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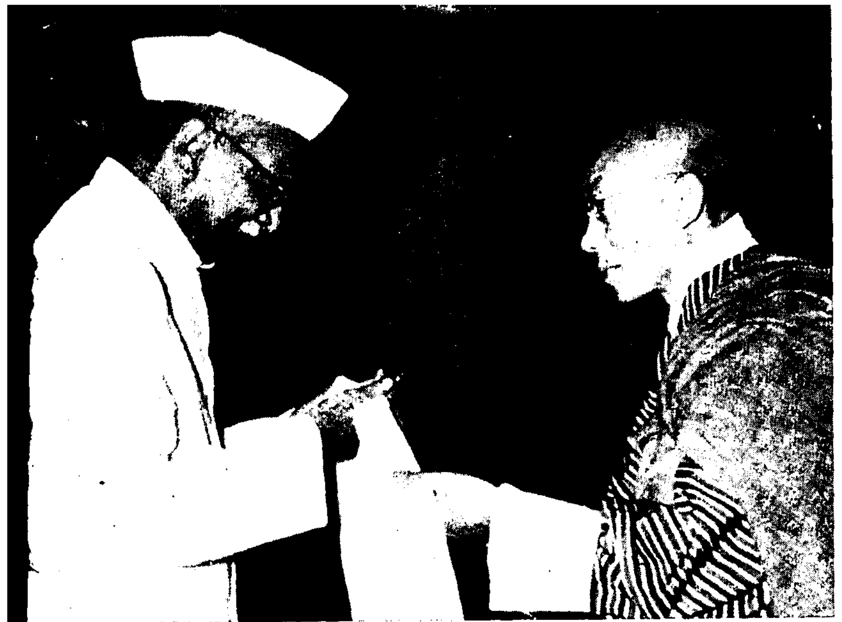

The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, receiving Mr. Jigme Dorji, Prime Minister of Bhutan, in New Delhi on September 8

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, receiving His Holiness the Dalai Lama in New Delhi on September 2

The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, administering the Oath of Office and secrecy as a Cabinet Minister to Dr. P. Subbarayan at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on September 2

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COVER: The Prime Minister of Mongolia, H.E. Mr. Yumjagiin Tsedenbal, being received by the Prime-Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, at Palam Airport on September 10

(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 STATEMENT ON TALKS WITH PAKISTAN PRESIDENT

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, made the following statement in the Lok Sabha on September 4, on his talks with the President of Pakistan.

The President of Pakistan reached Palam airport on the 1st September, 1959, soon after 11 o'clock in the morning. He was received by the Prime Minister and stayed at Palam about an hour and a half. For the greater part of this time, the President and the Prime Minister met by themselves and discussed various matters. Towards the end of this meeting, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, the High Commissioner of India in Pakistan and the Commonwealth Secretary of India were also invited to join in these talks. At the conclusion of this meeting, a joint statement was issued.

The talks between the President and the Prime Minister were informal in nature and were very friendly throughout. The President of Pakistan expressed his strong desire for neighbourly relations between the two countries and said that there was no problem between them which could not be solved in a friendly way. The Prime Minister entirely agreed. No particular subject was discussed in detail. Casual reference was made to some of the problems between the two countries and the President pointed out that if friendly relations could be established between the two countries and fears and apprehensions of both of them removed, this could result in a reduction, on both sides, of expenditure on armament and thus help in releasing monies for economic development. The Prime Minister agreed and added that in India the primary objective that they had before them was social and economic development and they have embodied their programmes in their Five Year Plans. They felt that from every point of view this social and economic development, resulting in the betterment of the people of the country as a whole, was an essential and urgent task. This involved necessarily a very heavy burden and any saving on Defence expenditure would be welcome indeed.

Some reference was made to the discussions going on on the Canal Waters issue with the assistance of the representatives of the World Bank and the hope was expressed that these would lead to a satisfactory settlement.

Both the President and the Prime Minister expressed their great concern at the continuation of disputes and incidents on the eastern border. These incidents, often resulting in firing, had absolutely no justification and could do no good to anyone. They only harassed the local people concerned and vitiated the atmosphere between the two countries. It was agreed that everything should be done to put an end to these disputes and a procedure should be evolved for this purpose. Recently a Chief Secretaries' Conference had been held and the statement issued after this conference was a good one. The difficulty was not so much in laying down good principles, but in implementing them. The President suggested that a high level conference should be held for this purpose. This conference should be at Ministerial level and senior Army Commanders and Chief Secretaries as well as representatives of the State Governments concerned should attend this conference. Attempt should be made to remove the causes of disputes wherever possible and demarcation of boundaries should be expedited. A procedure should also be evolved to deal immediately with any incident that might arise on the borders in the eastern region. The Prime Minister entirely agreed with this proposal and it was decided that steps should be taken to have such a conference.

Reference was also made to the India Office Library in London and it was agreed that a joint approach should be made on behalf of India and Pakistan in regard to this Library.

A similar approach should be made about the old Embassy and Consulate buildings which had been financed from the revenues of the undivided Government of India, but which are still in the possession of the United Kingdom Government.

A similar statement was read out in the Rajya Sabha on September 4 by Shrimati Lakshmi Menon, Deputy Minister for External Affairs.

Joint Statement

A joint statement issued on conclusion of the talks between the President of Pakistan and Prime Minister of India at Palam Airport on September 1, says that the President and the Prime Minister met informally in a very cordial atmosphere at Palam Airport. Matters of mutual interest were discussed. They agreed that there was need to conduct their relations with each other on a rational and planned basis, and not according to the day to day exigencies as they arose, and that their outstanding issues and other problems should, in mutual interest, be settled in accordance with justice and fairplay in a spirit of friendliness, co-operation and good neighbourliness.

They were glad to have had this opportunity of an informal exchange of views and they agreed to keep in touch with each other to further their common objectives.

INDO-PAKISTAN TALKS ON EVACUEE PROPERTY

In reply to a Short-notice question on the press report about the statement made by the Pakistan Rehabilitation Minister in Lahore about deferring the talks between India and Pakistan on the value of evacuee property left in India and Pakistan, the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs, Shri Mehr Chand Khanna, laid the following statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on September 9:

India had entered into an agreement with Pakistan in 1950, which provided for the restoration of the movable properties left by evacuees in either country, such as personal and household effects, trade goods and merchandise, seized cash and jewellery, sale proceeds of movable property, buried treasures, lockers and safe deposits, properties of Joint Stock Companies etc.

The intention was that the unfortunate people, who were forced to leave the country of their origin, for reasons beyond their control, should be restored their movable assets, wherever possible, so as to facilitate their rehabilitation in the country of their migration. This agreement, therefore, had a distinctly humanitarian aspect.

Unfortunately, however, barring a few items such as restoration of personal and household effects, trade goods and merchandise, and buried treasures, no progress worth the name has been achieved in respect of the other items, of which the more important are those relating to lockers and safe deposits of evacuees lying with banks, assets of Joint Stock Companies and the status of displaced banks. The absence of progress in the case of these items is due to the non-implementation of the Agreement by the Pakistan Government.

On July 11, 1959, I wrote a letter to the Rehabilitation Minister, Pakis-

tan and gave him the factual position about the unresolved items. I sought for his co-operation in removing the bottlenecks, which are impeding the progress of the Agreement, so that relief might be afforded to the displaced persons in the two countries, who had already waited for 12 long years to retrieve their movable assets.

I further informed him that since our Ministry would be winding up its activities in the Western region, early decisions should be taken about the outstanding problems and suggested that these may be discussed at a meeting either of the Rehabilitation Secretaries or the Rehabilitation Ministers of the two countries.

A reply has recently been received from the Rehabilitation Minister, Pakistan. He has stated that he entirely agrees with me that the satisfaction of the claims of movable properties abandoned by displaced persons has a humanitarian aspect and will contribute to the welfare and contentment of the people concerned and that he is having the matter thoroughly examined and collecting the latest information on every item. He has, however, added that since he is at present preoccupied with the urgent and very heavy task of the settlement of claims, he may take "a little longer than is necessary" in formulating and communicating his views to us.

Another important question, which was referred by me to the Rehabilitation Minister, Pakistan, was regarding the verification of claims of Rs. 5 lakhs and above filed by displaced persons in either country in respect of urban immovable properties left by them in the other country. This proposal emanated from the Pakistan Government in April, 1956, when they suggested that an on-the-spot verification of claims of Rs. 50 lakhs and above be made by the Claims Commissioners of the two countries.

Though we had progressed more than half way through our claims verification work, we agreed to the proposal and suggested that the scope of verification be extended to claims of Rs. 1 lakh and above. After further correspondence and discussion, it was finally agreed at the meeting of the Rehabilitation Ministers of the two countries held at Karachi in January, 1958, that to start with the two Governments would exchange information in regard to claims valued at Rs. 5 lakhs and above. Subsequently in April, 1958, the officers of the two Governments drew up a proforma for supplying information about such claims.

In the beginning of July, 1958, the Pakistan Government sent us some lists of claims valued at Rs. 50 lakhs, but the properties mentioned therein were so vaguely described as to make it virtually impossible to locate them. We, therefore, requested the Pakistan Government to give us more precise particulars of the properties in question, but in September, 1958, they informed us that it was not possible for their claimants to give any more details.

As no progress was being made in this case as well, I wrote a letter to the Rehabilitation Minister, Pakistan, on August 3, 1959 and requested him to look into the matter and let us know if Pakistan was still interested in the exchange of the relevant information. I pointed out to him that this proposal was initiated by the Pakistan Government and was agreed to by us with a view to helping them in assessing the genuineness of the claims filed by their displaced persons, but if they were no longer interested in the matter, it would be better to close it.

A reply to this letter also has recently been received. The Rehabilitation Minister, Pakistan has stated that his Government has issued a Martial Law Regulation calling upon the claimants to withdraw or modify wrong and exaggerated claims within a specified period. As a result of this regulation, the element of exaggeration in the claims has been almost entirely eliminated and the need for an on-the-spot verification has been obviated. He has, therefore, stated that no useful purpose will be served by any further action in implementing the old proposal for physcal verification through visiting teams and the matter should be considered as closed.

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENTS ON INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, stated in the Lok Sabha on September 4 that while India stood by the McMahon Line, he was prepared to discuss with China any minor interpretation of that line. He was willing to consider mediation or even arbitration by authority agreed to by the two sides about minor rectifications. But this could not apply to big chunks of Indian territory. While India, he emphasised, had to protect her borders and follow a firm policy, she was anxious to keep the door open for accommodation and settlement. He, therefore, wanted to restrain himself from pressing matters to such an extent that there was no escape from recourse to arms.

He said that in spite of all that had happened and all that was happening he would continue to work for the friendship between India and China. This did not mean that India should surrender anything she considered her right or hand over bits of territory to China to please her. He realized that sometimes it was difficult to feel friendly in the face of irritation, when the Indian people were not treated courteously or when communications from the Chinese Government were singularly lacking in even ordinary politeness. But it was necessary for people holding responsible positions not to allow themselves to be irritated. It would be a tragedy.

The Prime Minister said that it was highly objectionable for the Chinese Government to go on issuing maps showing half of the North-East Frontier Agency and a third of Assam and Bhutan as if they belonged to China. It was really an affront to continue to do this year after year for ten years.

Opposing a non-official resolution asking Government to raise the Tibetan issue at the United Nations, the Prime Minister made a statement in the Lok Sabha on September 4. He said that the constitutional aspect of the question was not clear and no good results could be expected from the practical point of view. Even if the legal difficulties were got over, all that would happen would be a debate in the General Assembly or the Security Council in the cold war fashion. This might produce a reaction on the Chinese more adverse towards the Tibetans than even now. Such a move instead of bringing relief to the people of Tibet could have the reverse effect.

Shri Nehru pointed out that the United Nations could perhaps come into the picture on grounds of human rights and aggression. But violation of human rights applied only to those countries which accepted the U.N. Charter and could not, therefore, apply to a country which had not been allowed to become a member of the world body. Aggression was committed by one independent State against another and Tibet had not been acknowledged as an independent State for a considerable time now.

He said India even in recent years had not denied the suzerainty of China over Tibet. He recalled that when India asked the U.N. to postpone consideration of the question of Tibet last time, it was not on any assurance received from the Chinese Government but on messages received from them expressing their intention to settle the question peacefully through negotiations. The agreement between the Dalai Lama and the Chinese Government was not arrived at on any assurances given by India as India had nothing to do with the agreement.

Recalling the incidents which led to the flight of the Dalai Lama from Tibet, he said that though he had no accurate news of what had happened there after that, but, broadly speaking, there had been strong military pressure in every part of Tibet. Far from autonomy, there was military Government there, he added.

Chinese Reply To Indian Complaint

In reply to several 'calling attention' motions on the situation on the border, Shri Nehru made a statement in the Rajya Sabha on September 4. He said that the Chinese Government denied the Indian complaint that Chinese forces had committed aggression on the Indian border. In reply to the Indian protest note against the border incursions by Chinese troops in the NEFA area, the Chinese Government instead accused India of aggression on the Indo-Tibetan border and asked India to withdraw from one or two areas which the Chinese claimed to be their territory. The Chinese note claimed that Indian patrols had gone into Tibetan Chinese territory in one or two places. Shri Nehru added that the Chinese reply was received on September 3 and was being fully examined by the Government of India.

Answering a question, the Prime Minister said that the Chinese reply did not tally with the Indian version of facts. Government were trying to get information and a reply would be sent to the Chinese Government in a few days.

So far as the corner of Aksaichin area in Ladakh was concerned, the Prime Minister said, that was the area across which the Chinese had built a road two years ago. The area was at an altitude of about 16,000 to 17,000 feet, treeless and grassless. He could not give any information as to how many Chinese might be in that corner, particularly in the Ladakh and Aksaichin areas. He said he did not know whether the Chinese were there because India had no representative there and it was not an inhabited area.

Indians Arrested By Chinese Forces

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 7 as to whether it was a fact that Chinese forces had arrested 14 Indians belonging to Ladakh recently, and if so, the action taken in the matter, the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, stated that according to the information received from the Indian Consulate, five Indians were held in custody by the Chinese authorities in Lhasa. The Consulate had protested to the Chinese authorities about the arrests.

Shri Nehru said that some information had also been received that 14 Ladakhi Lamas were in custody in various prisons in Tibet, but no precise details about them were available. India had approached the Chinese authorities to permit Muslims from Kashmir as well as Ladakhi Lamas to contact the Indian Consulate in Lhasa and to allow them to return to India if they so wished..

In reply to a supplementary, the Prime Minister said that two types of Indians went to Tibet; the one were the Lamas and they were for study there; the other were Ladakhi Muslims who used to go there for trade. According to the old practice people used to go to Tibet without getting any formal papers — passport. So there was no record of the number of Ladakhi people staying in Tibet. Subsequently, when the Government of India tried to find out they were told that about 400 Lamas from Ladakh were studying in the various monasteries of Tibet, and about 124 families of Kashmiris, that is Ladakhi Muslims, were there. The Government of India had not verified these figures. The Chinese authorities raised the point that these people were no longer Indian citizens if ever they were, because many of the Kashmiris—Ladakhi Muslims — had been there for a long time. That was a matter on which the Government of India were conferring with them.

Answering another question, the Deputy Minister for External Affairs informed the House that of the five Indians who were held in custody by the Chinese authorities in Lhasa, two were registered with the Indian Consul-General in Lhasa.

White Paper On India-China Relations

The Prime Minister placed a White Paper containing notes and letters exchanged between India and China and agreements signed between the two countries from 1954 to 1959, before the Lok Sabha on September 7.

The White Paper dealt with border issues between India and China, Chinese maps showing parts of Indian territories as Chinese, Tibetan refugees in Kalimpong, the recent disturbances in Tibet and Indian nationals in Tibet and Bhutan.

It contained text of three letters exchanged between the Prime Ministers of India and China on Chinese maps. Shri Nehru had stated in one of his letters, that the frontier drawn between India and China in the Chinese maps did not correspond to the actual frontier and ran right across the territory of India in several places. Mr. Chou En-lai said in reply that the Chinese did not hold that every portion of the boundary line was drawn on sufficient grounds. He added that the *status quo* should be maintained and each side should keep to the border areas at present under its jurisdiction and not go beyond them.

McMahon Line

In another letter, Shri Nehru recalled his visit to China in 1954, soon after the signing of the Sino-Indian Agreement on Tibet. He said he had expressed the hope that the border line in the Chinese maps would be corrected before long. He referred to the Chinese Prime Minister's visit to India in 1956 and recalled the discussion he had with Mr. Chou En-lai then on the question of the boundary line.

Shri Nehru reminded the Chinese Prime Minister that he had accepted the McMahon line as the border with Burma. Also, in view of the friendly relations which existed between China and India, China had proposed to recognise this border with India too. He then quoted some relevant passages from a minute of his discussion with Mr. Chou En-lai. Shri Nehru expressed regret that inspite of the attempt made to hold talks to settle the border issue amicably, no satisfactory agreement had been reached.

In his second letter to the Chinese Premier, Shri Nehru expressed surprise at Mr. Chou En-lai's contention that the frontier between India and China was not accepted at any time by the Government of China. Shri Nehru referred in this connection to several international agreements concerning the border.

The White Paper also included a Note handed to the Chinese Foreign Office in Peking by the Indian Ambassador on August 28,1959, on Chinese violations of the international frontier. In this Note, India told the Chinese Government that a strong Chinese detachment had crossed into Indian territory on the NEFA border on August 25, 1959, and had opened fire on an Indian outpost at Longju. The Note said that this was a case of deliberate aggression and also referred to the firing by Chinese forces on Longju on August 26, 1959.

Violation Of Bhutanese Territory

The White Paper also contained a Note to China about a violation of Bhutanese territory by Chinese troops. The Bhutanese Government had requested the Government of India, to bring the violation to the notice of the Chinese authorities. The Note listed eight villages in the Tibetan region of China over which Bhutan had been exercising administrative jurisdiction for more than 300 years.

The Chinese authorities, the Note continued, had recently seized all arms, ammunition and ponies belonging to Bhutan officers who were in charge of these enclaves. No reasons were given for this seizure. The Government of Bhutan said the Chinese action was a violation of Bhutanese authority. It asked for the immediate return of the arms and ammunition and urged the Chinese Government to ensure Bhutan's jurisdiction over the villages.

In another note, the Government of India protested to China about the arrest and ill-treatment of Bhutanese couriers crossing through Tibetan territory.

India's Note Of September 9, To China

Notes and memoranda exchanged between the Governments of India and China from August 28 till September 9 were placed on the Table of both Houses of Parliament. The Papers included a message sent on September 9 to the Indian Ambassador in Peking for transmission to the Chinese Government. In this message, sent before the latest letter of Mr. Chou En-lai, received on September 9, the Government of India said that the continued circulation of Chinese maps showing large areas of Indian territory as part of China, was a standing threat to India's integrity and evidence of unfriendliness towards India. The Indian Note reaffirmed that the Government of India stood firmly by the McMahon Line which represented the boundary between India and the Tibet region of China from the Eastern border of Bhutan upto Burma, and at the same time, the willingness of the Government of India to discuss the exact alignment of the McMahon Line at Khinsenane, the Longju area and the Tamadem area, where the Chinese complained of Indian intrusion. The message added that the *status quo* should be maintained and that Chinese personnel should not try to alter the present position. So far as Longju was concerned, the Government of India would not send Indian personnel back to the area, provided the Chinese also withdrew their forces. This would mean that neither Indian nor Chinese personnel would be in Longju. The message went to say that India attached the highest importance to peaceful co-existence and the continuance of friendship between India and China.

Replying to the Chinese Government's statement that no violation of Chinese territory would be tolerated the message said that India did not have the remotest wish to trespass on the territory of others. At the same time, India could not possibly, withdraw under intimidation from the areas which were part of India, and that India would have to prevent the illegal intrusion by foreign forces into Indian territory. The message repudiated the allegation that Tibetan elements were operating from Indian territory. It added that India would not under any circumstances allow foreign element to operate against a friendly Government from Indian soil. In conclusion, the message said should the Chinese Government accept the proposal for a discussion of the exact de-limitation of the border at Khinsenane and the Longju and Tamadem areas, India would like to know the procedure they would wish to follow. The Government of India agreed that until further discussion, the position as explained in the message should not be altered by either side.

P.M.'s Reply To Debate On India-China Relations

In reply to a debate on India-China relations in the Rajya Sabha on September 10, the Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, declared that India would be firm on her borders with China but would try to reach a peaceful settlement to any dispute. But he made it clear that it would be done only on the basis of the *status quo* prior to the recent incursions into India.

He added that developments over the past two days had further aggravated the situation. People in India were disturbed not because bits of territories were involved but because they felt that they had been treated rather casually by the Chinese Government and an attempt had been made to bully them.

The Prime Minister observed that it was a matter of regret that Mr. Chou En-lai should have practically denied his assurance, given during his visit to New Delhi that China would recognise the McMahon Line because of long usage and because of the friendship between the two countries. There had been gradual change in China's attitude to the McMahon Line; step by step it had become more rigd. The previous communications of the Chinese Premier were not so strong or positive on this point as his latest letter (received on September 9). This, Shri Nehru said, was a matter of concern for India. On the one hand were maps showing large portions of Indian territory as Chinese and, on the other, China saying she did not recognise the McMahon Line. Nobody knew what exactly they had in their mind. This was an extraordinary position as it meant leaving the matter vague with the possibility of trouble always there. The right thing would be for the two countries to sit together and come to a settlement, he added.

