is urgent since mine mechanization is now proceeding apace. The Inspectorate should be strengthened particularly with specialists in ventilation, strata stresses, explosions etc;

(e) the new regulations regarding ventilation, especially those relating to analysis of the mine air and the appointment of a ventilation officer should be implemented without delay;

(f) there should be a rule compelling the taking of air samples by rescue teams;

(g) a mine should be divided into convenient zones to be approved by the Regional Inspector of Mines, and mine dust samples of each zone should be taken and tested at least once a month.

(h) the Central Mining Research Station should carry out further research on the suppression of coal dust explosions. Similarly, it should undertake work on prevention, prediction, control and minimizing of dangers of outbursts and on methane drainage with a view to increasing safety in mines. The Research Station should be fully equipped to carry out all kinds of research, investigations and testing of mining equipment.

INDIAN EMPLOYEES IN FOREIGN FIRMS

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on December 12, an analysis regarding the employment of Indians in the foreign owned/controlled industrial and commercial concerns in India shows that as on January 1, 1958, the employment of Indians in these concerns, on salaries of Rs. 1000 and above, has further increased, both in absolute numbers and in terms of percentages. The position of Indians in the pay groups of Rs. 1000 and above, since 1947 is shown below:

Year	Indians	Percentage	Total
1947	504	7.9	6,348
1948	742	10.4	7,102
1949	1,085	13.9	7,794
1950	1,406	17.0	8,277
1951	1,784	20.4	8.737
1952	2,290	24.4	9,394
1954	3,346	32.3	10.354
1955	3,995	37.0	10.805
1956	4,685	41.6	11,251
1957	5,614	48.2	11,639
1958	6,704	54.3	12,356

The percentages in the total "wage-bill" paid to Indians in each of the five salary groups is mentioned below:

Salary Groups	Indians	Total
Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500	16.1	19.2
Rs. 1501 to Rs. 2000	8.5	13.8
Rs. 2001 to Rs. 3000	8.2	22.7
Rs. 3001 to Rs. 5000	4.3	26.5
Rs. 5001 and above	0.9	17.8
Total (All Salary Groups)	38.0	100.0
	(Rs. 108.44 lakhs)	(Rs. 285.41 lakhs)

Foreigners held more than half but less than three-fourths of the posts in the following six groups of foreign companies as on January 1, 1958: (i) Plantation and Allied Companies (74.4%), (ii) Jute Mills and Presses (72.9%), (iii) Banking (68.3%), (iv) Transit and Transport (55.2%), (v) Other Minerals, Building Materials etc. (53.0%), and (vi) Managing Agency Companies (51.0%). On January 1, 1957 there were seven groups of firms in this category.

The proportion of foreigners is less than half in the remaining 14 groups of companies, viz. (i) Other Agents, Merchants, Shippers, Import/Export firms (49.2%), (ii) Automobile Dealers and Manufacturers (49.1%), (iii) Insurance companies (48.1%), (iv) Sugar and Breweries (44.0%), (v) Machinery, Equipment, Tools, Engineering etc. (40.9%), (vi) Cotton Mills and Presses (38.0%), (vii) Printing Publishing, Stationery and Allied Trades (37.1%), (viii) Metals including Iron and Steel (31.7%3, (ix) Oil Companies (7.7%), Leather, Rubber (Trading and Manufacture) (22.0%), (xiii) Public Utility Companies (21.9%), (xiv) all other Miscellaneous Companies (41.3%).

Of the total of 5652 foreigners employed in foreign controlled concerns in 1958, 4927 (87.2%) are British. Americans constitute 3.5 per cent, their number being 200 in 1958. Italians, Germans, Australians, Chinese, Norwegians and Ceylonese have recorded small increases in their number as against a diminution in the number of Britishers, Americans, Swiss, Greeks, Danish, French, New Zealanders, Dutch, Swedish, Austrians, Czechs, Japanese and Pakistanis.

ILO CONVENTION ON EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

The Government of India have decided to ratify the I.L.O. Convention regarding the Organisation of Employment Service, it was announced on December 7. Th Convention was adopted by the International Labour Conference at its session in June, 1948.

The Convention, in the main, provides that member States should maintain a free public employment service consisting of a system of employment offices under the direction of a national authority. The Service should, among other things, ensure effective recruitment and placement, facilitate labour mobility, collect and analyse employment market information, co-operate in the administration of unemployment insurance and assistance, and also help in social and economic planning.

The present position in India satisfies the provisions of the Convention.

The Convention could not be ratified earlier as the Employment Service Organization in India was hitherto on a temporary basis. The Shiva Rao Committee, in its report submitted to Government in 1954, recommended that the Employment Service Organization should be placed on a permanent footing and the day to day administration of the employment exchanges transferred to the State Governments. Accordingly, the administration of the exchanges was transferred to the State Government in November, 1956. The authority for declaring the service permanent in the States devolved on the State Governments, who have agreed in principle that the service should be made permanent. Besides, the Central and the State Governments have agreed that not less than 60% of the posts in the employment service should be made permanent.

The Convention has so far been ratified by 25 member nations of the I.L.O.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES FOR COAL FIELDS

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.N. Misra, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Union Labour Minister, stated on December 3 that the Governments of West Bengal and Bihar, with the concurrence of the Government of India, have sanctioned the opening of employment exchanges at Asansol for the Raniganj coal fields and at Jharia for the Jharia coal fields respectively.

EMPLOYEES STATE INSURANCE SCHEME

In reply to a question in the employers' special contribution during 1957-58 to the Employees' State Insurance Scheme and their contribution upto the end of that year after the enforcement of the scheme, Shri Abid Ali, the Minister of Labour stated on December 4 that consolidated amounts of employers' special contribution were as follows:

For 1957-58, Rs. 2,83,41,328.
Since the enforcement of the Scheme upto the end of the year 1957-58, Rs. 12,63,83,769.

Insurance Exemption For Delhi Workshops

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 11, Shri Anil K. Chanda, Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply said that the four workshops of the Central Public Works Department located in Delhi have been exempted from the provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948. The facilities already provided by the C.P.W.D. for the workers in these workshops were considered to be substantially similar to those which were available under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, he added.

Labour Dispute Cases In Supreme & High Courts

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 3, Shri Abid Ali, Union Deputy Minister of Labour, said that the number of cases of labour dispute pending in the Supreme Court or High Courts in the country for over one year was 189. There were 69 cases pending for over 2 years. The number of cases of labour dispute pending for over 3 years was four, and those pending for over 4 years, three. This information, however, related to Administrations of Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Manipur, and the States of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Kerala, he added.

LOANS TO STATES FOR HOUSING

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, Shri K.C. Reddy, said on December 8, that since the inception of the Low Income Group Housing Scheme in November 1954, the Central Government had disbursed upto March 31, 1958, a total amount of Rs. 2,251.07 lakhs to the State Governments and also that total amount allocated to the State Governments for 1958-59 was Rs. 580 lakhs.

State-wise the amounts (in lakhs of rupees) of loans disbursed and allocations respectively were: Andhra Pradesh 149.97, 50.25; Assam 45.67, 14.75; Bihar 85.25, 47.00; Bombay 269.92, 122.00; Jammu & Kashmir 41.80, 24.50; Kerala 14.00, 22.00; Madhya Pradesh 199.66, 24.00; Madras 129.59, 37.25; Mysore 180.84, 33.00; Orissa 27.30, 8.50; Punjab 493.25, 53.00; Rajasthan 129.42, 26.50*; Uttar Pradesh 387.20, 76.25 and West Bengal 97.20, 41.00.

*This did not include the sum of Rs. 7.00 lakhs allocated to the Rajasthan Government as a result of diversion of funds from the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme to the Low Income Group Housing Scheme.

All India Consumer Index For October, 1958

The Consumer Price Index Numbers for Working Class (base shifted to 1949=100 except where otherwise indicated) increased at 9 centres, declined at 6 and remained stationary at 3 during October 1958.

According to the Labour Bureau, Government of India, the maximum of 9 points was recorded by the index number for Mercara (base 1953=100), which stood at 128. The index number of Satna (base 1953=100) appreciated by 7 points to 117, for Jabalpur by 5 points to 113, for Dehri-on-Sone by 3 points to 112, for Delhi and Ajmer by 2 points each to 119 and 113 respectively, and for Akola, plantation centres (base January to June 1949=100) and Beawer (base August 1951 to July 1958=100) by one point each to 106, 114 and 108 respectively.

In this group of centres, the food group index numbers appreciated at 8 centres, the fuel and lighting group index numbers at 3 centres, the clothing group index numbers at 6 centres and the miscellaneous group index numbers at 2 centres.

The index number for Monghyr declined by 5 points to 107, for Gauhati and Tinsukia by 4 points each to 105 and 123 respectively, for Cuttack by 3 points to 118, and for Jamshedpur and Berhampur by one point each to 130 and 119 respectively.

In this group of centres, the food group index numbers declined at all the 6 centres, the fuel and lighting group number at 4 centres and the clothing and the miscellaneous group index numbers at 3 centres each.

The index number for Silchar, Ludhiana and Bhopal (base 1951=100) remained stationary at 112, 99 and 118 respectively.

The provisional index numbers for Jharia and Kharagpur stood at 113 and 122 respectively.

All India Index

The provisional all-India index appreciated by 2 points to 123 during October, 1958. The final all-India Index for September, 1958, was 121.

Consumer Price Index For Delhi For November

The rising trend shown by the consumer price index number for working class for Delhi (base shifted to 1949=100) since May, 1958, is continuing, according to an announcement of December 9. During November, the index number further appreciated by one point and stood at 120.

According to the Labour Bureau, Government of India, the food group index number advanced by 2 points, which was the net result of a rise in the prices of wheat and potatoes and a fall in the prices of rice and *dal urd*. The fuel and lighting group index number appreciated by 6 points due to a rise in the price of firewood. The group index number for clothing advanced by 3 points due to higher quotations for long cloth and shirting. The miscellaneous group index number receded by one point due to lower quotations for *pan supari*.

On base 1944=100, the consumer price index number for Delhi for November was 158.90 as compared with 156.60 for the previous month.

On base shifted to August 1939=100, the estimated consumer price index number for Delhi for November was 414.41. This was 6.00 points higher than the figure for October.

The States

GRANT FOR DELHI CORPORATION

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Shri B. N. Datar, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, said on December 11 that a grant of Rs. 147 lakhs was being made by the Government of India to the Delhi Municipal Corporation pending examination of its finances with a view to determining the grants to be made by the Centre.

He also said that a special officer had been appointed for the job and he was expected to submit his report by March 31, 1959.

The breakdown of grants is: Rs. 70 lakhs to enable the Corporation to meet the expenditure on institutions and services transferred to it from the Delhi Administration; Rs. 50 lakhs to enable the Corporation to balance its current year's budget and Rs. 27 lakhs which were being offered to the erstwhile local bodies now merged within the Corporation, for education, public health, etc.

Apart from these grants, the Corporation would be paid a sum of about Rs. 145 lakhs, being the net proceeds of entertainment, betting and terminal taxes; payment of collection charges for terminal tax and the Corporation's share of the Motor Vehicles Tax. These figures, the Minister said, did not include loans sanctioned to the Corporation for various purposes.

Administrative Set Up In Delhi Reorganized

According to a recent announcement made in New Delhi, the reorganized administrative set-up of the Delhi territory, with only three Secretaries, came into being from December 1, 1958. Further adjustments, if any, will be effected in the light of experience gained after three months of its working.

The purpose is to make the transaction of Government business more efficient and speedy. The rationalization will also bring about necessary changes which are required because of the constitution of the Delhi Municipal Corporation to which certain functions formerly performed by the Administration have been transferred.

In the new re-organized set-up the Finance Secretary will be responsible for financial advice to the Administration, budget preparation and control, scrutiny of taxation proposals, excise and entertainment tax, registration, stamps and transport.

Closed Mills Run By State Government

In reply to a question the Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Satish Chandra, stated in the Lok Sabha on December 3, that two each of the four closed cotton textile mills had been taken on lease by the Governments of Kerala and Bombay. Three of these mills had been taken over with the approval of the Courts. The fourth mill also had originally been taken over under a Court Order in 1953. But since 1956, the taking over had been in terms of a mortgage deed between the State Government concerned and the mill Company, he added.

CLOSURE OF RICE MILLS IN ANDHRA

Replying to a question on the reasons for the general stoppage of working of the rice mills in Andhra Pradesh towards the end of September, 1958, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, said in the Rajya Sabha on December 3 that the reasons as alleged by the Andhra Pradesh Rice Millers' Association for the stoppage of work were: unjust levy of the Central Sales Tax; unjust cuts imposed by the Joint Director (Food), Vijayawada; assessment of Income Tax on mere imaginary estimates; unjust assessment of Sales Tax on the basis of muster rolls; and, the sudden requisitioning of the entire stocks of rice/paddy since September 16, 1958.

There was, the Minister said, no fixed target for the procurement of rice in Andhra Pradesh. The Government of India's objective was to purchase the net surplus of the Southern Rice Zone, after free trade within the Zone had met all the demands of the four States which comprise the Zone. From January, 1958, a quantity of about 1,69,000 tons had so far been purchased by and delivered to the Central Government at prices ranging between Rs. 15.50 and Rs. 20.00 per maund, inclusive of the cost of gunnies, he added.

Assent For Andhra Bill

The Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) (Andhra Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 1958, has been assented to by the President, it was announced on November 17.

Reduced rates of rent in respect of land held by ryots were sanctioned under the Madras Estates Land (Reduction of Rent) Act, 1947. Due to delay in notifying the new rates and other causes the old rates continued to be levied in several cases. The result was that landholders got amounts in excess of what was due to them.

The Bill has been promoted to enable the State Government to recover from the amounts paid as compensation the excess amounts collected by or paid to landholders.

ASSENT FOR ORISSA BILL

The President has given assent to the Orissa House Rent Control Bill, 1958.

The Bill seeks to protect tenants from being ejected or compelled to pay inequitable rent. The interests of house owners are also safeguarded against non-payment of rent and mis-behaviour by tenants.

House rent control legislation enacted in the State in 1950 ceased to be in force in January 1956. Since then the accommodation problem has become acute particularly in the urban areas.

Defence

PRIME MINISTER OUTLINES INDIA'S DEFENCE POLICY

Intervening in the debate in the Lok Sabha on December 5 on a non-official resolution recommending that a Parliamentary Committee assisted by technical experts be set up to suggest changes in the existing pattern of military expenditure in view of recent scientific and technical developments, the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, said that the Government should not, and could not accept resolutions which involved roving inquiries about almost every subject that might possibly be connected with defence as such inquiries could be actually harmful to the country's defence.

Explaining the Government's broad approach to the question of defence, with special reference to the criticism that no adequate provision had been made for civil defence, he admitted that it was true that no particular measures had been taken for providing for what was called civil defence. There had been various proposals, and he had consistently vetoed them. He had done this not because he was complacent, but because the whole idea of civil defence was completely out of date. It was no use having civil defence in one place; it must be country-wide. This would involve the expenditure of vast sums of money for unproductive purposes which the country could ill-afford. Expenditure apart, this indicated the approach of a people who were frightened and panic-stricken, an approach that should be avoided.

Referring to the question of building India's sea-power, the Prime Minister said that the Government realized the importance of sea-power — not merely from the point of view of any big war, but from other points of view. It was clear that a country with a huge sea-coast, like India, must not be helpless on the sea. It was after very careful consideration, he said, the Government had decided to buy an aircraft-carrier. Since a large sum of money was already involved in purchasing it, there was no intention to get another. This aircraft-carrier was sufficient to give training to our people.

About the promotions of some officers recently made in the armed forces, Shri Nehru said, the Indian Army was not adequately officered and the top people were heavily worked. The position was that either they had to keep themselves in touch with their forces or they had to sit and do office work. But competent Generals doing office work all the time, losing touch with the Army, was not a good thing.

Military Aid To Pakistan

Supplies of armament and equipment to the defence forces, the Prime Minister pointed out, ultimately depended mainly upon the nation's capacity for heavy industrial production. We had to buy ships and other things, because, frankly, we could not afford a gap between supply of essential equipment and the rise of an emergency. We have had to change our plans much to our distaste several times and spend money which we would rather have used on industrial development on purchasing things which we would rather not have purchased. We had to do this because of the military aid which was being given to our neighbour country. This aid had become so big that it became a threat to India's security. Obviously, we could not take too much of a risk. So we had to divert monies which would have gone towards development and other immediate purchases. Our military budget had gone up considerably last year because we bought a considerable number of aircraft. The Government had also occasionally considered the question of purchasing aircraft from the Soviet Union. But the difficulty in our way at that time was that it meant a completely separate establishment to be put up for them, involving special training for our people in the use of their aircraft. While this could perhaps be done on a long-term basis this could not be done in a short-term way.

It is a matter about which two opinions might be held, even amongst us. In the balance, the Government came to this conclusion, but there was absolutely no bar in their minds for doing otherwise. However, the main thing was our capacity to construct it ourselves. We were already making fairly good progress in the Hindustan Aircraft Factory, he said.

Answering the criticism why the defence industry should make any civilian goods, Shri Nehru observed that there was nothing wrong in it so long as it could make it competently and well. We were only utilizing thereby our normal factories to the best advantage. There were excellent people — technicians, engineers and skilled workers— and the Government had been forced in the past to think in terms of retrenchment, because there was no work for them to do. There were also excellent machines at which they could work. So, about a year ago, it was decided to embark definitely on a plan of expansion. Of course, the idea was an old one, but the Government had pressed the plan of enlarging and expanding defence production wherever they could. A number of conferences had been held with the technicians and engineers in the defence forces and the question had been discussed thoroughly.

Referring to India's broad policy in regard to defence, the Prime Minister said, in one sense it it was clear that in this atomic age no country could defend itself. We, in India, certainly could not. We did not possess them nor did we propose to have them. But even in an atomic war there was a kind of defence that we could indulge in. If a hydrogen bomb was dropped we would first of all think in terms of defence and not offence. It was unlikely that we would have bombers to bomb a place a thousand miles away. We were just not interested. We would rather have something which could function near our frontiers, to defend them if necessity arose, and not go very far. That applied also to the Navy, Air Force and the Army. But in this atomic war, we would expect, apart from the horror and disaster caused, an invasion could not take place by hydrogen bombs. An invasion could only be made by land forces which could be resisted on land. In other words, we might not be able to defeat the enemy, but we could make it terribly hot for him. That was why it was thought that with a competent Army like ours, equipped only with conventional weapons, it could be done.

Secondly, there had always been a risk of some conflict with our neighbour country. The Government had been convinced that there was very little chance of such a conflict for a variety of reasons. They were also convinced that most people in Pakistan realized that. Nevertheless, there was this risk of attack from outside. One could not afford to ignore it.

When the Canberras were purchased last year, the appraisal of the situation was that there was danger to the security of our country. The later appraisal was that if we had these bombers, the danger would not arise at all. All this was guess work and nothing happened. But still no body could say what would have happened if we had not got them. So, to some extent, our defence requirements had been conditioned by these factors.

All the money spent on purchasing anything, whether it was aircraft or ships or guns or ammunition, might be in a sense, wasted. But it was not wholly a waste, either, because it provided an insurance against risks. In times of war it would not be possible for us to get supplies of equipment or spares from outside.

Indigenous Production Of Weapons

Real security came, however, from producing our own weapons and it was better to produce second-rate weapons ourselves than rely on first-rate weapons from abroad. That was our whole outlook. Of course, first-rate weapons as the world produced today, India could not afford. The sort of weapons that we bought from other countries were more or less the discarded ones. Other countries had gone to new types of secret weapons which they did not sell. The weapons which they discarded were good enough for us.

The main thing was the building of an industrial base, even at the risk of having second-rate weapons, provided we produced them ourselves. That was India's broad policy, a policy based on defence only and not on offence. Of course, politically this policy was co-ordinated with a policy of friendship with other countries. This policy of friendship itself was a greater insurance than anything else.

AUXILIARY AIR FORCE

Officers and airmen of the No. 53 (Madras) Squadron of the Auxiliary Air Force passed out at a ceremonial parade on December 14. This was held at the Meenambakkam airfield, Madras, where the Squadron is based.

The Madras Squadron is the second unit of the Citizens' Air Force whose pupil pilots, technical officers and airmen in six different technical trades, have successfully completed a two-year course of training. This squadron was raised on April 1, 1956, and, after the recruitment of its personnel, it was formally inaugurated on October 7 the same year. The other squadron to have completed the flying and technical training of its initial batch of officers and airmen so far is the No. 51 (Delhi) Squadron of the Auxiliary Air Force.

Since the establishment of the Auxiliary Air Force, five squadrons have been raised at Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Allahabad. As recommended by the Central Advisory Committee for the Auxiliary Air Force, these squadrons, on completion of their two-year training, are expected to be subsequently equipped with jet aircraft.

The Auxiliary Air Force was constituted in pursuance of the Reserve and Auxiliary Air Force Act passed by Parliament in August 1952. Under the Act, three categories of reserves have been formed. The Regular Reserve comprises officers and airmen of the regular Air Force who have since gone out of the Service on release or retirement. The second type, the Air Defence Reserve, consists of all flying and technical personnel associated with aviation in the country, but not directly connected with the regular Air Force. Civil aviation from which source personnel for this category of reserves are normally drawn has been nationalized and, therefore, it automatically becomes complementary to our Air Force under the Act.

The third category, the Auxiliary Air Force, is expected to raise its squadrons in other capital cities of India besides Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Allahabad, where they have already been raised.

Apart from a small number of regular officers and airmen to be employed on instructional duties, these Auxiliary units are manned and eventually are to be commanded entirely by civilian personnel drawn from amongst the permanent or semi-permanent residents of the city or the locality where the squadron is based. The officers and other ranks of those Auxiliary Squadrons will continue to follow their normal professions. Flying training, as well as the technical training for servicing and maintenance of aircraft and equipment, is imparted to Auxiliary personnel in the evenings and during week-ends and holidays.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

DECEMBER 1 TO 15

December 3 — President leaves New Delhi for Calcutta on his way to Malaya and Indonesia

— ECAFE Smyposium on Petroleum resources of Asia and the Far East is inaugurated in New Delhi

4 — Prime Minister inaugurates the fourth conference of Flying Clubs in India in New Delhi

6 — President arrives in Kuala Lumpur by plane on a two-day State visit to the Federation of Malaya

7 — The tenth anniversary of the National Cadet Corps is celebrated all over the country

8 — President arrives in Jakarta from Malaya on a twelve-day State visit to the Republic of Indonesia

11 — Prime Minister of Norway, Mr. Einar Gerhardsen, leaves Bombay by plane for Oslo, Norway

13 — The fourth All-India Handicrafts Week Celebrations are inaugurated in New Delhi

14 — In the Inter-State Athletic meet held in New Delhi, Shri Guldara Singh of Eastern Railway wins the Marathon race in two hours, two minutes and 24.8 seconds, creating a new national record

— Another national record is created by Shri Ramachandran of the Southern Railway in the Pole Vault when he cleared 12 feet six inches

15 — Shri Nandu Natekar wins the Men's Singles title in the National Badminton Championship in Gauhati

— Shri Sushila Kapadia wins the Women's Singles title in badminton.