Sino-Indian Treaty Of 1954

Shri Nehru pointed out that over the last ten years he had made statements in Parliament making India's position about the borders clear. But the Chinese had remained silent. The Sino-Indian treaty of 1954 covered problems remaining between Tibet and India. It related to India's extra-territorial rights, her troops, postal and telegraph communications, pilgrimage and what passes she would use for journeys. Yet, if there was any question of the border between Tibet and India, it should have come up at that time but the Chinese did not mention anything.

Shri Nehru disclosed that it was at his instance that Mr. Chou En-lai had invited U Nu to Peking for talks on the border between Burma and China about three years ago. Although U Nu had gone back fairly satisfied, the talks had borne no fruit yet. The feeling in Burma was that the assurances given to U Nu had not been fulfilled by China.

The Prime Minister said that when Mr. Chou En-lai was in India he had himself mentioned his talks with U Nu and said that China would recognise the McMahon Line between Burma and China. It was in this connection that the Chinese Premier had added that China would do the same in the case of the frontier with India although he did say that China did not consider the line to be valid. Shri Nehru said that in view of the importance of the statement and to avoid any misunderstanding he came back to the subject thrice during the conversation and later recorded his note. In his latest letter, the Chinese Premier had totally repudiated the McMahon Line but had said that they had not crossed it.

Citing an instance to show that the Chinese charge of aggression against India on the NEFA border was unconvincing, Shri Nehru pointed out that a month before the incident at Longju (on the NEFA border) India had informed the Chinese authorities that a doctor was being para-dropped at Longju to attend to the officer-in-charge of the post who was seriously ill. The exact location of the post including its longitude and latitude was given and the Chinese were told that although the aircraft had been instructed not to cross the frontier there might be an error of judgment. All these details should show the Chinese that India had no doubt about the area being on the Indian side of the line and this made the Chinese charge of aggression against India unconvincing.

Shri Nehru said that the Chinese perhaps felt angered and soured over Tibet and the asylum given to the Dalai Lama. Perhaps, it was due to this that the Chinese had taken up a rigid attitude on the question of the frontier. But that asylum to the

Dalai Lama did not mean that Government agreed with him. In fact, some of the Dalai Lama's statements had been officially contradicted. He had also been told that Government did not expect him to indulge in any political controversy. The Prime Minister pointed out that he had publicly stated and had personally told the Dalai Lama that it would do no good either to him or to Tibet if the issue was raised at the United Nations.

Concluding Shri Nehru emphasised that it was fantastic to talk of war between India and China on the frontier issue, that would be a folly of the extreme type. He said he would continue to seek a peaceful settlement and work for friendship between the two countries.

In reply to a debate on India-China relations in the Lok Sabha on September 12, the Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, said that Mr. Chou En-lai's latest letter had raised some very serious issues, almost for the first time officially. The basic fact was that the Chinese claim, which was vaguely set down in maps, was now becoming more definitely stated. But the claim was such that it was quite impossible for India or any Indian ever to admit whatever the consequences. That should be quite clear. Shri Nehru declared that there could be no question of mediation, conciliation or arbitration about it.

Reiterating his previous reference to mediation or arbitration, he said that it was only for minor rectification about the McMahon Line. It did not apply to big chunks of Indian territory shown on Chinese maps.

The Chinese claim involved a fundamental change in geography; and amounted to the Himalayas being handed over as a gift. Whether India existed or not, Shri Nehru said, this could not be agreed to and added that it was fantastic and absurd for the Chinese to base their claim on what had happened in the past centuries. If this argument were applied to the great Chinese State, he wondered how much of the present China would survive, built up as it was on conquest. That argument, was really one used by a strong and aggressive power.

The Prime Minister referred to the speeches made at the Peking Congress accusing him of defending British imperialism. It was obvious that the frontier question could not be solved by resolutions in Delhi or in Peking or by hurling strong language at each other and any talk of war was reckless in that context, he added.

Shri Nehru observed that he did not wish to use strong language but what was being seen in China today was pride and arrogance of might that was being reflected in their language and behaviour towards India.

Apart from the Aksaichin area in Ladakh across which the Chinese had built a road and the Longju area on the NEFA border, no part of the Indian border had been occupied by the Chinese. It was not a correct impression that masses of Chinese armies were perched on the frontier or that they were pouring across it. The real danger was not these armies pouring in but the words that were being spoken in Peking, the Prime Minister said. He disclosed that the treatment given to the Indian missions and trade agencies by the local authorities in Tibet had been consistently discourteous. It seemed that this was being done to make it more and more inconvenient and difficult for them to work there.

Shri Nehru rejected Mr. Chou En-Lai's contention in his latest letter that the question of the boundaries of Bhutan and Sikkim did not fall within the scope of the present discussion. India, Shri Nehru asserted, would not agree to this question being dealt with as something apart from the border dispute with this country. India had publicly undertaken certain responsibilities for the defence of Sikkim and Bhutan in case they were attacked and this position should be understood. If anything happened on their borders for India it would be the same thing as interference with her own borders.

Dealing with the points raised in the debate, he said, there would be no change in the policy of non-alignment and Panch Sheel. He deprecated suggestions that India should look for new friends. He did not know how anybody could help India if she herself was not strong enough to face a challenge.

He said there could be no submission to force but in international affairs it was a firm and gentle voice that should be raised. But even firmness had its own disabilities and great powers like the Soviet Union and the United States stopped at a certain limit.

Shri Nehru gave another instance of the intensification of the new approach of the Chinese Government towards India which had now been accused of violating China's territorial waters. One complaint referred to a small Indian frigate which carrying supplies passed near Hongkong. The second complaint was about the cruiser, INS *Mysore*, which according to the Chinese violated their waters last year. He said that actually the cruiser was on a goodwill visit to China. The Chinese complaint was really extraordinary, he added.

HOME MINISTER'S STATEMENTS ON LANGUAGE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Initiating the debate on the Parliamentary Committee's Report on the Official Language in the Lok Sabha on September 2 the Union Home Minister, Shri G.B. Pant, said that this Report had to be submitted direct to the President, and under article 344 of the Constitution, sub-clause (6), the President is to give his final decision on the proposals made by the Committee. The Parliamentary Committee had held that it was not practicable to push out English by 1965. According to the original scheme Hindi was the official language of the Union but it provided a period of fifteen years for the use of English. After that the Parliament had the authority to decide as to whether English should be used, for which purpose and for how long. The Committee had recommended that the Parliament should pass a law to promote the use of English for such purposes as it might consider appropriate or as long as might be necessary.

Shri Pant added that it was essential that, even in future, people should learn English in this country as it was the window to the outside world and to science and technology.

He said that there was no prejudice or animus against English, which had helped the country in many ways. While there should be arrangements for continuing English in our ordinary educational institutions and also wherever necessary in our administrative, judicial, cultural and other establishments, only an indigenous language could serve the purpose of a common language for the country which has accepted a democratic status, because English was a very difficult language and costs a disproportionate effort so far as the average citizens are concerned who have not to follow up any scientific or other like subjects.

The Language Commission had recommended that the medium of education in the Universities, the language of the High Court and the language of Bills, etc. should be Hindi.

The Parliamentary Committee recommended that the regional languages should have the maximum scope in their own respective regions and that the medium of education in the Universities should be the regional language and that the language even in the High Courts should be the regional language, though in certain matters such as reportable judgments, decrees and orders, a Hindi translation should also be attached. The Committee also decided that Bills, etc., in the legislatures of the States should be in their own regional language, so that the regional languages will have full sway in the administrative, judicial, cultural and educational fields.

This is, the Home Minister felt, a corollary to our re-organisation of States oil a linguistic basis. When the States had been so formed, it became all the more necessary that all the administration and other activities in the regions should be conducted in their own languages.

Remodelling Hindi

The Commitee further suggested that Hindi had to be remodelled. As many words as might be possible from all other regional languages should be introduced in Hindi. Shri Pant pointed out that if Hindi was to serve as the official language of the Union and the regional languages were to serve their respective States, efforts should be made to see that the words introduced in Hindi and the regional languages should be common. Hindi should be re-modelled to reflect the composite character of the Indian culture. It should be smooth and there should be no artificiality about it. It should be developed through usage. The Language Commission had said that there need not be any purism in the development of Hindi. The Home Minister observed that it should be so re-cast that it was easily intelligible to all. A start should be made in using Hindi in the regions in some form or other so that it eventually evolved itself into a natural language of the country.

Shri Pant informed that the report of the Parliamentary Committee had been well received throughout the country and it was gratifying to note that not a single member from any non-Hindi area had appended a note of dissent or expressed any view which would be discordant with the proposals contained in the report.

Winding up the two-day debate on the Report in the Lok Sabha on September 4, Shri Pant, elucidated the points on bilingualism in the Government Services as well as in the examination system, raised by him in the earlier speech. He said that the Parliamentary Committee suggested that in the subordinate services an element of bilinguism should be introduced, even in the Central services, so that the Central employees in the regions, who had to do most of the work in the regions, might perform their tasks in the regional language and might learn the Union language to the extent it was necessary to enable them to maintain their contacts with the Centre. About services good care had been taken to see that no one, whether belonging to a non-Hindi region or to a Hindi region, was placed at a disadvantage and that all had to compete on equal terms.

The Committee further recommended that there would be three compulsory papers, in a way: one in English, one in Hindi and one in another indigenous language, the latter two being of an equal standard so that all who entered the examination should be able to answer the questions in a manner which might not cause any disadvantage to one or any undue advantage to another. It was also suggested that an expert committee should be set up to see if regional languages could be adopted as a media of examination.

In Rajya Sabha

Winding up the two-day discussion on the recommendations of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language Commission's Report in the Rajya Sabha on September 9, Shri Pant, reiterated the points raised by him in the earlier speeches in the Lok Sabha, and said that the scheme about th Union language as adopted by the Constituent Assembly almost unanimously, and embodied in the Constitution, had been again reaffirmed by both Houses of Parliament.

There were a number of regional languages and so far as possible we should try to introduce the styles and forms and the words of other languages in the Hindi language so that it might

be really national in character.

Continuing the Home Minister observed that so far as the regional languages were concerned, they were not in any way inferior to Hindi, and nobody could claim that Hindi was richer than other languages.

But a common medium was wanted and taking into consideration all the relevant factors and examining the problem in an objective and rational way Hindi was adopted, not because it was in any way superior but, because in the light of the circumstances existing in the country, it was the most suitable medium for such purposes.

Similarly, for legal terms the Committee suggested that there should be another Commission so that the legal terms that were evolved may be used in all languages. If that was done and if other terms of common usage could be introduced into Hindi from other regional languages, all the Indian languages would come very much close together, the Home Minister added.

Referring to the article 351 of the Constitution, when dealing with this question, he continued, it must be remembered that the Constitution itself provided that while Hindi should be the language for the official purposes of the Union, the Commission or those who had to deal with this matter, should give due regard to the industrial, cultural and scientific advance of the community and the just claims and interests of persons belonging to the non-Hindi-speaking areas with regard to the public services. Article 351 laid down that it should be the duty of the Union:

> "to promote the spread of the Hindi language, to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India and to secure its enrichment by assimilating without interfering with its genius, the forms, style and expressions used in Hindustani and in the other languages of India specified in the Eighth Schedule, and by drawing, wherever necessary or desirable, for its vocabulary, primarily on Sanskrit and secondarily on other languages."

Shri Pant added, "After all, why do we want a common language? It is to preserve, to foster and to promote the unity of the country and to consolidate its independence. If any step that we take has a contrary and adverse result, then whether we take it under the name of language or under any other similar pretext or other reason, it will not serve the supreme purpose for which language is specially meant."

Prime Minister's Statement

In course of the debate in the Lok Sabha on September 4 on the Parliamentary Committee's Report On Official Language, Prime Minister, Shri Nehru said that he stood by his earlier statement made on the floor of the House on August 8 that English should continue to be an associate additional language. It could be used as a means of communication between the States or between the States and the Centre. English could also be used in the central sphere by anyone who wanted this, although Hindi would be the official language. Any time limit should be decided by people who were affected by this, he added.

The Prime Minister observed that even if the criticism that Hindi was not sufficiently developed was accepted, it could not be reasonably argued at the same time that any other Indian language was more suited to be the official language. He said the whole opposition to Hindi came from fear of disability for non-Hindi areas. He declared that a rule must be laid down that no such disability would be created in matters like the services. In his view a person who did not know even a word of Hindi should not be barred from recruitment to the services.

Shri Nehru urged that international numerals be retained in all the Indian languages. Also, scientific and technical terms should be bodily incorporated in those languages from English. He said that unless a flexible approach was adopted towards the language question neither this problem nor the basic and more important question of bringing about a synthesis between India's past and the future would be solved.

VIVIAN BOSE INQUIRY

Home Minister's Statements In Parliament

Speaking in the debate on the Vivian Bose Board of Inquiry's Report on the Life Insurance Corporation Inquiry, the Advice of the Union Public Service Commission thereon and Government of India Resolution dated May 27, 1959, Shri G.B. Pant, Union Home Minister, said in the Lok Sabha on September 8, that it was in the course of the discussion that took place on December 12, 1957, on L.I.C. deal of June 1957 that then the Finance Minister himself suggested that a Commission of Inquiry should be set up and Chief Justice Chagla was selected for this purpose. After that, the Chagla Report was discussed in the Lok Sabha and the Government placed a motion before this House which, was adopted unanimously by the House.

In order to make a piercing and penetrating enquiry into the L.I.C. deal, even after the Report of the Chagla Commission had been received another body was appointed.

There, the Home Minister continued, seemed to be some misconception about the exact character of the enquiry that was to be made by the Vivian Bose Board of Inquiry and the position that Board had in accordance with the statutory rules and laws. The Vivian Bose Board of Inquiry was appointed under rule 5 of the All India Services (Appeal and Investigation) Rules made under the All India Services Act. It was not a Commission like the Chagla Commission for holding a general enquiry. It was a Board of Inquiry appointed under special regulations for a specific purpose and that was to give their findings on the charges referred to them by the Government.

It was a statutory obligation that under rule 6 the report had to be referred to the Union Public Service Commission. Apart from what was stated in the rules, under article 320 of the Constitution no disciplinary action would be taken against anyone without a reference being made to the UPSC. So, the fact that the Constitution imposed this obligation on those who had to deal with these matters would leave no choice to them and this obligation had to be fulfilled.

Recalling the great emphasis laid by both the Houses that the Government should not depart from the advice given to them by the UPSC, Shri Pant said that there had been a long-standing convention that the advice of the UPSC should be invariably accepted. "So far as I remember, the House as well as the Rajya Sabha had laid great emphasis on this point. Again and again, we have been told that we should not depart from the advice that is given to us by the UPSC. That would be wrong. I would not take much time of the House by giving the figures from year to year, but I can say this that Government have as a rule accepted the advice of the UPSC."

During the last eight years, he continued since this Constitution came into operation, more than 53,000 cases were referred to the Public Service Commission and there were only 16 cases in which the Government did not accept the advice of the Public Service Commission. That was an indication of the importance that the Government attached to the advice of the Commission.

The Home Minister stood by his earlier view that the former Finance Minister, Shri Krishnamachari was not to be blamed directly or indirectly for the deal. About Shri Patel, Shri Pant said, Government had not exonerated him. They had accepted the operative part of the UPSC's recommendation about him but did not agree with its arguments or reasoning. Government, he said, were perhaps more in agreement with Shri Pillai's note of dissent than with the main body of the UPSC advice.

Shri Pant pointed out that no *malafide* had been attributed to any of the officers concerned with the Mundhra deal. Besides, Shri Patel had rendered valuable service to the State for more than thirty-five years and this aspect could not be disregarded. The Government resolution had taken into account the totality of the circumstances and the interests of the country. If Government had accepted the suggestion in the UPSC dissenting note that Shri Patel be compulsorily retired, the concrete results would have been the same. Shri Patel had expressd his desire to be relieved before Government had taken a decision, Shri Pant added.

About Shri Kamath, the Home Minister said that he was technically and in the eyes of the law guilty because he was the Chief Executive Officer of the L.I.C. and Government had imposed the penalty of censure on him as recommended by UPSC.

Deploring the remarks made in the debate against members of the UPSC, Shri Pant observed that they discharged their duty according to their own light. But he described the 'assistance theory' suggested by the Bose Board as fantastic and absurd.

Winding up the debate in the Rajya Sabha on the findings of the recent inquiry into the affairs of L.I.C. and Government's decisions concerning Shri H.M. Patel and Shri Kamat, the Home Minister said that the Government were looking into the question of framing rules to govern the relationship between Secretaries and Ministers. It was highly necessary to maintain the morale of the public service. No Government could function unless it had the whole-hearted co-operation of the members.

Shri Pant said that from the outset it had been accepted that the purchase of shares by the L.I.C. had been an unfortunate one. But it had to be borne in mind that it was not the direct concern of the Finance Ministry itself. The Corporation had an independent statutory existence of its own. The initiative for the deal was not taken by the former Finance Minister. Full facts had not been disclosed to him.

It could not be stated the Home Minister pointed out, that any officer involved in this deal was completely free from blame. The deal was not carried through in a proper manner. Rules and regulations were not observed. The dominant role was played by the then Principal Finance Secretary. In these circumstances Government felt it would not be proper for them to accept the advice of the Union Public Service Commission unconditionally. Government, therefore, did the right thing by following a middle course in accepting the operative part of the Commission's advice in regard to Shri Patel and their recommendations fully in regard to Shri Kamat, the Minister added.

Chief Justice Of India

The President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Sinha to be the Chief Justice of India upon the retirement of Shri Justice Sudhi Ranjan Das, with effect from October 1, 1959, reads a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on September 5.

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

A Press Communique issued from the Cabinet Secretariat in New Delhi on September 1, says that Dr. P. Subbarayan, whose appointment as a Cabinet Minister has been announced, will on assuming office, take charge of the Ministry of Transport and Communications from Shri S.K. Patil.

According to a Press Note issued on September 2 from the Rashtrapati Bhavan the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, administered the oath of office and secrecy at Rashtrapati Bhavan on the same day to Dr. P. Subbarayan as a Minister in the Union Cabinet.

CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

The Speaker has appointed Shri Upendranath Barman as the Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee ending on April 30, 1960 vice Dr. P. Subbarayan, ceased to be a member of the Committee on his appointment as a Minister, reads a Press Note issued on September 13 from the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

APPOINTMENTS FROM OUTSIDE STATES

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 10, Shri B.N. Datar, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, stated that in allotting I.A.S. candidates to each State cadre, the Union Government had been following the principle that recruitment of at least 50% of the new entrants were from outside the State. This principle had been followed, to the extent practicable even before the States Reorganisation Commission had made recommendations in this behalf.

So far as allotment of I.P.S. candidates to State cadres was concerned, this principle had been adopted since the recruitment made on the basis of 1956 examination.

Between November 1956 and middle of August this year, 10 appointments of High Court Judges have been made from "outside the State."

GALLANTRY AWARDS FOR POLICE OFFICERS

According to the Gazette of India published on September 5, five police officers, one from Uttar Pradesh and four from Rajasthan, have been decorated by the President for gallantry.

The President's Police and Fire Services Medal has been awarded to Shri Gopal Krishna Bajpai, Additional Superintendent of Police (officiating), U.P., and the Police Medal to Shri Surja Ram, Circle Inspector; Shri Jai Singh, Head Constable; Shri Balwant Singh, Brevet Jemadar, and Shri Durg Singh, Police Consatble.

POLICE MEDAL FOR U. P. CONSTABLE

An announcement dated September 12 says that the Police Medal for gallantry has been awarded by the President to Shri Mohammad Ullah Khan, Constable, Civil Police, U.P. for showing commendable initiative, courage and leadership of a high order in an encounter against a gang of armed dacoits, on August 3, 1955, in village Patna Deokali in Shahjahanpur District.

"BHARAT DARSHAN" TOUR BY GOVT. EMPLOYEES

According to an announcement dated September 9, the first "Bharat Darshan" tour arranged for the Union Government employees is to start from mid-October 1959.

The sixteen-day tour, sponsored by the Staff Welfare Section of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, will cover development projects, industrial establishments and cultural centres. About 500 Central employees and their families in Delhi will participate. Total expenses per head will come to Rs. 165.

Re-employment Of Former Defence Employees

According to an announcement of September 1, after their release or discharge, more than 1,500 ex-employees of the Defence Services were working in various Central Ministries and Departments in the beginning of 1959.

The Union Home Ministry employed 743 persons, Ministry of Finance 132, Ministry of Food and Agriculture 97 and the Railways 64.

The number of re-employed Defence personnel in other offices were: Ministry of Commerce and Industry — 9; Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation — 8; Ministry of Defence — 36; Ministry of Education — 47; Ministry of External Affairs — 40; Ministry of Health — 21; Ministry of Information and Broadcasting — 12; Ministry of Irrigation and Power — 30; Ministry of Labour and Employment — 52; Ministry of Law — 18; Ministry of Rehabilitation — 39; Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs — 36; Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel — 23; Ministry of Transport and Communication — 47; Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply — 6; Prime Minister's Secretariat — 3; Cabinet Secretariat — 8; Department of Atomic Energy — 69; Secretary to President — 5; Military Secretary to President — 1, and Planning Commission — 22.

The Union Home Ministry has issued orders that the demobilised personnel of the Defence Forces should be rendered employment assistance by the Employment Exchanges and accorded the same priority as is available to the surplus/retrenched Central Government employees. The orders state that these persons should be given preference for appointment in such services as Police, Home Guards, State transport services and Armed Constabulary.

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON ARMY CHIEF'S RESIGNATION

Speaking on several adjournment motions on the resignation of the Army Chief of Staff, General Thimayya the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, said in the Lok Sabha on September 2, that General Thimayya submitted a letter of resignation on August 31 but later withdrew it on his advice. No other resignations had been received by him.

Continuing Shri Nehru observed that particularly, in the circumstances of today, the General's resignation was a serious matter. He said he had always been trying to keep in touch with the activities of the

Defence Ministry and he met the Service Chiefs from time to time. About a week ago, he had sent for General Thimayya in the normal course and during the discussion he had inquired about recent promotions in the Army. The General gave an account of what had been done and the Prime Minister said he was satisfied that not only had the promotions been regular, but there had been no element of partisanship or favouritism. . The General had told him that the Army was in fine mettle and its morale excellent. But the General had also stated that he was not happy about various matters. He gave some instances, but Mr. Nehru said, he thought they were trivial and of no consequence. The difficulties might be called temperamental. He, however, promised to look into the matter and later spoke to the Defence Minister, who, he understood, had some talk with General Thimayya. Shri Nehru said he was, therefore, surprised to receive on Monday a letter of resignation from General Thimayya. It seemed to him peculiarly unwise that this action should have been taken in the conditions prevailing in India today. He sent for the General and told him that the way in which he sent his resignation was not a right thing at all. The General accepted his advice to withdraw the resignation.

Categorically deying that political considerations had anything to do with promotions in the Defence Services, the Prime Minister said that in all the hundreds of promotions there had been no interference by Government or by the Defence Ministry with the recommendations made by Selection Boards. But this did not take away the right of Government to make any change in such recommendations.

He declared that under the Constitution and practice, the civil authority is and must remain supreme. But the civil authority should pay due heed to the expert advice it received.

Shri Nehru said that he went rather fully into the question of promotions, which were strictly governed by rules. In the only case of promotion to Lt. General, where a slight departure was made from the recommendation of the Chief of Staff, the Government had to choose from a panel of three names, submitted by the Army Chief, who had considered all the three worthy of promotion. The first Officer on the list did not have the necessary qualification of having actually commanded an Infantry Division. The Defence Minister thought that the second and third persons should be promoted now, the first person should be given an immediate chance to command an Infantry Division and should be later appointed Lt. General without prejudice to his seniority. The Defence Minister consulted the Prime Minister, who agreed with him, more especially, because the Officer concerned did not lose anything by this procedure.

The Prime Minister said that any member or a Committee of the House, could see the files concerning the promotions. This, he said, was an open invitation, and members could go to the source and form their own opinions.

During the last two years, Shri Nehru continued, the Defence Services and the Ordnance Factories had made great progress. The factories were dealing with major projects and utilising their spare capacity. He praised the Defence Minister for the great energy and enthusiasm which he had put in his work and which had resulted in so much progress. He also complimented the Officers and Men of the Armed Forces for the good work they had done.

Later, the Prime Minister made a similar statement in the Rajya Sabha. He said he had been unable really to come to grip with any solid thing, except some temperamental difficulties which often arose. He said he would continue to look into them.

Survey Through Census Questionnaire

According to a limited survey conducted in 1959 in the country to pre-test the questionnaire prepared for the 1961 Census, literacy in India has gone up by more than 100%, from 16.6% in 1951 to 40.7%.

Education among women seemed to be progressing at a much faster pace than among men. The survey showed an almost fourfold increase in female literacy, from 7.9% of population in 1951 to 28.8%. Male literacy had also gained, but comparatively less, from 24.9% to 51.7%.

Wage Earners

Another information sifted from the replies to the draft Census-Questionnaire was on the earning population, which slided down by about 4%, from 39.9% to 36%. The 1951 Census percentage of self-supporting persons and earning dependents to total population was 41 in the rural areas and 34.7 in the urban areas. The pre-test figures showed that the percentage of workers and non-working earners to total population was 39.9 in the case of rural areas and 29.6 in the case of urban areas.

The pre-testing of the 1961 Census-Questionnaire was done early this year in all the States, including the four leading cities, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras. At random, 16,177 houses were selected both in urban and rural areas and 77,933 persons were interviewed. Of them, 37,498 were women.

The draft questionnaire, formulated by the Census Commissioner with the help of all Central Ministries, State Governments, and academic bodies, sought information about individuals, families, villages, religion, education, mother-tongue, employment, place of work, etc. The purpose was to assess the suitability of questions as well as the quality of response and the period of census count.

KERALA AGITATION

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 7 Shri G.B. Pant, Union Home Minister, said that the police made lathi charge 68 times during the recent agitation in Kerala. More than a lakh of persons were removed by

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the police from places of picketing without formal arrest. The number of persons arrested were 31,855 and the number of persons sent to jail 20,985. A little less than 11,000 persons were detained and released later.

Half-Yearly Report On Preventive Detention

An announcement of September 5, says that as on June 30, 1959, 77 persons were held in the various States under the Preventive Detention Act, 1950.

State-wise, persons detained were: West Bengal — 53; Bombay — 9; Assam — 3; Punjab — 3; Madhya Pradesh — 2; Bihar — 1, and Rajasthan—1. The Union Territory of Delhi had detained three persons and Manipur two.

Seventy persons were detained for reasons involving either the security of the State or the maintenance of public order. Of these 53 were from West Bengal, 8 from Bombay, 2 each from Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Manipur, and one each from Assam, Bihar and Rajasthan.

Three persons were detained in Delhi and two in Assam so as to prevent them from acting in a manner prejudicial either to the defence of India, relations of India with foreign powers or the security of the country.

To ensure the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community, one person was detained in Punjab. One foreigner was held in detention in Bombay.

Radio-Active Fall-Out

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 9 the Prime Minister stated that the highest level of daily fall-out radio-activity detected in the air remained the same as reported to the Lok Sabha on February 23, 1959. It was well below the maximum permissible limit.

Shri Sadath Ali Khan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, replying to another question, said that the vegetation, salt, soil and fish samples in the Atomic Energy Establishment area in Trombay, as well as in the Bombay area, were tested regularly for the presence of radio-activity. No accumulation of radio-activity had been observed in these samples above of what would be present in the normal course of nature.

Asked how the waste from the Atomic Energy Reactor had been disposed of, he said that the only reactor-produced waste at present was (i) the short-lived radio-activity in the filtered and demineralised water used in *Apsara* and (ii) waste from irradiated samples.

As regards water, a radiochemical analysis was made on a routine basis to check the absence of any long-lived or dangerous isotopes in the water. When the water in the pool required changing, it was transferred into a special tank where it was stored till the level of activity of short-lived radioisotopes was about 100 times less than the maximum permissible considered safe and only then discharged into the normal drainage system.

After samples were irradiated in this reactor they were sent to the laboratory which asked for them. Any waste from these samples was carefully collected, fixed in cement, packed in sealed steel drums and stored for ultimate disposal. These were taken finally to a distance of 200 miles out at sea and dumped.

Indian Scientists Abroad

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 8, Shri B.N. Datar, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, stated that out of about 2,800 Indian scientists and technologists abroad enrolled in the National Register till June 1959 1,950 were still abroad and they were: 945 students including 572 Government stipendees, and 1,005 persons employed wholetime. A large number of the whole-time employees had joined reputed concerns for practical training.

He added that since August, 1957, arrangements had been made for enrolment of Indian scientific and technical personnel abroad in a special section of the National Register.

REMITTANCES FOR RADIO CEYLON ADVERTISEMENTS

Answering a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 2, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shri B.R. Bhagat, informed the House that it had been explained to the Ceylon Minister for Posts, Information and Broadcasting when he met India's Finance Minister in April 1959 that in view of India's tight foreign exchange position, remittances could not be allowed for advertisement of Indian goods for sale to Indians. However, to the extent advertisements were for sale of Indian goods in foreign countries which led to promotion of export, remittances would continue to be permitted.

The Deputy Minister gave the following figures of remittances allowed for advertisement over Radio Ceylon during the last five years:

	(*in rupees*)
1954	21,66,563
1955	26,88,940
1956	33,14,276
1957	16,48,780
1958	5,75,801
1959 (January-July)	2,32,880

PROHIBITION OF NARCOTICS

Answering a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 10, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, informed the House that there was partial prohibition of narcotics in the areas of the Punjab and Uttar Pradesh adjoining Delhi. He added that preventive staff consisting of excise and police officials had been posted at Railway Station and road check posts to check the inflow of narcotics into the territory of Delhi. In addition, periodical surprise checking and pickets were also laid during day and night by the excise staff on all strategic points for the purpose.

REHABILITATION OF GADIA LOHARS

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 11, Shrimati Violet Alva, Union Deputy Home Minister, stated that till the end of March 1959, Gadia Lohar families had been rehabilitated in Rajasthan.

For the years 1956-57 and 1957-58, the grant by Central Government in this connection totalled Rs. 2.73 lakhs. The allocation made, including the State's share for the years 1957-58 and 1958-59 was Rs. 1.40 lakhs and Rs. 1.45 lakhs respectively, she added.

PRIME MINISTER'S NATIONAL RELIEF FUND

Answering a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 8, the Deputy Minister for External Affairs, Shrimati Lakshmi N. Menon, said that the total receipts in the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund from inception until July 31, 1959 were Rs. 1,85,77,380.29. Out of this amount, the total disbursement during this period was Rs. 1,84,56,088.14. The balance on July 31, 1959 was Rs. 1,21,292.15.

During the current year, i.e. from January 1 until August 29, 1959, the following amounts were given out of the Fund for flood relief:

	Rupees
Kashmir ..	2,25,162.30
Assam ..	1,20,221.44
Andhra Pradesh ..	15,000.00
Manipur ..	10,000.00
Mysore ..	20,000.00
Kutch (through Chief Minister of Bombay)	1,500.00

MONSOON SESSION OF PARLIAMENT ENDS

The Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha adjourned *sine die* on September 11 and 12 respectively after the five-week monsoon session.

Mongolian Premier's Visit

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's Republic, His Excellency Mr. Yumjagiin Tsedenbal, arrived in New Delhi on September 9 on a seven-day visit to India.

Planning & Finance

CUSTOMS & CENTRAL EXCISE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Inaugurating the first meeting of the newly constituted Customs and Central Excise Advisory Council in New Delhi on September 3, the Union Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said that the laws of Government and the taxes which were levied under those laws should be executed to the maximum advantage of society as a whole which included the advantage of Government. It was essential that representatives of the people should be associated with the administration at as many levels as possible if the administration was really to serve the needs of the people. Howsoever efficient the administration was, it was not possible for it to know the details of the difficulties encountered by the pepole.

The Finance Minister observed that laws and rules were meant for the convenience of society and where there was conflict between the two, it was the laws and the rules which ought to be reconsidered. If there were any rules which were found to retard efficiency or cause harrassment to those who were affected by the rules, those rules ought to be considered and changed and it was there that the Government looked forward to the Council for help and guidance. He appealed to the business community to cooperate with Government in removing corruption, delay and harrassment in the process of the levy and collection of taxes.

The work of the Council, the Finance Minister said, would be generally confined to examination of procedure and policy questions would not generally be one of its functions. But the council might consider some policies which impinged on procedure and the government might consider recommendations, if made by the council in this regard. There was the need for more and more resources through taxes and the efficiency with which this work was done would strengthen Government and would make the work of planning and its execution more effective and quick, he added.

The Customs Reorganisation Committee, Shri Desai said, which was appointed to consider the collection of customs dues and the procedure involved in them, recommended, among several things that the Central Customs Advisory Council should be formed in order that this work may become more efficient. The Estimates Committee recommended that the Central Excise Council should also be appointed. We considered that since these two taxes, customs and excise, are similar in nature, it would be better if there is a joint Council so that there may be better coordination and the work can be done with more efficiency and effect. It is with that purpose that the Customs and Central Excise Advisory Council has been formed.

As regards the size of the Council, we have, however, tried to see that it represents as many important interests as can be represented, the Minister added.

DELIBERATIONS

The Council was informed that it had been decided to establish Advisory Committees at the minor ports and major land Customs Stations. It was agreed that a lenient view would be taken and re-shipment allowed in *bona fide* cases where goods had been wrongly shipped by foreign suppliers to importers in India. The suggestion that Press Notes should be issued whenever duties were altered was accepted.

Another suggestion accepted was that as far as possible the second appraisement system should be resorted to in a greater measure to ensure speedier clearance of goods. Government had agreed to grant full drawback of the duty paid on imported paper used in the manufacture of bags for cement for export.

On a few points the trade representatives were assured that the suggestions would be further considered. For example, it was urged that the importer whose case was under consideration, as to whether or not, his licence was valid for the goods imported, should be allowed to appear personally before the joint weekly meeting of Customs and Trade control officials at which such cases are examined. Another instance of this kind was the objection raised by the Trade to the Customs officials asking for fresh evidence of actual value of goods when the goods were shipped on contracts of which the period of validity had expired by a few days. The Government also assured the trade representatives that every effort was being made to eliminate delays and simplify procedures and that there was no cause for any genuine complaints. In regard to the Customs Laboratories it was pointed out, with statistics, that by and large samples were tested and reported upon within a few days. Only in a very small number of articles, a little longer time became necessary on account of the nature of the test itself or because the sample had to be sent to some outside laboratory for test. Even in these cases, steps would be taken to reduce the time.

It was pointed out that steps were already under way towards the augmentation of the strength of Appraisers in general and expert Appraisers in particular.

The disposal of appeals and revision petitions was also reviewed. It was observed that Government were very much alive to the need for their speedy disposal and steps were being taken to further accelerate the work.

It was decided that though the value to be taken for debit of import licences, was mainly the concern of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, yet the problem would be looked into again carefully in consultation with them.

A suggestion was made that the Customs Schedule should be amended to bring it into line with the Import Trade Control Schedule. The FICCI offered to submit a note on the subject to Government.

On the Central Excise side, 23 items came up for discussion. Most of these were of a procedural character, and, by and large, the Government accepted the suggestions made by the Trade. The difficulties in accepting a few of the suggestions were explained. However, an assurance was given that these matters would be examined further to find out whether some way could be found to meet the needs of the Trade. The next meeting of the Council would be held early in January 1960.

The two-day session of the Council ended on September 4.

The Minister for Revenue and Civil Expenditure, Dr. B. Gopala Reddi, is Chairman of the Council. The Deputy Minister of Finance, Shri B.R. Bhagat, is Deputy Chairman. Apart from officials of the Central Board of Revenue, the Council consists of 11 members — six ex-officio members and five non-officials, nominated by the Government of India.

Advance Payment Of Tax By Companies

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on September 6 says that as a result of changes introduced by the Finance Act 1959 in respect of company taxation, all payments of advance tax (*including* income-tax) by companies under section 18A during the current financial year 1959-60 in respect of the assessment year 1960-61 will be *wholly* accountable under the account head "III. Corporation Tax". At the time of making payment of the instalment of advance tax due on September 15, 1959, (and subsequent instalments), companies should, therefore, show the correct account head in the challans. The account head to be shown *both* for income-tax and super-tax will be: "III Corporation Tax — Section 18A collections — ordinary collections."

Similarly, the tax (both income-tax and super-tax) deducted at source from dividends payable to companies, whether interim or final, declared by a company in respect of its accounting year relevant for the assessment year 1960-61, and from the interest on debentures payable to *companies* on or after April 1, 1959, will also be accountable under the head "III Corporation Tax". The persons responsible for the deduction of tax from dividends and interest payable to companies should deposit the tax deducted under the following head:

"III Corporation Tax —

Deductions from dividends and other income (a) Income-tax (b) Super tax."

Control Of Capital Issues

Answering a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 2, Shri Morarji Desai, said that the Government of India accepted three of the four recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Control of Capital Issues. The fourth recommendation was under Government's consideration.

The first suggestion, he explained, had been accepted with the modification that the exemption limit should be raised to Rs. 10 lakhs instead of Rs. 5 lakhs, and the necessary notification had been published.

The four suggestions of the Committee for relaxation of control were: the exemption limit should be raised from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 15 lakhs in twelve months; a balance of 1:3½ as between equity capital plus free reserves on the one hand and fixed dividend bearing securities on the other, might be adopted as a healthy requirement; in considering applications for issue of bonus shares (a) the 20% residual reserves test should not be rigidly enforced and relaxations should be made wherever necessary, and (b) the test of under capitalisation should be liberalised to the extent of permitting an amount of capital employed by the company; and the condition imposed in the consent orders to the issue of bonus shares that the shares should be issued only in a year, in which the company had assessable income, operated harshly and it was not for the Capital Issues Control to impose such conditions.

LOAN OPERATIONS OF I. F. C.

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 11, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, confirmed that the loan operations of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India had declined to some extent. However, he added, its other operations, namely, underwriting of capital and guaranteeing of deferred payments had increased appreciably. The I.F.C. Act, he said, was amended in 1957 to enable the Corporation to guarantee deferred payments for import of machinery from abroad so as to stimulate investments with the assistance of the Corporation.

EXCHANGE CONTROL VIOLATION CASES

During the month of August 39 cases of contraventions under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act were adjudicated and an aggregate penalty of Rs. 30,750 imposed on various parties including proprietors and partners of firms, companies etc, says an announcement of September 6.

Confiscation of foreign currencies worth Rs. 17,146.45 (approximately) under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act was also ordered.

In addition to the confiscation and the penalties imposed, some parties have been directed to repatriate the credit balance standing to their account in foreign countries.

CENTRAL AID FOR PLAN SCHEMES

Placing a statement on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on September 7 in reply to a question, Shrimati Tarakeshwari Sinha, Deputy Finance Minister, stated that the procedure drawn up in 1958 for the release of Central assistance to States for Plan schemes would be followed during the current year as well.

Such Central assistance comprised assistance for schemes included in the State plans and for Centrally sponsored schemes. A four-point procedure for the release of Central assistance was as follows:

1. A substantial portion of such assistance would be made available to the State Governments as lump sum ways and means advances by the Finance Ministry. Three fourths of the total amount would be released in this way in nine equal monthly instalments beginning with May, 1958. Such releases would be made automatically on or about the 15th of the month.
2. On receipt of final sanctions for loans and grants from the Central Ministries in the latter half of February 1959, the Accountant General would clear these outstanding advances. The balance if any, would be credited to the States by him in cash.
3. The ways and means advances would be interest free but the loans into which they were ultimately converted or any uncleared balance of such advances outstanding at the end of the year would be deemed to have been made to the State on the 1st October, 1958, and would carry the appropriate rate of interest.
4. The procedure for determining the sums payable as grants and loans had been set out by the Planning Commission.

The above procedure would apply to all loans and grants to be given to the State Governments on account of Plan schemes except the loans for the DVC and the Hirakud and the Rajasthan Canal, funds for which would continue to be released as at present.

The Deputy Minister said that State Governments were required to furnish periodical statements showing the progress of expenditure on projects or development schemes for which finances were made available by the Centre. She added that no proposal to associate Members of Parliament from the respective States with Plan progress and development in the States was under consideration.

National Savings Central Advisory Board

A New Delhi announcement dated September 1 says that the National Savings Central Advisory Board, amalgamating the Advisory Committee at the Centre and the Central Advisory Board of the Women's Savings Campaign, which have now ceased to exist, starts functioning from the same date as a single integrated non-official agency to advise the Government of India on the promotion of the Small Savings Movement.

The Central Board will consist of 23 members with Dr. Sushila Nayyar, M.P., as Chairman. Fourteen members will be representatives of the State

Advisory Boards and six members will be nominated by the Central Government. The Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs and the National Savings Commissioner will be ex-officio members. The National Savings Commissioner will also act as the Secretary of the Central Board. The State Governments have been asked similarly to reconstitute their State Boards of the Women's Savings Campaign into a single integrated Board for each State.

Both the Central and State Boards will have adequate representation for women workers.

The Central Board, which has been constituted for a period of one year, will among other things, co-ordinate and guide the activities of the State Advisory Boards, advise Government on measures for spreading the National Savings Movement and for popularising the small savings scheme.

BANKS TO ASSIST IN SMALL SAVINGS

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on September 14 says that with a view to increasing the sale of Ten-Year Treasury Savings Deposit Certificates with effect from October 1, 1959, it has been decided to utilise the services of the scheduled banks and of co-operative banks having paid-up capital and reserves of Rs. 5,00,000 and over on brokerage terms. Brokerage @ Re. 0.12 per cent will be paid on applications for the purchase of Ten-Year Treasury Savings Deposit Certificates received through these banks and bearing their stamps. No brokerage will, however, be payable on applications received through authorised agents under the Small Savings Scheme who earn their usual commission.

Commerce & Industry

MEETING OF EXPORT PROMOTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Presiding over the meeting of the Export Promotion Advisory Council in New Delhi on September 13, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Minister for Commerce and Industry, in his opening address revealed that the gap between imports and exports during January-June 1959 had been Rs. 180 crores as compared to Rs. 128 crores during the corresponding period of 1958. This was due mainly to a higher level of imports rather than lower exports, for exports in fact rose slightly. Giving the breakup of this deficit for the five months, January-May 1959, he said that in so far as the U.K. and the sterling areas were concerned, India's trade was more or less in balance, the deficit in the trade with the sterling area in the period under review being only Rs. 1½ crores. Trade with the U.S.A., though in deficit by as much as Rs. 30 crores, was, however, financed largely out of the credits India had received from that country. In so far as the East European countries were concerned, there was an overall trade surplus of Rs. 1½ crores in these five months.