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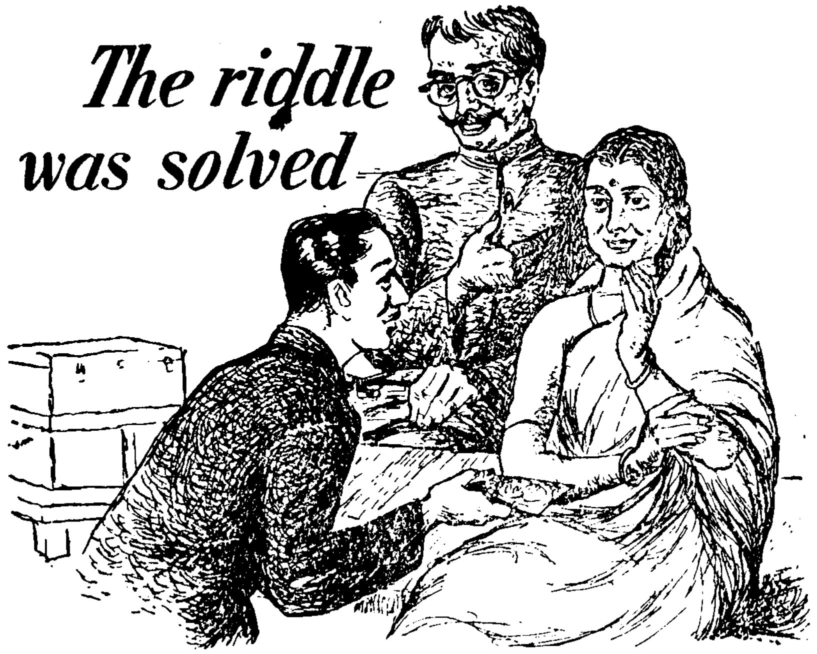
The riddle was solved



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Kilogram		Gram	Bullion only		Commodities and Bullion			
			Kilogram		Kilogram	Gram		
50	5	500	20	5	1	500	50	5
20	2	200	10	2		200	20	2
10	1	100				100	10	1
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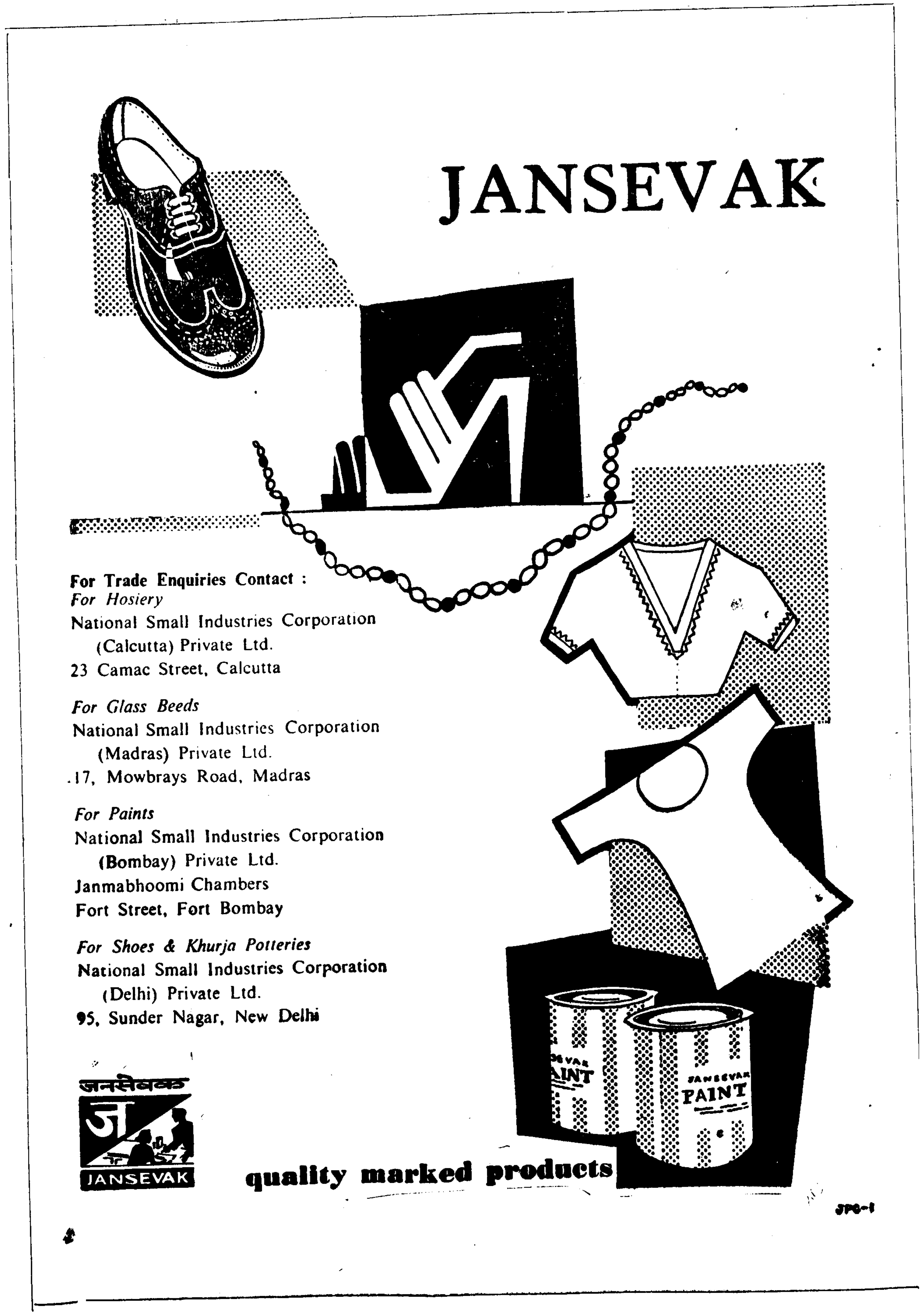
JANSEVAK
For Trade Enquiries Contact :
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National Small Industries Corporation
(Madras) Private Ltd.
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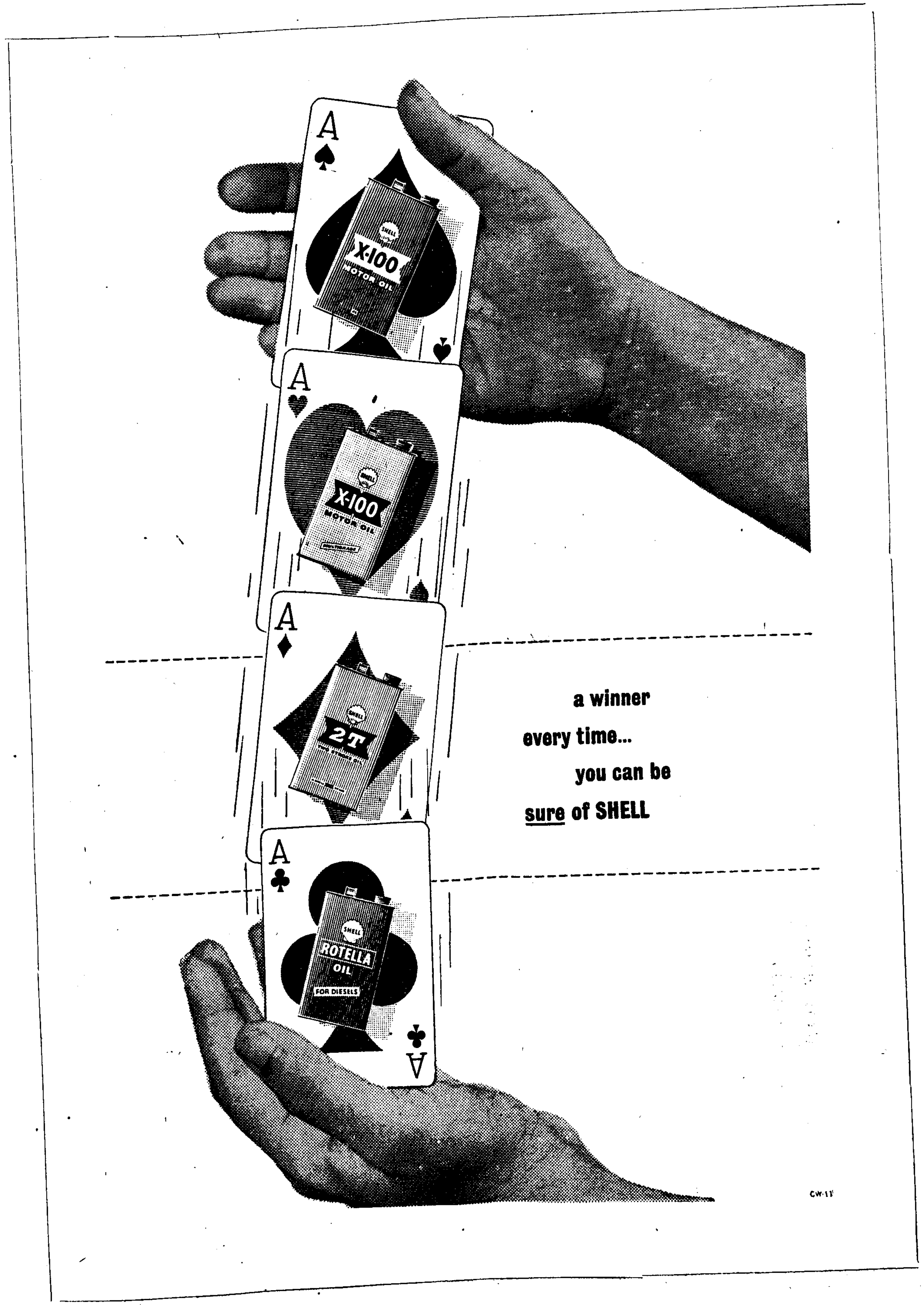
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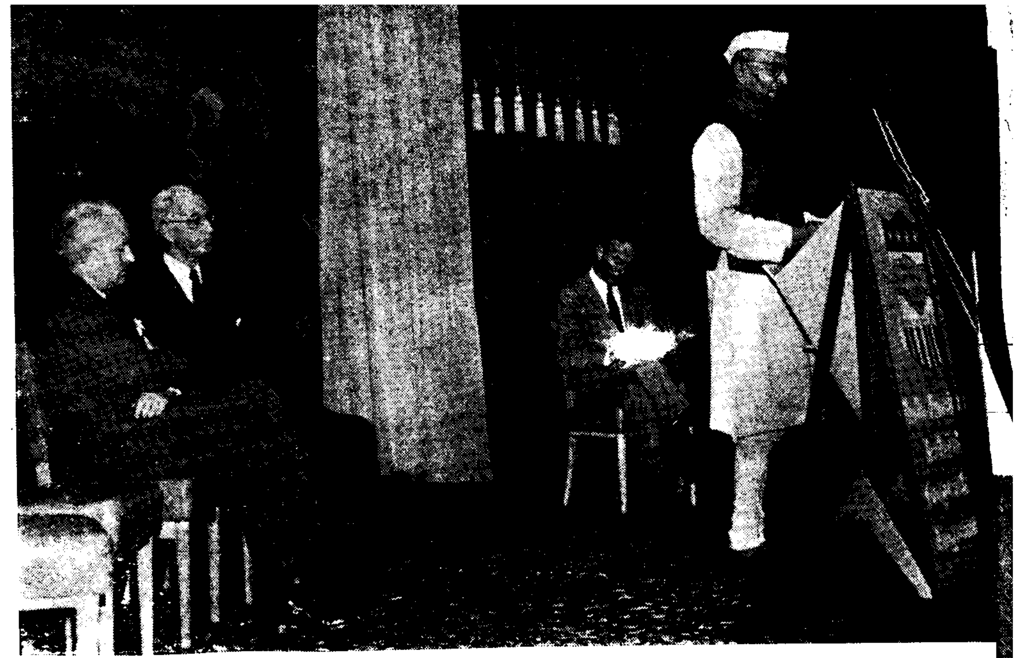

Shri Morarji Desai addressing the Technical Co-operation Mission Conference in New Delhi.

Fruit show organized in New Delhi on the occasion of the symposium on "Origin, Cytogenetics and Breeding of Tropical Fruits"

Shri Manubhai Shah addressing the annual meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee for Industrial Projects in New Delhi

Regd. No.
D—940

Cultural shows were organized at Kuala Lumpur in honour of President Rajendra Prasad, when he paid a state visit to Malaya. These pictures are of a dance performance given by Malayan girls at a banquet held in honour of the visiting President by the Prime Minister of Malaya

Indian Information

549

Vol. 1 January 15, 1959 (Pausa 25, 1880) No. 23

President Rajendra Prasad with the artistes who took part in the cultural show held in his honour at Bandung

Prime Minister Nehru going round the exhibition of books he opened after presenting the State Awards for Excellence in Printing and Designing

The Union Minister of Irrigation and Power, Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim, addressing a meeting of the Central Flood Control Board in New Delhi

Indian Information

VOL. I — January 15, 1959 (Pausa 25, 1880) — NO. 23

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MAIN CONTENTS

COVER: Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of Ghana, being received at Palam airport on his arrival in Delhi.

(Indian Information seeks to provide a condensed record of the activities and official announcements of the Government of India. Because of space limitation many items appear in summarized forms. Such items should not be treated as complete and authoritative versions.)

Political & General

REPORT ON SECOND GENERAL ELECTIONS

The report on the Second General Elections released by the Chief Election Commissioner on December 20, says that while the First General Elections served to teach the vast number of uneducated voters what the vote meant, the Second General Elections familiarized them with the exercise thereof with discrimination and understanding. The electorate, as a whole, went to the polls peacefully and displayed exemplary discipline and intelligent discrimination. Breaches of the law were extremely rare and the poll was uniformly smooth and efficient.

The Second General Elections, like the First, turned out to be a co-operative national venture carried through to a successful conclusion by the enthusiasm and determination of the whole nation.

The report lays stress on the urgent need to set up an efficient, permanent and satisfactory election machinery in the States at the district and sub-division levels.

As regards the delimitation of constituencies, the report says, further changes of the existing constituencies should be avoided since these were chalked out by an independent and impartial high-level body on the basis of actual population. The report suggests that the future law of delimitation of constituencies should provide that even when such revision becomes unavoidable, it should leave as many of the present constituencies undisturbed as may be practicable.

Election Expenses

The report expresses great concern over the increasing election expenses of candidates and suggests measures to curb light-hearted participation in electoral contests. The remedial measures suggested are: (a) repeal of section 55A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which enables a candidate to retire from the contest after the last date for withdrawal of his candidature upto 10 days before the commencement of the poll; (b) amending section 158 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, so as to require a candidate to poll one-fifth of the valid votes instead of one-sixth (or one-tenth instead of one-twelfth in a constituency in which two members are to be elected) in order that he may be entitled to a refund of the deposit made by him, and (c) increasing the amount of deposit so that a candidate who is not sure of a fairly substantial support from the electorate may be more effectively discouraged from entering the electoral contest.

The Commission is of the view that the first two measures may be adopted immediately. The last suggestion may be adopted only as a last resort if the other two measures have failed to check the present undesirable multiplicity of candidates.

The legal maximum of election expenses may, for instance, be revised liberally to higher figures and all expenditure incurred on behalf of a candidate by his party or by his well-wishers may be counted. The procedure for disqualifying a candidate for failure to submit this account of election expenses duly is too involved and cumbersome and could be simplified materially by providing that a candidate would incur disqualification only after the Commission has called for and considered his explanation, if any, for the default, and rejected it. Where the Commission has accepted the explanation, there should be no disqualification in law and no need to notify the same.

Employing Children

The Commissioner deprecates the employment of minors, particularly school-going boys and girls in election campaigns. He has suggested that such practices can be put an end to in the first instance by establishing healthy conventions, although ultimately legislation should be undertaken.

Broadcasting Facilities

The report suggests that a suitable scheme for making broadcasting facilities available to the recognized political parties may be evolved in future in consultation with the recognized All-India Political Parties for the purpose of educating the electorate more adequately on the fundamental issues involved in a general election.

The Commission, however, would be glad to make its contribution towards bringing about an agreed solution to the problem if requested to do so.

Retirement Of Candidates

The report points out that the new provisions regarding retirement of candidates have been found to be unsatisfactory. It has been generally felt that the provision leaves ample scope for abuse as more time is available for manoeuvring by a candidate who may be inclined to extract a price from a rival candidate for retiring.

If the provision for the retirement of candidates until 10 days before the commencement of the poll is not deleted, the law should be amended so as to require that if the persons presenting a notice of retirement is not personally known to the Returning Officer, he must be identified before the Returning Officer by some one personally known to the latter.

Nomination Papers

Several suggestions have been made by the Election Commissioner relating to amendments in the election law and changes in general and administrative fields. The Commission is of the view that the maximum number of nomination papers an individual candidate may present in the same constituency should be restricted to four. Multiplicity of nomination papers filed by the same candidate unnecessarily increases the labour of the Returning Officer.

The Commission thinks it desirable that two-member constituencies should continue until such time as the system of reservation of seats itself disappears. The Commission is also not in favour of reserving seats in single-member constituencies in every case.

Among the other recommendations made are that a transferred Government servant should have the facility to vote by postal ballot and that portions of the Election Law and Procedure should be included in the syllabii of departmental examinations so that the Government employees become conversant with the law.

Marking System

Regarding the innovation of marking the ballot paper, the Report points out that prior to the elections, the Commission discussed with the All-India Political Parties whether any change should be made in the system of symbols and whether the marking system could be adopted. In view of the opposition to any immediate change, the Commission decided to adopt the existing system of voting. Soon after the completion of the general elections the Commission worked out the practical scheme for implementing its decision to introduce the marking system of voting. Twenty-nine bye-elections have already been successfully held under the new system.

Presidential Election

The Report says that a constitutional doubt was raised last time as to whether the Presidential election could be legally held before every constituency in the country had elected its member to the Legislative Assembly or the Lok Sabha. The law on this point needs to be clarified, says the Commission. However, it has suggested that it might be examined whether provision could be made to enable outgoing members, representing a constituency which has not been able to complete its poll, to vote at the Presidential election and the Vice-Presidential elections as if they continued to be duly elected members. In the Commission's opinion, such a solution would be fairer and less

anomalous than the present position in which several constituencies are deprived practically permanently of the right and privilege of participating in the elections to these high offices.

Of the electorate of 193 million, 47.54 per cent cast their votes in the election of members to Lok Sabha while the percentage in the case of election to Assemblies was 48.23. In the First General Elections, out of an electorate of 173 million, 51.07% cast their votes in Parliamentary Constituencies.

About 96 per cent of the adult population was enrolled as voters in the First General Elections; the figure rose by 2.8 per cent in the present elections.

A striking feature of the Second Elections was the decline in expenditure from about Rs. 10,45,00,000 in the First Elections to Rs. 5,90,00,000 approximately. The overall expenditure of each voter in respect of the Second Elections (Parliamentary and Assembly) came to 2.4 annas as compared to 4.8 annas during the First General Elections.

The Second General Elections were completed within 19 days, in contrast to 120 days taken in the First. Polling however, could not take place along with the rest of the States in Himachal Pradesh and part of the Kangra district of Punjab, since certain areas there were snow-bound.

The total number of voters enrolled in 1956 in the whole country (excluding Jammu and Kashmir and Andaman and Minicoy Islands) was over 193 millions. The estimated total population of the country, excluding the above areas, in 1956, was about 384 millions. The percentage of the adult population (persons over 21 years) was estimated at about 51 per cent. The enrolment of voters, says the Report, can thus be claimed to have been almost exhaustive.

The number of polling stations and ballot boxes were 1,96,084 and 24,73,850 respectively, during the elections in 1951, while the corresponding figures for the election in 1957 were 2,20,478 and 21,00,931.

The total number of election petitions in the First Elections was 338, while in the Second Elections it was 472.

Facts About 1951 And 1957 General Elections

	1951-52	1957
LOK SABHA		
No. of seats	489	494
No. of constituencies	401	403
Single member	314	312
Two-member	86	91
Three-member	1	—
No. of contesting candidates	1874	1519
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES		
No. of seats	3283	3102
No. of constituencies	2703	2518
Single-member	2124	1934
Two-member	578	584
Three-member	1	—
No. of contesting candidates	15361	10177
Total expenditure incurred on elections.	Rs. 10,45,47,099	Rs. 5,90,21,786

PREPARATION FOR 1961 CENSUS

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 18, Shrimati Violet Alva, Deputy Union Home Minister, stated that for the first time, owing to the completion of the Reorganization of States, uniformity would be obtained in the organization, administration and purpose of census operations all over India.

The draft questionnaire for the next census had been formulated by the Census Commissioner with the help of representatives of Ministries, State Governments, and academic bodies specializing in demography and economic research, stated Shrimati Violet Alva. The Deputy Minister added that it was proposed to test the questionnaire with the help of State Statistical Bureaus, the National Sample Survey and other specialized institutions to find out the suitability of the form of questions.

The selection of State Superintendents of Census Operations was in progress in consultation with the Census Commissioner.

The Deputy Minister further stated that the time taken to complete the enumeration in the 1961 census would not perhaps exceed the 23 days taken during the 1951 enumeration.

HINDI TRANSLATION OF CENTRAL ACTS

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 18, Shri R.M. Hajarnavis, Deputy Union Minister of Law, stated that Central Acts which had so far been translated into Hindi numbered 266.

The Minister added that among the 182 principal Acts so translated were: Caste Disabilities Removal Act 1850; Hindu Widow's Remarriage Act, 1856; Police Act, 1861; Indian Contract Act, 1872; Indian Evidence Act, 1872; Specific Relief Act, 1877; Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898; Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929; Indian Sale of Goods Act, 1930; Indian Partnership Act, 1932; Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947; Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948; Rehabilitation Finance Administration Act, 1948; Census Act 1948; Special Criminal Courts (Jurisdiction) Act, 1950; Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1950; Press (Objectionable Matter) Act, 1951 and Slum Areas (Improvement & Clearance) Act, 1956.

Amending Acts which had been separately translated numbered 45. These included Indian Trade Unions (Amendment) Act, 1947; Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1948; Indian Succession (Amendment) Act, 1949; Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 1949 and Employment of Children (Amendment) Act, 1951.

Eight other Central Acts which had been translated were under print, added the Minister.

CONFIRMATION OF PERSONS SELECTED BY U.P.S.C.

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 17, Shri B.N. Datar, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, outlined the criterion for confirming persons appointed to Government posts on the results of Union Public Service Commission examination. He stated that direct recruits were confirmed in the order in which they were placed by the Commission as judged on grounds of merit.

The time taken to confirm such qualified persons, the Minister said, depended upon the probation period prescribed for those appointed against permanent vacancies and on the availability of permanent vacancies in the case of those appointed initially on a temporary basis.

The Minister added that confirmations took effect from the date of appointment on the results of the examination or from the date of completion of the probation period as the administrative authorities might consider suitable.

Gift Of Gold To Prime Minister

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Shri B.R. Bhagat, Deputy Minister of Finance, said on December 23, that gold weighing 5,514 tolas and 112 grains was presented to Shri Jawaharlal Nehru on the occasion of his 69th birthday by an Indian resident of Hong Kong. Under instructions from the Prime Minister, the gold so received was deposited in the Reserve Bank of India in Bombay and added to the gold reserves of the Government of India. On behalf of the Government of India, the Prime Minister was given the price of this gold calculated at the rate of Rs. 62.50 per tola of 100 fineness which was considerably less than the market rate in India. The amount thus received by the Prime Minister came to Rs. 3,08,774.

The Prime Minister had distributed the money as follows:

(1) Indian Council for Child Welfare: Rs. 1 lakh
(2) Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital, Allahabad: Rs. 1 lakh
(3) Bal Sahyog in Delhi: Rs. 10,000

The balance of Rs. 98,774 was deposited in the Women and Children's Fund, he added.

MAULANA AZAD MAUSOLEUM

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Shri K.C. Reddy, Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, said on December 19, that the plan for laying out the garden around the mausoleum of Maulana Azad had been finalized, and added that the planting of trees and construction of water pools had already started. The work of laying out the lawn and providing flower beds would be taken up in February, 1959, he said.

National Memorial At Jallianwala Bagh

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 18, Dr. M.M. Das, Deputy Minister of Scientific Research & Cultural Affairs, said that a sum of Rs. 8,96,064 would be the likely expenditure to be incurred on the construction of a national memorial at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar. The Government grant, he said, was given on the condition that the accounts in regard to the utilization of the grant should be open to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India at his discretion. The construction, he further added, was likely to be completed by April, 1959.

Police Radio Officers' Conference

The eighth Conference of Police Radio Officers was inaugurated in Delhi on December 18, by the Secretary of the Union Home Ministry, Shri B.N. Jha. In the course of his address, Shri Jha said that police radio officers had done very useful work in the past year in maintaining communications essential for the preservation of law and order. There had been many occasions, he pointed out, when urgent appeals by other departments for the use of police wireless had been met, and also occasions when other communication systems had failed, and the police links had remained in operation.

MEDALS FOR POLICE OFFICERS

Police Medals for meritorious services were presented by Shri Govind Ballabh Pant, Union Home Minister, to six officers of the Union Home Ministry's Special Police Establishment in New Delhi on December 16.

The recipients were: Shri D. Sen, D.I.G., S.P.E.; Shri S.M. Ray, Offg. Deputy Superintendent of Police S.P., Calcutta; Inspectors G.S. Jog and V.S. Wani, S.P.E., Bombay; Inspector Srikishen Lal, C.I.A., New Delhi; and Shri T. Raghavan, Inspector, S.P.E., Madras.

GOVT. PURCHASES OF STORES IN N. ZONE

The Regional Purchase Advisory Council of the Northern Zone held its first meeting at Delhi on December 17. The Council is composed of representatives of business interests in U.P., Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan with the Director General of Supplies and Disposals as its Chairman.

During the meeting, the Director General, Shri V.N. Rajan, told the Council that while the value of purchases by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals had gone up from Rs. 65.86 crores in 1953-54 to Rs. 198.54 crores in 1957-58, the proportion of purchases from indigenous resources had risen from 58% to 80%. Imports were agreed to only where they were unavoidable. Within the Northern Region, the value had increased from Rs. 15.83 crores in respect of 1955-56 to Rs. 30.26 crores for the year 1957-58 and the proportion contributed by indigenous resources had increased from 63% to 82%.

He added that the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals was doing its best to utilize the resources available in the small scale industries subject to quality, period of delivery and price. The specifications laid down by the indenters were not beyond achievement of indigenous manfacturers and in earlier stages even slightly lower standards might have to be accepted.

Shri Rajan said that the Northern Zone was a significant supplier of certain stores like footwear, locks, pullovers, jerseys and woollen textiles. The rapid development in manufacture of railway track mate-

rials in the region was also significant. Purchases of timber of more than Rs. 1 crore were made on a Government-to-Government basis from Jammu and Kashmir.

He stated that even though for reasons of quality, delivery and specifications were laid down by indenters, the Directorate had quite often to place orders with bigger industries. He appealed to large scale manufacturers to utilize the capacity of small scale industries to the maximum extent since there was no real conflict between the two.

Replying to the remarks of the various representatives, the Director General said that the services of his organization were available to local bodies also.

A planning unit had been set up in the Directorate to keep suppliers informed of Government's future requirements. To this end a Directory of Purchases had also been issued.

He said that every effort was being made to expedite payments, but delays were sometimes caused by the suppliers themselves due to late deliveries or faulty supplies. Quality was ensured through the Inspection Wing as well as the subsequent inspection by indenters. Quality control was a matter in which the industrialists themselves could help by manufacturing only goods which had been tested independently by their research laboratories against the specifications laid down by indenters.

Disbursement Of Flag Day Fund

An announcement of December 3, says that out of the total Armed Forces Flag Day collections of Rs. 10,17,710 during 1956, a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 was paid into the Reserve Fund, and the balance was disbursed, among the Services Headquarters, States, Indian Red Cross Society for Medical After-Care Fund, Military Hospital Welfare Service, Services Sports, Control Board, Kashmir Operations Relief Fund, and Radio-sets for troops in NEFA.

The amount collected in 1957, which showed an improvement over the previous year, totalled Rs. 11,33,000. Collections are still being received and grants from this fund will continue to be made during the year 1959.

RAJPURA TOWNSHIP

The Government of India have decided to transfer the administration of the Rajpura township to the Punjab Government and the transfer will take place by the end of this month, says an announcement of December 17.

Planning & Finance

REPORT OF SELECTED BUILDINGS PROJECTS TEAM

One of the important recommendations of the Report of the Selected Buildings Projects Team of the Committee on Plan Projects, released on December 29, is that execution of such works should only be undertaken after complete details of planning and designing have been worked out. Emphasizing the need for advanced planning, the Report observes that the Team is convinced that if detailed planning is undertaken in the first instance, there will be saving in the overall cost and it will be possible to lay down the target dates for completion of such works in a more realistic manner than at present.

The Team has laid down that usable space in a building should be at least 65 to 75 per cent of the total built-up area. The efforts of the architects and engineers should be to aim at the higher target of 75% and explain the reasons for not achieving it in some particular conditions. Most of the buildings examined by the Team do not work out to even the minimum of 65%. The Team estimates that if some of these buildings were replanned, there could be a saving of about Rs. 50 lakhs.

Dealing with the problems of administration and contracts for buildings, the Team has recommended that full particulars and structural details should be made available to the contractor well in advance, so as to ensure speed and economy. Towards this end the Team has also suggested the practice of advance budgeting for a period of three to five years in regard to building works and entrusting the entire construction work of a building, including services, to a single contractor whose earlier performance in this type of work conforms to approved standards.

Other recommendations of the Team relate to design standards, site organization and planning for utilities and services in multistoreyed buildings. According to the Team, it is desirable to orient a building so as to avoid exposure of the occupied rooms to eastern and western suns. It is economical to construct independent light structures for garages and cycle sheds provided sufficient land is available. Lift installation should be capable of transporting the whole population to the second and higher floors within twenty to forty-five minutes. It is essential to decide the question of air-conditioning at the planning stage as subsequent alterations are costly and cause inconvenience.

The Team has recommended that a few building sites should be selected at random and the operations as they exist should be carefully studied from the inception of work to its completion in order to evaluate the wastage in materials, manpower and money due to lack of planning and organization. The Team also feels that there is need for setting up centres at important places in the country for exhibiting building materials and advanced techniques of construction.

The Team has also laid emphasis on the question of ensuring good quality of construction, and has recommended that weigh-batching should be introduced at sites at least in cases where large quantities of cement have to be used such as multi-storeyed buildings. It also suggests that the feasibility of manufacture of such plants may be examined by the Government, as the economy ensured would far out-weigh the capital expenses that would be involved in such a venture.

Regarding implementation of the norms, the Team suggests that it would be good practice that whenever justification of a building of this character is made by the Engineering authority, a pro-forma should accompany showing the norms suggested by the Team and the extent to which they are realized.

The Selected Buildings Projects Team headed by Shri S.K. Patil, Union Minister for Transport and Communications, is one of the Teams set up by the Committee on Plan Projects to evaluate the projects included in the Second Plan with a view to economy and efficiency. The detailed study of the multi-storeyed buildings was entrusted to a panel of eminent architects and engineers drawn both from Government and Private Sectors. A study of some of the multi-storeyed buildings recently constructed in different cities in India has shown a marked degree of variation in cost, space utilization, structural design and other details.

ANDHRA PRADESH PLAN FOR 1959-60

The Plan outlay of Andhra Pradesh for the year 1959-60 will be of the order of Rs. 37.62 crores as against the budget estimate of Rs. 37.17 crores during the year 1958-59, says an announcement of December 28. This figure was arrived at during discussions held recently in New Delhi between the Planning Commission and the Central Ministries on the one side and the representatives of the Andhra Pradesh Government, on the other.

Agriculture and allied subjects get an allotment of Rs. 6.2 crores. Seed farms, seed stores, opening of a veterinary college and a Key Village Centre, development of cooperative marketing and minor irrigation are some of the schemes included in the agricultural programme for the year.

Community Development gets an allocation of Rs. 3.40 crores and Irrigation and Power of Rs. 15.70 crores. The allocation for Irrigation and Power will benefit several schemes including Nagarjunasagar, Bhairevanitippa, Tungabhadra High Level Canal, Narayanapuram anicut, Rajolibunda, Kadam, Musi, Machkund Hydro-Electric Scheme, Tungabhadra-Nellore Hydro-Thermal Scheme, Upper Sileru Hydro-Electric Scheme and the Rural Electrification Scheme.

Industry and Mining get an allocation of Rs. 2.34 crores. The expansion of the Andhra Paper Mill, Rajahmundry, is included in the programme. The allocations for Transport and Communication and for Social Services are Rs. 1.75 crores and 7.84 crores, respectively. Miscellaneous programmes have been allotted Rs. 0.47 crores.

BOMBAY STATE PLAN FOR 1959-60

The Plan outlay of Bombay State for the year 1959-60 will be of the order of Rs. 87.70 crores, as against an expenditure of Rs. 78.31 crores during 1958-59. An outlay of this dimension was decided upon during recent discussions between the State Government representatives and the Planning Commission and the Central Ministries.

Agriculture and Community Development get an allocation of Rs. 25.04 crores. Expansion of agricultural schools, development of horticulture in Bombay, development of oilseeds, sugarcane and cotton, tubewells in Northern Gujerat, subsidy for electric motors in Saurashtra, milk supply scheme for Greater Bombay and development of marketing societies are some of the more important programmes included in Agriculture.

Irrigation and Power get an allocation of Rs. 34.14 crores. Provision has been made for a number of schemes including Gangapur Storage Project, the Projects at Koyna, Banas valley, Purna and Girna, the Central Power Station at Kandla and rural electrification in Vidharba.

The allocations for Industry and Mining, Transport and Communications are Rs. 2.00 crores and Rs. 5.04 crores, respectively. Social Services have been allotted Rs. 20.17 crores. Important items in the educational programmes are: expansion of existing technical schools and opening of new technical high schools, development of Polytechnic at Aurangabad etc. In the Health Programmes, establishment of a Medical College at Ahmedabad is envisaged and provisions have been made for water supply schemes both in the urban and the rural areas.

MADRAS STATE PLAN FOR 1959-60

During the discussions held recently in New Delhi between the Planning Commission and the Central Ministries and representatives of the Government of Madras, it was agreed that the total Plan outlay of the Madras Government for the year 1959-60 should be of the order of Rs. 33.62 crores as against an expenditure of Rs. 32.52 crores during the year 1958-59, says an announcement of December 29.

The allocation for Agriculture and Community Development is Rs. 8.79 crores. Included in the programme are schemes for well-subsidy, tractor hiring, horticulture development, All India Key Village, Post-graduate Research Centre, the Madras Dairying and Milk Project and contributions to the share capital of marketing societies.

The allocation for Irrigation and Power is Rs. 12.46 crores. This includes provision for further expenditure on the new

Kattalai High Level Channel Scheme, the Pullambadi Canal Scheme, the Vidur Reservoir Project and the utilization of the waters of the west-flowing rivers for the common benefit of Madras and Kerala. The main power schemes are the Kundah Hydro-electric Scheme, improvements to the existing power house and transmission lines and sub-stations.

Industry and Mining get an allocation of Rs. 2.26 crores. The development of cooperative sugar factories is also planned for the year. Transport and Communications claim Rs. 1.03 crores, Social Services Rs. 8.79 crores and miscellaneous programmes Rs. 0.29 crores. Revision of salaries of teachers, supply of midday meals, opening of additional primary education classes and improvement of facilities for teaching science are some of the more important programmes under education.

PUNJAB STATE PLAN FOR 1959-60

The total Plan outlay of the Punjab for the year 1959-60, will be of the order of Rs. 35.20 crores as against an approved outlay of Rs. 33.79 crores during the previous year. This decision was taken during discussions between representatives of the Punjab Government and the Planning Commission and the Central Ministries.

The allocation for Agriculture and Community Development is Rs. 6.57 crores. Included in the provision for Agriculture are allocations for an Agricultural College at Ludhiana, construction of roads in the sugar factory areas of Punjab, Taccavi loans for sinking and repair of percolation wells, establishment of two factories for the manufacture of milk powder etc.

The allocation for Irrigation and Power is Rs. 16.08 crores. The provision for Bhakra-Nangal Project (multi-purpose) is Rs. 11.07 crores; for Western Jamuna Canal Remodelling, Rs. 60 lakhs; Sirhind Feeder, Rs. 76 lakhs; for the Gurgaon Canal, Rs. 22 lakhs; for Power distribution schemes under Uhl System, Rs. 60 lakhs and distribution schemes under Bhakra-Nangal System, Rs. 190 lakhs.

Industry and Mining get Rs. 1.31 crores and Transport and Communications Rs. 1.87 crores. The allocation for Social Services is Rs. 7.30 crores. There are provisions for the development of the Punjab Engineering College at Chandigarh and the establishment of a Polytechnic there. In addition, there is a provision of Rs. 2.07 crores for miscellaneous programmes.

UTTAR PRADESH PLAN FOR 1959-60

The Plan outlay of Uttar Pradesh for the year 1959-60 will be of the order of Rs. 49.98 crores, as against an expenditure of Rs. 46.17 crores during 1958-59, says an announcement of December 30. This figure was decided upon during discussions held recently between the representatives of the Uttar Pradesh Government and the Planning Commission and the Central Ministries.

The biggest allocation is Rs. 16.89 crores for Agriculture and Community Development. Among the important agricultural programmes to be taken up during the year are: development of minor irrigation, including tubewells with a provision of Rs. 4.19 crores; land development and consolidation of holdings with Rs. 1.81 crores; seed farms with an allocation of Rs. 93.5 lakhs and development of commercial crops, horticulture and fruit preservation with a provision of Rs. 109 lakhs.

Irrigation and Power get an allocation of Rs. 15.48 crores and Industry and Mining get Rs. 2.80 crores. Under the latter head, there is a provision of Rs. 76 lakhs for the expansion of the Government cement factory. The other allocations are: Transport and Communications, Rs. 3.04 crores; Social Services, Rs. 11.04 crores; and Miscellaneous Programmes, Rs. 73 lakhs.

WEST BENGAL PLAN FOR 1959-60

The total Plan outlay of the West Bengal Government for the year 1959-60 will be of the order of Rs. 37.54 crores, says an announcement of December 27.

An outlay of this dimension was agreed upon as a result of discussions held recently in New Delhi between the Planning Commission and the Central Ministries on the one side, and representatives of the Government of West Bengal on the other.

Agriculture and Community Development get an allocation of Rs. 7.26 crores. The main programmes for the next year include the establishment of an Agricultural College, the introduction of a post-graduate course in agriculture in the Birla College of Agriculture, the establishment of 100 seed farms, jute development, minor and deep tube-well irrigation and the Greater Calcutta Milk Supply Scheme. The Schemes of Warehousing Corporation, Agricultural Marketing and Cooperative Societies have also been included.

Irrigation and Power get an allocation of Rs. 7.88 crores. Included in the year's programmes are schemes for further work on the Kangsbati and Mayurakshi Reservoir Projects, D.V.C., the Jaldhka Hydro-electric scheme and the expansion of existing grids and electricity undertakings.

The allocation for Industry and Mining is Rs. 3.03 crores. The setting up of three spinning mills is included in the year's programme. Social Services get an allocation of Rs. 13.13 crores and for miscellaneous services there is an allocation of Rs. 2.94 crores. Included in the educational programmes are the expansion of basic training institutions, improvement of conditions of services of teachers, multi-purpose schools, polytechnics etc.

New Rules For Postal Savings Certificates

According to an announcement made on December 19, revised Post Office National Savings Certificates Rules came into force on January 1, 1959, replacing the rules introduced in 1944. Procedural details have been omitted from the new rules. These will now be incorporated in the departmental manuals.

The limit of investment in National Plan Savings Certificates has also been increased from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000 in the case of scheduled and co-operative banks, incorporated companies, registered firms, associations; and from Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 100,000 in the case of charitable institutions, donations to which are exempt from income-tax.

The Government of India have introduced the "Post Office Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme", with effect from January 2, 1959, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on December 19. The Scheme is intended for those who have regular incomes. Monthly deposits can be made for a period of 5 or 10 years, repayable with interest at the end of the term of the deposit. A sum of Rs. 10 deposited regularly every month will accumulate to Rs. 650 in a 5-Year account and Rs. 1,450 in a 10-Year account. This yield will be free of income-tax and super-tax.

The scheme will be operated through all post offices doing savings bank work and will be open to individuals only. The maximum limit upto which an individual can invest is Rs. 200 per month in a 5-Year account of Rs. 100 per month in a 10-Year account, the limits for deposits by two persons jointly being double the above limits. The monthly deposit will be received in fixed denominations of Rs. 5, Rs. 10, Rs. 20, Rs. 50, Rs. 100 or Rs. 200, once in every calendar month. Premature withdrawal upto 50% of the balance at credit will be permissible under certain conditions. Provision has also been made for condonation of 5 and 10 defaults, in all, in the case of 5 and 10 year accounts respectively. In the case of discontinued accounts, proportionate amounts will be payable on maturity.

WOMEN'S SAVINGS CAMPAIGN

During the seven months ending October 1958, the Women's Savings Campaign sold over Rs. 1.7 crores worth of Savings Certificates. This was exclusive of the sales in three States — Rajasthan, Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir.

A State-wise break-up showed that the sale of Certificates by the W.S.C. was largest in Bombay and amounted to Rs. 45.54 lakhs. Uttar Pradesh came second with the sale of Rs. 32.8 lakhs worth of Certificates. Sales in some of the other States, effected through the W.S.C., were: West Bengal, Rs. 32.6 lakhs; Bihar, Rs. 23.8 lakhs; Mysore, Rs. 13.3 lakhs; Madhya Pradesh, Rs. 9.61 lakhs; Andhra Pradesh, Rs. 6.1 lakhs and Delhi, Rs. 3.7 lakhs.

Started in 1953 by prominent women social workers from the various States, the W.S.C. has since been working as an important adjutant of the National Savings Organization to promote savings in the country, particularly among women. Through its endeavours, a large number of social welfare organizations have been brought in as Authorized Agents for the sale of Savings Certificates. As many as 231 agent organizations and 873 workers are at present functioning under the auspices of the W.S.C.

TALKS WITH I.F.C. ON LOAN TERMS

The Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha said on December 23, that Government had some general discussion with the International Finance Corporation last September regarding the terms on which the Corporation normally made investments in private industries. Following these discussions, Government had informed the I.F.C. that they would be willing to consider the approval of financial arrangements arrived at between the Corporation and private borrowers in India provided, the loans were limited to projects which earned or saved foreign exchange, the rate of interest was reasonable, and the total return to the Corporation at no time exceeded the exchange expected to be saved or earned by the projedt.

Confiscated Gold and Silver

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 18, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said the Central Government had 7,23,238 tolas and 2 sovereigns of confiscated gold valued at about Rs. 4.52 crores in its possession, as on August 31, 1958. Confiscated silver in the possession of Government on this date amounted to 5,87,082 tolas, besides 1,491 pieces of Chinese silver dollars and 122 pieces of obsolete silver coins. The approximate value is Rs. 6.4 lakhs.

Of the total, 4,21,176 tolas of gold valued at about Rs. 2.63 crores and 3,55,232 tolas of silver of approximate value Rs. 3.88 lakhs were with the mints. The balance was with the Customs authorities pending transfer to the mints.

The value had been calculated at Rs. 62.50 per tola of gold and Rs. 1 per standard tola of silver, said the Minister.

University Planning Forums

The second All-India Conference of the University Planning Forums was inaugurated on December 20, 1958 by the Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.

The functions of the Forums are to publicize certain schemes of the Plan like Small Savings, to conduct surveys in villages and towns for ascertaining the reaction of the people to the execution of plan projects in their areas and so on. They also organize symposia and bring to the notice of the Planning Commission any valuable suggestions that they may have.

The Planning Forums were initiated at the suggestion of the Planning Commission in August 1955. There were 79 Forums in 1956, and their number rose to 190 in 1957. There are at present over 300 Planning Forums — 54 in the Northern Region, 47 in the Central Region, 48 in the Eastern Region, 50 in the Western Region and 101 in the Southern Region.

EXPENDITURE TAX

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 18, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said that a total of 7,477 Expenditure Tax assessees was borne on the registers of the Department of Revenue as on the 30th of November. Till the same date, demand raised in respect of the tax amounted to Rs. 13.1 lakhs and the collections made amounted to Rs. 3.5 lakhs. These covered twelve Commissioners' charges. These figures also included the demand and collection in respect of assessment under Section 20 of the Expenditure Tax Act made by the Central Government in the case of persons in receipt of privy purse.

Replying to another question the Minister for Revenue and Civil Expenditure, Dr. B. Gopala Reddi, said that assessments in the cases of four persons receiving privy purse were made till October 15, 1958, giving rise to Expenditure Tax demand of Rs. 2,21,325.

Commerce & Industry

RECOMMENDATIONS OF SALT ADVISORY BOARD

The setting up of a Central Salt Board with autonomous powers to look after the development of the industry, which is one of the recommendations made by an Enquiry Committee, was supported by the Central Advisory Board for Salt, at its meeting held in New Delhi on December 29.

According to a recommendation of the Enquiry Committee, of which the Minister for Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, was Chairman, the proposed Board should be set up by an amendment of the Salt Cess Act. The Board would have at its disposal certain funds out of the proceeds of the salt cess which it would utilize to provide financial assistance to salt manufacturers, including co-operatives, promote labour welfare in the salt industry and plan and carry out development works in the salt producing areas.

The Advisory Board also suggested the formation of a small export promotion body to adopt measures for stepping up exports of salt. During this year, there has been a decline in the export of Indian salt because of reduced off-take by the Japanese chemical industry and decline in exports to Indonesia because of larger indigenous production there. It was emphasized at the Board Meeting that the formation of a compact export promotion body would be particularly helpful in promoting direct contacts with importers abroad.

The Advisory Board also agreed with another recommendation of the Enquiry Committee regarding compulsory registration or licensing of all manufacturers of salt, regardless of the area on which salt is produced, except those who manufacture salt for personal or local use. At present producers whose acreage is less than ten are exempt from licensing. The Enquiry Committee has recommended that in order to check haphazard growth or expansion of the industry, salt works with an area not exceeding ten acres each must be registered with the Salt Department and works with an area larger than ten acres must be licensed.

The recommendation of the Enquiry Committee regarding alteration of the basis of levying the cess on salt production was also endorsed in principle by the Board. Under this recommendation the salt cess should be levied not on the basis of acreage as at present but on the basis of production, with exemption from cess for the first five thousand maunds produced in a year.

The Board recommended that quality control on salt should be rigorously enforced so as to step up progressively the content of sodium chloride to 98 per cent.

The Enquiry Committee's recommendation that the salt industry should be brought within the purview of the licensing and registration procedure of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, in the interest of the technological progress of the industry, was also supported. The Board also recommended that the sale of salt by weight, instead of by measure, wherever the latter system was prevalent, should be speedily enforced.

Oil Exploration Work In India

The Minister of Mines and Oil, Shri K.D. Malaviya, made a statement on December 16 in the Lok Sabha on the latest position in regard to the oil exploration work in different parts of India. He said in each of the places selected by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, some evidence of oil or gas had been found at a very early stage of the exploration programme. However, the find of oil in one well did not establish a commercial oil pool. Although the exploration had started with significant success, generally a period of two or three years passed between the discovery of an oil region and the proving of its quantity.

In this connection, Shri Malaviya paid a tribute to the accurate and scientific work that was being carried out by Indian experts as well as by foreign technicians, —the Russians and Rumanians.

Stating that arrangements had been made for the delivery of a few more drills in the first quarter of the year 1959, the Minister said, work had started systematically in Cambay regarding arrangements for boring further holes with the help of those drills. According to the present plan, it was expected to put in about 9 holes in 12 months time from April 1959. Thus, within 15 or 16 months, it was expected the quantity of oil in the recently discovered oil field of Lunej would be known. It was good, the Minister felt, that the Government had been able to procure a few drills with the help of the Rumanians and the Russians and the intensification of the drilling programme in Cambay was now more or less assured in the next two years.

Shri Malaviya also disclosed that shallow drilling operations had been undertaken in the neighbourhood of Baroda to obtain underground geological information and to explore the possibilities of finding economical deposits of natural gas. Altogether 12 holes up to a depth of 85 to 230 metres had been drilled so far. In the 11th hole some natural gas was noticed and in the 12th hole near Vadser, some gas and a little oil came out with pressure during the testing operation of the sand at a depth of 163 metres.

This news was seized by the press and was broadcast very prominently, the Minister continued, although he had cautioned the public against any undue optimism and wrong conclusions. Later the pressure from this 12th hole in Baroda fell, suggesting that it was a tiny pocket of oil and gas sand. Although drilling did not establish oil sand in commercial quantity, it had indicated that oil sands occur in the Cambay basin perhaps far more extensively than was originally thought of. The latest news received from Baroda was that the 13th hole which was put very recently had again given out gas and some oil.

These informations were proving valuable and the problem had resolved now into a task of locating a suitable and large structure so as to permit the accumulation of oil in commercial quantities. According to the geologists the Cambay basin must have been one of marine sedimentation where oil-forming conditions existed in the geological past. They felt that prospects were bright and they were hopeful of favourable results. Some more exploratory shallow drilling was proposed in this region to explore further possibilities. Simultaneously, geophysical investigations had been intensified for the location of favourable sub-surface structures in that region.

Elsewhere, in the Punjab, drilling was being continued at Jawalamukhi and Hoshiarpur. In the former a depth of 2307 metres and in the latter a depth of 3213 metres had been reached. The progress was rather slow on account of the increasing hardness of the formations at great depths. At present there was only one testing equipment, and it had been decided that as soon as the electro-logging station had been released from Cambay or the second one had arrived from U.S.S.R., it would be taken to Punjab and the two wells would be electrically logged for taking a final decision. That might take six to eights weeks or more. However, some gas was indicated in the test well at Hoshiarpur but the volume of this remained to be tested.

Big building operation near Sibsagar in Assam was proceeding according to plan and drilling was expected to start in January, 1959.

USE OF OIL GASES FOR FERTILIZERS

Replying to a question about the utilization of the gases of ture of nitrogenous fertilizers, the Deputy Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Satish Chandra, explained in the Rajya Sabha on December 4 that according to the Mukerjee Committee which studied the question, the refinery gases available at Trombay were sufficient for the production of 90,000 tons of nitrogen. The price, the Deputy Minister thought would depend upon the types and quantities of the fertilizers that would be produced, and these matters he said, were under examination.

INDIA'S PETROLEUM CONSUMPTION

The pattern of energy consumption in India indicates that our demand is likely to rise at an annual rate of about 10 per cent. India's current production of crude oil is 8,000 barrels, a day. Thus the estimated demand for oil by the end of the Second Five Year Plan will be 7 million tons, rising to 14 million tons by the end of the Third Plan.

The production of crude oil by 1961 is expected to be nearly 3 million tons including the production from the newly discovered oilfields at Nahorkatiya, Hugrijin and Moran in the Assam plains.

Plans on hand provide for the establishment of new refineries in Assam with a daily capacity of about 20,000 barrels and in Bihar with a daily capacity of about 30,000 barrels.

During the last few years three refineries have been installed which process daily 70,000 barrels of imported crude oil, which are about 70 per cent of the current needs.

The main effort of Government of India is directed at locating and testing suitable structures for the accumulation of oil by geological surveys and drilling.

A number of drill holes, both deep and shallow, will be needed to ascertain the nature of the buried rocks and to decipher their structure. A test well may cost upto Rs. 50 lakhs or more. A deep drilling rig may cost anything upto Rs. 50 lakhs.

The foreign exchange cost of the total imported petrol is estimated to rise to Rs.500 crores by 1976 if we fail to discover oil.

EQUIPMENT COST OF STEEL PLANTS

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 18, Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel, stated that a sum of Rs. 7,85,985 was paid to the U.S.S.R. organizations on account of extra freight due to the closure of the Suez Canal. The Minister added that in the contracts with the U.S.S.R. organizations for the supply of plant equipment and stores for the Bhilai steel plant, there was no specific provision for increases in prices.

In the contract with the Indian Steelworks Construction Company for the Durgapur steel plant, variations in price were allowed for any recognized rise or fall in the rates of wages, salaries and cost of materials. Claims to the extent of Rs. 2.7 crores, on this account, had been received.

In addition, if any changes were made to the plant as described in the contract, corresponding changes in the prices had to be agreed to by the Indian Steel Works Construction Company and the Hindustan Steel Private Limited.