On the other hand, there was a serious imbalance in trade with the Western European countries, exports to the continental O.E.E.C. countries being only Rs. 22 crores as compared to a total import from these countries amounting to Rs. 93 crores, giving an adverse trade balance of Rs. 71 crores. There were also the countries where India's exports used to face the most serious obstacles either in the way of heavy import duties or import restrictions which were often discriminatory in effect. This, he pointed out, was one of the main reasons why India's exports were today not going up in proportion to the increase in the volume of total world exports leading to a large deficit in the trade with this Area. It was proposed to send a delegation shortly to the Western European countries with a view to investigating the possibilities of increasing exports to these countries, so as to bridge the enormous gap which had developed in India's balance of trade with them. India's exports during the period January-July 1959 recorded a figure of Rs. 317 crores as compared to Rs. 305 crores (excluding the value of silver exported to U.S.A.) during the corresponding period of 1958.

TRADITIONAL ITEMS

One disconcerting feature, however, that continued to give concern was the fact that the major traditional items of export of India had still not shown much signs of improvement. In Tea alone, there had been a decline of nearly Rs. 11 crores as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

During January-June 1959, exports in respect of four major items of tea, cotton piece-goods, jute manufactures and manganese ore were only Rs. 109 crores, as against Rs. 121 crores for the first half of 1958 and Rs. 150 crores in 1957.

As against this, however, there was steady increase in exports of other items, including new ones like engineering goods the exports of which totalled Rs. 157 crores during the first half of 1958 which was better than Rs. 130 crores for January-June 1958 and better even than Rs. 154 crores attained during the similar period in 1957. The most encouraging feature was that India was able to export engineering goods even to highly industrialised countries like the U.S.A. and the U.K., exports to the U.S.A.

alone being Rs. 36 lakhs in the first six months of 1959 which indicated that in some items of manufacture Indian products were maintaining fairly good standards and could stand up to the competition of world markets.

While the increasing export of engineering goods and products of the new industries, continuing Shri Shastri said, was one of the important new developments in India's trade, yet for the time being at least, traditional items continued to dominate India's exports. Any set-back, even in one of these, would result in a big decline in exports and any prolonged deterioration might have the effect of upsetting all the development plans. Every attention should, therefore, be given not only to arrest any decline, but to push up exports of these important commodities.

The Government were extending all possible help to the common teas and the weaker gardens in areas like Cachar which largely produced them. The question of affording these common teas some tax relief was already under active consideration in consultation with the Governments of Assam and West Bengal. Decisions had already been taken to extend concessions to the weaker gardens in Cachar in the matter of fertiliser price, and to subsidise railway freight. Larger export quotas had also been allotted. Side by side with these internal measures, publicity, especially in the London markets, the U.S.A., Australia, and centres like Frankfurt for the West European countries and Egypt for the Middle East countries and a few other countries, were proposed to be stepped up.

Cotton Textiles

In the case of cotton textiles, exports in January-June 1959 were at a slightly lower level than they were during the corresponding period last year. However, the trend of exports was improving and it was expected that the year would close with an export figure of 750 million yards, as against 617 million yards during the last year. An analysis of export figures showed that exports of the fine and super-fine goods constitute only 4% of total exports.

The Minister pointed out that in the handloom sector, exports were declining each year since 1957. The decline was partly due to restrictions imposed by some countries, but due mainly to the inability of Indian manufacturers to keep pace with the changing tastes in designs and colours. To arrest this decline, the export incentive scheme had been modified to extend its benefits to exporters outside the co-operative field also. The Handloom Export Organisation set up recently had been doing good work in developing sales, and at the recent international exhibition held in Chicago, orders were booked for sale of $3.5 million worth of handloom cloth.

Jute Manufactures

Jute manufactures maintained exports at the level of 1958. Jute bags, however, showed a declining trends which was somewhat counter-balanced by increased exports of jute cloth. A new feature in the trade in jute goods was that India now became virtually self-sufficient in raw jute. To increase the production of jute manufactures the Indian Jute Mills Association unsealed 1½% of looms from June 22, 1959 to 2½% from August 24, 1959, thus bringing down the total percentage of sealed looms to ten. As a necessary step to control the quality of jute goods exported, Shri Shastri suggested introduction of a scheme for test checking of goods intended for export by means of random sampling.

Manganese Ore

Exports of manganese ore continued to show a downward trend. In order to step up exports, a barter agreement had been entered into with the U.S.A., providing for the export of 1.5 lakh tons of manganese ore of 42% grade, 25,000 tons of 46% grade and about 75,000 tons to one lakh tons of ferro-manganese against imports of wheat. Besides this, other barter agreements had also been concluded involving export of approximately 2,22,200 tons of manganese ore. The Railways also lowered the freight on some grades of manganese ore, moving to the ports of shipment over long distances. The new policy of manganese ore was to be announced shortly in which private mine-owners and exporters of manganese ore would be given a fairly wide scope to try and improve export position.

Increasing Agricultural Production

Vegetable oils, oil seeds and oil cakes were another important line of exports, which offer great promise and scope. There was a two-fold problem in respect of these commodities: firstly, that our prices were high, and secondly, that the production had to increase and unless there was surplus it would be difficult to export. There was a rising internal demand and a general insufficiency of supply within the country in relation to the demand. Export of vegetable oil was banned in 1957 so that internal prices might not rise high. The ban was recently removed and the export quotas of vegetable oils were increased.

The potentialities with regard to such items might be seen from a small item like oil cake. After the liberalisation of export, export of oil cake increased from Rs. 2.2 crores in 1957 to Rs. 7.5 crores in 1958 and within the first six months alone of 1959, it went up to about Rs. 7.5 crores. These agricultural products, the Minister pointed out, were some of the most important foreign exchange earning and foreign exchange saving commodities, and the State Governments were approached for trying to increase production.

Role Of S.T.C.

Another important development in India's foreign trade was the expansion of our trade with new countries, and especially those of Eastern Europe. For instance, trade with the U.S.S.R. went up from Rs. 2.5 crores in 1954 to Rs. 23 crores in 1958.

The State Trading Corporation was already playing an important role with regard to India's trade with the East European countries. The experience of iron ore had shown the advantages in handling exports of such bulk commodities through a single agency. The S.T.C. had also had some success in new items of exports like shoes, cement and handicrafts. Its exports for the year ending June 30, 1958, were of the order of Rs. 20.8 crores. Shri Shastri said that the S.T.C. should be developed as one of the principal instruments of the export promotion drive for which steps were being taken to build up adequate reserves etc., in order to enable the S.T.C. to go in for exports in a big way.

During January-June 1959 substantial increases had been achieved in exports of sewing machines, steel furniture, electrical fans, paper-making materials, confectionery, cement etc. Plastics was another industry which lately came into the export field and its achievement in raising the exports from an average of Rs. 7 lakhs in 1955-56 to Rs. 27 lakhs in 1958, and to Rs. 27 lakhs in only the first five months of 1959 was commendable. As regards art silk fabrics, the figures for January-June 1959 were nearly Rs. 2 crores as against Rs. 37 lakhs for the corresponding period of 1958.

Import Licences And Export Promotion

The incentive and institutional facilities provided, Shri Shastri continued, were to a great extent responsible for the enhanced exports of at least certain items. He emphasised that each industry should provide for building into its projects schemes for earning at least its own requirements of foreign exchange. The Government all along tried to frame import policies for capital goods and raw materials with a view to assisting foreign exchange saving and foreign exchange earning industries; but the increase in internal demand kept pace with the growth of foreign exchange saving industry and there was hardly any net gain in exchange. It was, therefore, suggested that in the matter of licensing attention should now be given on foreign exchange earning industries. He made it clear that the grant of import licences must increasingly be geared to the export promotion effort of any industry.

Regarding the suggestion to set up Export Houses and registration of exporters by Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations, the Minister observed, it would inspire confidence in foreign buyers. It was pointed out by sections of the Trade that Export Houses might be able to make price adjustments by transferring losses sustained on some commodities to profits earned on other fast moving and more remunerative commodities. All India Exporters Chamber has of late formed an Export House.

Export Promotion Directorate

Government on its part were taking fresh and further steps to help in export promotion activities. Export quotas were now announced for a longer period. Many of the Export Promotion Councils were being reorganised and strengthened. Steps were being taken to strengthen the Export Promotion Directorate and three more sections were being added to deal with different groups of commodities. In certain places in Europe the commercial staff at Embassies have already been strengthened. Shri Shastri urged the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry to establish some offices of their own, at least two or three in East Africa and the Arabic speaking world and to send compact missions to other parts of the world to undertake special studies in specific markets for short durations.

Shri Shastri announced that in order to bring about a closer liaison between the business community and the Government, Government had decided to appoint a prominent businessman of high standing as an Adviser at each port. The Adviser would be assisted by the Export Promotion Officers at the port and he will preside over the deliberations of the Port Export Promotion Advisory Committees.

Ten Per Cent Of Production For Exports

The Minister reiterated the suggestion he had made in the last meeting of the Council that all industries newly entering into the export field should strive to export at least 10% of their products while those that were established in the field should intensify their efforts and bring about a 10% increase in their existing levels of exports. This objective had been incorporated by most of the export promotion Councils in their programme of work. Targets have also been set by the Commodity Boards to attain the minimum of 10% of increase in their exports. Shri Shastri concluded that with the reliefs and incentives provided he was confident that Engineering, Plastics, Cotton Textiles, Silk and Art Silk Fabrics, and the Cashew and Pepper Export Promotion Councils would be able to attain the objectives set forth.

Assistance By S. T. C. For Export Of Iron Ore

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 8, Shri Satish Chandra, Deputy Minister for Commerce and Industry, said that arrangements were made for export of iron ore with the assistance of the State Trading Corporation. The Corporation had so far been making advances to shippers and mine-owners to meet the expenses on account of railway freight, shipping and port charges etc. The advances were adjusted on completion of shipment.

The Deputy Minister added that the S.T.C. had now made arrangements with the State Bank of India to extend cash credit facilities to suppliers against stocks lying at ports and to finance mining operations by giving clean advances to the extent determined by them in each case.

In the case of credit facilities against stocks at rail-heads and pit-heads the S.T.C. had made arrangements with eight commercial banks for necessary financing facilities.

FURTHER SCHEMES OF DUTY DRAWBACK

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on September 7 says that as a measure of export promotion, the Government of India have decided to allow drawback of Customs and Central Excise duty paid on materials used in the manufacture of rubber goods other than footwear. Drawback is already permissible on the export of footwear.

Certain changes have also been made in the existing scheme of drawback for crown corks, plastic goods, fatty acids and steel products.

EXCISE DUTY REBATE ON VEGETABLE OILS

The Government of India have decided that in the case of vegetable non-essential oils, all sorts, (other than linseed oil, castorseed oil and tobacco-seed oil), exported out of India on or after the 12th September, 1959, the rebate of excise duty will be granted at the rate of Rs. 110 per ton as against Rs. 104 per ton admissible at present, reads a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on September 11. In the case of exports of linseed oil, castorseed oil and tobacco-seed oil, full rebates of excise duty of Rs. 112 per ton is already admissible.

Export Of Sewing Machines

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on September 9, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, informed the House that India exported 5,727 sewing machines valued at Rs. 6.16 lakhs to U.K., Egypt, Ceylon, Thailand and other countries during the first four months of this year.

The Minister added that 2,05,209 sewing machines in the large scale sector and 30,945 machines in the small scale sector were produced during the year 1958. The country was self-sufficient in respect of domestic sewing machines and efforts were being made for increasing the production of industrial sewing machines by way of giving assistance for import of raw materials and components subject to the availability of foreign exchange.

He further said that 521 industrial sewing machines valued at Rs. 2.01 lakhs and 146 household sewing machines valued at Rs. 22,000 were imported in the first four months of this year.

Export Of Mangoes

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 1, Shri Satish Chandra, Deputy Minister for Commerce and Industry stated that the amount of foreign exchange earned by the export of mangoes during the current season was Rs. 7,17,056.

He added that the quantity exported during January-May 1959 was 14,086 cwts. The mangoes were exported to 37 countries including U.K., U.S.S.R., Sweden, Norway, Japan, Canada, West Germany, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq.

Import Of Consumer Goods

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 8, the Minster for Commerce, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, stated that the import of consumer goods was constantly kept under watch and allowed only to the extent necessary. The percentage of such imports had been gradually brought down from 18.6 in 1955-56 to 10 in 1958-59.

MEETING OF IMPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Inaugurating the meeting of the re-constituted Import Advisory Council in New Delhi on September 12, the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, said that, though India was still in the midst of enormous difficulties in regard to foreign exchange, the country was no longer facing an emergency.

He said that he was hopeful that the country would be able to complete the core of the Second Five Year Plan and, within the available resources, the Government would do everything possible to eliminate all possible hardships and obstacles in the way of new development, higher production and better availability of essential articles.

Aid from friendly countries like the U.S.A., U.K., Soviet Russia and West Germany and India's own strict regulation of imports had saved the country from a very difficult predicament.

Reviewing the position and prospects as they existed at present, Shri Shastri pointed out that higher priority was being given to raw materials for industry than to capital goods. The Government negotiated certain credits which enabled them to issue import licences on normal cash payment terms for certain purposes without asking the importer to negotiate for any credit on his own. Arrangements had been made with certain countries of Eastern Europe for financing imports through blocked rupees which were to be used for the purchase of Indian goods for export to those countries. These agreements enable the Government to issue import licences for capital goods from these countries, provided they could be accommodated within the broad framework of the understanding reached with them. The position for the import of capital goods was thus appreciably better, subject to certain limitations. Firstly, foreign exchange for import of

capital goods could be spent only on projects which were of great importance to the country and which would save India foreign exchange through their production. Secondly, most of the credits available to India with the exception of the allocations under the Development Loan Fund of the United States and loans from the World Bank — could be utilised only for the purchase of capital goods in those countries. Thirdly there was no anxiety to-day to encourage the import of capital goods on conventional deferred payment terms as there was a fairly heavy load of repayments which India would have to make throughout the Third Five Year Plan period and it was not considered advisable to add to that burden.

Referring to the raw materials position, Shri Shastri said that the demand for raw materials was on the increase and as new projects went into production the quantum of raw materials needed went up. Unfortunately, most of the external assistance received was for new development, except the supplies of raw cotton under PL 480 of the United States and the supplies of non-ferrous metals under the Colombo Plan aid from Canada. For meeting the import requirements of raw materials, India had, therefore, to rely mainly on her own resources.

The Minister pointed out that one of the ways in which industries which needed foreign exchange for import of raw materials could ease the position for themselves and for the country was by turning to export markets. Every half year, specially in the framing of the import policy special provision was made for the issue of extra import licences in the interest of export promotion.

During 1958 total imports were Rs. 864 crores as compared to Rs. 1068 crores in 1957. During the first half of 1959 imports amounted to Rs. 446 crores as compared to Rs. 390 crores during the first half of 1958. The rise in the imports during the first six months of the year was mainly due to larger imports of foodgrains, chemicals and transport equipment. The substantial rise in the imports of foodgrains had, however, been offset by the decline, registered in many important sectors such as mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, medical and pharmaceutical products, base metals and machinery of all kinds including electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances. The gap between exports and imports during the first half of the year 1958 was Rs. 128 crores as compared to Rs. 180 crores during the corresponding period of 1959. The gap widened mainly because of the higher level of imports referred to above, and not due to any reduction in exports which were slightly higher than the level of last year. The structure of import trade during the first half of 1959, showed that the proportion of capital goods was 16 per cent of the total imports, industrial goods represented 60 per cent, foodgrains (wheat and rice) 15 per cent and consumer goods, — other than foodgrains, 9 per cent. There was, he observed, very little scope for further reduction in import of consumer goods. and the above proportion would be considered reasonable. Shri Shastri urged upon the industrialists that as relief to the consumer could only come through higher domestic production, those who were concerned with the manufacture of consumer goods should step up their production so that the hardship to the people was reduced.

The domestic production, he pointed out, was on the increase. Existing units were being expanded and new items were being taken up. Exports of some of the manufactured goods were steadily going up and that India was even able to export engineering goods to highly industrialised countries like the U.S.A., and the U.K. showed that the standards of the Indian products were fairly satisfactory.

FACILITIES TO SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

Detailing upon further facilities in the matters of import licences to be provided to the small-scale industries having such a vast employment potential, the Minister said that a number of steps were being taken to simplify the licensing formalities so that the difficulties experienced by the small industries be largely removed. From the next half year, it was proposed to accept the certificates issued by the State Directors of Industries as valid for two licensing periods. Instructions had also been issued to the licensing authorities that licences to small-scale industries should be issued on the basis of 75% of the face value of licences issued to them during the previous licensing period, even if the application was not accompanied by the requisite essentiality certificate. The question of introducing long-term licensing for small industries on the pattern of the scheme applicable to certain scheduled industries was also being closely examined.

In particular the requirements of small scale industries for tools steel, alloy steel and special steels, had been examined with a view to extending more liberal treatment. There was a possibility of allocations of steel from indigenous sources for small-scale industries being increased in the next and subsequent quarters also. In the course of discussions with the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel, it had been decided that the Iron and Steel Controller would adopt the same procedure and principle as were now being adopted by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports in the case of import applications for steel by small scale industries. The Government were anxious to extend all possible help in the matter of indigenous and imported steel to the small-scale industries, specially when they on their part were stepping up the manufacture of a large number of consumer products and had set up new industries for items like the flexible tubes, razor blades etc., which were import saving in character.

DELAY IN ISSUE OF IMPORT LICENCES

Referring to the complaints regarding delay in the matter of issue of import licences, Shri Shastri informed that a Departmental Committee had been appointed to go into the entire question of licensing under the Industries Act, Capital Goods Licensing Scheme, the procedure for dealing with foreign collaboration agreements in the industrial fields, and licensing of raw materials and spares to Actual Users. Meanwhile the procedure for dealing with applications for capital goods particularly where the value involved was less than Rs. 3 lakhs, had been simplified and a booklet was being brought out explaining the CG licensing procedure in detail. It was also proposed to continue the procedure regarding licensing of raw materials to certain specific industries on a long-term basis during the next licensing period also. Moreover steps had also been taken to ensure expeditious disposal of applications from the scheduled industries both in the development Wing and C.C.I.'s Office. The provision that the certificates issued by the Director of Industries would be valid for two licensing periods, would apply to all actual users required to furnish such certificates. Arrangements had also been made to grant advance licences for the period October 1959 — March, 1960 for raw materials to the non-ferrous metals industry — which was ancillary to other basic industries. The Indian Non-Ferrous Metals Manufacturers' Association were also being given an *ad hoc* licence for import of spare and replacement parts to cater to the emergency requirements of its members. With a view to promoting public relations and giving assistance to the trade, an officer of the rank of an Assistant Controller had been posted at Headquarters and at the regional offices of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras to answer all-verbal enquiries from the Trade. It was also proposed to create a small staff cell at Headquarters to look into the complaints received from the Trade regarding delays and other difficulties that might be experienced by them. Another necessary step that was being taken was to increase the number of visits of J.C.C.I.s and other officers to important industrial centres within their zones which would enable the officers to come into personal contact with the difficulties experienced in various places and to issue licences on the spot where this was possible. In particular, these officers had been asked to maintain regular touch with the Industrial Estates, and the J.C.C.I.'s of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and the Deputy Chief Controller, Central Licensing Area, New Delhi, were told to include a representative each of the Industrial Estates in the Advisory Committee attached to their respective offices, Shri Shastri added.

Production Of Lac

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 9 the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, stated that Lac Development Schemes were being implemented in the lac producing States under the Second Five Year Plan in order to effect improvement in lac production.

The Central Government provided financial assistance to the State Governments for these Schemes on a 50:50 basis. To meet the scarcity of brood-lac 35 brood-lac Farms had already been set up in the various States, as against the target of 50 for the Second Plan. The Lac Exporters Association had under consideration certain proposals for creating a buffer stock for lac, intended primarily to ensure that there was no undue fluctuation in prices in lean months and to avoid distress selling. The prices of various kinds of lac which had reached low levels in March-April, 1959 had now improved.

The Export Promotion Council for lac set up in 1957 were taking measures to promote exports of lac by publicity in foreign countries, market surveys, quality control, collection and dissemination of statistics and other information of interest to the trade, and finding new uses for lac by encouraging research work in India and abroad.

The export of lac had been brought under a system of licensing and only those exporters who sold their goods at prices not less than those prescribed by the Indian Lac Exporters' Association were issued export licenses.

In an answer to another part of the question, the Minister agreed that production of stick lac had gone down due to unfavourable climatic conditions, scarcity of brood-lac during the infection season and low prices of stick-lac during the last two years.

He further informed the House that export of various kinds of lac and the foreign exchange earnings therefrom had a steady fall from the middle of the year 1957 on account of development of synthetic substitutes for lac in foreign countries, e.g. the gramophone records making industry in U.S.A., the largest buyer of lac from India, is now using synthetic substitutes; unfair trade practices such as underquoting and underselling by exporters in India resulting in fluctuation and fall in prices; and competition from Thailand, to a certain extent.

ALLOCATION OF ART SILK YARN

The Textile Commissioner has decided that the allocation of yarn from indigenous sources to the art silk powerloom industry for the October-December, 1959 period should be made on the basis of average number of looms worked during the period April-June, 1959, says a Press Note issued by the Office of the Textile Commissioner in Bombay on September 10.

Allocations will be made only to such units as have been regularly submitting their production returns in the prescribed form to the Textile Commissioner.