It was understood that the result of such modifications until the end of September 1958 had been Rs. 16,756,223.

'General Services' In Durgapur & Bhilai

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 18, Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister of Steel, Mines & Fuel, stated that the term 'General Services', provided in the contract for the Durgapur steel plant, including all interconnecting services, like steam distribution, electrical power distribution, blast furnace gas distribution, coke oven gas distribution, water supply, drainage, sewerage and oxygen distribution, between various sections of the works.

They consisted of physical works like pressure pipes, electrical conduits and cables, water supply pipes and pumps, drains, culverts and channels, sewers and sewerage pumps, an oxygen plant and a number of control gear, valves and instruments.

The cost of these works now was Rs. 7.68 crores in the revised estimate of Rs. 138 crores.

In the detailed project report for the Bhilai steel plant in which estimates of costs had been given for various sections, many of the items described above had been included either in the relevant production sections like coke ovens, blast furnaces, open hearth plant etc., or as separate items like water supply, sewerage and power supply facilities.

There was, however, one item called 'general works'. This consisted only of two buildings — one, the main administrative office and the other, personnel training department. The estimate of cost for these two buildings was Rs. 0.72 crores.

Allotment Of Steel To States

Answering a question in the Rajya Sabha, Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister of Steel, Mines & Fuel, stated on December 17, that the quantity of steel allotted to the States during 1957-58 was 401,036 tons. During 1958-59 it was 371,555 tons upto the month of December.

The basis adopted for the allotment of steel to States was population for the non-agricultural quota; single shift assessed capacity for the steel processing industries quota; and pro-rata basis for the Government development schemes, agricultural and small scale industries quotas.

The allotments were made keeping in view the total demand, the estimated availability both from indigenous production and imports in each quarter, and the urgency of the use.

METRIC SYSTEM FOR SCREW THREADS

In pursuance of a formal decision by the Engineering Division Council of the Indian standards Institution to standardize and adopt the metric system of screw threads as the official standard system for use throughout the country, the Engineering Industry in India will use the metric system in screw threads in future.

BICYCLE INDUSTRY AT A GLANCE

Although manufacture of bicycles started in India in [illegible], it was only from 1949 onwards that the industry was able to register some progress. There is an estimated 40 lakh bicycles in India and the Tariff Commission estimates that the number will rise to 70 lakhs by 1960. Bicycle ownership in India in 1957 was 11 per thousand as compared to two per thousand before independence.

In 1951 there were only two units engaged in the manufacture of bicycles and the production was 1.4 lakhs against an estimated demand of 4 to 4.5 lakhs. At present there are 20 large-scale bicycle factories and 78 small units. With the increase in number of units the production rose to nearly 2 lakhs in 1952 and 1953, [illegible] lakhs in 1954, 4.91 lakhs in 1955, 6.04 lakhs in 1956 and 7.91 lakhs in 1957. The output for 1958 is expected to be 10 lakhs. Most of the raw materials required for the industry are available locally.

Indian capital invested in the bicycle industry in India at present is Rs. 5.59 crores while the amount of foreign investment in the industry is about Rs. 39.81 lakhs. Eight thousand workers were employed in this industry in 1957 compared to 2,546 in 1951. The number is expected to reach 15,000 by the end of 1961.

The country can be said to be self-sufficient in the requirements of complete bicycles (estimated at 15 lakhs by 1961), which means a saving of Rs. 10 crores in foreign exchange.

A panel of the Engineering Export Promotion Council looks after the promotion of bicycle exports.

MANUFACTURE OF BULLDOZERS

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 18, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, said that a scheme for the manufacture of bulldozers and scraper attachments had been licensed. These attachments would be suitable for more than one make of tractors. The factory would be located in Bombay State, he disclosed.

Shri Shastri said that approval was likely to be given, in addition, for the manufacture of spare parts of the "Caterpillar" units, which were already in the country. This factory would be set up in Calcutta. Another firm was likely to be licensed for the manufacture at Madras of "Allis Chalmers" tractors and other attachments.

The licenses for all these schemes had been applied for by private parties, and these schemes were in addition to the schemes for manufacture of parts in the Ordnance Factories, Shri Shastri added.

HANDLOOM BOARD MEETING

Addressing the first meeting of the reconstituted All India Handloom Board in New Delhi on December 19, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri said that there should be no conflict between the different sectors engaged in cloth production, *viz.* textile mills, handlooms and the khadi and ambarcharkha industries. On the other hand, they had to aim at a balanced development of all the industries, from heavy to small scale and cottage industries.

More funds, Shri Shastri said, should be spent on development aspects like research, marketing, designing and decent housing facilities for the handloom weavers.

Referring to the question of rebate on the sale of handloom cloth, the Minister asked the Board to give serious consideration to its continuance for an indefinite period. While it was understandable that for special situations and for special periods special rebate were given, for long-term development of the industry, it would be a good thing if the amount spent on rebate was diverted to purposes designed to strengthen and improve the position of the industry and the weavers.

Shri Shastri said, it was true that the handloom industry offered prospects for employment of a large number of people. At the same time the textile mills could not be allowed to suffer although their employment potential was limited.

Referring to the introduction of power-looms, the Minister said that normally further expansion of powerloom capacity would not be permitted but States which did not have a textile mill and which wanted to have powerlooms, would not be prevented from having them.

Stressing again the need for balanced development of different cloth producing sectors, Shri Shastri said, there were repeated demands from different States for supply of ambarcharkha, particularly in rural areas. Although the income from this charkha was low, he pointed out that a cultivator could get a supplementary income of Rs. 45 per month by plying it. This was by no means a low income by Indian standards. He had observed in Rajasthan that the income from ambarcharka had increased to Rs. 60 per month in a village. Where two to three members in a family worked in turn, the income had gone up to as much as Rs. 143 per month. The prospects for the ambarcharkha industry were bright, and handlooms could use ambarcharka yarn, he added.

The Minister for Commerce, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, addressing the Board, said that the handloom industry had overcome two of its major handicaps — shortage of yarn and credit facilities. The yarn supply was now abundant and banking institutions had come forward to provide credit facilities. Now the price factor had to be paid increasing attention so that the industry could stand on its own feet in the near future.

The Chairman of the Board, Shri D.S. Joshi, welcoming the members said that the production of handloom cloth which was 1500 million yards at the end of the First Five Year Plan had now exceeded 1700 million yards. Production could be further stepped up if the demand for cloth developed faster.

Referring to the work done for the development of the industry during the last five years, the Chairman said that Government had given financial assistance amounting to Rs. 25 crores, half of it as grants and half as loans.

Shri Joshi stressed the need to improve the productivity of the handloom from the present 800 — 1000 yards per year to about 1500 yards per year. Also designs and quality had to be continually improved. He said a number of design centres, well-staffed and suitably equipped, had been set up. Assistance was given for improvement of tools and for preparatory processes.

Referring to financial facilities for the industry, Shri Joshi said that credit would be made available from the Reserve Bank of India and Central Co-operative Banks.

Production Of Ambar Cloth

In reply to a question regarding number of yards of Khadi produced from the yarn spun by Ambar Charkha from 1957 upto October, 1958 and the number of Ambar Charkhas working in October 1958, the Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, said in the Rajya Sabha on December 9 that during 1957-58, a total of 11.15 million yards of Khadi was produced under the Ambar-charkha programme. During the current year upto September, 1958, 7.93 million yards were produced according to latest reports received from the producing institutions. He added about 1.6 lakh Ambar-charkhas were working in the beginning of October, 1958.

INTRODUCTION OF AUTOMATIC LOOMS

The criterion for selecting textile units for the introduction of automatic looms and the number of looms to be allotted to each selected unit were discussed in New Delhi on December 22, at a meeting of representatives of employers and labour, convened by the Government of India.

The Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda, presided over the meeting. It was attended by the Union Minister for Industries, Shri Manubhai Shah.

The two ministers pointed out that there was a growing preference in foreign markets for flawless cloth produced on automatic looms and that India's exports would continue to fall if they did not switch over to automatic looms.

Government, therefore, proposed to install 2,500 looms annually during 1959, 1960 and 1961. In carrying out this proposal, Government would be guided by the recommendations of the 15th Indian Labour Conference in regard to modernization and rationalization in industry.

It was felt that textile exports were important even from the point of view of trade unions, since dwindling exports would result in loss of employment. The proposal to install 2,500 automatic looms annually was marginal in character and could be supported without much difficulty by the industry and the unions. It was agreed that before actual implementation of the proposal, workers should be appraised of its object and scope to remove any misapprehension. In this connection, it was emphasized that employers should desist from recruiting new hands while existing workers were being rendered surplus.

In choosing units for introducing the scheme, Government should consult the appropriate employers' and workers' interests. Also the country should be divided into appropriate regions for distributing the looms. It was agreed that 48 looms may be fixed as the minimum and 144 as the maximum to be allotted to an individual undertaking. In exceptional cases, a maximum of 300 looms for a single unit may be allotted with the approval of union or unions in the concerned unit. In the selection of units for allotting looms, a prime consideration will be the extent to which the Code of Discipline in Industry has been observed.

It was agreed that the working of the scheme should be reviewed once a year, and more frequently if either party should desire it.

Stocks With Textile Mills

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 18, the Minister of Commerce, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, said that the stocks of cloth with the textile mills in the country at the end of November 1958 were 5,79,800 bales. These compared with 5,92,800 bales at the end of September 1958 and 6,01,800 bales at the end of October.

Shri Kanungo said that the fall in production this year was largely due to a shift in production from coarse varieties to medium and finer varieties of cloth. This shift in production had been necessitated by the consumers' preference for finer varieties. He said Government did not consider that the pattern of production was in any way abnormal at present.

Cashew Nut Industry Under Industries Act

According to an announcement made on December 26, the Government of India have brought the cashew nut industry within the scope of the registration and licensing provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. This action has been taken to remove doubts as to whether the provisions of the Industries Act apply to industrial undertakings engaged in the cashew nut industry.

Owners of industrial undertakings in the cashew nut industry, who employ 50 or more workers using power or 100 or more workers without the use of power, have to obtain licences under the Act for regularizing and carrying on their manufacturing activities. The announcement also says that manufacturers should obtain a licence or permission within the next eight months.

NEWSPRINT OUTPUT

The National Newsprint and Paper Mills Ltd. (popularly known as Nepa Mills) situated at Nepanagar, near Chandani in Madhya Pradesh, is India's first newsprint mill.

The Mill, which is a pioneering effort not only in the manufacture of newsprint in India but also in its manufacture from a species of wood salai hitherto not used anywhere in the world, went into production on January 11, 1955 and has an installed capacity of 100 tons a day. During 1957, this unit produced 14,489 tons of newsprint.

Till very recently India was entirely dependent on imports for her requirements of newsprint.

During 1957, India imported 12,75,183 cwts. of newsprint valued at Rs. 5,64,19,508. The principal supplying countries are Canada, Finland, Norway and Austria.

The present demand of the country for newsprint is estimated at 80,000 tons a year, and is expected to rise to 1,20,000 tons by 1960-61.

To partially meet this demand internally, another unit is being installed in the public sector by the National Industrial Development Corporation at Shakarnagar in Andhra Pradesh with a capacity of 30,000 tons per annum.

There is still scope for two more newsprint factories with a capacity of 30,000 tons each, so as to meet the country's requirements by the end of the Second Plan.

HEAVY ENGINEERING CORPORATION

The Government of India have set up a new company, called the Heavy Enginering Corporation Ltd., for the administration of the different engineering projects under contemplation, it was announced on December 31.

The projects include the Heavy Machine Building and Coal Mining Machinery plants for which assistance has been secured from the Soviet Union, and the Foundry-Forge plant being established with Czech assistance.

The new company, registered under the Companies Act, at Patna, will have its registered office at Ranchi, in Bihar, where two of the plants in view are to be set up.

Fruit Preservation Industry

In a written answer to a question the Minister of Food and Agriculture said in the Lok Sabha on December 9, that the exports of fruit products during 1957 were estimated to be 1760 tons valued at about Rs. 31,13,500 as against the target of 11,000 tons to be achieved by 1960-61.

The financial assistance given to the industry was: Rs. 16.19 lakhs in the form of loan and a subsidy of Rs. 1,81,600 (upto 15.10.1958) on tin plates used for the manufacture of open top sanitary cans for fruit products.

BASIS FOR FIXING SUGARCANE PRICE

Intervening in a discussion in the Lok Sabha on a motion regarding fixation of a higher price for sugarcane in U.P. and Bihar on December 18, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Shri A.P. Jain, said that he felt, taking all factors into consideration, it was not in the interests of the cane grower that the price of sugarcane should be raised. Because if the price was raised, its production would increase; but the capacity of the factories to crush sugarcane was limited. This would mean that more sugarcane would be left for the manufacture of *gur* and *Khandsari* with the result that the price of sugarcane may further go down.

The Minister pointed out that at present, sugarcane meant for the manufacture of *gur* and khandsari was being sold at Re. 1 or Rs. 1/1/- per maund, while sugarcane to the mills was being supplied at Rs. 1/7/- per maund. Also only one-third of the sugarcane produced in the Indian fields were being supplied to the mills. Thus the cane growers, who wanted higher price for their sugarcane were already getting much more than the cane growers who were not supplying sugarcane to mills. Denying that farmers had diverted large areas from sugarcane to other crops, the Minister said that in Uttar Pradesh, the area under sugarcane had gone up from 19,73,000 acres in 1953-54, to 30,17,000 acres, in the current season. All over the country the area under sugarcane had gone up from 34,85,000 acres in 1953-54 to 50,21,000 acres now.

Referring to the fact that prices of other agricultural produce like jute, cotton and rice had shown a tendency to decline in the last year, Shri Jain said that in this context there was no case for increasing the price of sugarcane. The Minister also referred to the fact that the country was exporting sugar at a loss and said, if it wanted to export any substantial quantity of sugar, then it was essential that the price of sugar should not be raised. For, at present, in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the ex-factory price of sugar was Rs. 36/- per maund; of this, Rs. 13/- or Rs. 14/ constituted the tax levied by the Government to meet the losses in export. That left a balance of Rs. 22/- or Rs. 23/-. But, the world price of sugar today was about Rs. 16-8-0 or Rs. 17. Therefore, the ex-factory price of sugar was already higher than this by Rs. 6/- or Rs. 7.

Referring to the criticism that at the present price of Rs. 36/- per maund, which was fixed on the basis of the prices of Rs. 1-7-0 and Rs. 1-5-0 for sugarcane, the sugar factories were making a profit, the Minister said, the question had been referred to the Tariff Commission. Its report was awaited; if anything had been overlooked, if any cost had been miscalculated, surely all these things could be corrected there.

Referring to the misapprehension of some as to the prices that were being fixed, the Minister said that the Government was fixing minimum prices. Till now the cane grower used to get a bonus. If the factory made more profit, if it worked for a larger number of days, if its recovery was higher, the cane growers were entitled to bonus. During the last few years, the following amounts were paid by way of bonus to the sugar-cane growers :

1952-53	..	Rs. 1,00,53,000
1953-54	..	Rs. 1,13,00,000
1954-55	..	Rs. 71,07,000
1955-56	..	Rs. 62,41,000
1956-57	..	Rs. 85,00,000 (provisional figure)

This year this bonus had been made by Government a part of the statutory price, i.e., the present price was Rs. 1-7-0 plus bonus as calculated according to the formula. That formula had also been liberalized in favour of the cane grower. The formula had again been sent to the Tariff Commission for examination. So, so far as the profits of the mills were concerned, Shri Jain said, he thought that it was perhaps the most regulated industry in the country. The price of the raw material was regulated, the wages of labour were governed by certain labour laws, the cost of manufacture was not very flexible, then a certain profit was allowed,—and on the basis of all these things the ex-factory price of sugar was worked out. The Minister concluded that taking into consideration the interests of the farmers, national finances and export markets, the present price fixed for sugarcane supplied to factory was fair, and worked more to the benefit of the sugarcane growers than to the mills.

Board For Small Inventions

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 19, the Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, said that a Small Inventions Development Board was being set up in the small scale industries organization under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to encourage small inventions. The Board would function through the agency of the small scale industries organization.

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH IRAQ

A Trade Agreement between the Governments of India and Iraq was signed in Baghdad on December 29.

The Agreement seeks to promote closer trade and economic relations between India and Iraq to the mutual benefit of both countries. The two countries have agreed to accord to the trade of each other the most favoured nation treatment, subject to the existing or future preferences or advantages which either party accords to a third country or countries.

Under the Agreement the two Governments have also agreed to help in expanding the trade in traditional items like Iraqi dates and Indian tea, as well as in extending the trade to a number of new products.

Among the items listed as available for import from Iraq to India are dates and hides and skins. Among the items listed for export from India to Iraq are cotton textiles, tea, jute manufactures, light engineering products, plastic goods pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

The Trade Agreement will be valid for a period of one year from the date of ratification.

EXPORTS OF INDIAN HANDICRAFTS

Exports of Indian handicrafts earned foreign exchange worth over Rs. 6.36 crores during 1957. This did not include handicrafts sent by post parcels or those purchased by foreign tourists. The figure also excludes exports of hand-loom fabrics and hand-printed cloth.

The United Kingdom led other countries in the import of Indian handicrafts. The value of exports to that country was Rs. 2.52 crores. The United States of America, which came next, imported Indian handicrafts worth about Rs. 1.41 crores. Exports to Canada were worth Rs. 50 lakhs during the year. The other countries, which imported Indian handicrafts worth about Rs. 10 lakhs, were Malaya and Singapore, West Germany, Australia, Hong Kong, Burma, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Among the handicrafts articles numbering nearly 50 which were exported during the year, carpets and druggets led others in the earnings of foreign exchange. The value of these exports was about Rs. 4.19 crores. Brass and bronzewares earned over Rs. 96 lakhs, synthetic stones about Rs. 17 lakhs, fabrics of textile fibres mixed with metal about Rs. 11.8 lakhs, woollen shawls Rs. 11.7 lakhs and wood carvings about Rs. 11.3 lakhs.

The other handicrafts articles, which were in demand in foreign countries, included ivory manufacture, horn work, lacquerware, rugs, silk shawls and scarves, mats and mattings, fancy handbags and other articles of leather, embroidery, bangles and beads, baskets, toys, statues and busts and musical instruments.

For the promotion of exports of Indian handicrafts a number of steps have been taken by Government. A Government company, viz., the Indian Handicrafts Development Corporation has also been set up to develop production of handicrafts and to find markets abroad. The Corporation is to organize production on commercial basis to ensure prompt supplies against orders, particularly in regard to exports.

A commercial information and intelligence service has been started by the All India Handicrafts Board. Publications are also issued to help exporters in India and traders abroad and advice is given on designs and business methods etc. Representatives of traders from foreign countries have also been invited to popularise Indian handicrafts in those Countries.

Publicity is also arranged through exhibitions in foreign countries and display in show rooms and trade centres. During 1957-58, the Board participated in 10 exhibitions in France, Japan, West Germany, Poland, Sweden, Syria, China, Lebanon and Sudan.

EXPORT OF SHOES TO SOVIET UNION

In reply to a question, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, Minister for Commerce, stated in the Lok Sabha in December 16 that orders for supply of shoes placed by the Soviet Union in 1956 and 1957 for about nine lakh pairs had been mostly complied with except for a small quanity of about 6,000 pairs.

Replying to another question, Shri Kanungo said that deliveries against the contract of about 2½ lakh pairs of shoes in 1958 were yet to be made. This was a further order from the Soviet Union.

Shri Kanungo said that negotiations were in progress for the supply of shoes to the German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. Samples had been sent for approval to these countries. A trial order of shoes valued at about Rs. 1½ lakhs had been placed by the German Democratic Republic. This contract was also under execution.

Against the order of about 50 thousand pairs of shoes placed by Poland in 1957, one shipment of about 21,000 pairs had already been made. The balance of the order had been cancelled. No orders had been placed by Poland in 1958, he added.

RELEASE OF SUGAR FOR EXPORT

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture on December 22, the Government of India, after taking full note of the trend of production, consumption and the supply position of sugar have decided to release a quantity of 1,00,000 tons of sugar for export during the period ending October 31, 1959.

It has also been decided to continue control on ex-factory price of sugar produced by the vacuum pan sugar factories in the Punjab, U.P. and North Bihar during 1958-59 session. The controlled ex-factory price (f.o.r. factory station) fixed for factories in U.P. and North Bihar is Rs. 36.00 per maund and for factories in the Punjab Rs. 36.50 per maund for ISS D-29 grade with the prescribed price differentials for other grades. Sugar mills in the above three regions are not allowed to sell their released stocks at prices higher than the controlled price.

Government have also decided to continue to requisition and distribute sugar at fixed prices on ex-factory basis as also for despatch to out-station centres on freight-to-pay basis. Allotments to the following important centres will continue to be made at fixed f.o.r. destination prices as indicated against each:

Delhi	.. Rs. 36.50 per maund
Kanpur	.. Rs. 36.75 per maund
Calcutta	.. Rs. 38.00 per maund
Bombay	.. Rs. 39.00 per maund

Sugar will be allotted to applicants according to the terms and conditions prescribed for the purpose.

Actual Exports Of Sugar

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 17, Shri A.P. Jain, Minister of Food & Agriculture said that the sugar factories have been delivering their export quotas in accordance with the instructions issued to them by the Export Agency and so far no complaints have been received for non-delivery of the export quota by any factory.

The quantities of sugar sold for export and actually shipped upto December 13, 1958 were 50,015 metric tons and 37,343 tons respectively. The countries to which sugar has been sold are Aden, Arabian countries, Sudan, Djibouti, East Africa, Malaya and Singapore, Burma and Ceylon, the Minister added.

Import Of Cars Free Of Customs

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 17, the Deputy Minister of Finance Shri B.R. Bhagat said that the annual average of motor cars imported free of customs duty numbered 573, and their total value was Rs. 55,20,273. The Deputy Minister laid on the Table of the House a list showing the categories of persons entitled to import motor vehicles without payment of customs duty. He also explained that private purchasers could buy such cars without paying customs if the transaction took place a certain time after the import.

Asked what safeguard there was against misuse of this privilege, the Deputy Minister observed that the concurrence of Government had to be obtained for the sale of the cars within a specified period. Abuse of the concession was also ensured against by guarantees and undertakings as well as by close coordination with the Motor Vehicles Registration authorities.

The categories of persons entitled to import motor vehicles without payment of customs duty are:

1. Foreign Diplomatic Personnel.
2. Foreign Consular Officers.
3. Foreign Trade Representatives.
4. Officials of U.N. and its specialized agencies.
5. Technical Co-operation Mission Employees & Ford Foundation Experts seconded to T.C.M.
6. Chief of CARE Mission in India.
7. Tourists bringing cars under triptyque system.
8. Governors of Indian States and Sadar-i-Riyasat, Jammu and Kashmir.
9. The President of India.
10. The Vice-President of India.
11. Ex-Rulers having personal salute of 19 guns and above.
12. Heads of Indian Missions abroad returning after completing their tenure of service.
13. Rulers of Sikkim and Bhutan.

Communications

WESTERN TUBE OF JAWAHAR TUNNEL OPENED

The western tube of Jawahar tunnel was permanently thrown open to traffic from December 21. The first batch of vehicles entered the tube from the south at 4-0 p.m. on that day.

The opening of the western tube to traffic permanently would provide an all-weather artery between the two wings of Jammu & Kashmir State and between the valley of Kashmir and the rest of India. The tunnel will bring Jammu and Srinagar closer by 18 miles.

More than one and half miles in length and located at 7250 feet above sea level, the Jawahar tunnel, is actually two tunnels in one. When complete, each of its tubes will carry traffic in one direction. For this purpose each tube will have ten feet and six inches wide concrete road-way, a four feet wide foot-path on one side and two feet wide kerb on the other.

The tunnel is designed to carry 250 vehicles per hour. To combat the problem of air pollution inside a tunnel of this length and for this intensity of traffic, air will be forced in the direction of traffic in each tube. As the draught of this air at the entrance is too much for pedestrians to bear, separate pedestrian tunnels are provided to join the tubes about 250 feet inside.

In the ceiling, lights will be provided every 60 feet in the inner portion, but will gradually come closer near the portals. There will be telephone connections from inside the control rooms at the portals, fire hydrants, and harmful gas detectors communicating their results automatically. For emergency, the two tubes are interconnected at four places and also have four bye-passes in each, where sick vehicles can be passed by.

About fifty German technicians and two divisions of the Central P.W.D., under the superintendence of a Chief Resident Engineer, along with a resident Geologist, are working together on this project.

Within twenty months of start of work the western tube was temporarily opened to traffic during the winter of 1956-57. It was opened to traffic again during the winter of 1957-58.

Transport Co-operative Societies

The Government of India have prepared a pilot scheme for setting up transport co-operative societies, it was announced on December 24. To begin with, five such societies are to be set up, one each in Bombay, Madras, West Bengal, Kerala and Delhi.

The objective of the scheme is two-fold: to bring more vehicles on the road; and to find employment for the educated unemployed.

Although the co-operative societies will be under the control of the State Governments, financial assistance by way of loans is to be granted to the societies by the Government of India. The cost of training of the members of the co-operative societies would also be borne by the Central Government.

The membership of the co-operative societies will be restricted to workers like drivers, mechanics, booking clerks, depot managers, etc.