So far, the allocation of indigenous yarn to the excisable powerloom units was made on the basis of the number of loom shifts worked during the prescribed basic period. For non-excisable units, allocation was made on a flat basis. On recommendation of the Art Silk Development Council, it has now been decided that the allocation to all the units should be made on the basis of the working looms. The idea is that the art silk industry should be given a basic minimum quota for working of about one shift. The balance requirements of art silk for working of more than one shift should be earned by the industry by way of exports of manufactured fabrics. In addition to the indigenous or imported yarn allocated, the staple fibre yarn will be freely available to the industry for augmenting their production. The staple fibre production is estimated to be adequate enough to work another shift.

The quantity of indigenous yarn to be allocated per working loom will be on a flat basis of 200 lbs. per loom for the quarter. It may be possible to allot some additional quantity from imported yarns.

Meeting Of Forward Markets Secretaries

Inaugurating the first meeting of the secretaries of the recognised forward markets in Bombay on September 10, Shri W.R. Natu, Chairman of the Forward Markets Commission, observed that the conference of secretaries completed the programme arranged by the Forward Markets Commission for a frank exchange of views on the working and problems of recognised forward markets, at different levels.

He added that since the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act was enacted and the regulation of forward markets was undertaken on an all-India scale, recognition had been given by the Government to 23 associations operating 39 markets in 13 commodities. The position of the secretaries of these associations was of crucial importance in the regulation of forward markets in as much as they were the only permanent element in the organisation of the associations, while the membership of the associations, the composition of the Boards of Directors and the offices of the President were all liable to periodical change. It was for that reason that the Forward Markets Commission took the initiative in extending protection to the secretaries against arbitrary removal and in securing for them satisfactory service.

Shri Natu outlined in detail the duties of the secretary to the general body of the members, to the Board of Directors and to the President of the Association and added that the secretary had also a duty to the public at large. As the secretary of the association granted recognition under an Act of Parliament, it was his duty to see that the provisions of the Act were faithfully followed by all concerned and to bring any cases of violation to the notice of the Forward Markets Commission.

Referring to the illegal trading practices, which were in vogue in some forward markets, the Chairman said that such trading not only contravened the Act and exposed the persons concerned to prosecution and penalties but also reduced the income of the recognised associations, deprived the State of revenue from stamp duty and distorted the price level. It was for the secretary to see that no such trading took place either in the ring or in the premises of the association outside the office hours, that the badge of any member detected while engaged in illegal trading was seized and that cases of such trading were brought immediately to the notice of the Board or its vigilance committee, even if the offenders happened to be Directors of the Board or responsible officials. Shri Natu advised that where a secretary was not empowered to take such measures at present, he should take steps to obtain the necessary powers from the association concerned.

Meeting of Controllers of Weights & Measures

The Union Deputy Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Satish Chandra, inaugurated a Conference of State Controllers of Weights and Measures in New Delhi on Septembers 4. He said that it was proposed to extend the use of metric weights to the whole of the country during the course of the next year.

Stressing the need for tact and discretion in enforcing the new system, Shri Satish Chandra observed that large parts of the country would be having their first experience of controlled weights and measures based on a system with which they had not been familiar. While wilful defiance of the law with an intention to commit fraud would have to be dealt with firmly, a liberal view could be taken in the event of technical breaches occurring due to ignorance or lack of experience. Hence the emphasis should be on educating the trade and the general public and on persuading them to accept and assimilate the new concept.

Referring to the progress made in the last few years, he added that the decimal coinage was already in wide circulation and preparation to bring metric weights into use had reached an advanced stage. The use of metric weights was made permissible in certain areas in October 1958. The system had also been prescribed on a permissible basis for major industries, like cotton and jute textiles, iron and steel, engineering, etc. In the normal course the use of the new standards should become obligatory in the specified areas and industries on the expiry of the transition period of two years.

All the State Legislatures had enacted laws for enforcing weights and measures and most of the State Governments had also notified rules under their respective Acts. Rules framed by different States were virtually identical in all major respects as these were based on model rules circulated by Government of India. This would undoubtedly ensure uniformity in the enforcement procedure throughout the country. In some of the States, the verification and stamping of metric commercial weights had already begun. Experience gained in States like Bombay, Bihar, Punjab, Andhra and Mysore had shown that effective control on weights and measures was possible provided an adequate organisation was created for that purpose.

He emphasised the need on the part of States for avoiding delay in notifying weights and measures rules and granting of licences to manufacturers and dealers and providing facilities for the verification of weights. Concessions might have to be made to safeguard the continued use of the beam scales and weighing machines in the country since it would be neither practicable nor desirable to do away with these appliances overnight. However all new appliances either to be manufactured in the country or to be imported from abroad in future must conform to the requirements laid down in the new rules.

Phased Programme For The Metric System

In a two-day conference convened by the Union Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply on September 2, to draw up a phased programme for the adoption of the metric system of weights and measures in building works, architecture and town planning, it was suggested that the target date for the introduction of the system should be fixed as April 1, 1960.

The conference, which was presided over by Shri M.R. Sachdev, Secretary, Union Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, proposed that the change-over to the metric system should be in three stages. During the first two stages, covering the period up to 1966, the date fixed for the complete adoption of the metric system by the Government of India, both the metric and the footpound systems would be in use. The switch-over would be completed by 1966. The programme during the interim period had been phased to stimulate production of building materials to metric standards.

Commodity Prices in June 1959

Wholesale prices as measured by the official index (with the year ended March 1953 as 100) went up by 1.5 per cent to 115.7 during the month of June 1959 as compared with 114.0 for May 1959, reads a Press Note issued by the Office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India on September 6. The index was higher by 3.6 per cent when compared with 111.7 for June 1958. During the month under review, 'Food Articles' advanced by 2.2 per cent to 118.7 'Industrial Raw Materials' by 0.8 per cent to 120.5 and 'Manufactures' by 0.6 per cent to 109.1, while the index for 'Tobacco' declined by 1.0 per cent to 96.0. The index for 'Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants' remained unchanged at its earlier month's revised level of 116.3.

Food Articles

Prices of all cereals witnessed a rise and the index for 'Cereals' moved up by 2.9 per cent to 101.8. Higher prices of arhar, mung, masur and urad caused an advance of 1.4 per cent to 96.1 in the sub-group index for 'Pulses' despite a fall in the prices of gram. The index for 'Fruits and vegetables' rose by 6.1 per cent to 134.6 as a result of an increase in the prices of potatoes, onions, oranges and cashewnuts notwithstanding a decline in the prices of bananas. An advance in the price of ghee raised the index for 'Milk and Ghee' by 0.4 per cent to 116.3 although the price of milk drifted down during the month under review. The index for 'Edible Oils' advanced by 0.8 per cent to 132.2 owing to a rise in the prices of groundnut oil, gingelly oil, coconut oil and vanaspati (dalda) despite a slight fall in the price of mustard oil. An advance in the prices of fish, eggs and meat was responsible for a rise of 4.0 per cent to 110.6 in the index for 'Fish, Eggs and Meat'. An increase of 2.9 per cent to 148.6 in the sub-group index for 'Sugar and Gur' was brought about by a substantial rise in the price of gur. The index for 'Other Food Articles' also increased by 2.2 per cent to 160.9 as a result of higher prices of tea, coffee and chillies although the prices of black pepper, turmeric, cardamoms, betelnuts and salt were marked down during the month under review.

Tobacco

The index for 'Tobacco' witnessed a fall of 1.0 per cent to 96.0 owing to a fall in the prices of raw tobacco.

Fuel, Power, Light

The index for this group remained unchanged at its earlier month's revised level of 116.3 despite a rise in the price of castor oil.

Industrial Raw Materials

The index for 'Fibres' moved up by 1.0 per cent to 110.3 due to an increase in the prices of raw cotton, raw jute and raw silk; the price of raw wool, however, showed declines. A rise of 1.0 per cent to 135.4 in the sub-group index for 'Oilseeds' was caused by an increase in the prices of groundnuts, linseed, gingelyseed, rapeseed and copra notwithstanding a fall in the prices of castorseed and cottonseed. Lower prices of manganese ore were responsible for a fall of 2.7 per cent to 99.6 the index for 'Minerals'. An increase in the prices of raw skins and tanning materials pushed up the index for 'Other Industrial Raw Materials' by 0.4 per cent to 113.1 despite a fall in the prices of raw hides and lac.

Intermediate Products

The index for 'Intermediate Products' rose by 0.1 per cent to 108.2 as a result of higher prices of leather, cotton yarn, rayon yarn and zinc although the prices of linseed oil, coir yarn, brass, copper, tin, lead and german silver exhibited declines during the month under review.

In July

According to a Press Note issued by the Office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India on September 15, wholesale prices as measured by the official index (with the year ended March 1953 as 100) mov-

ed up by 1.0 per cent to 116.8 during the month of July 1959 as compared with 115.6 for June 1959. The index was higher by 1.8 per cent when compared with 114.7 for July, 1958. During the month under review, "Food Articles" advanced by 1.9 per cent to 121.0, "Tobacco" by 1.4 per cent to 97.3 and "Manufactures" by 0.1 per cent to 109.2 while "Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants" went down by 0.1 per cent to 115.8 and "Industrial Raw Materials" by 0.1 per cent to 120.2.

Food Articles

The index for "Cereals" rose by 5.1 per cent to 107.0 as a result of an increase in the prices of all the cereals except barley which depicted a fall. A decline in the prices of mung and urad brought down the index for "pulses" by 0.4 per cent to 95.7 despite an advance in the prices of arhar and masur. Prices of potatoes, onions and oranges moved up while bananas and cashewnuts showed decreases and the index for "Fruits and Vegetables" advanced by 4.4 per cent to 140.5. A rise of 1.1 per cent to 117.6 in the index for "Milk and Ghee" was caused by an increase in the prices of both milk and ghee. The index for "Edible Oils" receded by 0.7 per cent to 131.3 as a result of a general decline in the prices of all the oils except dalda which did not show any change during the month under review.

Higher prices of fish and eggs raised the index for "Fish, Eggs and Meat" by 3.7 per cent to 114.7 notwithstanding a fall in the prices of meat. A decline in the price of gur brought down the index for "Sugar and Gur" by 1.4 per cent to 146.5. The index for "Other Food Articles" recorded a rise of 0.2 per cent to 161.3 owing to an increase in the prices of coffee, black pepper, chillies, turmeric, cummin, cardamoms and salt although the prices of tea and betelnuts showed declines during the month under review.

Tobacco, Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants

The index for "Tobacco" advanced by 1.4 per cent to 97.3 due to a rise in the prices of raw tobacco.

A fall of 0.1 per cent to 115.8 in the index for other articles in the group was brought about by a decline in the prices of castor oil.

Industrial Raw Materials

The index for "fibres" declined by 0.4 per cent to 109.6 as a result of a fall in the prices of raw cotton and raw hemp although the prices of raw jute, raw wool and raw silk witnessed increases during the month under review. Lower prices of linseed and rapeseed caused a fall of 0.1 per cent to 135.3 in the index for "oilseeds" despite an increase in the prices of groundnuts, castorseed, gingelly seed and cotton seed. The index for "Minerals" also drifted down by 1.4 per cent to 98.2 due to a fall in the prices of manganese ore. The sub-group index for "other Industrial Raw Materials" moved up by 0.7 per cent 113.6 owing to a rise in the prices of raw hides, tanning materials, lac and logs and timber despite a fall in the prices of raw skins and bamboos.

Intermediate Products

An advance of 0.3 per cent to 108.5 in the index for "Intermediate Products" was caused by an increase in the prices of cotton yarn, rayon yarn, brass, copper, tin and lead notwithstanding a fall in the prices of linseed oil, coir yarn, aluminium and german silver.

Finished Products

An increase in the prices of jute manufactures (+0.7 per cent to 87.7) was neutralised by a fall in the prices of silk and rayon manufactures (—1.7 per cent to 92.8) and the index for "Textiles" remained unchanged at its earlier month's level of 104.5. The sub-group index for "Metal Products" stood stationary at 143.3. A fall in the prices of drugs and medicines and general chemicals brought down the sub-group index for "chemicals" by 0.2 per cent to 106.7. "Oilcakes" went up by 1.2 per cent to 145.3. The sub-group index for "Machinery and Transport Equipment" recorded a fall of 0.1 per cent to 105.9 owing to a decline in the prices of cycles although the prices of tools and implements and bobbins witnessed increases during the month. The index for "Other Finished Products" moved up by 0.4 per cent to 113.6 due to a rise in the prices of bricks and tiles and glass. On the whole, the index for "Finished Products" remained stationary at 109.3 during the month under review.

Working Group For Textile Industry

A Working Group, reads an announcement of September 5, has been set up by the National Industrial Development Corporation to suggest measures for an early and thorough modernisation of the cotton textile industry in India.

Shri D.S. Joshi, Textile Commissioner, will be the Chairman of the Group, which will consist of Sarvashri Krishnaraj M.D. Thackersey, G.D. Somani, K. Srinivasan, S.P. Vasavada, Ramrattan Gupta, Trilokinath Sharma and N. Majumdar. Shri K.R. Arvamuthan will be the Secretary.

The Working Group will examine the extent of finances necessary, the portion of foreign exchange required, the extent of finances which will be forthcoming from the industry itself, and how the balance of the needs may be met from public or private financing agencies. The question of increasing the resources of public financing agencies like the N.I.D.C. will also be considered.

The Working Group may send out some of its members to visit countries like the U.K., Japan, U.S.A., and Switzerland where modernisation of the cotton textile industry has been done remarkably well. The Working Group will report on the measures they consider necessary to be taken up here.

The Group will complete its work by November 30, 1959.

Woollen Yarn For Hosiery Industry

In a meeting of the Textile Commissioner with representatives of the Woollen Yarn Manufacturers' Association in Bombay on September 2 steps necessary to ensure adequate supply of woollen yarn to hosiery industry were discussed and the general trend of the production of different types of yarn was also reviewed.

It was decided that although it was not possible to augment the supplies of woollen yarn for hosiery industry by importing additional quantity of raw material on account of shortage of foreign exchange, the supply of larger quantities of yarn could be ensured to this industry by requiring spinning mills to produce the same average percentage of the various kinds of yarn out of the imported raw material made available to them. This, it was felt, would enable a reasonable supply of woollen yarn not only to the hosiery industry but to other consumers of knitting yarn etc.

As regards prices, it was pointed out that the Association should evolve a formula for ensuring the sale of yarn to different consumers at reasonable prices. It was decided that the matter could be finalised soon after the proposals from the industry were received.

It was further agreed that the complete mills should make available for sale to the market some proportion of the yarn production of different types.

As regards new units set up after September 1957, a reasonable quantity of different types of yarn to be produced by them, would be fixed up taking as basis the production of such yarns by the units existing before October 1957.

It was agreed that no import of raw materials should be allowed for such units which did not submit prescribed statistical returns to the Textile Commissioner. This condition would be enforced for the allocation to be made for the licensing period from October 1959 onwards.

Paper Mills For Bihar And Bombay

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 1, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister of Industry, stated that a Calcutta firm had been granted a licence for the establishment of a new industrial undertaking at Darbhanga, Bihar, for the manufacture of 15,000 tons of writing and printing paper and 16,500 tons of pulp per year. The undertaking, which would be known as "Ashok Paper Mills Ltd.", was likely to be established towards the end of 1961.

He added that the imported capital equipment requirements were of the order of Rs. 280 lakhs and it would be imported partly from U.S.A. under the Eximp Bank Loan Scheme and partly from France under the French Credit Scheme. The French suppliers would participate in the capital structure of the scheme to the tune of Rs. 30 lakhs.

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 9, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, said that a Bombay firm had been granted a licence for the establishment of a new industrial undertaking at Tehsil Khopoli or Karjat, District Thana or at Bhiwandi, for the manufacture of 1,800 tons per year of printing, writing, wrapping, M.G. and M.F., papers and boards.

The promoters had been permitted to issue shares to the extent of Rs. 17 lakhs, inclusive of foreign participation to the extent of Rs. 7½ lakhs. The latter sum would be subscribed by Indian nationals resident in Ethiopia, Djibouti and Aden through remittances from abroad, and this would cover the foreign exchange requirements on account of import of plant and machinery for the proposed mill. An import licence had also been issued, the Minister added.

Ancillary And Feeder Industries

Replying to a question, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, stated in the Lok Sabha on September 4 that the Government had finalised a scheme for the growth of ancillary and feeder industries.

The scheme envisaged approach by various agencies to large scale units for the purpose of obtaining voluntary agreements from them to purchase their requirements of components and parts from small scale ancillary units.

The Minister added that a number of large manufacturing concerns both in the private and public sectors had approved the scheme in principle and several ancillary units were in an advanced stage of establishment.

Giving a few illustrations of feeder units, he stated that four units would be for Sen Raleigh Industries of India, three for Hindustan Machine Tools and one each for Premier Automobiles, Messrs. Kirloskar Oil Engines, Jay Engineering Works and Indian Telephone Industries.

A very large number of ancillary and feeder units were already functioning in the country and more would be established as a result of this policy, the Minister observed.

Steel Foundry At Chittaranjan

Answering a question in the affirmative in the Lok Sabha on September 10, the Deputy Minister for Railways, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, said that negotiations had been completed with the technical collaborators in the U.K. for setting up a steel foundry at Chittaranjan to produce steel castings for railway track. Final draft agreement had been drawn up and sent to Messrs. F.H. Lloyd and Co. U.K., for acceptance.

Replying to another part of the question, he added that the production was expected to commence after the completion of construction and installation work which was estimated to take a period of about three years from the date of the signing of the agreement.

MANUFACTURE OF FOUNTAIN PENS

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on September 4 says that as the number of fountain-pen making units in India is already very large, it is considered that any addition to this number will reduce the possibility of improving the quality of fountain pens. The Government of India have, therefore, decided that the proposals of any new units for the manufacture of fountain pens will not be considered in future till the position is again reviewed. Proposals of smaller units for coalescing themselves into larger ones will, however, be welcome.

NEW WINDMILL DESIGNS EVOLVED

An announcement of September 13 says that designs of two windmills — one to operate for moderate wind and the other for low wind velocities — which will conform to the basic demand of "simplicity and cheapness" of the average Indian farmer, have been evolved by the Wind Power Project of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi.

Imported windmills, in addition to being costly, are usually designed to operate at wind velocities of 15 m.p.h. But the average wind velocities found in different parts of the country range from 6 to 10 m.p.h., thereby reducing the effectiveness and utility of the foreign product. The cost of installation of the newly designed windmill has been estimated at Rs. 2,500 and the cost of 1,000 gallons of water lifted works out to 3 nP.

NEW PROCESS TO PRODUCE ELECTROLYTIC MANGANESE

A process, says an announcement of September 13, has been developed at the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, for the manufacture of electrolytic manganese from low grade manganese ore. This process ensures the production of the metal of 99.95% purity. The internal consumption of the product is expected to be boosted up as a result of the process and to make it a worthwhile commercial undertaking.

With the expansion of the steel industry and other developments envisaged in he Second Plan, a sizeable demand for electrolytic manganese may be expected in India if supplies are available in abundance from local sources. Stainless steel is finding increased use in various forms and its estimated annual requirement is above 5,000 tons. The National Metallurgical Laboratory has also developed a nickel free stainless steel containing manganese in place of nickel. Electrolytic manganese will find a good demand for manufacture of this stainless steel. It will also find large scale use in substituted brass and other non-ferrous alloys currently being developed at the Laboratory. Moreover, if an export market is established, electrolytic manganese can be a valuable earner of foreign exchange.

India possesses one of the largest deposits of manganese ore in the world. The total reserves of the mineral are estimated at 150 million tons. Of this, 60 million tons are classed as high grade; the rest being of low grade. Of the high grade ores, nearly one million tons are exported annually or utilised for ferro-manganese production, while the low grade ores are mostly dumped as waste.

During recent years, electrolytic manganese metal has been produced in foreign countries on a commercial basis and used in the manufacture of ferrous and non-ferrous alloys. Due to various advantages the metal offers over low carbon ferro-manganese, the use of electrolytic manganese in metallurgical practices is rapidly gaining ground. When used as an alloying element in steel making, no new impurities are introduced, and the charges can be calculated and weighed accurately and sampling and analysis required to check the composition of the melt are appreciably reduced.

PROCESS TO EXTRACT DIOSEGENIN

A process for the extraction of diosegenin — the starting raw material for cortisone and other steroidal harmones and an effective substitute for cholesterol and stigmasterol — has been developed at the Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu, reads an announcement dated September 6.

The process, which has been studied on pilot plant scale, is claimed to be simpler than the conventional method followed in the U.S.A., Mexico and Central America where it is an established industry.

Dioscorea plant, from which diosegenin is extracted, grows widely in the hilly tracts of Kashmir and the Punjab. It is estimated that about 100 tons of dioscorea tubers can be collected annually from the wildly growing plants. Large scale cultivation of the plant has also been taken up by the Kashmir Government in their drug farms.

The import of adernal cortical harmones during 1958 was valued at Rs. 18.48 lakhs.

NEW PROCESS TO PRODUCE CALCIUM CARBIDE

An announcement of September 6 says that a process for the production of calcium carbide has been developed at the Central Electro-chemical Research Institute at Karaikudi in Madras State. It consists of heating a charge of unburnt crystalline limestone, charcoal and petroleum coke in a three phase arc. The newly-developed process has now made it possible to produce "A" grade carbide in the country.

Calcium carbide is the main source of acetylene, used as a heat source for welding and cutting of metal and is the basis of synthetic organic chemicals. The material is also utilized in the production of cyanamide — a good fertiliser and the starting material for the production of synthetic resins.