On the basis of five persons to one vehicle, each co-operative society will have 50 members. Each member will be required to contribute Rs. 1,000 towards the capital of the society.

NEW DESIGN WAGONS FOR RAILWAYS

The Railway Board has placed orders with Indian manufacturers for the supply of 1750 broad gauge new design 80-ton eight-wheeler bogie wagons, which have been accepted as the standard design for the future, says an announcement of December 17.

The Indian railways have traditionally been using four-wheeler wagons with a total carrying capacity of 22 tons. The new wagons will have a capacity of 55 tons, and will greatly help in running longer goods trains in India. For the time being their use will be confined to the steel belt in the eastern region.

A provision for a further lot of about 4,000 new design wagons, incorporating the latest development in wagon design, is being made in the 1959-60 rolling stock programme.

With effect from the 1960-61 rolling stock programme, the Railway Board has decided that all open wagons and 50 per cent of the covered wagons will be built as bogie wagons to the new design.

The Ministries of Steel, Mines and Fuel, Transport and Communications and Commerce and Industry have been requested to advise the various dock authorities, steel manufacturers, cement companies, collieries, washing plants etc., whether in the public or the private sector of this decision, so that in their future plans for mechanization of loading and unloading operations in their premises, they might provide equipment of adequate capacity to achieve the optimum utilization of these wagons.

The Railway Board has at present under consideration the design of the eight-wheeler wagons for the metre-gauge system as well.

Manufacture Of Railway Wagons

Production of railway wagons in India has increased nearly six-fold since independence, it was announced on December 19.

During 1947-48, production totalled approximately 3,100 units. Five years later, in 1952-53, it increased to 6,388. Production rose faster during the subsequent five-year period, and 17, 390 wagons were turned out during 1957-58.

At the initial stages, only general purpose wagons were manufactured in the country, and most of the special purpose wagons were imported. The manufacture of the latter types has since been developed in the country, and all requirements of the railways can now be met entirely from indigenous production.

In addition to the established wagon manufacturers, educational orders have also been placed on 10 new manufacturers in different parts of the country.

DIESELIZATION OF RAILWAYS

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Deputy Minister of Railways, said on December 22, that the target for dieselization on Indian railways by the end of the Second Plan period was a fleet of 125 main line diesel locos and 99 diesel shunters on the broad gauge, 20 general purpose and six shunting diesel locos on the narrow gauge. There were at present 66 diesel locos on the broad gauge, 26 on the metre gauge and eight on the narrow gauge in operation.

Replying to another part of the question, the Deputy Minister said that nearly 50 per cent of the existing fleet of diesel locos were engaged in yard shunting work and a straight comparison of percentage of railway transport handled by these locos was not possible. However, the percentage of engine miles for the different types of traction on the entire Indian railway system was roughly as under:

	B.G.	M.G.
Steam	96.63	98.43
Diesel	1.52	1.46
Electric	1.85	0.11

Foot-Board Travel On Railways

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 4 Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, said that the incidence of travelling on foot-boards in the Indian Railways was not on the increase. The total number of fatal accidents, due to foot-board travel during the current year (up to September 30, 1958) was 25. He also mentioned the various steps taken by the Railway authorities to discourage foot-board travel. These are, *inter alia*: Conducting of raids by ticket checking staff in conjunction with personnel of the Government Railway Police and provision of additional accommodation by strengthening existing trains and running more trains, depending on availability of stock, train room and line capacity.

REDUCTION OF RAILWAY FREIGHTS

Representations have been received by the Government demanding the reduction of freight rates for the transport of Tripura goods to and from Calcutta via Assam, said Shri S.V. Ramaswamy, Deputy Minister of Railways, in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 9.

Replying to another part of the question, the Deputy Minister said that a reduction of 20 per cent in the freight rate by rail for jute from Tripura to Calcutta had been granted from April 20, this year; and the question whether any reduction should be allowed in the case of other commodities was under examination.

TRADE AT CALCUTTA PORT IN 1957-58

According to an announcement made on December 27, increased trade was handled at Calcutta port in 1957-58. The total tonnage of imports and exports, which passed through the port during the year, was 5,515,768 (imports) and 4,640,579 (exports) as against 4,352,958 (imports) and 4,516,252 (exports) in the previous year. The increase amounted to 1,287,137 tons or about 14.51 per cent in the total trade passing through the port as compared with the previous year.

Revenue receipts for the port in 1957-58 were Rs. 12,75,80,916 as against Rs. 10,86,61,288 in the previous year. The expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 11,19,52,424. The year ended with a surplus of Rs. 1,56,28,492 due to increased income from the goods, vessels and the railways.

The number of vessels that entered the port during the year was 1,593 as against 1,383 in 1956-57.

TRADE AT MADRAS PORT IN 1957-58

There has been an increase in foreign traffic, both imports and exports, at Madras port during 1957-58, it was announced on December 23. The trade during the year showed an increase of 1.6 per cent over that of the previous year.

The total dead weight tonnage of imports and exports, which passed through Madras port during 1957-58 was: (imports) 1,885,489 and (exports) 618,599 as against (imports) 1,865,849 and (exports) 598,279, respectively, in the previous year.

The financial results for the year were satisfactory. The revenue receipts of the Port Trust for the year under review amounted to Rs. 265.43 lakhs as against Rs. 234.09 lakhs in the previous year.

The net expenditure for the year, excluding the amount held under suspense and the amounts paid as contributions to the Renewals and Replacement Fund, General Insurance Fund and Capital Accounts aggregating Rs. 6.00 lakhs, amounted to Rs. 135.39 lakhs as against Rs. 111.41 lakhs in the previous year. The increase in expenditure has been mainly on account of increase on establishment charges (Rs. 5,11,780), repairs and maintenance (Rs. 6,28,951) and payment of interest to Government on loans (Rs. 5,36,688).

The number of vessels, excluding sailing vessels, that entered the harbour during the year was 933 as against 873 in the previous year and their net tonnage increased from 3,168,590 to 3,497,112.

An important depelopment during the year was the introduction of the piece-rate system for shore labour and electric crane drivers with effect from March 1, 1958.

Storm Warning Radar For Indian Airports

A storm warning radar — Decca Type 41 — has been installed at Sonegaon airport at Nagpur to provide accurate information about storm precipitation centres to aviators. This radar can detect storms upto about 150 miles and indicate the direction and speed of its movement.

A radar of this type is in operation at Santa Cruz (Bombay) and another is to be installed shortly at Madras. Dum Dum airport at Calcutta and Safdarjung airport at New Delhi have already been provided with high-power storm detecting radars.

Apart from radars at Calcutta, Delhi, Nagpur, Bombay and Madras, Decca Type 41 radars will also be provided at Gauhati and Gaya. The installation of the radar at Madras is to be taken up shortly and that at Gauhati and Gaya is expected to be completed by 1960.

These installations at important Indian airports are a part of a programme of expansion and modification of aeronautical ground services and facilities so as to provide better navigational and meteorological aids.

Considering the importance of the Sonegaon aerodrome (Nagpur), due to its geographical position at the centre of the country, Meteorological Department of India felt the necessity of installing a storm warning radar at this airport. The Nagpur radar scans the entire area round the station by continuous rotation of its antenna. With the help of this radar, it will be possible to keep a round-the-clock watch on the weather and alert aircraft regarding approaching thunderstorms and of regions of developing thunderclouds round the aerodrome. The radar is expected to prove to be of particular help during the pre-monsoon season, and also for the night airmail service during bad weather.

FLYING CLUBS IN INDIA

In 1947 there were only five flying clubs with their headquarters at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Patna, and to-day there are 14 subsidized flying clubs operating in the country with their headquaters at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Nagpur, Patna, Jullundur Cantt., Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Indore, Bangalore, Begumpet, Gauhati and Lucknow with satellite centres at Allahabad, Kanpur and Banaras.

These flying clubs have 134 aircraft of which 60 are serviceable and employ 45 pilot instructors, 41 aircraft maintenance engineers and 134 mechanics.

All the flying clubs combined together do a total flying of over 25,000 hours a year.

The Union Government paid a subsidy of Rs. 9,33,449 in 1951-52, Rs. 17,74,813 in 1955-56, and Rs. 18,52,900 in 1957-58. In addition, some flying clubs receive subsidies from the State Governments.

While subvention for NCC trainees is paid to the clubs at fixed rates, subvention for non-NCC trainees varies according to the age of a trainee and the category of the club.

To promote airmindedness among the youth of the country, the Government have awarded 50 scholarships during 1958-59 to deserving students including girls for receiving training at the flying clubs. Under the scholarship scheme the stipend holders are entitled to receive 50 hours free flying training at the flying clubs.

There are four gliding clubs in the country with their centres at Delhi, Poona, Allahabad and Bangalore.

Food & Agriculture

GOVT. PURCHASE OF FERTILIZERS

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 16, the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, Shri K.C. Reddy, said that Government had been negotiating for the purchase of fertilizers. Negotiations had not been restricted to any particular country but were conducted with a large number of foreign manufacturers/suppliers or their agents who quoted against a global tender. The amount of foreign exchange involved in the orders placed was Rs. 5 crores approximately.

In a statement laid on the Table of the House, the Minister stated that every year, the Government of India had to import substantial quantities of fertilizers to make up for the difference between indigenous production and the requirements of the country. For this purpose after determining their requirement of imported fertilizers, the Ministry of Food & Agriculture annually placed the necessary indent for the quantities required with the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply after obtaining release of requisite foreign exchange.

In 1954, in view of the large quantities of fertilizers that had to be purchased through imports, Government decided to set up a Special Negotiating Committee to handle these purchases, consisting of the Secretary, Ministry of Works, Housing & Supply, as chairman, the Director General of Supplies & Disposals, Secretary/Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Secretary/Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance as Members. Since then, this Committee had finalised all purchases of imported fertilizers annually when indents had been placed by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Agriculture).

The practice adopted for undertaking these purchases was for the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply to issue a global tender inviting quotations from manufacturers and/or their accredited agents/suppliers, specifying the quantities likely to be purchased with deliveries as required for different types of fertilizers. This was done with the intention that the Negotiating Committee might purchase the requisite fertilizers from reliable manufacturers on the best possible terms as regards price quality, packing, timely supplies and shipments.

The invitation to tender was not, therefore, a public tender in the strict sense but a request for initial offers on the basis of which the Negotiating Committee could hold further discussions. All contracts from 1955 onwards were concluded by the Negotiating Committee on that basis.

Offers received as a result of such invitations were tabulated in a comparative statement for the convenience of the Members of the Negotiating Committee. Immediately after such comparative statements had been prepared, the Negotiating Committee met individually the representatives of each of the firms submitting offers with a view to obtaining such clarifications as might be necessary on the particulars furnished in their offers and with a view to assuring themselves that the representatives possessed the necessary authority to commit themselves on behalf of the manufacturers.

In the course of discussions and negotiations with individual tenderers the Negotiating Committee was able to secure substantial reduction in the prices as originally tendered, particularly as there was keen competition amongst manufacturers to make supplies to India. Ultimately as a result of such discussions, contracts were awarded after final quotations had been asked for from the suppliers on the basis of the lowest offers, subject to the Committee being satisfied that a successful firm was in a position to undertake supplies.

For the current year's purchases, on receipt of an intimation from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture that they would require substantial quantities of fertilizers during the year 1959 but that they were unable to indicate the foreign exchange which would be available for this purpose, it was decided in consultation with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance that a global tender should be issued in the usual manner inviting offers for different types of fertilizers, but without specifying the actual quantities to be purchased as in the past. The decision to issue the tender without specifying the actual quantities to be purchased was taken because the Ministry of Food and Agriculture was anxious that purchases should be finalized immediately a decision was available on the exact amount of foreign exchange that could be released for this purpose, especially as deliveries were required in the earlier period of the year before the onset of the monsoons.

As a result of the final quotations, contracts were awarded to the Japan Ammonium Sulphate Export Co., one of the tenderers, for 1,37,000 tons of Ammonium Sulphate at £ 17-3-10 per ton C & F landed, paid last year This price which was found to be the lowest acceptable, was favourable as compared to the previous year's purchases from the same source at £ 18-18-6 per long ton C & F landed. Incidentally the lowest quotation received originally was £ 18-4-0 per ton. A contract was also concluded with the Japan Ammonium Sulphate Industry Association for 40,000 long tons of Urea at £ 38-4-10 per long ton C & F landed. Here again the price could be considered favourable, as it was lower than the price of £ 40-8-0 per ton C & F landed paid last year and the lowest acceptable offer at £ 40-0-0 per ton C & F landed, quoted originally.

WHEAT RESEARCH STATIONS

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 4, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, said that work on wheat research was being done at present at 16 stations, six of which were working under the administrative control of the Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. The remaining 10 stations were run by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in collaboration with the State Governments concerned.

The results of research were brought to the knowledge of the growers by the State Departments of Agriculture. Important results were also published in popular journals brought out by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, viz., *'Indian-Farming'*, *'Kheti'* and *'Dharti-ke Lal'*.

CROP COMPETITION SCHEME

Answering a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 16, the Minister of Food and Agriculture said that the crop competition scheme for award of prizes to individuals who produce the highest yields per acre in selected food crops had been revived from the current Rabi season. Another scheme for the award of community prizes to districts and States which raise the production of selected crops, was under consideration, he disclosed.

The object of the scheme, is to promote a spirit of healthy rivalry among the cultivators and thereby increase the average per acre yield of important food crops in the country. Although the scheme will operate in both block and non-block areas, it is expected that there will be greater participation of farmers from Community Development and National Extension Service blocks. The crops which will be included in the prize competition scheme are paddy, *juar*, *bajra*, *ragi*, maize, wheat, barley, gram, rabi juar and potato. The State Governments may add such other important crops as they like to the list, depending upon their local importance. The competitions are held at different levels, at the village block, district and state, and prizes are awarded to the winners.

Conference On Soil Fertility

A three-day conference of the All-India Soil Testing Service to exchange and discuss ideas on soil fertility was inaugurated on December 17 at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. Talks on the importance of soil testing for increasing country's crop production, fertilizer problem in relation to the present food position and soil fertility problems in Community Development areas were delivered at the conference.

Through 20 soil testing laboratories established in various parts of the country valuable information on nutrient status of different soils and their fertility responses has been collected. The data thus assembled are intended to encourage more profitable fertility practices among the farmers and also help in planning fertilizer distribution and consumption.

An aggregate of 15,000 soil samples have been analyzed during the last two years and efforts are being made to step up soil analysis to cover the whole country. Under the Indo-U.S. agreement 24 soil testing centres are proposed to be set up in different States.

National Co-operative Marketing Federation

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 17, Shri A.P. Jain, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, disclosed that a society called the "National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd.," had been registered as a Co-operative institution on October 2, 1958.

The main objective of the Federation was to co-ordinate and promote the activities of the affiliated co-operative institutions engaged in marketing and processing of agricultural and allied produce and assist and help them in internal trade as well as in export and import of commodities.

Final Estimates For Potato

The all-India final estimate of the potato crop 1957-58 puts the area and production at 785,000 acres and 1,981,000 tons as against the partially revised estimates of 707,000 acres and 1,698,000 tons for 1956-57, according to an announcement made by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture on December 23. These figures show an increase of 78,000 acres or 11 per cent in area and 283.000 tons or 16.7 per cent in production over last year's estimate.

The increase in area during the year 1957-58 has been shared by almost all the potato-growing States, being particularly marked in Bihar (from 123,000 acres in 1956-57 to 155,000 acres) and Uttar Pradesh (from 237,000 acres to 258,000 acres), and has been attributed generally to favourable climatic conditions at the time of sowing.

Higher production has also occurred in almost all the potato-growing States, particularly U.P. and West Bengal. This is attributed partly to increase in acreage and partly to favourable climatic conditions during the period of growth of the crop. Uttar Pradesh produced 104,000 tons more than in 1956-57 and West Bengal 79,000 tons more. In Punjab the increase was of the order of 21,000 tons.

Price Of Milled Rice In Bihar

According to an announcement of December 13, the Central Government have prescribed that the ex-mill or wholesale price at which milled rice may be sold in any area within the State of Bihar shall be Rs. 16 per maund. The Milled Rice (Bihar) Price Control Order, 1958, has been issued for this purpose under the Essential Commodities Act 1955.

Sale in "wholesale quantities" has been defined as sale in quantities exceeding 10 maunds in any transaction.

The price specified is for fair average quality rice. For rice below the fair average quality, the maximum price shall be determined by reducing the specified price by the amount of cuts indicated in the schedule to the Order.

PADDY & RICE PRICES FOR ASSAM

The Central Government have prescribed maximum wholesale prices for the sale of winter *sali* paddy and rice in three specified Zones within the State of Assam. They have issued the Rice and Paddy (Assam) Price Control Order, 1958 for this purpose under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, in supersession of the Order issued on January 14, 1958.

The maximum prices per maund of paddy in the three Zones range from Rs. 10.25 to Rs. 10.75, while those for rice range from Rs. 17.60 to Rs. 18.40 for millers and from Rs. 18.10 to Rs. 18.90 for wholesalers other than millers. The price payable to a grower in the village has been fixed at not less than Rs. 9 per maund, with provision for a cut on account of moisture at the rates of 8½ per cent, 5 per cent and 3 per cent if paddy is purchased in the months of December, January, and February respectively of any year.

The terms "wholesalers" and "millers" have also been defined for the purpose of the order.

Procurement Prices Of Rice & Whea t

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on procurement of rice, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Shri A. P. Jain, said on December 17 that the procurement prices of common rice per maund in different States were as follows:

Assam Rs. 18 to 18.80; West Bengal Rs. 16; Orissa Rs. 15; Madhya Pradesh Rs. 15; Punjab Rs. 16; Andhra Pradesh — Nallarlu or other red varieties — Rs. 15, Garikallu and Basangi — Rs. 15.50 and Akkullu — Rs. 16.50; Madras Rs. 15.34; Mysore Rs. 15.34; Tripura Rs. 13 to 16; and Uttar Pradesh Rs. 15.

He added that the procurement prices in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa were not low as compared to those in other States. It was considered that the procurement prices which had been fixed, ensured a reasonable return to the producer for his produce.

In answer to another question the Minister said that no procurement prices for wheat had been fixed. He also said that no floor prices either for wheat or paddy had till then been fixed, but the State Governments were arranging to purchase paddy in certain states at reasonable prices.

River Projects & Power

IRRIGATION SCHEMES IN SECOND PLAN

In a written reply to a question Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister for Irrigation and Power, placed a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on December 4, giving details of major and medium irrigation schemes in States which were expected to be completed during the Second Plan period.

Andhra Pradesh

The statement indicated that there were 21 continuing and 4 Second Plan schemes in Andhra Pradesh. The names, irrigation benefits (in lakh acres) and probable or actual date of completion of these schemes were:

Continuing schemes — Tungabhadra 1.58, 3/57; Krishna Barrage 1.17, 1958-59; Bhaivaranitippa 0.12, 1958-59; Rallapad 2nd stage 0.082, 9/57; Upper Pennar 0.095, 3/58; Godavari 1st phase 0.67, 1958-59; Sarla Sagar 0.048, 3/58; Rajolibunda 1.14, (also benefits Mysore) 1959; Nagavalli 0.09, 3/58; Vegavathi 0.064, 3/58; Seethanagram 0.04, 3/58; Narayanapuram 0.368, 3/59; Gambhiragedda 0.105, 3/58; Kalangi 0.043, 1958-59; Mallimadugu 0.040, 1958-59; Lower Sagileru 0.03, 3/58; Pancha Nadi 0.045, 3/58; K.C. Canal 1.959, 1958-59; Cheenarayaswami 0.011, 3/58; Musi 0.38, 1958-59 and Koil Sagar 0.12, 1958-59.

Second Plan schemes — Paleru Bitragunta 0.048, 1960-61; Paidigram 0.035, 1960-61; Jutpally 0.022, 1960-61, and Lakkanpur 0.03, 1960-61.

Bihar

In Bihar, there were 14 continuing and 8 Second Plan schemes.

Continuing . schemes — Botane Irrigation scheme 0.16, 1958-59: Uppel Morhar 0.32, 1958-59; Lilajan 0.53, 6/59; Durgawati 0.26, Completed in 1957; Kaurihari 0.14, 6/59; Khargpur Lake 0.12, 1958-59; Dhawa 0.10, 6/59; Lower Morhar 0.37, 1959-60; Adri 0.10, 6/59; Jin Joi 0.07, 6/59; Nagi 0.06, 1958-59: Mayurakshi Left Bank Canal 0.25, completed in 1957; Kamla Canal 0.38, 1958-59 and Tribeni Canal Extension 0.62, During 2nd Plan.

Second Plan schemes — Morwe 0.12, 1960-61: Kohira 0.26, 1960-61; Panchane, 0.31, 1960-61; Lower Kuli 0.64; 1959-60; Khajia Phase II 4.34, 1958-59; Torlow 0.06, 1958-59; Kanchi 0.45, 1960-61 and small schemes: Chako 0.06, 1959-60; Sakri Canal Phase II 0.27, 1959-60 and Roro 0.27, 1960-61.

Bombay

Continuing schemes: — Gangapur 0.45, 10/59· Ranand 0.027, 3/58; Bendsura 0.093, 3/58; Khasapur 0.135, 3/58; Ozat 0.15, 1958-59; Hiran 0.065, 1958-59; Rawal 0.05, 3/59; Machhundri 0.042, 11/59; Aji 0.064, 1958-59; Machhu I 0.22, 1958-59; Bhogawo I 0.042, 6/60: Rudramata 0.15 3/61; Ghod Dam 0.608, 3/61; Extension of Krishna Canal 0.141; 6/60; Mosam River 0.21, 3/59: Pushpawati 0.04, 3/60; Budhial Tank 0.105, 3/60; Bandhara on Tarali 0.056, 3/59; Bandhara on Urmodi 0.049, 6/59; Talwar 0.03, 1958-59: Deku 0.067, 1959-60; Juinalla 0.057, 1959-60; Kamli 0.026, 1958-59: Harnav river scheme 0.10, 3/59; Moti Fatewadi 0.53, 3/59; Patadungri 0.12, 1958-59; Bandhara across Heran river 0.07, 1958-59: Karad Tank 0.152, 1958-59 and Munjiasar 0.042, 6/58.

Second Plan schemes — Vir 0.998 1960-61: Gangapur storage II 0.19, 2/60; Kurnur 0.09, 2/60: Chandni 0.03, 1960: Tirna 0.045. 1960-61: Dombni 0.015, 1960-61: Sarswati 0.32, 1960-61; Hatomati 0.585, 1960-61; Shamlaji 0.37, 1960-61; Khodiar 0.19, 1960-61. Demi 0.056, 1958-59, Ghelo 0.036, 1960-61; Bhogavo II 0.06, 1960-61: Limbdi Bhogawo 0.08, 1959-60; Rojki 0.035, 1960-61: Fulzar 0.045, 12/59; Sakroli 0.031, 1159; Suvai 0.043, 1960-61: Niruna 0.092, 1960-61; Gajansar 0.038, 1960-61; Pindara Bodi 0.13, 1960-61: Ekburji 0.12, 1960-61, and Datarwadi 0.06, 1960-61.

Jammu And Kashmir

Continuing schemes — Pratap Canal 0.20, 1958-59.

Kerala

Continuing schemes — Peechi 0.46, 3/58; Chalakudy 1st stage 0.289, 3/58; Vazhani 0.128, 1958-59; Neyyar 1st stage 0.15, 1958-59; Malampuzha 0.476, 3/59; Walayar 0.08, 1958-59 and Manglam 0.075, 1958-59.

Second Plan schemes — Chalakudy stage II 0.202, 1960-61; Neyyar 2nd stage 0.191, (also benefits Madras State) 3/61; Cheerakuzhi 0.04, 12/60; Meenakara 0.107, 1958-60 and Kattampally 0.04, 1960-61.

Madhya Pradesh

Continuing schemes — Gangulpara Tank .09, 1959; Gandli Tank, .08, 1958-1959; Dudwa Tank 1.40, 1960; Sampna Tank .1, 1958-59; Dukri Kheda Tank .07, 1958-59; Mola .07, 1959; Board .17; 1960-61, *Medium Schemes* — Morwan Tank, Shivgarh Tank, Barodia Tank, Kundanalal Tank .17, 1960-61; Shahaspura .05, 1960-61; Dumeria .45, 1960-61.

Madras

Continuing schemes — Maninuthar 1.03, 12/57; Vaigai 0.20, 58-59; Araniyar 0.112, 5/57; Mettur Canal 0.45, 3/57; Sathanur 0.12, 58-59; Krishnagiri 0.075, 58-59; Amravathi 0.53, 58-59.

Second Plan srhemes — New Kattalai High Level 0.206, 1960; Pullambadi Canal 0.221, 1960; Vidur 0.032, 1960-61.

Mysore

Continuing sshemes — Tunga Anicut 0.215, 1958-59; Nugu Reservoir 0.20, 1958-59; Ambligola 0.072, 3/60; Naranapura anicut 0.022, 3/59; Kariyala Tank 0.02, 1958-59; Kolchi Weir 0.037, 3/59; Ghataprabha Left Bank Canal 1.20, 3/59; Tank at Ramanhalli 0.048, 58-59; Tank at Areshanker 0.031, 58-59; Tank ot Kallaskor 0.028, 58-59.