Large quantities of crystalline limestone are available in the Tinnevelly and Salem districts of Madras, and are already being exploited by the cement and alkali-chloride industries. The prospects for setting up a calcium carbide industry in South India has been heightened following the said investigations.

The current annual production of calcium carbide is 5000 tons, but the product is below the average quality of the imported material. The annual rated capacity of the calcium carbide industry is to be raised to 40,000 tons by 1960-61.

Productivity Teams For Training Abroad

Two more Productivity Teams — Management Organisation and Training and Coal Mining — sponsored by National Productivity Council under the TCM aid, left Delhi on September 9 for a study tour abroad. While the Management Organisation and Training team will visit West Germany, United Kingdom and USA, the Coal Mining team will visit France, in addition to these countries.

The Management Organisation and Training team, in the course of their six weeks' tour will study among other subjects, management organisation structure, methods and extent of delegation of responsibility and authority, and techniques of systems of management control in these countries, machinery and procedure for policy-making and implementation, policies and techniques adopted for recruitment, promotion, training and incentives of top and middle management personnel, role of professional management consultants, educational institutions and Government in improving management methods and arranging management training programmes for executive development and management.

The Coal Mining team, in the course of their eight weeks' itinerary will examine contributory factors leading to higher productivity in coal mines, both underground and open-cast, with particular reference to methods of working, types and extent of mechanisation in underground working, organisation for major repair and preventive maintenance of equipments, standardisation adopted in the methods of working and use of equipment, general organisation and management, system of wage payment, including incentive method means employed for fixation of wages, measures adopted for safety, training and welfare of women and their effect on productivity.

The First Indian Productivity Team sponsored by the NPC, went abroad last year. Three teams on plastics, small scale and textile industries were sent abroad in the current year.

TRAINEES IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

A batch of twelve trainees in Industrial Engineering and Industrial Management (Marketing and Distribution), sponsored by the Council, also left New Delhi on September 9 for USA for training under the TCM aid programme.

The NPC propose to send another forty trainees this year for training in techniques of productivity in the fields of industrial management, industrial engineering and industrial relations.

INQUIRY INTO TEXTILE MILL IN RAJASTHAN

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on September 4 says that the Government of India have, in exercise of powers under Section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, set up a Committee to inquire into the affairs of the Edward Mills Co. Ltd., Beawar (Rajasthan). The Committee is headed by Shri G.D. Somani, M.P.

ENQUIRY INTO MILL IN MADHYA PRADESH

The Government of India have, in exercise of their powers under Section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, set up a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri G.D. Somani, M.P., to enquire into the affairs of the Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills, Rajnandgaon (Madhya Pradesh), says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on September 9.

MINERAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

Delivering the Sir Thomas Henry Holland Memorial Lecture on Mineral Exploration and Development, Professor M.S. Thacker said in Calcutta on September 12, that there was a manifest appreciation of the nature and magnitude of the problems of mineral development in India. A 10-year programme for the detailed mapping of resources had been formulated and we had a fair idea of the variety and size of mineral deposits in various parts of the country. Efforts were being made to reassess the reserves.

Referring to the new geophysical methods which had produced significant results Professor Thacker said that the Geological Survey of India and the Indian Bureau of Mines had expanded their activities, and development programmes were being pushed through.

These expanded activities had already led to much new knowledge, and new coal deposits had been discovered in various areas in West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and in Jharia and Raniganj fields. Over 32 coal seams had been so far proved by drilling operations in the South Karanpura coalfield and some of the seams were reported to be more than 40 feet thick.

The Requirements and Utilization Committee of the Coal Council, had estimated the coal re-

quirements by 1965 at 120 million tons. The total expenditure on prospecting to realize this target was estimated at Rs. 4.88 crores—Rs. 2.70 crores during the current and Rs. 2.18 crores in the next Plan period; an additional Rs. 2.70 crores might have to be spent in the Third Plan period to meet the coal requirements under the Fourth Five Year Plan, Prof. Thacker said.

There had also been the locations of new iron ore deposits in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab, of limestone, barytes and fuller's earth in Andhra Pradesh, magnesite in Garhwal and Almora districts of Uttar Pradesh, talc-magnesite rock in Bihar, pockets of china clay in Santal Parganas of Bihar and graphite in Kashmir.

The present indigenous oil production hardly met 7 per cent of the demand, Prof. Thacker continued. With the development of Nahorkatiya wells, production would be augmented to some extent. The present working fields in Assam were expected to yield annually about 4 million tons of crude oil by 1965, but the annual demand at that time was expected to be three times or more. Prospecting for oil involved large expenditure of money and Rs. 30 crores had been allocated for this purpose in the Second Five Year Plan period. According to current estimates, a further sum of Rs. 85 crores would be required for oil exploration in the Third Five Year Plan; production and development would need still greater inlay.

Exploration on a large scale for oil was being actively pursued by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission of the Government of India, said Prof. Thacker. The sedimentary basins that fringe the Gondwana massif of crystalline and sedimentary rocks, covering an area of about 4,00,000 square miles, were potential oil-bearing areas and portions of the basins in Cambay, Rajasthan Punjab, Gangetic Valley and Upper Assam were being systematically explored.

Extensive surveys were being carried out by the Raw Materials Division of the Atomic Energy Commission in an attempt to obtain the requirements for atomic energy development. Pitchblende or Uranite, the primary ore of uranium, had been found in the adjoining districts of Bihar.

Monazite occurs in the beach sands of Kerala and other places in the west and east coasts of India; the monazite content of Kerala sands exceeds a million tons. Large deposits of monazite associated with other heavy minerals like ilmenite, rutile, sillimanite, columbite-tantalite and magnetite have been located in the Ranch-Purulia area and in the adjoining districts of Bihar and West Bengal. Beryl occurs in the pegmatites of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Prof. Thacker added that with respect to other important minerals, additional production, over and above the Second Plan targets, to be achieved by 1965 were as follows: iron ore 9.5 million tons; managnese ore 1.5 million tons; chromite 40,000 tons; sillimanite 22,000 tons; magnesite 70,000 tons; ilmenite 250,000 tons; mica 8,000 tons; phosphates 170,000 tons, bauxite 100,000 tons; sulphur 90,000 tons; copper, lead and zinc (as metals) 30,000; 17,000 to 20,000 and 17,000 to 18,000 tons respectively.

High Grade Coal In Jammu

Answering a question Sardar Swaran Singh, Union Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, stated in the Lok Sabha on September 3 that as a result of intensive investigations carried out by the Geological Survey of India in the State of Jammu and Kashmir recently, a sizeable block of coal in the Bargon area of the Kalakot coalfield had been proved. The existence of coal deposits in Jangalgali-Kalakot area had been known earlier, but the intensive investigations had estimated the reserves to be of the order of 2.5 million tons down to a depth of 500 feet.

It was proposed to further intensify the current investigations with a view to exploiting the said deposits at an early date, he added.

NEW SEAMS IN KARANPURA COALFIELD

An announcement of September 5 says that investigations carried out by the Geological Survey of India in a part of the South Karanpura Coalfield of Bihar have revealed the existence of 21 coal seams with a total reserve of nearly 138 million tons. Of the seams discovered, 3 are of considerable thickness capable of yielding about 12 million tons.

The area is 1.67 square miles in the western side of the Maramarha nala and north of the Religara collieries.

The study was undertaken to increase the production of coal from the Gidi Block 'C' in the area which is expected to produce 0.5 million tons during the Second Five Year Plan.

PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 2 Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, said that production of pig iron in the first six months ending July 1959 had been 81,119 tons in Rourkela and 154,802 tons in Bhilai. The first of the three blast furnaces had gone into production in each of the two steel plants.

In Bhilai, the rated capacity had already been reached on a number of days. The Rourkela blast furnace was expected to attain its rated production as soon as certain troubles in the pig casting machine were overcome. Until iron is used for steel-making, the production of iron had naturally to be limited by casting capacity, he added.

PRODUCTION OF COPPER ORE

According to the Indian Bureau of Mines the production of copper ore during the quarter ending June, 1959 was 100,984 metric tons. This compared favourably with 98,961 metric tons in the preceding quarter. The entire production was reported from Singhbhum district of Bihar State.

The production of copper metal during the period was 2,180 metric tons as compared to 1,798 metric tons in the preceding quarter. The entire quantity produced was fire refined copper.

WRITING OFF OF INCOME TAX ARREARS

Answering a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 10 the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shrimati Tarakeshwari Sinha, informed the House that there was no proposal, at the moment, for writing off a sum of Rs. 47 crores out of the income-tax arrears. However, a review of the tax arrears which had been outstanding in the Income-tax departmental books for a long period, had shown that there were several instances where owing to the absence of assets there was no possibility of recovering any portion and there were also cases in which the available assets were heavily encumbered with prior mortgages or there were legal difficulties in enforcing recovery. A rough estimate of the amount which might ultimately be found to be irrecoverable out of the demand outstanding on 31st March, 1958, was of the order of Rs. 47 crores. Before any outstanding demand was written off, the Department would have to be satisfied after taking all necessary steps for recovery that no part of it was recoverable and that it would be futile to devote any further attention to it.

Communications

CONSTITUTION OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS BOARD

The Union Minister of Transport and Communications, Dr. P. Subbarayan, made a statement in the Rajya Sabha on September 11 on the constitution of the Posts and Telegraphs Board in pursuance of the assurance held out by Shri S.K. Patil, ex-Minister of Transport and Communications.

Referring to the frequent references made to this question in the proceedings of the Parliament ever since Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri mentioned it in 1957, and the careful consideration given then, Dr. Subbarayan said that the Government of India had felt both on financial and administrative grounds that the analogy with the Railway Board would not be quite appropriate for the P & T Board. The P & T, unlike the Railways, did not have a separate budget and the Railway Board pattern would not, therefore, lend itself fully to meet the requirements of the P & T. A P & T Board had already been functioning though in a much restricted form both in its constitution and powers. The Government of India had, therefore, decided that a reconstitution and a very substantial enhancement of the powers of the present Board should be adequate to meet generally the needs of the P & T Department.

It had, therefore, been decided to reconstitute the Board so as to consist of the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, as Chairman and six other members consisting of: Member, Finance; Member, Posts; Member, Administration; Member, Telecommunication Traffic, Maintenance and Operation; Member, Telecommunication Planning, Development and Workshops; and Member, Banking and Insurance. The Board would have a Secretary of the status of a Deputy Secretary of the Government of India. The existing officers of the Directorate would be appointed ex-officio appropriate members of the Board and the present Financial Adviser, Ministry of Finance (Communications), would be the Member, Finance.

The Board and the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, between themselves would exercise all the powers of the Ministry of Communications in administrative matters with the approval where necessary, of the Minister of Communications. The Workshop Board would function as a sub-Board under the P & T Board.

In policy matters, the Minister stated, the approval of the Minister of Communications will be obtained through the Secretary, Ministry of Communications. In financial matters, the Board will exercise all the powers of the Ministry of Communications under the arrangement of internal finance. The Ministry of Finance have also agreed to confer on the Board such enhanced powers as may be needed. In the event of difference of opinion between the Member, Finance, and the majority of the Members of the Board and where the Member, Finance, requires that the matter be submitted to Government, a reference shall be made to the Minister of Communications through the Secretary, Ministry of Communications. In regard to matters covered by internal finance, the decision of the Minister of Communications would be final. But in regard to other matters, if the Financial Adviser so desires, a reference would be made to the Minister of Finance.

The Financial Adviser Communications would be relieved of the work relating to Ministries other than Transport and Communications to enable him to devote himself adequately to the new responsibilities that would devolve upon him. He would also be competent to deal with the P & T matters on behalf of the other appropriate wings of

the Finance Ministry. The Ministry of Home Affairs had also agreed to confer on the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs such powers as may be needed for the efficient functioning of the Board, the statement continued.

Further details as to the enhanced powers that will be exercised by the Board, the procedure which would be followed and other consequential matters are actively under consideration. As soon as that consideration is complete and the matter is finalised, the Ministry of Communications would issue final orders reconstituting the Board on these lines. Concluding, Dr. Subbarayan added that every possible attempt would be made to bring the Board into being as early as possible.

New Postcard Form

A new postcard form with bilingual inscriptions, in Hindi and English, was introduced on September 9, 1959. The new form will apply to all kinds of inland postcards — single, reply and local delivery cards, in the 'ordinary' as well as 'service' series.

The new postcard bears the same design as the existing postcard except that the inscriptions are in both languages. Initial supplies of this new postcard were made available for sale at four centres: Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and New Delhi; the supplies will be extended to other post offices in due course. The existing forms will continue to be on sale till the stocks are exhausted.

Electrification Of Rly. Stations

In a statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on September 10 in a written reply to a question, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Deputy Minister for Railways stated that 69 railway stations were electrified in different railway zones during the period April 1, to August 15, 1959, at a cost of Rs. 6.14 lakhs approximately.

He gave the following details of the stations electrified in different railway zones: Northern Railway 37, North-Eastern Railway 14, Southern Railway 7, Western Railway 4, South-Eastern Railway 3 and Eastern and Northeast Frontier Railways, two each.

COST OF MANUFACTURING COACHES

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 10, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Deputy Minister for Railways, stated that there has been reduction in the cost of manufacturing coaches at the Integral Coach Factory, Perambur.

He gave the figures of the average cost per shell year-wise as under:

1955-56	Rupees 2,13,000
1956-57	Rupees 1,82,000
1957-58	Rupees 1,22,000
1958-59	Rupees 92,000
1959-60 on date)	Rupees 85,000

Replying to another part of the question, he added that the ex-works cost of the similar coach in Europe was about Rs. 1,07,000. The reduction in cost was due to increased production at the ICF resulting in reduced labour and overhead charges per unit built.

India - U. K. Air Talks

An announcement dated September 10 says that the discussions between the civil aeronautical authorities of the Government of India and the United Kingdom in accordance with arrangements made in January, 1959 opened on August 19 and concluded on September 9. The Inter-Governmental Air Services Agreement of 1951 provides for these periodical reviews of which the most recent was in New Delhi during January 1959. The present talks, which took place against the background that the representatives of the Airlines will be meeting again during November to consider possible pooling arrangements, reviewed in full and frank discussion the relationship between the two Governments in the field of civil air transport. A further inter-governmental meeting will take place in New Delhi in January 1960. In the meantime the arrangements made in January 1959 will continue.

Food & Agriculture

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING ON FOOD POSITION

The two-day session of the 13th meeting of the National Development Council to consider the food situation and policy was held in New Delhi on September 5 and 6. The Prime Minister and Chairman of the Council, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, emphasized that only an all-India approach could help in solving the food problem of the country. Obviously, if it was thought in terms of each individual State separately, with no real co-ordination between them, there would be no unified activity and each would pull in a different way he added. The Prime Minister said that apart from the things not wholly under our control, the difficulties were due not so much to lack of resources, as to lack of proper utilisation of resources and to administrative deficiencies.

The key to the problem in the final analysis lay in higher production. Here the Prime Minister referred to the possibility of reclaiming waste land for cultivation. While stocks had to be built up both at the Centre and in the States for controlling the situation and stabilising prices, only part of it could come from imports, while the rest had to be obtained by internal procurement, whatever be its form. In procurement, there should be joint effort by the Centre and the States.

Shri S.K. Patil, Union Food and Agriculture Minister, expressed his confidence that the problem facing the country was in no sense alarming and would be adequately met. The last crop was good and the next one also looked promising. Although imports should have to be continued for some time, the aim should be to meet the needs from within the country in as short a period as possible, certainly before the end of the Third Plan. He urged deficit States to pay special attention to increasing food production and promised all possible Central help in that direction.

The session of the National Development Council ended with the general understanding that, while specific issues concerning different States would be considered further by the Food Ministry in consultation with them, there was to be no change in the basic policies already decided upon by the Council. Effective steps should be taken to hold the price line. It was also agreed that early decisions should be taken regarding procurement prices for the next crop and the arrangements in the States constituting the southern rice zone. The Council was also of the view that arrangements concerning food distribution and procurement should be maintained on a continuing basis.

While it was agreed that the decision concerning the southern rice zone should be taken after further consultations, attention was drawn to two main considerations. Firstly, since imports of rice were not available to any great extent from other countries, the Central Government was not in a position to provide additional quantities of rice to deficit States in the South. This was a special features of the rice problems as such. Secondly, it was essential that the Centre's commitments to meet the deficits in Kerala and Mysore should not exceed the existing levels. It was therefore, necessary that, on the one hand, the requirements of deficit States should be estimated carefully, so that the claims were not excessive and, on the other hand, there should be an effective assurance from the surplus States that the supplies agreed to would be definitely made available. On the part of the surplus States in the South, it was urged that they would be in a much stronger position to procure the quantities required if they were constituted into separate zones. This would enable them to make more effective arrangements for procurement both from producers and from traders than if export to deficit areas was left in the hands of traders, who were likely to engage in profiteering and speculation.

The representatives of all surplus States recognized the responsibility of these States to make available supplies for deficit areas to the maximum extent possible and undertook to fulfil any assurances given by them. They considered that the food situation would be met most satisfactorily by localising the problems of deficit areas.

The representatives of deficit areas expressed doubts, however, whether the surplus States would be able to obtain the supplies required, if they confined procurement operations to levy from traders. They thought that it would be necessary for surplus States to go on to more intensive methods of procurement, not only from the trade, but also directly from producers, and that it would be necessary for them to fix retail prices and also, to some extent to undertake distribution directly. If the surplus States were not able to fulfil the assurances given by them, the deficit States would necessarily have to look to the Centre to make the supplies needed available.

On the subject of the policy for State trading, the Union Food Minister made it clear that no change had been proposed and that the *status quo* was continuing. Representatives of all the surplus States were in favour of State trading being maintained. They pointed out that despite a late start and certain deficiencies in the administrative arrangements, on the whole, prices had been maintained at lower levels than during the past year. They expected that, with the next harvest in sight, foodgrains which might still be with the producers would come into the market. They felt confident that during the next few months the working of the scheme would improve greatly. They also urged that the development of service and marketing co-operative was largely dependent on the State trading scheme being worked with efficiency and determination. The Council noted the experience of the Assam Government which organized purchases entirely through co-operatives in two districts. No only were prices kept at reasonable levels in these districts they rose much less than in other districts.

The Council devoted considerable attention to the progress made in the development of co-operatives. All the Chief Ministers and the Finance Minister of Madras, Minister of Co-operation, Andhra Pradesh, Food Minister, West Bengal and Commerce Minister, Jammu and Kashmir in the accounts of the progress of co-operatives in their States drew attention to three main problems, namely, arrangements for making short-term finance available to cultivators who did not own land, finance for medium-term loans and larger financial assistance for village societies. Chief Minister, Punjab, explained the part which co-operatives had played in purchasing foodgrains in a large number of markets during the last season. Summing up the discussion, the Prime Minister said that the brief survey given by the Chief Ministers had shown that co-operatives were on the move and

that in the course of the next two or three years the movement would spread further. The successful development of co-operatives, he said, had an intimate connection with the solution of the food problem.

Regarding supply of steel for meeting agricultural requirements, Shri Swaran Singh, Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel, explained that during the last six months the position regarding the supply of pig iron had greatly improved and in the next six months steel would also become available to a larger extent. He suggested that the State Governments should ensure that the agricultural implements manufactured from supplies allotted by them were made available to agriculturists at reasonable prices. In regard to the steel requirements of large irrigation and multi-purpose projects, Shri Swaran Singh pointed out that satisfactory arrangements now existed.

Besides Members of the Planning Commission and Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, Finance Minister, Madras, and Food Minister, West Bengal, and Minister of Commerce and Industries, Jammu and Kashmir, attended the meeting.

Shri Patil's Statement On Food Situation

Intervening in the two-day debate on food situation in the Rajya Sabha on August 31, Shri S.K. Patil, in his maiden speech as Minister for Food and Agriculture, informed the House that a new food policy would be discussed by the National Development Council which was due to meet in New Delhi early in September in which besides State Chief Ministers, who were members of the Council, Food Ministers of the State Governments had been invited to attend. The Central Government, Shri Patil added, would work out a new food policy in co-operation with the State Governments and take a decision on a short term policy, which was very urgently needed and which would be the foundation of a long-range policy to solve the country's food problem.

Referring to state trading in foodgrains, Shri Patil said he would be happy if he did not have to resort to it. But if there was no other way, there would have to be state trading for a limited purpose and period. He pointed out that unless food was considered on a national basis like planning, the country would land itself in serious trouble. There could not be surplus and deficit States. He expressed the hope that the whole country would be treated as one zone.

Dealing with the question of rising prices, he added that this year's rise in the prices of foodgrains was not normal. There was a defect in the system of distribution.

Crop Insurance

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 9, the Minister for Agriculture, Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, stated that a pilot scheme on crop insurance had already been prepared taking into consideration experience gained on crop insurance in U.S.A., for trial on a limited basis, and that the question of including this pilot scheme in the Third Five Year Plan was under consideration of the Government of India.

In answer to another part of the question, he added that at present no general insurance company transacted business on crop insurance in India. However, Rajasthan Agriculture Livestock and General Insurance Company Limited had done some business on crop insurance but that company had since gone into liquidation.

Central Aid For Grow More Food Campaign

Answering a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 9 Shri M.V. Krishnappa, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, said that the Government of India simplified the procedure for sanction of central assistance for all State Plan Schemes including Grow More Food Schemes since 1958-59. This had ensured larger utilisation of funds allotted.