Second Plan schemes — Dharma 0.14, 60-61; Kanak Nala 0.033, 60-61.

Orissa

Continuing scheme — Hirakud Project 5.62, 1959-60.

Second Plan scheme — Salki Project 0.45, 1960-61.

Punjab

Continuing schemes — Bhakra Nangal 36.0, 1960-61; Western Jumna Canal remodelling 3.28, 1958-59; Madhopur Beas Link (No direct benefits), 1958-59; Sirhind Feeder 6.0, 1958-59; Dadri .50, 1958-59.

Second Plan scheme — Extension of irrigation (lift) from Western Jamuna Canal to Rewari and adjoining areas — 40, 1960-61.

Rajasthan

Continuing schemes — Jawai .45, the work has been almost completed except minor works which will be completed in 58-59; Parbati .37, during 2nd Plan period; Gudha .37, 1958-59; Kalisil .14, 1958-59; Meja .37, Completed in 1958; Morel .24, Completed in 1958; Juggar .09, 1958-59; Lodisarka Naka .07, 1958-59; Bangolia .37, During 2nd Plan period; Gambheri .33, During 2nd Plan period; Sareni .22, During 2nd Plan period; Arwar .22, During 2nd Plan period; Khari .26 During 2nd

Plan period; Namona .13, 1958-59; Ora .09, Completed in 1958; Galwa .17, During 2nd Plan period; Mashi .13, During 2nd Plan period; Parwana .3, During 2nd Plan period; Kalisindh .30, During 2nd Plan period; Bhimsagar .16, During 2nd Plan period.

Second Plan schemes — New tank on Lahasaria .05, During 2nd Plan period; Bharatpur Feeder 0.18, During 2nd Plan period.

Uttar Pradesh

Continuing schemes — Chandraprabha .24, Completed in 1958; Naugarh .80, 1959; Sardasagar stage I 1.72, During 2nd Plan period; Tanda Canal .60, During 2nd Plan period; Dohrighat pumped canal 1.39, 1960; Belon and Tons Canal 1.01, 3/61; Increasing capacity of Upper Ganga canal, 1.12, Completed in 1957; Remodelling Eastern Yamuna Canal 0.22, 3/60; Remodelling Agra Canal 0.27, 1959-60; Naryani Gandak Pokhra Canal 0.51, 3/59: Banganga Canal 0.22, Project is completed in 1958 except payment of land charges etc.; Arjun Dam 0.27, Completed in 1957; Afzalgarh Canal 0.10, 6/60; Remodelling Jani Escape, Benefits included in 'Increasing Capacity of Upper Ganga Canal', 1958-59.

Second Plan schemes — Ohen Reservoir 0.16, 3/61; Tumeria Reservoir 0.40, 6/60; Nanaksagar 1.33, 6/59; Upper Khajuri 0.5, 1958-59; Jirgo Reservoir 0.64, 1960, and Kwano pumped canal 0.53, 3/59.

West Bengal

Continuing schemes — D.V.C. Projects 13.44 (annual irrigation), 6/59, and Mayurakshi 7.20 (annual irrigation), 3/57.

FLOOD CONTROL MEASURES

Opening the eighth meeting of the Central Flood Control Board at Delhi on December 22, Hafiz Mohd. Ibrahim, Union Minister for Irrigation and Power, said that the programme of flood control, which envisaged the construction of river embankments and channel improvements, would be completed in the remaining Second Plan period. The Minister felt there was, however, a continuing need in the flood control programme — as, indeed, in overall water resources development — for proper co-ordination, planning and appraisal of the relative importance of these schemes.

Reviewing the flood situation in 1958, the Minister said that during the year, fairly widespread damage occurred in Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, U.P., Punjab, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh. In other States the damage was less. In general, concentrated heavy rainfall and, in a few cases, rainfall of abnormal intensities, as in Delhi and other parts of Andhra Pradesh, were the main contributory factors to floods in 1958. Unprecedented damage had occurred in the Vamsadhara, Nagavali, Sarada and Bhuda river basins of Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam districts of Andhra Pradesh.

An overall assessment of the monetary loss due to floods in the States had not yet been possible as information was still incomplete. But, by and large, the magnitude of flood damage in 1958, though considerable in itself, was not as heavy as in some of the previous years.

Benefits Derived So Far

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 1, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister for Irrigation and Power, said that 42 towns and 4,000 villages covering over 50 lakh acres of land had benefitted by flood protection works executed in the country so far.

Irrigation Facilities For Delhi Area

An amount of Rs. 49.86 lakhs was set apart for the extension of irrigational facilities in Delhi area during the Second Five Year Plan, of which Rs. 9.81 lakhs have been spent so far, said the Minister of Food and Agriculture in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 9.

Capacity Of Bhakra Reservoir

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha the Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi said on December 9, that the designed gross storage capacity of the Bhakra reservoir was 7.4 million acre feet and that on the basis of available hydrological data, the Bhakra reservoir was expected to be full in only eight out of every 20 years. The Government of Punjab were investigating a scheme called "Sutlej-Beas Link" to augment the supplies to the Bhakra reservoir, he added.

Central Aid To States For Irrigation

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power laid a statement on the Table of the House on December 16, which said that Central financial assistance to various States for medium irrigation and multi-purpose projects in 1957-58 amounted to Rs. 52.28 crores.

The statement also said that, in addition to these schemes, there were a number of medium and major irrigation schemes, included in the State Sector of the Second Five Year Plan. The position in this regard was that assistance in the form of loans was sanctioned during 1957-58 for financing all the miscellaneous development schemes sponsored by the State Governments and approved by the Planning Commission. The loans sanctioned, however, did not fully cover the the expenditure on these schemes and the State Governments were required to meet a part of the expenditure from their own resources.

HIRAKUD RESERVOIR

In reply to a question, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, stated on December 17 in the Lok Sabha that the storage capacity of the Hirakud Reservoir was 6.60 million acre feet of water and it had been filled to its full capacity this year.

The Deputy Minister also stated that the annual water utilization for production of power at Power House No. 1 was 7.48 million acre feet, as per the working table prepared in 1953. This included the water utilized directly from the inflow into the river during the monsoon and non-monsoon periods, besides draw-off from storage.

The average annual loss due to evaporation from the reservoir was estimated at 0.590 million acre feet.

WORK OF NATIONAL PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

The National Projects Construction Corporation (Private) Limited — a State enterprise, sponsored by the Union Ministry of Irrigation and Power — has, during the first year of its existence, completed works costing Rs. 40.43 lakhs.

With an authorized capital of Rs. 2 crores and a paid-up capital of Rs. 64 lakhs, the Corporation was set up in 1957 to undertake construction of large-scale works, which private contractors were reluctant to take up.

The main objectives of the Corporation are: to supplement the work of private enterprise in the construction of big projects, included in the Second Plan; to improve the quality of building; to eradicate corruption; to minimize misuse or wastage of building materials; to promote greater use of available resources of manpower and materials, and to provide better facilities for labour employed in building works.

The Corporation's first major work was part of the Chambal Project. It cost the Corporation Rs. 2.9 crores, and was carried out in difficult terrain under conditions of great hardship.

Further, the Corporation has set up a well-equipped field workshop at Parwan aqueduct, where earth-moving machinery is repaired and overhauled.

The Corporation's programme of work for 1958-59 includes construction of the Wazirabad Barrage. It is expected to cost Rs. 60 lakhs and will ensure supply throughout the year.

The Corporation has also been given the work of constructing the Kosi barrage and two head regulators of the canals in Bihar, at a cost of over Rs. 5 crores.

The construction of the Badua dam in Bihar State, costing Rs. 63 lakhs approximately, and of additional masonary works on the Chambal right main canal in Madhya Pradesh, costing Rs. 30 lakhs, have also been undertaken.

The Corporation has shown a net profit of Rs. 3.29 lakhs or 8% of the value of work during the financial year 1957-58. Excluding income tax, this works out to 5.6% of the value of the work completed. A dividend of 2½% has been declared in favour of the Government of India and the State Governments, which have jointly contributed to its capital.

As the Corporation's rates are lower than those tendered by the contractors, the project authorities will save 8.3% on the value of the work done by it.

The total savings to Government on both counts will be of the order of about 14% of the value of works.

Yet another indirect benefit to the Government is a general fall in rates quoted by private firms in the areas where the Corporation is working.

UPPER SILERU POWER PROJECT

In a written answer to a question in the Rajya Sabha, the Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, said on December 16, that the project report on the Upper Sileru Power Project Stage I, which had been received from the Andhra Pradesh Government was examined and found technically acceptable.

The Deputy Minister added that the final approval of the Project by the Planning Commission was expected shortly.

It was further indicated in a statement laid on the Table of the House by the Deputy Minister that Stage I of the Project envisaged utilization of the tail waters of 1400 cusecs from the Machkund hydro-electric scheme, together with an additional regulated discharge of 400 cusecs at a head of 310 ft. to generate 120,000 KW of power with 2 units of 60,000 KW each.

The civil works comprised a diversion weir about 35 ft. high across the Sileru river at Guntawada, 50 miles downstream of Machkund, with 20 ft. high crest gates. The regulated discharges from Machkund, augmented by the flow from intermediate catchment, would be diverted at this weir into a forebay from which 2 penstocks 18 ft. in diameter and 625 ft. long would lead to the power station.

These works had been estimated to cost a total of about Rs. 927.58 lakhs including associated transmission and distribution system, costing about Rs. 319.58 lakhs.

Nuclear Power In Third Plan

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister said that a minimum of 250,000 kilowatts of nuclear power was to be included in the power programme of the Third Plan. He explained that exploratory talks with manufacturers of atomic power stations in other countries were in progress. However, no decision had yet been taken on the location of the power stations.

Education & Culture

ACCEPTANCE OF NEW PATTERN OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Replying to a question Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said in the Rajya Sabha on December 17, that most of the States and Universities had accepted the new pattern of secondary and University Education.

Replying to other parts of the question, Dr. Shrimali laid the following statement on the Table of the House:

Pattern of Secondary Education:

All State Governments except Bombay and Uttar Pradesh have accepted the new pattern of Secondary Education.

The State Governments of Bombay and Uttar Pradesh have not been able to accept the pattern so far. The reasons offered by both the States are their inability to find funds to meet the heavy recurring and non-recurring expenditure involved. The difficulties of Uttar Pradesh particularly arise from the fact that the pattern of Secondary Education in that State is different from that prevailing anywhere else in India.

Pattern of Three-Year Degree Course:

(i) Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal have accepted the Three-Year Degree Course Scheme as envisaged by the First Deshmukh Committee.

Replies from the Governments of Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab are awaited.

The State Government of U.P. have expressed their inability to accept the Scheme for the present.

(ii) All Universities excepting Bombay, Gorakhpur and Patna have accepted the Three-Year Degree Course Scheme.

The Universities of Gorakhpur and Patna are still considering the matter.

The Government of U.P. has expressed its inability to provide the matching contribution and has indicated the special problems of the State.

The Bombay University has not accepted the Scheme on the ground that the students coming after the Higher Secondary Education instruction would not be mature enough to benefit from the Three-Year Degree Course.

EXPANSION OF BASIC EDUCATION

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha regarding the steps taken by the Central Government for early implementation of Basic Education Scheme, the Union Minister of Education, stated on December 2, that a number of schemes were being implemented by the Central Government for the expansion and improvement of Basic Education in the country.

These included the establishment of the National Institute of Basic Education, production of literature and material for Basic schools, financial assistance to voluntary organizations for the development and improvement of Basic schools, Basic teachers' training institutes, post-Basic schools, and loans/grants for the construction of hostels attached to Basic education institutions.

In addition, the Government of India had given grants to the State Governments also in the field of Basic Education, the Minister added.

Free & Compulsory Education In States

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 15, Dr. K. L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said that the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and the Delhi Corporation had decided to introduce free and compulsory primary education as a pilot project. The Andhra Pradesh Government had decided to introduce the project in three N.E.S. Blocks during 1958-59; Bihar Government in 17 N.E.S./C.D. Blocks from January, 1959 and Delhi Corporation in two N.E.S. Blocks in the near future, he added.

Grants To States For Girls' Education

To accelerate the progress of Girls' Education and the Training of Women Teachers, the Union Ministry of Education have decided to liberalize the present system of grants to the States under this Scheme, it was announced on December 24.

According to a communication recently addressed to the State Governments by the Government of India, it has been decided to waive the condition of a matching contribution of 25 per cent by the States for this Scheme.

Under the present pattern of allocation, the Central Government contributes 75 per cent of the total expenditure to be incurred for this purpose and the remaining 25 per cent has to be contributed by the States from their own resources before they can utilize the Central assistance. This procedure, it is expected, will ensure speedy implementation of their programmes for the expansion of Girls' Education by the State Governments in future. The new pattern of allocation comes into force during the current financial year.

The first part of the Scheme makes provision for free accommodation of women teachers in rural areas; appointment of school mothers to look after the children; special teacher-training courses for adult women desirous of taking up the teaching profession; stipends for women students taking training courses at the under-graduate level for teaching; refresher courses for trained women teachers and the grant of stipends to cover tuition and other fees; books and stationery for girl students of classes 8th to 9th provided the recipients undertake to take up teaching for a period of five years at least.

Under the second part, it is proposed to grant attendance scholarships to girls, whose parents apply for it in all elementary schools except public schools. These scholarships will preferably be in kind, as clothes, mid-day meals, books, etc.

Another suggestion is to give exemption to girl students from tution fees in all elementary schools except public schools.

It is estimated that at present 2,70,14,000 girls of the age-group 6 — 14 are not attending schools in 14 States. The budget provision during the current financial year for the implementation of the Scheme is Rs. 70,50,000.

Funds For University Grants Commission

Replying to a question regarding reduction in the grants sanctioned to the University Grants Commission during the Second Plan period, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, in a statement laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on December 23, said that while the Government had not made any reduction in the sanctioned amount of the grant to the University Grants Commission, the original Plan allocation of Rs. 27.0 crores included in the Second Five-Year Plan for "Grants-in-aid to the University Grants Commission" was reduced to Rs. 18.63 crores owing to a shortfall in the estimated financial resources available for the Plan period.

At their meeting held on July 8 and 9, 1958, the University Grants Commission had desired that a sum of Rs. 19.0 crores should be made available to it during the Second Plan period. Efforts were being made to find the additional funds, he added.

VICE-CHANCELLOR OF VISVA-BHARATI

According to a Press Note issued on December 27 by the Ministry of Education, consequent on his appointment as National Professor, Shri S. N. Bose tendered resignation from the office of the Upacharya (Vice-Chancellor) of the Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan.

Ths President in his capacity as the Paridarsaka (Visitor) of the University, accepted his resignation with effect from the afternoon of December 24, 1958.

On the recommendations of the Karma-Samiti (Executive Council) of the University, the President as Visitor, has approved the appointment of Shri Kshitis Chandra Chaudhuri to fill the casual vacancy in the office of the Vice-Chancellor till a Vice-Chancellor is appointed in accordance with the Statutes of the University.

U.G.C.'S HELP TO RAISE COLLEGE TEACHERS' PAY

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 18, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education laid the following statement on the Table of the House giving details of the assistance given by the University Grants Commission for upgrading the salary scales of teachers of affiliated colleges.

University	*No. of Colleges*	*Amount Paid* Rs.
1. Bombay	15	1,25,000.00
2. Calcutta	95	6,88,000.00
3. Osmania	3	4,929.64
4. Poona	9	39,752.50
5. Sardar Vallabhbhai Vidyapeeth	2	7,377.58
6. Saugor	2	3,446.80
7. Punjab	25	76,239.21
8. Andhra	3	32,443.99
9. S.N.D.T. Women's	2	7,317.74
10. Madras	1	15,674.00
	157	10,00,181.46

The University Grants Commission has made payments for 1957-58 on account of upgrading of the salaries of teachers of colleges of the above-mentioned Universities in accordance with the scale recommended by the Commission.

The University Grants Commission has made these funds available to the Universities concerned. The amount is being disbursed to the teachers concerned by the respective Universities.

Teachers' Salaries In Primary Schools

Replying to a question regarding the improvement of salaries of primary school teachers, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said in the Lok Sabha on December 10, that the Governments of Assam, Bombay, Bihar, Kerala, Mysore, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal had included the scheme for improvement of the salaries of primary school teachers in their development programmes for the year 1958-59.

The Minister further added that appropriate Central assistance was being given to the States for implementing the programme.

GOVT. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TECHNICAL STUDIES

In reply to question in the Lok Sabha, Dr. M.M. Das, Deputy Minister of Scientific and Cultural Affairs, said on December 18, that the Government of India proposed to award scholarships to meritorious poor students to assist them in their technical studies at engineering colleges and polytechnics. A detailed scheme was being formulated for the purpose. Further, a provision of Rs. 30 lakhs had been made for the scholarships during the current Plan period, he added.

HELP TO DISPLACED STUDENTS

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 18, regarding the financial aid to displaced students, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, stated that the exemption from payment of fees was granted to

(i) Primary and middle class students whose parents' income was Rs. 100 per month or below;

(ii) High school students whose parents' income was Rs. 150 per month or below.

Cash grants to cover their incidental charges on books etc., the Minister added, were being given to them previously, but they had been stopped recently with a view to winding up the scheme.

Destitute children of widows without homes and infirmaries continued receiving stipends in addition to freeships, he said.

Aeronautical Research At Bangalore

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has recently sanctioned the initial work of a major wind tunnel project to be located at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. This wind tunnel, which has a large working section, will ultimately form the nucleus of the proposed National Aeronautical Research Laboratory at Bangalore, says an announcement of December 21. The estimated cost of the Laboratory is about one lakh rupees, and it is expected to start functioning by 1962 or 1963. It will be the first large one of its kind in the country, capable of undertaking tests at speeds greater than the speed of sound. In view of the increasing importance of aeronautical research the project has been accorded a high priority. The project will be worked by Indian scientists and as far as possible the equipment used will be manufactured indigenously.

The development of modern high speed aircraft requires wind tunnels which are capable of producing air speeds equal to or greater than the speed of sound. Such wind tunnels become exceedingly complex in equipment and may need more than 100,000 H.P. to run them — more power than what is needed by an entire city. However, the complexity and expense it entails is ultimately justified by the improvements in efficiency, speed and safety it will provide.

At the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, there is now a small wind tunnel used for fundamental research which uses only 5 H.P. motor while the new low speed wind tunnel at the Institute needs approximately a 1,200 H.P. motor to produce airspeeds of 250 miles per hour. The power required increases rapidly with the maximum air speed in a tunnel.

NATIONAL METALLURGICAL LABORATORY

The National Metallurgical Laboratory, situated at Jamshedpur, is the sixth in the chain of national laboratories set up by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The decision to have an organized metallurgical research laboratory was in keeping with the objectives of the Government to have a planned industrial development directed towards expansion and effective utilization of the country's resources in metals and minerals.

Since its inception, the Laboratory has been developing substitute alloys both in ferrous and non-ferrous fields based on indigenous alloying elements with a view to meet the needs of engineering and other industries mainly by indigenous materials.

The Laboratory has of late developed a new process, known as L.D. process, to be first used in the Rourkela Steel Plant. Cheaper and faster than the traditional method, this process is better suited to the needs of India's rapidly developing economy. The Second Plan has a target of producing 750 thousand tons of steel by this process. Another significant contribution of the Laboratory is the construction of low shaft furnace pilot plant of 15 tons per day capacity. It is expected to produce different grades of pig iron, using sub-standard iron ores and non-metallurgical coal or carbonized lignite, which though available in India in plenty are yet unsuitable for smelting in a conventional blast furnace.

Work at the Laboratory has also contributed to the development of nickel-free stainless steels and coinage alloys, as well as production of electrolytic manganese and manganese dioxide on a substantial scale.

These substitute nickel-free stainless steels can successfully replace the conventional chromium-nickel steel in specific applications and can be used for all kinds of domestic utensils, for railway fittings and many other purposes, thereby saving a considerable amount of foreign exchange.

The Laboratory has also developed recently a process for the manufacture of improved graphite crucibles.

Working in close collaboration with other bodies connected with metallurgy or metal industry, such as the Indian Bureau of Mines, the Atomic Energy Establishment, the Metals Research Committee and the Railway Board, the Laboratory has undertaken such projects as beneficiation of uranium ores, manganese and chrome ores, low-shaft furnace project, development of tinless bronzes and controlled friction materials, besides furnishing them with useful technical data. The Laboratory has also made some useful contribution to the Indian Standards Institution by helping it in the formulation of standard specifications on foundry sands, facing materials, methods of sampling foundry sands and manganese ores and methods of chemical analysis.

REGIONAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES

The Indian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has been working on a plan to set up regional laboratories — outside the chain of National Laboratories whose work is of a specialized nature — to ensure speedy and uniform development of local agricultural, forest and mineral resources in various regions. The Research Laboratory at Hyderabad was the first to be included in this scheme. The second of the regional laboratories has been located at Jammu; the third one is going to be set up at a suitable place in Assam.

The research laboratory at Hyderabad has been in existence since 1944. It was established by the then Government of Hyderabad under the name of "Central Laboratories for Scientific and Industrial Research". In April 1956, it was taken over by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and reconstituted as a Regional Research Laboratory.

The distinctive character of the Regional Research Laboratory at Hyderabad lies in the fact that its activity is not confined to any one field of scientific research. Any subject for research, which has a bearing on the raw materials available in the region, is taken up in this Laboratory. Thus researches are being conducted in a wide variety of subjects, ranging from fuels, vegetable oils, ceramics and heavy chemicals to entomology, X-ray instrumentation and operational research.

Being located in the vicinity of a coal-bearing area, the Regional Laboratory at Hyderabad is specially interested in the study of the various types of coals found in Andhra Pradesh and adjoining areas. At the Laboratory a pilot plant relating to a coal utilization process has been developed. It has a capacity of 25-tons per-day for low temperature carbonization of coal, and has been in operation at the Laboratory since 1954. The soft coke produced by this process has been marketed as smokeless domestic fuel under the name "Kolsite".

Next to the Fuels Division, the most important Division of the Research Laboratory at Hyderabad is the one relating to oils. Cotton-seed, castor oil and fatty acids are the main materials on which research is done here. Several aspects relating to maximum utilization of cotton-seed have been studied here. India produces two million tons of cotton-seed, of which barely six per cent is crushed, while the rest is used as cattle feed. There is, therefore, plenty of scope for industrial and commercial exploitation of this commodity.

Another line of research is the means of utilization of castor oil. Andhra supplies about a quarter of the world's castor. By a process of dehydration castor is transformed into a drying oil which is used in light coloured paints, enamels, linoleum and other similar products. Until recently no systematic effort had been made to produce high quality oil from castor. The Regional Laboratory at Hyderabad has made some improvements in this field, and has been able to produce drying castor oil of a high quality by means of a new process. The Ceramic Division of the Laboratory has been engaged on the utilization of another abundant local material, viz., clay. It has developed several processes for transforming various types of clays into high grade material for the manufacture of pottery articles.

The Laboratory has also produced a new insecticide, called "Siticide," from indigenous turpentine. Work is now in progress on the testing and evaluation of this insecticide. The Laboratory is also working on the preparation of a plan for the setting up of a nitrogen fertilizer project at Kothagudem in Andhra Pradesh.

The Regional Research Laboratory at Hyderabad maintains efficient workshop facilities to manufacture equipment for the setting up of pilot plants, and to undertake repairs and maintenance of laboratory services. A Technical Information and Industrial Liaison Section is also maintained. Its job is to collect and provide technical, industrial, commercial and statistical information relating to the various research projects carried out at the Laboratory. The Laboratory remains in constant touch with relevant departments of the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Governments of the neighbouring States of Mysore, Kerala and Madras.

Architectural Study Of Temples

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 18, Dr. M.M. Das, Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, stated that the Government was conducting a survey and architectural study of the ancient temples.

Asked about the temples whose architectural study had been completed so far, Dr. Das laid the following statement on the Table of the House:

(i) A survey of the important group of medieval temples at Khajuraho and of the Gupta and late Gupta temples of Central India has been completed.

(ii) In the southern region, architectural study of the following group of temples has been completed:

(1) Rock-cut cave temples of the Pallavas.
(2) Monolithic temples of the Pallavas.
(3) Structural temples of the Pallavas.
(4) Survey of rock-cut-cave temples of the Pandyas; Muttaraiyars and other southern dynasties of the same period (7-9th Century A.D.) is nearing completion.
(5) Survey of rock-cut-cave temples of the Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas and other dynasties in the Deccan and Andhra area is nearing completion.
(6) Preliminary survey of the structural temples of the Chalukyas and their successors after the 10th century A.D. has been made in the Deccan including the monolithic temples of the Rashtrakutas.
(7) Preliminary Survey of the Ganga temples has been completed.

Indian Historical Records Commission

The twenty-eighth meeting of the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission was held on December 30 in Trivandrum. It was attended by more than 40 members representing the Government of India, various State Governments, Universities and a number of research institutions in India. Dr. Tara Chand presided.

Among the important resolutions passed by the Committee is one that the non-current records of all the districts, divisions and sub-divisional records should be centralized in the respective State Record Offices and thrown open for *bona fide* research purposes. The Committee recommended that the old unpublished records of historical importance in the custody of the State Governments, including the district records, should be published by the respective Governments.