According to the new procedure, allotment for groups of schemes and central assistance admissible by way of loans and grants were discussed and decided in the Working Group meetings. On the basis of these decisions, the schemes were sanctioned by the State Governments under their normal procedure. Three fourths of the total amount of central assistance was released in nine equal monthly instalments beginning from the month of May, 1958. Final payments of grants and loans were made by the administrative Ministries on receipt of the information from the State Governments about the progress of expenditure upto December and a realistic estimate of expenditure for the last quarter of the financial year namely January to March.

Cultivation Of Waste Lands

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 10, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture said that no suggestion had been recently circulated by the Union Government to State Governments to bring all waste land or cultivable land under plough.

The State Governments were already aware of the importance of bringing waste land under plough and were already taking action in that direction with the financial assistance available from the Centre for the purpose under the Grow More Food Rules.

However, the Government of India had recently appointed a Committee of Experts consisting of Central and State Government officers to make a survey of cultivable waste land still available in the country and to suggest measures for their reclamation. Necessary action would be taken on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts.

Agricultural University In New Delhi

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 10, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture stated that the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, had been accorded the status of a University under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, for the purpose of awarding M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees.

The degrees of M.Sc. and Ph.D. were awarded in Agronomy, Botany, Chemistry, Horticulture, Entomology, Mycology and Plant Pathology, of the Agricultural Sciences at present.

A maximum of one hundred students were admitted to the M.Sc. course and 50 students to the Ph.D. degree course every year. The actual number admitted were subject to the seats available at the time of admission.

River Projects & Power

GROUNDWATER EXPLORATION PROJECT

The Government of India have sanctioned the continuance of the Groundwater Exploration Project up to the end of the Second Five-Year Plan, reads an announcement of September 10.

Already exploration has been completed at 280 sites in 16 selected areas spread all over the country yielding valuable information about underwater resources and enabling the State Governments to take up programmes of production wells for increasing irrigation facilities. Thus, on the basis of explorations in Narbada Valley, it was found that an area of 780,000 acres holds promise of groundwater production. As a result, the Madhya Pradesh Government has sanctioned a scheme for the construction of 40 irrigation tubewells in this area during the current year.

The exploratory drillings have also established that the area between Tanjore and Madras has potentialities for groundwater development. This is of special significance as the surface water resources in the Madras State have almost been exhausted and the State has to look to groundwater resources for further development of irrigation. The Government of Madras has sanctioned the construction of 70 tubewells during the current year.

Of the 10 bores drilled in Rajasthan, one near Jaiselmere, where water supply is scarce even for drinking purposes, yielded over 51,000 gallons of water per hour, thus opening up prospects for the construction of several tubewells in the neighbourhood to provide water both for irrigation and domestic purposes.

Groundwater explorations in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, and some areas of the Punjab and Kutch have also given promising results. These States have provided for the construction of 200 tubewells during the current financial year.

The Exploratory Tubewells Organization, which carried out drillings in the States of Assam, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab, Rajasthan, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Kerala, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh, was set up in 1953 and has been functioning with technical and financial assistance received from the United States under Operational Agreement No: 12. The agreement expired in June, 1959.

The Geological Survey of India has recommended groundwater exploration in several new areas of Bombay, Rajasthan, Punjab, Bihar, and the Union Territories of Himachal Pradesh and Tripura, and these States have expressed willingness to participate in the programme. As the Central Organization has acquired the equipment and trained personnel needed for carrying out underwater exploration on a large-scale the Government of India have approved the continuance of the project for another two years. Drilling rigs and ancillary equipment costing about Rs. 150 lakhs which can be used only for water well drilling, have already been obtained under the Operational Agreement No. 12 and it would now be possible to continue the project with very little additional expenditure.

Besides drilling exploratory wells and collecting geological and hydrological data, the project will now be able to undertake actual construction of production tubewells and training of technicians in tubewell construction and maintenance of equipment. The object is to provide assistance to the State Governments who do not have adequate technical resources so that they could promptly follow up groundwater exploration by a production tubewell programme.

WORKS UNDERTAKEN BY N.P.C. CORPORATION

In a statement laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha in reply to a question on September 1, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, stated that the works relating to the Badua Dam and the Kosi Barrage in Bihar, undertaken by the National Projects Construction Corporation (Private) Limited, were expected to be completed by June 1961 and February 1962 respectively. The Wazirabad Barrage in Delhi had been completed by the National Projects Construction Corporation.

TRAINING AT RIVER VALLEY PROJECTS

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 10, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, stated that the number of engineering graduates who received practical training on major river valley projects during 1957-58 and 1958-59 was 72 and 161 respectively.

ATOMIC POWER STATION

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on September 9 Prime Minister Nehru said that electric power from the atomic power station proposed to be set up on the coast between Ahmedabad and Bombay would be generated towards the middle of 1965.

It was proposed, he added, to locate the first atomic power station of approximately 250,000 kilowatt installed capacity somewhere on the coast, between Ahmedabad and Bombay, so that it might supply power to the Ahmedabad-Saurashtra and Bombay regions, which would ultimately form part of one grid. The exact location would depend on several physical and technical criteria and had yet to be determined.

The Atomic Energy Commission on present basis had assumed a cost of Rs. 1,700.00 per kilowatt of installed capacity which meant that the cost of the power station itself would be in the region of Rs. 43 crores. The construction would take about four years but the preparatory work before commencement of construction would take about a year and a half.

The setting up of other nuclear power stations was under consideration but no decision had yet been taken, the Prime Minister added.

GAS GRID FROM DURGAPUR TO CALCUTTA

In a written reply to a question on September 4, Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, said that the Government of India had accorded approval for the construction of a Gas Grid from Durgapur to Calcutta by the Government of West Bengal.

The Gas Grid would be about 120 miles in length and the cost was estimated at Rs. 315 lakhs. The Yugoslav Government Agency had offered to supply pipes on the basis of rupee payment, the rupee being utilised in accordance with the agreement existing between Intertrade, Yugoslavia, and the State Trading Corporation.

The Government of West Bengal, the Minister added, would continue to supply gas locally to certain projects at Durgapur and to spare daily 67 million cubic feet of gas of 450 BTU value for transmission to Calcutta.

Profit From D.V.C. Power System

In a written reply to a question Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, stated in the Lok Sabha on September 7 that the Damodar Valley Corporation Power system had a net profit of Rs. 22 lakhs in 1957-58 and Rs. 72 lakhs in 1958-59.

Community Development

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

The Central Committee on Community Development and Co-operation, which met in New Delhi on September 1, under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, expressed the view that it was undesirable for Ministers and Deputy Ministers to hold offices in co-operative organisations.

The N.D.C. had already deprecated the practice of Government nominating officials as chairmen of co-operatives. The continuance of Ministers and Deputy Ministers as Chairmen of Co-operative organisations was against the spirit of the accepted policy of keeping the co-operative movement free from official control.

The Central Committee desired that the allotment of pre-extension as well as Stage I blocks be made contingent on the adequacy of trained staff and a test of self-reliance of the people in the area concerned.

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation on September 3 says that in accordance with the recommendation made in the meeting of Ministers of Co-operation at Mysore in July, 1959 that the question of providing adequate credit to cultivating families in the villages in the light of production programmes and consistent with principles of co-operative finance should be examined in all its aspects by an expert committee, the Government of India have decided to constitute a committee with the following persons as members:

Shri Vaikunth Lal Mehta (Chairman); Shri T.M.N. Pillai (Vice Chairman); Shri Tarapao Chaudhary. A representative of the All India Co-operative Union; Shri B. Venkatappiah, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India; Shri V.K. Rao, Planning Commission; Shri B.P. Patel, State Bank of India; Shri M.R. Bhide, Department of Co-operation; Shri Siddique Hasan, Member, Board of Revenue; Shri A. Palaniappa Mudaliar, Member-Secretary.

The Committee should *inter-alia* examine and make definite recommendations on:

(i) (a) the existing standards for credit limits prescribed under the Co-operaitve Societies Act, Rules or the bye-laws of the societies in the different States and (b) their justification from the point of view of the principles of sound co-operative banking; (ii) the loan policies and practices of co-operative credit institutions from the apex to the primary level; (iii) the working of a few representative co-operative societies in the C.D. Blocks by way of case studies; (iv) the measures necessary for increasing the borrowing power of primary credit societies to the extent necessary in this connection; and, in the same context, the quetsion of revising the existing standards for fixing credit limits and the conditions under which it should be effected with a view to providing more effective credit for agricultural production plans; and (v) the desirability of share capital participation by the State in village societies and if the committee is in favour of it, the terms and conditions subject to which such State participation should take place.

Education & Culture

INAUGURATION OF A. I. R. TELEVISION SERVICE

The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, inaugurated the experimental television service of All India Radio in Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on September 15.

Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, in his speech, observed, "This is indeed a landmark in the development of mass communication in our country. It is a fitting climax to the all round and continuous development that has taken place in Indian broadcasting.

"After independence and more especially after the starting of the First Five Year Plan in 1952, broadcasting has made notable progress, both in the area covered and in the development of programmes. A.I.R. has become one of the most important net-work in the world, with 28 stations and dozens of transmitters of high and low power. It has the proud privilege of serving as a cultural medium for all the Indian languages.

"Television has come to occupy in the development of modern electronics technique a very important position. As a means of mass communication it is undoubtedly superior and more effective than radio, because it is audio-visual. In those countries where television has developed, it has come to occupy a very important position as a means of entertainment and also as a means of education and scientific advance.

"While admiring the technical perfection and also realising the importance of this medium one cannot help having some misgivings if the experience of countries like the United States is of any value. The utilisation of TV as a means of mass entertainment and on a purely commercial basis had led to an undesirable state of affairs."

"It is not possible for the nation," Dr. Keskar added, "in fact it would be disastrous, to allow this medium to distort the educational and study habits of children.

"In view of its terrific potential, more so because of its being always available at home, it is essential that this medium is utilised with due care and under control. I am glad that in our country, these media are under the supervision of the nation and the Government and I might assure that any progress that may take place in this direction will be only after due care has been taken to see that it serves the cause of national development.

"The present experimental television does not pretend to be a regular station. The proposal for a regular TV station in the Second Plan has been shelved for the time being on account of acute foreign exchange position." The Minister expressed hope that the project would be taken up some time in the Third Plan.

"The rapid expansion of such a medium as TV," Dr. Keskar contineed, "appears difficult in India. Television equipment and programme costs 4 to 5 times more than radio. Moreover, it requires at the outset highly technical and new equipment, which is extremely costly and which it will not be possible for us to procure for some time in sufficient numbers. In fact, if we look at the development of TV in other countries, we find that only industrially developed countries who can manufacture a large part of the equipment themselves have been able to plan TV on a big scale. We will be able to take up the expansion of TV on a sufficient scale only when our industrial expansion attains a certain standard."

He said that inspite of these obvious difficulties, it was felt that it would be useful to start the present experimental station, provided it did not entail much expenditure and utilisation of foreign exchange, as it would build up a body of Engineers, familiar with this important modern medium.

"From the programme point of view also, an experimental Station will help by trial and error in overcoming the initial dfficulties in this entirely new medium. TV programmes combine the technique of the radio and the cinema and, therefore, require a specialised knowledge in programme production."

Dr. Keskar complimented the Indian Engineers for their work in erecting the equipment and in doing everything connected with the working of the equipment. He said that no foreign expert was called for that purpose.

"Due to the difficulties of foreign exchange," concluding the Minister said, "we had originally no intention of pursuing this experimental unit but in the last Industrial Exhibition, we were able to get a TV camera from the firm of Philips at a cheap price. Later, the UNESCO gave us a grant and the Government of the United States offered to help us with loan of equipment. This enabled us to start this experimental unit to-day."

Shri J.C. Mathur, Director General of All India Radio, said that the television service was started as a part of the Research Division of All India Radio.

The television programmes in India would be telecast twice a week from four small rooms situated in the Akashvani Bhavan, New Delhi. As there were only four T.V. cameras, the programme would have to be intersperesed with film strips. Want of suitable scripts for T.V. programmes would be another difficulty for some time to come, Shri Mathur added.

Explaining the objects of the T.V. service, the Director General said that its main purpose was to evaluate the usefulness of this medium as a means of mass communication. Already fourteen sets had been installed in rural and urban areas and seven in the schools. Twenty tele-clubs had also been organised with the help and co-operation of the Local Administration and social welfare organisations. Through these clubs it would be possible to register the reaction of the people to the television medium. He hoped that within a few months some more T.V. sets will be received and installed in other areas.

Shri Mathur thanked the UNESCO for agreeing to sponsor this pilot project of adult education through television — a project which would be of significance to the future of television not only in India but also in the whole of South East Asia. He also thanked the U.S. Ambassador for having secured for All India Radio the loan of two cameras, a microwave link and some other equipment.

The inaugural programme opened with a dance recital, *Swar Aur Chhabi*, symbolically depicting the advent of television in India. The programme included a short feature under the title *Gandhi Gatha* on Mahatma Gandhi's life and ideals, a short play, *Saat Sawal*, and a Rajasthani puppet play, *Das Baje*. The programme ended with a Shahnai recital.

The Television programme will be telecast every Tuesday and Friday from 7 p.m. for about 90 minutes from the Akashvani Bhavan. It will comprise short plays, puppet shows, discussions and song and dance recitals and will also include some film strips.

The T.V. transmissions will be radiated in the very high frequency of 62.25 mc/s for the picture transmitter. These conform to the standard laid down by the International Radio Consultative Committee.

Third Plan Programme Of I & B Ministry

An announcement of September 6 says that in the formulation of its proposals for the Third Five-Year Plan, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is likely to lay particular emphasis upon the expansion of visual publicity through films and exhibitions. Installation of a permanent exhibition in Delhi, expansion of Wire Broadcasting and more colour documentaries are some of the proposals under consideration of the Ministry.

The broadcasting system will have been developed considerably during the First and Second Plans. The stress will, therefore, be laid not so much on an increase in the number of stations, but on the provision of facilities for a larger variety of programmes, better coverage throughout the country and increased listening. Some of the schemes of the Second Plan which will either be continuing or have been kept in abeyance for reasons of economy will be continued during the Third Five-Year Plan. The possibility of a regular television service in one or more centres will also be explored. The introduction or expansion of the Wire Broadcasting scheme in several important industrial centres such as Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta or Madras is under examination. Together with the provision of special transmitters capable of being tuned in by cheap medium wave sets, this would provide a considerable impetus to radio listening.

More Colour Documentaries

Production of documentary films and newsreels will be maintained and increased to the extent necessary to provide for a better coverage through mobile vans as well as cinema houses throughout the country. Already documentaries are being produced in all the Indian languages and the newsreels are also likely to be produced in all the languages during the Second Plan period. A large proportion of the documentaries will be in colour. The further developments will, therefore, be largely in an increase in the production of cartoon films which, it is expected, will be firmly established during the Second Plan period and in films for television. Construction of suitable accommodation for the Films Division and the Film Institute and the provision of processing facilities are also likely to form part of the Third Plan.

Additional Exhibition Units

The interest in exhibitions and the demand for them has grown rapidly and steps have already been taken to expand the organisation for exhibitions. It is expected that in the Third Plan period, there will be a separate unit for every State and there will be a number of mobile exhibitions also, on motor vans or railway coaches, to carry the exhibitions into every part of the country. The installation of a permanent exhibition in Delhi is also likely to be pursued.

In order to provide adequate facilities for the exhibition of films and other display material, the association of permanent exhibitions with facilities for showing films with information centres at all State Headquarters and also at other important places is envisaged.

Installation of School Radio Sets

Replying in the affirmative to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 11, whether Government had tried to encourage more schools to install school radio sets, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, stated that though statistics were not available, it was presumed that more and more schools were installing radio sets as a result of the assistance and concession given by the Government of India.

Elucidating the reply, he said that grants were given to the schools by the Government of India through the State Governments and Union Administrations to the extent of 50% and 100% respectively, of the cost of the radio sets purchased. For a school set used for educational purposes, the license fee was Rs. 3 only as against Rs. 15 for a domestic radio set.

Replying to another question Dr. Shrimali said that the total number of school radio licenses in force on March 31, 1959 was 13,093. He added that no distinction was made between district and metropoliton schools when issuing the school broadcast receiving licenses.

INDIAN FILMS FOR SAN FRANCISCO FESTIVAL

According to an announcement of September 10 four Indian films have been entered in the Third Annual San Francisco International Film Festival which will be held from November 11 to November 24, 1959. *Jagte Raho* (Hindi) produced by Raj Kapur and *Apur Sanssar* (Bengali) produced by Satyajit Ray have been entered as feature films, and *Taj Mahal* as a documentary film and *Radha Krishna* as an art film, produced by the Films Division of the Government of India.

In this Festival 11 Golden Gate Awards will be made in different categories. Six of these awards are intended for short films and five for the feature films. These five awards are meant for motion picture, direction, best actress and supporting actress, best actor and supporting actor and screen play.

In the last year's San Francisco Festival, Shri Satyajit Ray was awarded prize for best direction for his film *Aprajito*. The film *Jagte Raho* had won Great Grand Prix (Highest Award) at the Karlovy Vary (Czechoslovakia) International Film Festival of 1957.

Criteria For News Agencies

In reply to a short notice question in the Lok Sabha on September 12, Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, made the following statement with regard to the eligibility of a news-agency to being given special communication facilities by the Government.

Government receive requests from time to time for the provision of special facilities for the purveyance of news to the public and have been considering what requirements Indian news agencies should be capable of fulfilling, to serve adequately the needs of newspapers and other suppliers of information to the public consistently with the general principle of free availability of correct and unbiassed information.

The special communication facilities at concession rates consist of leasing of teleprinter circuits, reception of multi-address news service on wireless and hiring of transmitters for transmission of Press messages. Ordinary postal means of communication like letters, book post or press telegrams do not come within these facilities and are open to all persons or bodies who are authorised to use such channels.

In view of the numerous requests coming from time to time and the limited number of channels that Government have at their disposal, they have recently examined the question closely.

In this connection, they broadly accept the definition proposed by the UNESCO that a news agency is "an undertaking of which the principal objective, whatever its legal form, is to gather news and news material of which the sole purpose is to express or present facts and to distribute it to a group of news enterprises and, in exceptional circumstances, to private individuals with a view to providing them with as complete and as impartial a news servce as possible against payment and under conditions compatible with business laws and usage".

The Indian Press Commission while drawing attention to the UNESCO definition had further observed that news agencies should not merely keep themselves free from bias and follow the principles of integrity, objectivity and comprehensiveness but should also appear to newspapers and to the public that they are following such a course.

Keeping the above in view, in considering the request of any news agency, the following factors will be taken into consideration:—

(1) that it has as its principal aim and objective the dissemination of news on the principles of objectivity, integrity and, as far as possible, comprehensiveness, and conforms to the accepted standards of journalistic ethics in the coverage and dissemination of news;

(2) that it is managed as a public trust or a registered society, or a public limited company and is not ancillary to a commercial enterprise, or a newspaper or connected with a political party; and

(3) that its services are available to the whole body of the Press, the radio and information services on payment or, where appropriate, on terms of reciprocity amounting to payment.

The financial stability and solvency of any agency will naturally have to be taken into consideration also in order to see that it is able to pay its dues regularly. Though fulfilment of these general conditions might make any agency eligible, it is not possible to guarantee facilities. The provision of such facilities will have to depend on availability of channels and equipment. Those facilities are liable to be withdrawn whenever in the opinion of Government the agency has ceased to function in accordance with the aforesaid general principles.

Press Registrar's Report For 1958

The Annual Report of the Registrar of Newspapers for India for the year 1958 shows an overall increase of 8.8 per cent in the circulation of newspapers in India as compared to their circulation in 1957. This comparison is based on the circulation of 2,574 papers for which data were available for both 1957 and 1958.

The total circulation of 3,911 papers in 1958 for which data were available was 144.37 lakhs. For 1957 information relating to circulation was received in respect of 3,761 papers and their total circulation was 129.62 lakhs.

There was also an increase in the number of papers published in India. In 1957 there were 5,932 papers on the Press Registrar's record and in 1958 their number was 6,918. Of these 1,062 started publication during the year.

Newspapers in English had the largest circulation, namely 33.77 lakhs or 23.4 per cent of the total circulation. Hindi came next with 27.17 lakhs or 18.8 per cent.

The Report shows that the most predominant form of ownership continued to be the individual owner accounting for 44.3 per cent of the total number of newspapers in 1958. The number of papers controlled by Chains, Groups and Multiple Units in 1958 was 81, 344 and 62 respectively. In 1957, the number was 63,316 and 60 respectively.

The largest number of newspapers continued to be published in English (20.1 per cent), Hindi coming next with 18.3 per cent.

Implementation Of Scientific Policy

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on September 11 Dr. M.M. Das, Union Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, outlined the progress made with regard to the implementation of the Scientific Policy Resolution of the Government of India.

The scheme of "Merit Promotions and Advance Increments", the Deputy Minister said, was being extended to the scientific personnel working in the Geological Survey of India. Further, the salary scales of teachers working in technical institutions were being revised on the basis of a scheme formulated by the All India Council for Technical Education and the salary scales of teachers of science in universities and affiliated colleges had been upgraded.

Other measures adopted to implement the Resolution were:

(i) The University Grants Commission had initiated a scheme for awarding post-graduate research scholarships, junior fellowships and senior fellowships. The Commission had also taken steps to improve the study of science subjects and research facilities in universities.