The other recommendations of the Committee related to compilation of catalogues of Persian documents in the custody of the Central and State Governments and various institutions, and microfilming by the National Archives of India of important documents in the custody of various institutions and private persons.

The Committee also reviewed the publication programme of the National Archives of India.

Progress Of National Discipline Scheme

Answering a question, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said in the Rajya Sabha on December 17, that upto the end of March, 1958, the National Discipline Scheme was functioning in 190 schools/institutions having about 1,00,000 children with 325 Physical Training Instructors including their supervisory staff. Since then, he added, the Scheme had been extended to 210 schools/institutions having about 1,10,000 children with 532 Physical Training Instructors including their supervisory staff.

In order to implement the Scheme in a better way, Dr. Shrimali said, Regional Offices had been set up at Calcutta, Poona and Ambala city with effect from September 29, 1958. Each one of these places had an Office of the Senior Supervisor, National Discipline Scheme. The Office at Calcutta was to cover the Eastern region comprising West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, the office at Poona was to cover the Western Region comprising Bombay State and Madhya Pradesh, and the Office at Ambala city was to cover the Northern Region comprising the Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir.

ADMISSION CAPACITY OF TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS

The fifteenth meeting of the Eastern Regional Committee of the All-India Council for Technical Education was held at Calcutta on December 10. Shri Jehangir Ghandy presided.

In his speech, Shri Ghandy said that the admission capacity of degree colleges and diploma institutions in engineering and technology was likely to exceed 37,000 by the end of the Second Plan period. With the addition of a few more institutions in the private sector, the requirements of the country would be fully met by the end of this period.

The eastern region now had 16 degree colleges in engineering and technology having a total admission capacity of 2,468 students. Of these, nine colleges were conducting courses in basic engineering subjects like civil, mechanical and electrical engineering. One more college in textile technology had started functioning at Murshidabad. The corresponding numbers of degree colleges in other regions was: 18 in the north, 18 in the west and 29 in the south with a total admission capacity of 10,900 students per annum, he said.

At the diploma level, the eastern region had a total admission capacity of 4,640 students in 34 institutions out of which 27 imparted courses in basic engineering. During 1958, four new polytechnics started functioning in Orissa, West Bengal, Tripura and Manipur.

The Co-ordinating Committee had approved of the establishment of eight more degree colleges in the country, one of which would be at Durgapur. It was also proposed to establish 27 polytechnics throughout the country, the eastern region having seven of which three would be in West Bengal, two in Bihar and one each in Orissa and Assam. It was expected that with the establishment of these institutions during the Second Plan, the number of admission strength in the degree colleges would be about 13,000 and in the diploma institutions 24,000.

Role Of Private Sector

Referring to the private sector's contribution, he regretted that although several private engineering institutions had been registered in the south, in the eastern region no such scheme had been sponsored by the private sector so far. Some of the institutions in the eastern region had made very little headway in providing the necessary physical facilities like buildings, equipment and technical staff. The main reason appeared to be delay in granting administrative sanction.

As regards the staff, he said the position had improved but even now it was not very satisfactory. He suggested that State Governments should standardize the grades to reduce the migration of staff from one institution to another.

Shri Ghandy urged State Governments to set up separate directorate of technical education to maintain the standard of training and called upon the industrialists to assist in the training programme.

He disclosed that the regional office had secured 450 seats as against 400 last year for practical training for degree and diploma students.

Health

MULTI-PURPOSE FOOD DEVELOPED

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, the Minister of Food & Agriculture, Shri A.P. Jain, said on December 22, that the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, had developed a multi-purpose food using de-oiled groundnut flour and roasted Bengal gram as raw materials. He also disclosed that efforts were being made for the popularization of the multi-purpose food. The measures that had been adopted for this purpose included demonstration of the uses of the food, popularisation of suitable recipes and distribution of the quantity made by the Central Food Technological Research Institute.

Pilot Project For Trachoma Control

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 22, the Minister of Health, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, said that the activities of the Trachoma Control Pilot Project, having concluded in Uttar Pradesh, had been started in Bombay, Orissa and Punjab. It was proposed to start the work during 1958-59 in Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

CANCER WING FOR DELHI HOSPITAL

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 3, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Union Health Minister stated that the estimated cost of the Cancer Block in the Safdarjang Hospital was Rs. 8.39 lakhs. The treatment of cancer in this Cancer Block would be under the modern system of medicine.

Indian Medical Team's Visit To Sikkim

A self-contained medical unit headed by Dr. Bhattacharya of the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, is now on a four-month visit to North Sikkim, it was announced on December 1.

The team has been sent at the request of the Maharaja of Sikkim to conduct a survey of the prevalent diseases including nutritional deficiencies in Northern Sikkim. It will be working in collaboration with the Public Health Services Department of the Government of Sikkim.

Social Welfare

SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, the Minister of Education, Dr. K.L. Shrimali said on December 18, that 532 Welfare Extension Projects, 72 inside Community Development Blocks and 460 outside them, had so far been established with the help of the Central Social Welfare Board. Two hundred and seventy-six districts had been covered by these Projects. The Minister added that no target had been fixed by the Central Social Welfare Board for the establishment of Welfare Extension Projects.

Except in very special circumstances, all Welfare Extension Projects were now to be set up in the Blocks to be taken up for development by the Ministry of Community Development. Out of 200 Blocks proposed to be taken up for development during the third year of the Second Five Year Plan, Welfare Extension Projects had so far been started in four Blocks only, the Minister disclosed.

Training Of Village Level Workers

In a written reply to a question Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Minister for Education, said in the Rajya Sabha on December 23, that 664 gram sevikas and 52 midwives were at present being trained under the Central Social Welfare Board for village work.

The recurring expenditure per gram sevika was Rs. 60 per month, Rs. 45 being the monthly stipend and Rs. 15 the fees. The non-recurring expenditure per trainee amounted to Rs. 1,000 for building and Rs. 100 for equipment. The Board handed over a van to one training institution at a cost of Rs. 19,172.

For the training of midwives, the recurring expenditure per trainee per month varies between Rs. 17 and Rs. 69 depending on the capacity of the training institution and the salary scales of the teaching staff, available in various States. A stipend of Rs. 50 per month was given to each trainee. The non-recurring expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,000 for building and equipment for non-government institutions. For Government institutions, the maximum was Rs. 7,000 for 30 candidates. The same became proportionately less with the decrease in the number of candidates. Rs. 100 was given for equipment whenever any institution required the money.

TRAINING IN FAMILY PLANNING

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Union Minister of Health, said that the number of workers trained in family planning in various States with Government of India's assistance dur-

ing the First Plan period and the Second Plan so far, was 1,737.

The Minister added that 2,371 school teachers had also been given family planning orientation training during courses arranged by the Ministry of Community Development and 39 persons were being trained at the Family Planning and Research Centre, Bombay. He also gave the educational qualifications needed for admission to the Family Planning and Research Centre in Bombay.

The amounts sanctioned for training in family planning during 1956-57 and 1957-58 were Rs. 38,575 and Rs. 1,82,929 respectively. According to available information most of the persons trained were employed.

Harijan Women Employed In Social Welfare Centres

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 18, the Minister of Education, Dr. K.L. Shrimali said that 213 women from Scheduled Castes and no women from Scheduled Tribes, had been employed so far in various centres of the Central Social Welfare Board functioning in various Union Territories and States.

Labour & Employment

STATUTORY PENSION SCHEME FOR WORKERS

The conversion of existing provident fund schemes for workers into a Statutory Pension Scheme has been suggested by the Study Group on Social Security set up by the Government of India in August 1957, says an announcement of December 22. The Study Group was set up in pursuance of one of the recommendations of labour policy in the Second Plan.

The Group, in its report, has recommended for adoption a scheme of old age, invalidity and survivorship pension-cum-gratuity. This will involve the payment of a small gratuity sufficient to meet the needs of workers, and use the rest of the resources towards giving the maximum pensionary benefits. The existing Acts under which workers get provident fund benefits are: Employees' Provident Funds Act, Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes Act and Assam Tea Plantations Provident Fund Scheme Act. The Group has expressed the hope that though the Assam Act is an Act of the State legislature it will be merged in the new scheme.

The Group has recommended that in order to provide pensions of reasonable amounts, the resources should be augmented by increasing the present rate of contributions of workers and employees to the provident fund from $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent to $8\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. While the statutory amendments and administrative arrangements required for introducing a pension scheme will take time, the increase of provident fund contributions to 8 per cent should come into effect immediately. Delay in effecting the increase, the Group has pointed out, will adversely affect the insured workers as a year of contribution at the existing rate of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent will be taken as only nine months for reckoning the length of service.

Cash Benefits

As regards the Employees' State Insurance Scheme, the Group has recommended that the quantum of cash benefits at present granted under the Act should be augmented as follows:

(a) sickness benefit should be payable upto a maximum period of 13 weeks in any three benefit periods of 26 or 27 weeks each;

(b) extended sickness benefit, at full normal benefit rates, may be granted in case of tuberculosis or other prescribed long term diseases for a further period of 39 weeks but only to such persons as have completed at least two years of qualifying service; and

(c) maternity benefit rate should be raised so as to be equal to the full average wage of the insured woman and subject to a minimum of one rupee per day.

Statutory Maximum

The Group has stated that there is considerable scope for improving the standard of medical care and treatment for workers covered by the Employees' State Insurance Act. The provision of medical care and treatment for families of workers is urgently needed as this omission has brought in legitimate criticism from organizations of workers and individual workers themselves. All these improvements could be provided only if substantial additional funds are available. For this purpose, the Group has suggested that the levy on employers should be increased to the maximum that the law already provides for. While the statutory maximum works out at $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent of the total wage bill, at present only $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent are paid by employers in areas where the scheme has been implemented. The Group has stated that the justification which existed for levying contributions at lesser rates has, with the considerable extension of the scheme, lost much of its force.

Single Agency

The Group has recommended the setting up of a single agency which should, as a first step, assume administrative responsibility for the Employees' State Insurance Act and the Provident Fund Acts. In the case of workers covered by both the Employees' State Insurance Act and one of the Provident Fund Acts, employers will pay to this agency, in one single payment, contributions due under both. Inspectorate and supervisory staff will be unified. The Group has stated that these and other consequential measures will aim at simplification and added convenience to both employers and workers.

The Group has further stated that it should be the aim to make the coverage under the two enactments identical as far as practicable and in stages by a prescribed target date. As a step towards facilitating this, the Group has recommended the deletion of the provision in the Employees' Provident Funds Act under which newly established factories are exempted from its provisions for the first three years.

Thus, in the case of factories where workers are covered for the full range of benefits under the Employees' State Insurance Act and the proposed scheme of old age, invalidity and survivorship pension-cum-gratuity, the rates of contributions will work out to about 13 per cent ($4\frac{3}{4}$% plus $8\frac{1}{3}$%) by employers and $10\frac{2}{3}$ percent ($2\frac{1}{3}$% plus $8\frac{1}{3}$%) by employees.

In its report, the Group has stated that under existing conditions any large extension of social security measures will not be possible either in terms of coverage or actual benefits. The aim should be to improve upon existing measures and to simplify administrative procedure, restricting additional financial levy for the time being to what is required for this limited purpose.

Unemployment Benefits

The Group has stated that while the provisions in the Industrial Disputes Act relating to compensation on retrenchment and lay-off have afforded some relief and acted as a deterrent to hasty retrenchment, certain unsatisfactory features have nevertheless been revealed. The permanent remedy may be in the form of a scheme of unemployment benefit but a scheme of this type will not be practicable for some time to come. Till then, improvements should rather be in the direction of avoiding closures and consequent retrenchment, as far as possible — for example, by creating a fund through which industrial units in temporary difficulties can be assisted and kept running where such a course is in the interests of the workers and the public at large.

IMPLEMENTATION OF LABOUR AWARDS

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on December 16, the Union Deputy Minister of Labour, Shri Abid Ali, stated that all States have agreed to set up tripartite machinery for evaluating the implementation of awards, agreements and settlements. Shri Abid Ali added that in the Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Delhi, the machinery had already started working.

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 16, the Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan said that a scientific Incentive Scheme like the one already in force at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works would be extended to all other railway workshops as early as possible. The scheme had also been partially introduced in a few manufacturing sections of Jamalpur and Kanchrapara shops of the Eastern Railway and also in Perambur shops of the Southern Railway, the Deputy Minister added.

According to a statement laid on the Table of the House by Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, the main features of the scheme are:

Detailed scientific time studies and cutting tests to build up basic data which forms the basis for computing allowed times.

Fixing the allowed times so that a workman of normal ability by working to it can earn 33-1/3 per cent over and above his basic wages in respect of period spent on piece work jobs. This time includes allowance for fatigue, general handling etc.

Restricting ceiling profits to be earned by them to 50 per cent of the basic wages so that workers are not encouraged to overstrain themselves.

Guaranteeing basic wages of all workers irrespective of their piece work results, but adjusting losses during any particular month against the profits of the same month.

Dock Workers' Advisory Committee

The Dock Workers' Advisory Committee met in New Delhi on December 15. The Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment presided.

The Committee recommended that the Block Labour Boards should each appoint a tripartite standing committee to take proper measures to ensure, safety of workers while handling cargo as also to reduce damage to cargo by negligent handling. It also suggested that Government should strengthen the staff of the safety inspectorate.

Some members expressed the view that where a dock worker had earned wages but had failed to collect them and where fines had been levied on a worker as a measure of punishment, the amounts thus realized should be debited to the welfare fund and utilized for the welfare of workers. The Committee accepted the suggestion in principle, but decided to examine the matter further with a view to ascertaining the legal implications.

HOLIDAYS FOR BOMBAY DOCK WORKERS

The Bombay Dock Labour Board has decided that workers registered with the Board should be granted 11 holidays with pay in a year from January 1, 1959, it was announced on December 24. At present, they are allowed 8 holidays under the Bombay Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Scheme. The Government of India, therefore, propose to amend the Bombay Scheme in order to give effect to the decision of the Dock Labour Board.

Village Housing Projects In Uttar Pradesh

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 11, Shri Anil K. Chanda, Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply said that the total number of villages allotted to Uttar Pradesh under the Village Housing Projects Scheme for 1958-59 and for the Second Five Year Plan period were 255 and 850 respectively.

Employment Situation In Delhi

The level of employment in Delhi improved further during the quarter ended June, 1958, says an announcement of December 31.

According to the Delhi Employment Market Report for the quarter, employment increased by 1.9 per cent in the private sector. Returns received from 2,025 private employers showed that the number of persons employed in their establishments increased from 87,364 at the end of March, 1958, to 89,063 at the end of June.

The rise in employment was significant in cotton textiles, beverages, sundry hardware, insulated wires and cables, bicycles and accessories, newspapers and periodicals and clay products. The expansion programme of one banking concern resulted in a marked rise under trade and commerce. Seasonal factors were responsible for employment of additional cold storage staff during the summer season. As against this, there was some decline in employment in personal services such as catering and dry cleaning.

Public Sector

Employment in the public sector, which had shown an uninterrupted increase during the previous quarters, rose once again. Returns from 556 establishments showed an increase in employment from 1,88,741 to 1,90,690 during the quarter. The increase was noticeable in the Central Government, quasi-Government establishments and local bodies. The Delhi Administration, however, reported a decrease in staff, consequent on the transfer of its educational and medical staff to the Delhi Corporation.

Unemployment

In spite of a rise in the level of employment, the unemployment situation, as revealed by the number of persons registered with the Delhi Employment Exchange, deteriorated during the quarter. The number of persons registered during the quarter was 24,336 as compared with 18,062 in the previous quater. This was mainly due to the influx of new entrants to the employment market from schools and colleges, who constituted 70 per cent of the total number registered. The proportion of new entrants to the total was the highest yet recorded.

During the quarter, more vacancies were notified to the Delhi Employment Exchange by the manufacturing industries. Although the Central Government continue to be the principal user of the Employment Exchange, the proportion of vacancies notified by private employers to the total was the highest since the Employment Market Study programme was started in December 1955.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISPLACED PERSONS

According to an announcement made on December 17, out of 4,031 displaced persons who had registered with Employment Exchanges during September 1958, 512 secured placements. The figures for the previous month were 4,300 registrations and 427 placements. Of those placed during September, 317 were migrants from East Pakistan and 195 from West Pakistan.

At the end of September, 44,560 displaced persons were on the Live Register of Exchanges as compared with 43,796 at the end of the previous month.

Abolition Of Rickshaw Pulling

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Shri Abid Ali, the Deputy Minister of Labour said on December 16, that according to available information, about one lakh and twenty thousand persons in the country were dependent on rickshaw pulling for their livelihood. Shri Abid Ali added that not many of them were likely to be thrown out of employment as abolition of rickshaw pulling was being done gradually.

WORKERS' EDUCATION IN INDIA

India's Second Plan provides a sum of Rs. 60 lakhs for a country-wide scheme of workers' education. The purpose is to ensure growth of strong and well informed trade union movement conducted by workers themselves on responsible and constructive lines.

In January 1957, the Government of India appointed an international team of experts to suggest measures to place the workers' education movement in India on a sound footing. The team recommended the institution of a series of programmes with the suggestion that an autonomous Central Board for Workers' Education and a number of Regional Boards should be set up to implement them. Accordingly, the Central Board for Workers' Education was set up in August 1958. The Board consists of representatives of employers and workers' organizations, educational institutions and Government.

The Board will lay down policy in regard to the scheme of workers' education, and will also administer the scheme. It will organize programmes to provide instructions to workers, and will also arrange for training of teachers and programme administrators.

A beginning has already been made at Bombay where the first batch of about 60 teacher-administrators, who will constitute the nucleus of the teaching staff, is now undergoing training. After training, they will train worker-teachers at ten centres in different parts of the country. These worker-teachers will, in turn, provide training to workers in the same industrial unit or in the same area where they are working.

LABOUR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

In reply to question in the Lok Sabha on December 19, the Union Deputy Minister of Labour, Shri Abid Ali said that such of those conclusions of the Labour Ministers' Conference held last May that needed to be pursued by State Governments, Ministries of Government of India and employers' and workers' organizations had been forwarded to them for taking further action.

Shri Abid Ali said that the main conclusions under 'Industrial Relations' related to analysis of awards of tribunals to evolve suitable norms, grievance procedure etc. Model grievance procedure had been drawn up and forwarded to all interests concerned.

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation had already decided to raise the rate of maternity benefit under the scheme. The medical benefits under the scheme had also been extended to families in certain areas of Bihar, Mysore, Rajasthan, Punjab and Assam.

The recommendation relating to raising the quantum of loan to employers under the Subsidized Industrial Housing Scheme from 37½% to 50% had been accepted. Recommendations relating to the liberalization of allotment rules giving income-tax relief to employers who build houses etc. were under examination of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply.

The States

LAND REFORMS IN MADHYA PRADESH

In Madhya Pradesh which includes most of the former C.P. areas, Madhya Bharat, Bhopal, Vindhya Pradesh and a subdivision of Kotah district formerly in Rajasthan, abolition of intermediaries has been substantially effected.

In the former Madhya Pradesh area, the law provides for conferment of occupancy rights on tenants of habitually let-out land, and occupancy tenants have an optional right of purchase on payment of compensation varying between 7 and 10 times the rent.

In the *muafi* and *inam* areas of former Madhya Bharat, leases in future have been prohibited except by persons suffering from a disability.

In the former Vindhya Pradesh area, there is a provision for security of tenure for a minimum term of 7 years for all tenants, resumption of the entire holding being permitted at the end of this term for personal cultivation. The 7-year protection expires in April 1962.

Tenants have been given an optional right of purchase in lands not exceeding 10 acres provided that the total area owned by the tenant, including the area he is seeking to acquire does not exceed 30 acres and the owner is left with 30 acres. The compensation payable by tenants is 15 times the annual rent and is payable in annual instalments not exceeding 15.

In the former Bhopal area, ejectment of tenants of *ryotwari* holdings and tenants of *jagir* lands has been stayed.

In the former C.P. area, rents payable by ordinary tenants are not regulated; but the rent payable by an occupancy tenant is not to exceed 5 or 10 times the land revenue.

In Madhya Bharat areas, rent of existing sub-lessees in ryotwari areas is not regulated; but rent payable by a sub-lessee admitted in future is not to exceed twice the land revenue. Rents payable by sub-tenants and tenants of sub-tenants in *zamindari* and *jagir* areas and in *inam* and *muafi* areas are not regulated. In former Vindhya Pradesh area, the cash rent has been fixed at four times the land revenue in case of irrigated lands and two times for other lands. Produce rent has been fixed at one-third of the gross produce for irrigated lands and one-fourth for other lands. In Bhopal, rents are not regulated. Lastly, in the former Rajasthan area, rent is not to exceed one-sixth of the gross produce or its value.

There is neither a ceiling on existing holdings nor on future acquisition in the C.P., Vindhya Pradesh and Bhopal areas. Only ceiling on future acquisition of land has been imposed at 50 acres in the former Madhya Bharat area and at 30 to 90 acres depending on the class of soil in Rajasthan area.

Consolidation of holdings has been completed in about 30 lakh acres and the work is in progress in 2.2 lakh acres upto the end of 1957.

The number of cooperative farming societies set up in Madhya Pradesh is 139 up to March, 1958.

Land Revenue Code Bill

The State Government has published the Land Revenue Code Bill which is modelled largely on the lines of similar legislation in old Madhya Pradesh. It seeks to achieve uniformity in the land revenue system, agricultural tenure and allied subjects in all the five units of the new State.

The Bill is designed to create two classes of tenure holders — *Bhumiswamis* and *Bhumidharis* — who will be given permanent, heritable and transferable rights subject to certain restrictions. *Bhumiswamis* will have full rights over trees in their holdings but this privilege will not be extended to *Bhumidharis*. All persons holding land from Government who are neither *Bhumiswamis* nor *Bhumidharis* will be treated as Government

lessees under the Bill. They will be governed by the terms of their contract.

The rights of tenants are heritable but not transferable. The occupancy tenant is, however, entitled to transfer his rights in the land to secure payment of an advance from the State Government or a cooperative society. Leases in future have been prohibited, except in cases of persons suffering from a disability or in the case of public charitable and religious institutions and cooperative societies.

Only an occupancy tenant is given an optional right of purchase in his land on payment of compensation which will be 7 or 10 times the rent depending upon the tenure holder from whom the land is held. The compensation is payable in annual instalments not exceeding 15. If it is paid in lump sum a rebate at the rate of 10 per cent will be allowed.

There is no provision in the Bill for a ceiling on existing holdings. A provision has, however, been made for a ceiling on future acquisition. The limit is to be prescribed in the rules. Cooperative societies and institutions established for a public, religious or charitable purpose are exempted from the above ceiling.

Proceedings for consolidation of holdings in a village can be started on an application by two or more tenure holders holding not less than the minimum area of land to be prescribed. If two-thirds of the owners of a land in a village agree to the consolidation of their holdings, the scheme of consolidation so prepared shall be binding on all the owners of the village. In order to prevent fragmentation, all transfers and partitions, which result in holdings the area of which is below the limits as may be prescribed, have been disallowed.

The Bill provides that the maximum rent shall not exceed 4 times the land revenue in the case of any class of irrigated land and two times in any other case.

The Bill also includes provisions for the constitution of a Board of Revenue, appointment of revenue officers, land records, surveys and settlements and assessment and re-assessment of lands in urban areas.

Sub-Soil Water Level In Delhi

In reply to a question Shri K.C. Reddy, Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, said in the Lok Sabha on December 8, that to bring down sub-soil water level in Delhi the following steps had been taken in pursuance of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee:

The net work of observation pipes of sub-soil water had been extended.

16 tube wells had been sunk in the badly affected areas and pumping of water from these areas was also being carried on. A scheme had also been prepared for the provision of 287 more tube wells in moderately affected areas.

A study of the existing storm water drainage system had been completed and a scheme had been prepared for improving the drainage system.

A line of porous pipe drain had been laid in the Central Vista, as an experimental measure to collect subsoil water and to investigate the effect such a system would have on sub-soil water level in this area. A complete scheme had also been prepared for four such porous-pipe drains in the Central Vista.

In the case of one of the new colonies near the Hindustan Housing Factory, a scheme had been prepared for draining the subsoil water by a system of porous drains.

Investigations had been completed in regard to the raising and regrading of lawns in bungalow compounds to prevent stagnation of water.

In order to economise on the use of unfiltered water for irrigation, a scheme had been prepared for introducing parrot type sprinklers for experimentation.

Meeting Of High Level Committee

The suggestion that unfiltered water supply in New Delhi should be strictly regulated as a measure to bring down subsoil water level, was made at a meeting in New Delhi on December 17 of the High Level Committee for planning measures against floods and similar calamities in Delhi. The Chairman was Shri K.C. Reddy, Minister of Works, Housing and Supply.

The committee discussed this proposal along with the other recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Committee on Subsoil Water Level in New Delhi, which had found that there had been a steady rise of water tables since 1912, varying from 2 to 17 feet in various parts of the city. The Ad Hoc Committee had further observed that the water table tended to go up from June to October and fall from October to June. But there was generally a net rise from June to June, heavy rainfall being responsible for abnormal shooting up of the table during the monsoon period. Further, it was found that the net annual rise was least in badly affected areas and maximum in unaffected areas.

The rise in the water table, the Ad Hoc Committee said, could be due to the Jamuna river, rainfall, rapid urbanization and excessive irrigation of lawns, gardens, etc. It was to check wasteful use of unfiltered water for irrigation that the High Level Committee discussed the proposal of regulating supplies.

The Committee's estimate was that the schemes suggested by it would involve a capital outlay of Rs. 2.67 crores.

The High Level Committee also considered the reports of the various sub-committees on investigations into the drainage and sewerage systems in Delhi. The reports pertain to the New Delhi and Delhi city areas, Shahdara and Najafgarh Jheel. The committee has generally accepted the recommendations and decided that the reports be finalized and incorporated in its final report which it proposes to submit to the Prime Minister in January 1959.

The question of strengthening the bunds along the Jamuna above the barrage to be constructed for drinking water supply to the city was considered and the proposals submitted by the Central Public Works Department and Central Water and Power Commission approved. It was urged that the work should be taken up immediately.

Housing For Delhi Slum Dwellers

The Delhi Development Authority has undertaken the construction of 1238 tenements at an estimated cost of Rs. 40.15 lakhs for housing slum dwellers and squatters, it was announced on December 22. The Authority is also building a shopping centre for the resettlement of slum shop-keepers.

The tenements are being constructed at various extensions of the city.

The quarters, which will be electrified, are likely to be completed by the end of this year. They are intended for slum dwellers, who will be shifted from Yamuna Bazar.

At four different sites 288 tenements have been taken up for starting transit camps. These camps are meant to provide temporary accommodation to families shifted from slum areas. The estimated cost of construction is Rs. 10.53 lakhs.

For community service personnel, the Authority is building 272 single-room quarters at eight different sites in Delhi at an estimated cost of Rs. 9.97 lakhs. They will be in double-storey blocks and are intended for people like barbers, cobblers, dhobis and sweepers who are squatting near various Government colonies in New Delhi or who will be evicted from Yamuna Bazar and other slum areas.

It is also proposed to acquire about 250 acres of land on Najafgarh Road opposite Rajouri Gardens, 185 acres in Ranjit Nagar Khampur area adjacent to Pusa Institute, and 14 acres for a Ghosi Colony beyond Okhla Sewage Farm. The construction of 640 single-room double-storey houses in the Supplementary Industrial Area near Moti Nagar is also included in the programme.

So far, 3225 tenements have been put up for slum dwellers in various areas.

The Authority has also improved living conditions in 78 evacuee katras under its charge.

Similar improvements were effected in 126 other katras by the erstwhile Delhi Municipal Committee and the Bharat Sevak Samaj.

The improvements include better lighting, sanitation lavatories, bath rooms and drainage.

The expenditure incurred so far by the Authority since 1956, when the work was first started on improving slums is approximately Rs. 4.10 lakhs.

Location Of Industries In Delhi

The Town Planning Organization of the Union Ministry of Health has drawn up an interim scheme for the location of various types of industries in Delhi, says an announcement of December 24. The Organization has suggested that industries should be dispersed over three broad regions.

According to the Organization, Zone 'A', which will cover the present and future urban areas up to 15 miles from the centre of the city, will include the present high density and built-up areas adjacent to the core. In general, no new industrial enterprise should be permitted in this zone, except in so far as the comprehensive Master Plan may indicate sites for industries which because of their small size or service character may have to be located close to the centre of the city.

This zone will also include the present undeveloped areas which may have been indicated as suitable for industries in the Interim General Plan or may be developed for this purpose in the Master Plan. These will form Industrial Estates to accommodate growing industries to be reallocated, and selected new plants whose character is suitable for the city.

Zone B, which will be the metropolitan area extending from 15 to 30 miles, will have industries which can be moved out of Delhi with advantage. The region can also be utilized to some extent to reduce congestion in the older parts of Delhi.

Zone C, which is termed as Regional, will extend from 30 to 75 miles or even more. This region will serve as a "catchment area" for migrants intending to come to Delhi and will be in the direction from which people generally migrate towards the city. In this area, all the remaining industries suitable to the region either by virtue of availability of raw materials or transportation would be located. The desirability of pressing individual industries to set up in this zone will depend on their size, self-sufficiency and ability to use local labour. Such plants may include sugarcane factories, textile mills etc.

The Delhi Development Authority and the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry generally agree with the principles enunciated by the Organization for the interim period, pending finalization of the comprehensive Master Plan for Delhi Region.

Electricity Supply In Delhi

In a written reply to a question Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister for Irrigation and Power, stated in the Rajya Sabha on December 22 that under the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, the Delhi Corporation was charged with the responsibility of generation and supply of electricity for the whole of the Union Territory of Delhi. The Corporation was also responsible for distribution of power in the whole of the area, except that served by the existing licensees, namely, the New Delhi Municipal Committee, the

Delhi Cantt., Notified Area Committee and the Shahdra Electric Supply Undertaking.

The Deputy Minister added that because of the shortage of generating capacity, the powers of the Corporation and the licensees in respect of distribution had been subjected to certain restrictions with a view to ensure an equitable distribution of power. This control was being exercised by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, advised by a Committee with a non-official Chairman.

TRIPURA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS

The Tripura Advisory Committee which met in Delhi on 17th December, agreed to extend the Orissa Warehouse Act, 1956, to Tripura, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on December 18. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Shri G. B. Pant, Union Home Minister.

A sum of Rs. 6 lakhs, the Committee was informed, had been sanctioned for relief to persons affected by the recent cyclone and uoods in Tripura. Of this amount Rs. 3 lakhs are intended for test relief works, Rs. 2 lakhs for distribution as agricultural loans and Rs. 50,000 each for building houses and for individual relief assistance.

The Committee recommended that the North Eastern Frontier Railway line should be extended from Patharkandi to Dharmanagar in Tripura in the early years of the Third Plan. The initial survey should, however, be completed during the Second Plan period.

In January 1959, the Committee was informed, the air journey between Calcutta and Agartala might cost 10 per cent less than today. By April 1959 the sixty seater Skymaster was expected to operate over the route and this might lead to a further cut in passenger fares. There was also a proposal to connect by light planes the interior of Tripura with Agartala.

The Committee was of the view that *bonafide* agriculturists of Tripura should be exempted from the levy of grazing fees. It was, however, agreed that fees might to levied at reduced rates on elephants, ponies and sheep.

AID FOR ELECTRIFICATION SCHEMES IN PUNJAB

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 17, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, the Deputy Minister of Irrigation & Power said that the amount of foreign exchange sanctioned to the Punjab Government for the electrical part of the Bhakra Nangal Project was Rs. 494 lakhs, and for the Uhl River Scheme Rs. 2.57 lakhs.

He added that assistance in the form of loans was sanctioned by the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, to the State Governments for financing the miscellaneous development schemes sponsored by latter and approved by the Planning Commission.

The approved schemes might include some for increasing the production of electricity, but it was not possible, he said, to specify any amount against individual schemes, because the miscellaneous development loans were given as bulk assistance to the State Governments for all the approved miscellaneous development schemes.

The loans sanctioned did not also fully cover the expenditure on these schemes and the State Governments were expected to meet a part of the expenditure from their own resources. The total amount of loans given to the Punjab Government so far under these schemes during the Second Five Year Plan was Rs. 350 lakhs, he added.

The statement also said that under the programme of expansion of power facilities to increase employment opportunities, a loan of Rs. 1 lakh was given to the Government of Punjab during the year 1956-57.

Assent For Bombay Land Requisition Bill

The President has given assent to the Bombay Land Requisition and Bombay Requisitioned Property (Continuance of Powers) (Saurashtra Area) Acts (Extension of Duration and Amendment) Bill, 1958, according to an announcement of December 16.

The Bill extends for five years from the end of this year the life of the Bombay Land Requisition Act, 1948, and Bombay Requisitioned Property (Continuance of Powers) (Saurashtra Area) Act, 1958, which permit requisitioning by the State Government of buildings in Bombay and Saurashtra.

The number of requisitioned buildings in Greater Bombay alone is about 4,000. If the Acts were to lapse at the end of this year, the allottees of these requisitioned premises would have to depend on their landlords to continue as tenants. Requisitions in the areas of old Saurashtra presented a similar problem. The Bill seeks to remove these difficulties.

Underground Power House At Koyna Dam

Answering a question in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power said on December 22, that the Government had finally decided to set up an underground power house at the Koyna dam site in Bombay State.

The Deputy Minister added that the decision was based on economic and technical reasons. First, the underground alternative was cheaper by about Rs. 224.40 lakhs in the ultimate stage.

Second, in view of the longer life of underground structures and lower maintenance costs, there would be a saving of about Rs. 31.00 lakhs in working expenses every year.

Third, the underground alternative would afford an additional power of about 13,000 KW in the first stage and about 23,000 KW in the ultimate stage.

Fourth, due to the elimination of surface penstocks, the steel requirements, and hence the foreign exchange expenditure would be much lower in the case of the underground alternative.

Last, the maintenance would be easier and smoother.

Defence

PROGRESS OF INDIAN NAVY

Rapid modernization of the Indian Fleet, stepping up of higher training facilities, construction of naval ships in India and indigenous production of naval armament and stores were some of the subjects mentioned by Vice-Admiral R.D. Katari, Chief of the Naval Staff, in his opening address to the Senior Naval Officers' Conference in New Delhi on December 1.

Admiral Katari said that of the new frigates of the latest types acquired by the Navy, the first two, namely INS BRAHMAPUTRA and INS KHUKRI, had arrived in India recently and others were due to arrive during the next two years. The refit programme of the aircraft-carrier HERCULES was proceeding according to plan, he added.

Practically the entire training of officers and men, including advance courses in Gunnery, Navigation and Communication, was being carried out in India. He added that with the acquisition of the new ships fitted with complicated equipment, there was need for a higher standard of technical efficiency, for the operation and maintenance of these ships.

The Admiral also touched upon the intensification of naval aviation training for which a flight of jet Vampires had been added to the Naval Air Station and a new School opened at the "Garuda" for training in aircraft maintenance.

While dwelling upon the shipbuilding programme, the Admiral said that a start had already been made for building certain types of vessels and other craft at the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., and some private firms. A second mooring vessel and a survey ship were expected to be completed shortly.

The five-day conference concluded on December 5.

Held annually to exchange views on important matters regarding the administration of the Service, the Conference is attended by senior officers of the Ministries of Defence and Finance (Defence), Naval Headquarters, and the four Commands of the Service.

Naval Agreement With Indonesia

A Naval Agreement between the Governments of India and of the Republic of Indonesia was signed on December 3, 1958, at Djarkarta providing for co-operation between the navies of the two countries for their mutual benefit, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on December 16. According to the agreement, the two Governments will co-operate with each other and render mutual assistance for the purpose of developing and improving their respective navies. Such co-operation and mutual assistance, however, will not include activities in the operational field and will be in the form of attachment of officers and training of selected naval personnel of the navy of one country with the navy of the other. The agreement provides also for combined naval training exercises and for visits to one country by the ships of the other. The agreement will be in force for a period of five years in the first instance.

WELFARE BODY FOR EX-SERVICEMEN

In a statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on December 10 in reply to a question pertaining to activities of the Welfare Association for Ex-Servicemen, the Deputy Minister of Defence, Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia said that the Indian Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board had been recognized by Government as the sole official organization for the welfare of ex-Servicemen and their dependents and the entire expenditure of this organization was, as such, met by the Government. Other facilities normally available to official organizations of this nature were also extended to this organization.

The Indian Ex-Services Association (of which Gen. Bhonsle is the President) came into existence in 1953 purely as a non-official organization with the object of furthering welfare activities among ex-Servicemen. In order to achieve co-ordination it had been decided to co-opt the President of this Association as a Member of the Indian Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board. The object of this non-official organization was also to look after the various aspects of the welfare of ex-Servicemen as also to co-ordinate the work done by various ex-Servicemen's associations in the country for the welfare of ex-Servicemen. This organization had applied to the Government for formal recognition, but no final decision had yet been taken on that application. The Federatoin had, however, been allowed office accommodation in a Government building. No financial aid or any other facilities had been given to either of these non-official organizations.

The entire problem relating to the welfare of ex-Servicemen and the question of the various agencies, both official and non-official, to take care of this vast and important problem were at present under the active consideration of Government.

Revised System Of Flying Training

The first batch of aircrew under the revised training system had their passing-out parade on December 19 at the Air Force Station, Hyderabad. Air Marshal S. Mukerjee, Chief of the Air Staff, took the salute.

Under the reorganized system of flying training, pupil aircrew — both pilots and navigators — undergo an additional six months course before being awarded their flying badges and commissioned in the General Duties Branch of the Air Force.

Pupil pilots now spend one year at the Air Force Flying College at Jodhpur for "basic" and "Intermediate" flying training. Before earning their "wings", they have to spend another year, instead of the previous six months, for "advanced" and "applied" training at either the Jet Training Wing, if selected for fighter squadrons, or at the squadrons employing transport or other multi-engined aircraft. These Training Wings — the JTW and TTW as they are briefly called — are located respectively at Hakimpet and Begumpet in Hyderabad under the administrative control of the Air Force Station there.

The pupil navigators spend, as previously, a year at the Air Force Flying College at Jodhpur and spend another six months at the TTW at Begumpet before being commissioned and awarded their brevets — half wings.

This revised system of flying training has been introduced in keeping with the transformation of the Air Force into an almost all-jet Service.

Contracts For Manufacture Of Trucks

A comprehensive statement in regard to the five contracts entered into with foreign firms recently by the Defence Ministry for the manufacture of trucks, tractors and other equipment was made by Shri K. Raghuramaiah, Deputy Defence Minister, in the Lok Sabha on December 5. According to the statement the five agreements or contracts were:

(i) Agreement with Messrs M.A.N. of Germany for the manufacture of trucks;

(ii) Agreement with Messrs Komatsu Manufacturing Coy of Japan for the manufacture of Tractors and other Earthmoving Equipment;

(iii) Agreement with Messrs Hards Motors of UK for defusing old ammunition;

(iv) Contract with Messrs Levy Auto Parts of Canada for the supply of auto-parts; and

(v) Radars' contract with Messrs Cossors.

Championship Award To E. M. E. Centre

The Electrical and Mechanical Engineer Centre won for the third year in succession the over-all championship at the 8th annual central meeting of the Army Rifle Association which concluded at Mhow on December 20.

The EME Centre was awarded the 88 Carnatic Infantry Memorial Gold Cup with replica of the ARA banner. The EME team dominated most of the competitions and were the winners in seven out of the 15 matches in which they took part.

The contest for the Individual Rifle Championship which entitles the winner to take away outright the Rs. 500-worth President's Gold Medal and the Defence Services Trophy, was won by Hav. D'Souza of the EME Centre.

India & The World

INDIAN AID FOR NEPAL'S PLAN

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on December 18, the Deputy Finance Minister, Shri B. R. Bhagat, laid on the Table of the House a statement on the progress made on development schemes since September 1958 under India's Aid Programme to Nepal. According to the statement, the progress made was as follows:

(i) Completion of repairs to Phewatal Bund and Sirsa Khola Diversion, installation of more hand pumps and construction of water works in the various areas in Nepal.

(ii) Signing of the Trisuli Hydro-electric Project Agreement and arrival of drilling machinery at the site.

(iii) Approving the alignments for three roads, completion of survey of one more road and commencement of construction work on an additional road.

(iv) Completion of Air Photography.

(v) Compilation of Manuals and Hand-books for Bada Hakims, Commissioners and Police-Administration etc. and reports regarding Small Savings Scheme, and reorganization of Forests and P & T Departments.

(vi) Further grants have been made from the Ambassador's discretionary grant for the running of dispensaries and post graduate classes.

India's Ambassador To Japan

According to a Press Note issued on December 27 by the External Affairs Ministry, Shri C.P.N. Singh, till recently Governor of Punjab, has been appointed Ambassador of India to Japan in succession to Shri C. S. Jha. He will assume charge of his new assignment early in 1959.

MONGOLIAN ENVOY TO INDIA

His Excellency Mr. Mangalyn Dugersuren has been appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia in India in place of His Excellency Mr. Puntsagyn Shagdarsuren who has been recalled, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on December 16.

CORRECTIONS

(1) Please read "Relief To Political Sufferers" for "Relief To Political Suffers", and "Gallantry Awards For Police" for "Gallantary Awards For Police" in headings on page 806 of Indian Information, Vol. I No. 11.

(2) Please read "Shrimati Sushila Kapadia" for "Shri Sushila Kapadia", under 'Events at a Glance' on page 839 of the same issue.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

DECEMBER 16 TO 30

December 16 — Foreign Affairs Debate in the Rajya Sabha concludes with the approval of Government's Foreign Policy.

19 — President Rajendra Prasad returns to Calcutta after a fifteen day State visit to Malaya and Indonesia

— The Prime Minister presents State Awards for Excellence in Printing and Designing at a function in New Delhi

20 — Winter Session of Lok Sabha concludes

— Navy Day is celebrated throughout the country

22 — The Prime Minister of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, arrives in Delhi

24 — India signs agreement in Washington for a loan of $ 100 million from the U.S. Development Fund

26 — The University of Delhi confers the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters on the Prime Minister of Ghana, Dr. Nkrumah

27 — The 33rd All India Educational Conference begins at Chandigarh

28 — The Western Zonal Council meets in Bombay

— The Government of India announce their decision to set up national museums in different regions in the country

29 — The tentative proposals of the Working Journalists' Wage Committee on fixation of wages is released

— The ninth session of the All India English Teachers' Conference is inaugurated in Madras

31 — The Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., a new company set up by the Government of India to administer engineering projects including the heavy machine building and coal mining machinery plants proposed to be undertaken in the public sector, is registered at Patna.

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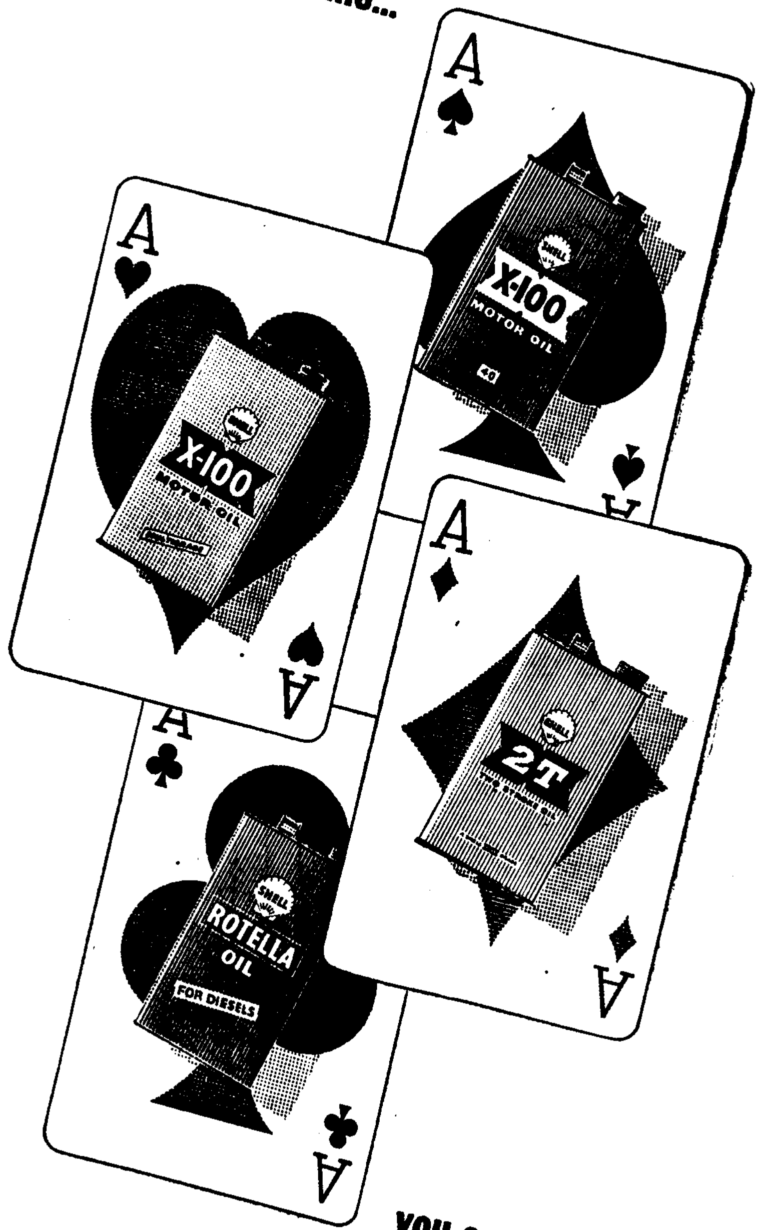

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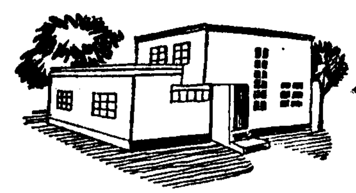

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[Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda, Union Minister of Planning, inaugurating the *Lok Karya Kshetra* of the Bharat Sevak Samaj at Rajpura

Gen. K. S. Thimayya, Chief of Army Staff, presenting the President's Gold Medal to Hav. V. D'Souza who won the Army Rifle Championship this year

Shri Nityanand Kanungo presiding over the first meeting of the Standing Committee of the Export Promotion Advisory Council in New Delhi

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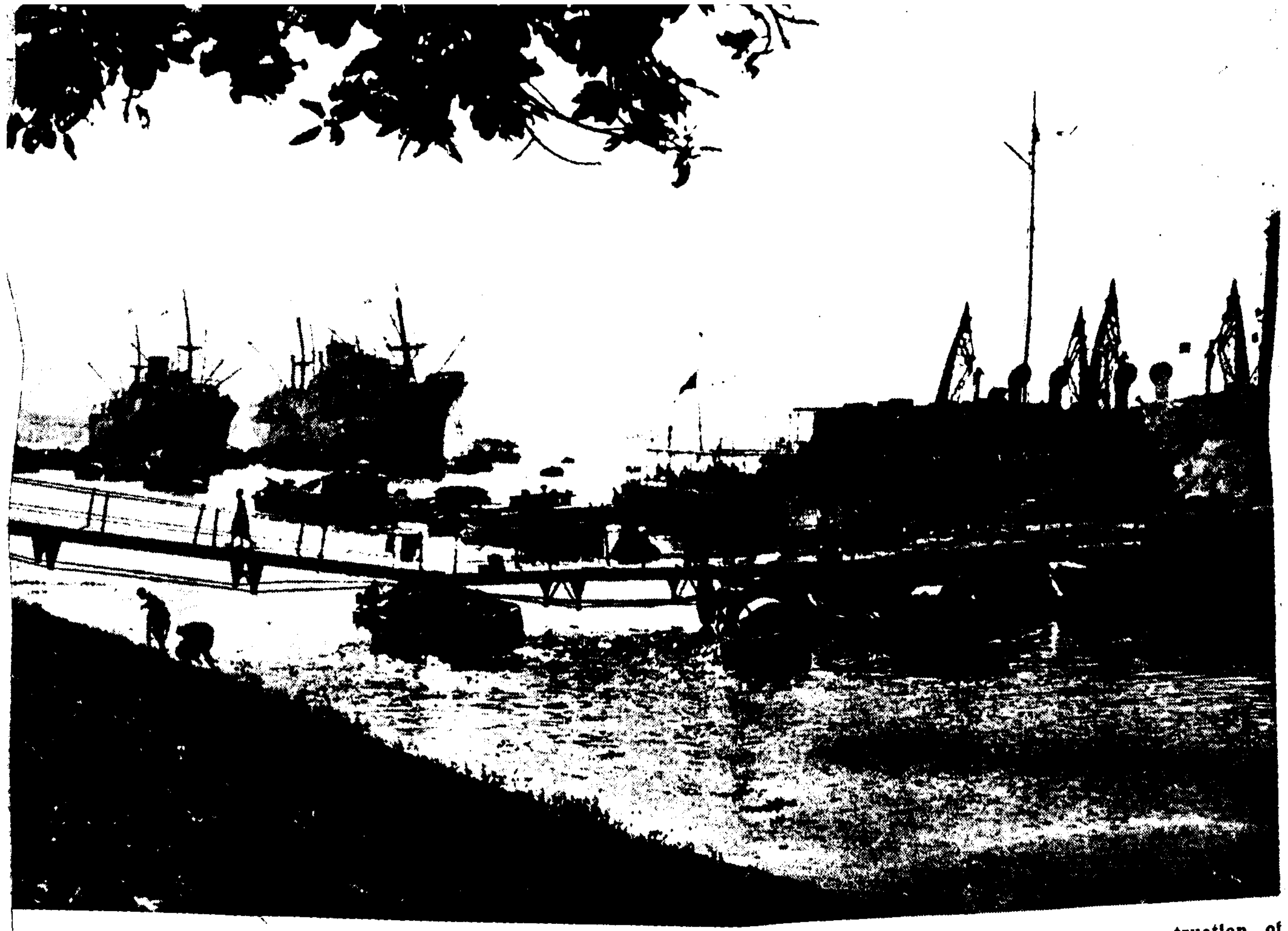

Under the First and Second Plans, a number of projects for the development of port facilities such as the construction of new berths and railway yards were undertaken in all the majo? ports

The picture above gives a view of the Calcutta Port at sunset. For the development of this port, the Second Plan makes a provision of Rs. 19.9 crores. For the imporvement of the Madras Port, shown below, Rs. 9.2 crores were provided in the Second Plan