(ii) In pursuance of para 7(iii) of the Scientific Policy Resolution, a fellowship scheme had been instituted to attach 50 scientists a year to the various establishments in the Defence Research and Development Organisation with a view to absorbing them ultimately in the Defence Science Organisation. In addition, 25 stipends were to be awarded annually to research students and others working on subjects pertaining to defence in universities, technical institutions and Defence Establishments.

Scientific Terminology Board's Meeting

The 13th meeting of the Board of Scientific Terminology was held on August 21. Shri K.G. Saiyidain, Secretary of the Union Ministry of Education presided.

Among important subjects discussed by the Board was a note from the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, regarding the use of international terminology. The Prime Minister expressed the view that scientific and technical terms should, as far as practicable, not only be similar in all the languages of India but should fit in with international usage.

The Board, in addition, considered the adoption of the terminology uniformly by the Ministries of the Union Government, the State Governments and the Universities. It was observed that Expert Committees set up for the purpose had not followed a uniform pattern in evolving Hindi equivalents for the same terms. The Board would, therefore, devise measures to co-ordinate efforts of the different Expert Committees with a view to making them more useful and more effective.

The total number of finalised terms up-to-date was 40,898 and the total number of terms evolved in different scientific and technical subjects up to June 30, 1959, was 1,64,238.

The entire work of evolving scientific terminology was to be completed by the end of the Second Plan period. But the Hindi Division of the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with other departments, has been trying to accelerate the pace of work and the task might be completed before the specified date.

The Board consists of some of the most eminent scientists, philologists and linguists of the country. Since 1950, when this Board was set up, a well directed and co-ordinated effort was being made to evolve a standard and uniform scientific and technical terminology for the country and also to prepare a dictionary of such terms for use in other modern languages. The terminology when completed will not only enrich Hindi vocabulary but also benefit other important Indian languages.

Educational Advisory Committee Meeting

Addressing the inaugural meeting of the Advisory Committee appointed recently by the Government of India for giving assistance to educational institutions of higher learning of all-India importance engaged in educational research and allied activities, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said that after independence these institutions which at one time had done pioneering work in the field of education, started losing those urges for which they were established and were now trying to fall in line with the rest of the system. He referred to a number of such institutions like one started by Poet Rabindra Nath Tagore at Santiniketan, Gujerat Vidyapeeth started by Mahatma Gandhi, Jamia Milia Islamia started by Dr. Zakir Hussain in Delhi, Gurukul University started by Swami Shradhananda at Hardwar and an institution started by Shri Aurobindo at Pondicherry.

The main purpose in setting up the present Advisory Committee, he added was to find out the ways and means of helping some of these institutions. While relieving them from the day-to-day financial worries, Government wanted to ensure them full freedom of work and experimentation in the field of education. They did not want them to accept the uniform pattern of education, the Minister concluded.

Advisory Committee On Educational Institutions

In a statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on September 3 in reply to a question, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, stated that the Government of India had appointed an Advisory Committee to advise them on giving financial assistance to recognised institutions of higher learning which might be doing work of special importance for developing their educational activities and introducing new ideas and techniques in education which might have some national significance. Shrimati Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay was the Chairman of the Committee and the members included Shri R.R. Diwakar, Acharya Badrinath Varma, Shri Maganbhai P. Desai, Shri Inder Sen and Dr. N.S. Junakar, Deputy Educational Adviser, Ministry of Education.

CENTRAL SANSKRIT BOARD

Inaugurating the Central Sanskrit Board, which met in New Delhi on September 2 under the Chairmanship of Shri Patanjali Shastri, Dr. K.L. Shrmali, Union Minister of Education, said that the Government wanted to develop Sanskrit in this country, not only because it contained all that was valuable in the Indian culture and civilization, but at this time when great changes were taking place in the Indian society it was essential that all those values which had been cherished in the past by the people of this country should be preserved.

Referring to a suggestion that the Sanskrit Board should have been set up on the lines of the University Grants Commission, Dr. Shrimali said that the Board was an advisory body, and the Government would be guided by the advice which this Board would give them. Apart from the constitutional difficulties in setting up a statutory board, the funds at their disposal for the propagation of Sanskrit were very limited at present. Moreover, Education was a State Subject. The past experience had shown that these advisory bodies served a very useful purpose and there had always been full co-operation between the Government and these bodies. Besides, the success of these advisory bodies depended largely on the traditions and conventions which they set up.

More Funds

As regards funds, Dr. Shrimali said that for the remaining period of the Plan total funds available for the development and propagation of Sanskrit were Rs. 3½ lakhs. However, he maintained, the Government would make every effort to find out more funds if savings could be effected in some other fields.

The Minister also referred to a number of difficult problems which the Board might have to face in implementing some of the recommendations of the Sanskrit Commission. One of these, he said, was in regard to the three-language formula which the Central Advisory Board of Education and the representatives of the State Governments and Universities decided to adopt. Any change in that formula at the present juncture would upset the whole scheme. Also considering the general climate in the country, it was not desirable to modify the three-language formula.

Sanskrit Universities

Referring to the recommendation of the Sanskrit Commission to set up Sanskrit Universities in the country, Dr. Shrimali said that the University Grants Commission, which had examined this question several times, were averse to the setting up of one single faculty university. In this connection, he advised the Board to consider the whole issue in consultation with the U.G.C.

Grants For Promotion Of Cultural Activities

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 11 Dr. M.M. Das, Union Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, stated that a sum of Rs. 37,61,044 had been sanctioned to various institutions in the country for promotion of cultural activities during 1958-59.

Statewise, the distribution of grants was: Andhra Pradesh Rs. 1,27,500; Bombay Rs. 98,075; Delhi Rs. 26,02,149; Madras Rs. 1,94,900; Madhya Pradesh Rs. 3,000; Mysore Rs. 1,000; N.E.F.A. Rs. 3,000; Orissa Rs. 3,000; Punjab Rs. 2,82,820; Uttar Pradesh Rs. 69,500 and West Bengal Rs. 3,76,100.

Replying to another question, the Deputy Minister said that a total sum of Rs. 3,01,295.60 had been sanctioned as grants-in-aid during 1958-59 to the following organisations for promotion of cultural activities abroad:

Indo-Iranian Cultural Association, Tehran, Rs. 9,000; Indo-Polish Cultural Association, Warsaw Rs. 5,334; Indian Gymkhana Club, London Rs. 3,333; Japan-India Society, Tokyo and Kyoto Rs. 15,000; Indo-Nepal Friendship Association, Kathmandu Rs. 10,000; Commonwealth Institute, London Rs. 19,999; Indian Students' Association, Paris Rs. 594.60; Ceylon Estate Workers Education Trust, Ceylon Rs. 7,500; Indo-Turkish Cultural Association, Istanbul Rs. 4,000; Indian Association, Cairo Rs. 8,000; Indian Hospice, Jerusalem Rs. 1,500; Ramakrishna Mission Indo-Ceylon Cultural Centre, Ceylon Rs. 75,000; Ramakrishna Mission Vedanta Centre, London Rs. 2,666; India League, Sydney Rs. 1,000; Nation's League of Penfriends, New Delhi, International Convention of Penfriends Rs. 2,500; and expenditure incurred by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations Rs. 1,35,869.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL OF POETRY

The Government of India sent a delegation of four eminent Indian poets to participate in the fourth International Biennial of Poetry which was held at Knokke-Le Zoute, Belgium, from September 3 to 7.

The delegation consisted of Shri Premendra Mitra (Bengali), Dr. H.R. Bachchan (Hindi), Shri Ravish Siddiqui (Urdu), and Shri V.K. Gokak (Kannada and English).

The third International Biennial of Poetry was held at Knokke-Le Zoute, Belgium, in September 1956. More than 300 poets from 30 countries, including some world-famous poets, participated in the session. The Belgian Government are the sponsors of this Biennial.

Board For Revision Of Gazetteers

The Central Advisory Board for Revision of District and Indian Gazetteers met in New Delhi on September 5 under the chairmanship of Shri Humayun Kabir, Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs. It was decided that the text of the first volume of the Gazetteers of India (Indian Union) should be ready by December, 1960.

The Board also discussed the broad outlines of various chapters of the first volume and selected the authors for writing them. Decision was also taken regarding the distribution of these chapters among the authors. The authors have been requested to submit their manuscript by September 30, 1960.

The Board further decided to request the State Governments to take in hand the preparation of State Gazetteers side by side with the preparation of the District Gazetteers according to a plan to be prepared by the State Editors of Gazetteers.

A sub-committee was also appointed to advise and assist the Central Gazetteers Unit in respect of the District Gazetteers with Dr. Tara Chand as the Chairman. The other members of the Committee are: Prof. M. Mujeeb, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi; Shri A Mitra, Census Commissioner; Shri A.K. Ghosh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Scientific Research & Cultural Affairs, and Dr. S.B. Chaudhuri, Editor, Gazetteers.

The Central Gazetteers Unit was set up in January, 1958. The work of the Unit is twofold — Preparation of India Volumes (Indian Union Series) and the co ordination and supervision of the work of the District Gazetteers. A State Gazetteers Unit has also been set up in nearly all the States which is engaged in the compilation and publication of District Gazetteers. The draft District Gazetteers prepared by the State Units are sent to the Central Unit.

According to the plan, the new Indian Gazetteers will be published in four volumes, like the old series, each volume containing about 500 printed pages. The third and the latest edition of the Imperial Gazetteers of India, practically a new work compared to earlier editions, was published in 1909 in 26 volumes and ranked for long as the standard authority on various matters concerning India. The present revision is being taken up after 50 years.

All-India Council Of Sports Meeting

Dr. P. Subbarayan presiding over the morning session of the tenth meeting of the All-India Council of Sports held in New Delhi on September 8, announced that the Government of India have appointed Shri M.S. Duleepsinhji as the new President of the All-India Council of Sports in succession to him as he had resigned consequent on his appointment as Minister of Transport and Communications.

The Council considered the report of the coaching Sub-Committee regarding the introduction of a broad-based national coaching scheme and the setting up of Central Institute of Coaching and recommended to the Government of India that the measures suggested in the report should be implemented as early as possible.

The Council constituted a committee consisting of Shri G.D. Sondhi, Shri Naval H. Tata and M.S. Duleepsinhji, to examine the comparative advantages of different centres for the location of the Central Institute of Coaching from the point of view of climate, availability of facilities etc. and suggest a suitable place for the location of the Institute, so that it could be established early in 1961.

It is expected that only 8 athletes and the Football, Hockey and Wrestling teams be included in the Indian team for the Olympic Games to be held in Rome in September 1960. The Indian Olympic Association has estimated that the expenditure on the deputation of the Indian contingent will amount to about Rs. 4.59 lakhs.

The Council recommended that necessary assistance not exceeding Rs. 3 lakhs, subject to a 10% increase if additional participants are subsequently added, may be paid to the Indian Olympic Association.

The Council decided that the National Games proposed to be held in New Delhi in February 1960, should be preceded by a

National Sports Week, which will be celebrated throughout the country. The aim of this Sports Week will be to call forth and focus the enthusiasm of the people on development of games and sports.

The Flag Day of the Indian Olympic Association for the collection of funds will also be held as part of the National Sports Week which will be celebrated every year in the first week of February.

The Council approved the proposal sponsored by the National Rifle Association of India to construct 12 'B' type shooting ranges in different centres of the country at an average cost of Rs. 30,000 per range. The proposal is that the centres should be constructed by the State Governments with assistance from the Central Government.

Promotion Of Games And Sports

Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said, in reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 2, that a sum of Rs. 57 lakhs had been provided for the popularisation and promotion of sports and games in the educational institutions of the country for the remaining period of the Second Five Year Plan. This was subject to availability of funds.

Replying to another part of the question, he added that a sum of Rs. 9.98 lakhs had been spent for the purpose during the period from April 1, 1956 to July 31, 1959.

Committee For Physical Training Institutions

The Government of India have set up a three-member committee to visit the Physical Education Training Institutions in the northern and eastern regions — comprising Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, U.P., Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa — to assess the fitness of their diplomas and certificates for recognition by the Government of India, says an announcement of September 5.

The committee, which has been set up on the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board of Physical Education and Recreation, consists of (1) Shri S.D. Chopde, Principal Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, Madras (Chairman), (2) Shri M. Robson, Principal, Alagappa Chettiar College of Physical Education, Karaikudi (Madras), and (3) Shri D.B. Kothiwale, Principal, Government Training Institute for Physical Education, Kandivali, Bombay.

The Committee will, in addition, examine on the spot the existing facilities in the institutions and estimate their requirements for improvement and development with special reference to the quantum of financial assistance to be paid by the Government of India under their scheme of "Strengthening Physical Education Training Institutions."

The report of the Committee will be considered by the Central Advisory Board of Physical Education and Recreation at its next meeting. On the basis of the Committee's findings, the Board will make suitable recommendations to the Government regardng the recognition of the diplomas and certificates of the institutions concerned as well as the grants to be paid to them by the Government of India for their development.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 2, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said that with a view to ensuring prompt disbursement of scholarships and to avoid duplication of work caused by the award of scholarships by the State Governments under their own schemes of post-matric scholarships for the backward classes, the work relating to the award of inland post-matric scholarships for the students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes had been transferred to the State Governments/Union Administrations.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DEAF AND DUMB

In a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 8 Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, stated that under a scheme of the Union Education Ministry, scholarships were given to deaf persons over 16 years of age for general education above primary or middle standard, professional education and technical training. Scholarships for education in fine arts and crafts are also granted under this scheme. The scholarships were tenable in educational or technical institutions recognised by the State Government concerned or by the Government of India and the maximum amount of scholarship was Rs. 75/- per month.

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs on September 11 says that three more candidates, one each for Rice Cultivation, Painting and Agricultural Engineering, have been selected for the award of scholarships offered by the Government of Italy for study/research/training in that country during 1959-60.

The first batch, consisting of 15 candidates, selected for the award of scholarships offered by the Government of Italy was already announced.

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs on September 14 one candidate from Directorate of Extension (Ministry of Food and Agriculture), New Delhi, has been selected for the award of one of the scholarships offered by the Government of Italy for study/research in Agriculture in Italy during the year 1959-60.

These scholarships are administered by the said Ministry.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Scientific Research & Cultural Affairs on September 11 says that one candidate has been selected for the award of a scholarship offered by the Government of France for Higher Studies in Chemistry during 1959-60.

Another Press Note issued by the said Ministry on September 12 says that one more candidate from the National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, has been selected for the award of a scholarship offered by the Government of France for Higher Studies to study Radio Astronomy, during 1959-60.

This scheme is administered by the above Ministry.

Health

CENTRAL MEDICAL LIBRARY

In a statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on September 10, in a written reply to a question, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that a committee was constituted in March, 1959, to draw up a scheme for the setting up of the National Central Medical Library in Delhi. The committee had recommended that there should be a Medical Library at the following three levels: (i) Medical Service Libraries attached to colleges and research institutes; (ii) State Central Medical Libraries at the State Capitals; and (iii) National Central Medical Library at New Delhi.

The scheme was likely to entail an expenditure of Rs. 37 lakhs non-recurring, and Rs. 8.73 lakhs recurring.

In view of the non-availability of funds during the Second Five-Year Plan, the scheme for the establishment of the National Central Medical Library with zonal libraries would be considered for inclusion in the Third Five-Year Plan. After the Central Library had been established in Delhi, the work of opening the zonal libraries in the States and at medical colleges and research institutes would be taken

B. C. G. Vaccine

Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 2 that the assessment conducted by a special team under the Indian Council of Medical Research showed that B.C.G. Vaccine was producing allergy that was needed for protection against T.B. He added that 45,761,893 persons had been vaccinated with B.C.G. up to May 31, 1959.

The Minister further said that 17 American doctors had given a statement in the 'British Medical Journal' that B.C.G. Vaccine was ineffective as a prevention against T.B.

Manufacture Of Streptomycin

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on September 9, the Minister for Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah, stated that the capacity of the streptomycin plant to be set up by Hindustan Antibiotics Limited would be about 45 tons per year, which was roughly the current demand.

He added that the C.I.F. value of bulk streptomycin and dihydrostreptomycin imported during 1958-59 was about Rs. 86 lakhs. Imports during April-September 1959 would amount to about Rs. 57 lakhs.

Replying to another question he said that the question of reducing the prices of some of the drugs produced by the Hindustan Antibiotics was under the active consideration of the Government.

"CARE" MOBILE HEALTH UNIT FOR BOMBAY

At a brief ceremony in New York on September 10, the Indian Consul-General, Shri M. Gopala Menon, accepted from "CARE" a U.S. non-profit agency for voluntary assistance to needy people of the world, a mobile health unit on behalf of the Mothers' and Children's Society of Bombay.

The health unit, which was presented to the Indian Consul-General by Mr. Harold S. Mener, President of "CARE" is equipped with modern facilities for pre-natal and post-natal medical treatment and care in outlying areas where such aid is not readily available.

Social Welfare

CENTRAL SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD RECONSTITUTED

The Union Ministry of Education have reconstituted the Central Social Welfare Board for a period of three years from August 13, 1959 to August 12, 1962, with Shrimati Durgabhai Deshmukh as the Chairman, reads a Press Note issued by the said Ministry on September, 6. The new Board will be composed of the following members:

Smt. Asoka Gupta, Smt. Dhanvanti Rama Rau, Smt. Indumati Chimanlal, Smt. Konda Parvathi Smt. Mahindra Kaur, Smt. Sarojini Varadappan, Smt. Tara Ali Baig, Smt. Zohra Ahmad, Shri R.P, Naik, I.C.S., Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Shri A.C. Bose, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Lt. Col. Jaswant Singh, Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Shri M.R. Kothandaraman, Adviser (Social Services), Planning

Commission, two representatives of the Lok Sabha and representatives, one each, of the Rajya Sabha and the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation. The name of the tenth social worker will be announced later.

P. W D. CONTRACTS TO B. S. S.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 1, Shri K.C. Reddy, Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, said that six contracts had been awarded to the Bharat Sevak Samaj by the Central Public Works Department in Delhi and Cuttack. The total value of these contracts was Rs. 4,09,957. Four out of the six works had already been completed and work on the other two also had started. The amount of advance money given to Bharat Sewak Samaj for these contracts was Rs. 70,000.

It was not a fact, the Minister added, that the Bharat Sewak Samaj was given these contracts on higher rates than those given to other contractors.

Remission Of Food Loans To West Pakistan D.P.s

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Rehabilitation on September 7 says that to assist the resettlement of agriculturist and non-agriculturist displaced persons who were taken out of camps in the years 1949 and 1950 and resettled in the rural areas of the Punjab, the Punjab Government advanced loans amounting to Rs. 82.86 lakhs.

This amount, which was given mainly to Harijans and landless tenants, was intended to help these persons to maintain themselves till the succeeding harvest and to enable them to purchase food and fodder. These loans, for the most part, have not been repaid.

The Government of the Punjab had approached the Government of India asking that these loans should be treated as a grant so that displaced persons would not have to shoulder the burden of repayment.

On the analogy of food loans, and the food loan element in taccavi loans, which have been remitted to the tune of Rs. 35.25 lakhs in the case of displaced persons settled on land outside the Punjab and the former Pepsu State, and in the case of non-Punjabi displaced persons settled on land on a temporary basis in the Punjab and Pepsu, the Government of India have now decided that the small rural loans advanced by the Punjab Government in 1949-50 and still outstanding should also be treated as a grant.

Labour & Employment

ECAFE WORKING PARTY ON EARTH-MOVING OPERATIONS

A one-week conference of the Working Party on Earthmoving Operations jointly convened by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, Bangkok, and the Bureau of Economic Affairs of the United Nations, New York, was held in New Delhi on September 7.

Inaugurating the Conference, Hafiz Mohd. Ibrahim, Union Minister for Irrigation and Power, observed that it would be in the interests of economy of the countries of the ECAFE region to continue to utilise idle manpower for earthwork as far as possible. Machinery would have to be used for quite a number of jobs which could not be handled efficiently or within the scheduled time by manual labour and endeavour should be made to get the most out of the machines, reducing the costs to the minimum.

The Minister pointed out that most of the countries in Asia and the Far East were thickly populated with a large rural population which was under-employed. Any programme of development in this region could be a success only if surplus labour was utilised to the maximum extent possible.

Abounding in human resources, as India was, the bulk of earthworks used to be executed with manual labour, machinery contributing but a relatively small share. Some of the gigantic river valley projects which had been taken up during the last 10 years were complicated in design and machinery had been used to supplement manual labour and for ensuring greater speed and economy in execution. The emphasis had, however, been on the use of manual labour as far as possible.

In Western countries, he continued, manual labour was scarce and expensive whereas machinery was relatively cheap. But in countries of the East the main consideration was the utilisation of the human resources as far as possible, by providing them with employment. In other words, in countries of this region, the balance between man and machine would have to be determined by the human factor. Where the cost of handling earth by traditional methods had gone up considerably, involving an inordinately long time to complete the works, a judicious combination of the use of manual labour and machinery to suit the economic conditions of the people was called for.

India, like some other countries in the Eastern region, the Minister observed, had not yet started the manufacture of heavy machinery and had to depend mostly on imported machinery which had to be paid for in foreign currency. In the present state of her economy, India could ill afford this drain on her foreign exchange resources, and had to restrict imports

to the barest minimum. Also, there was the question of spare parts which too had to be imported at considerable cost. So long as heavy earthmoving machinery was not indigenously manufactured, it would be in the interests of the economy of the countries of this region to continue to utilise idle manpower for earthwork as far as possible rather than go in for costly imported machinery, he added.

ECAFE REPORT ON MANUAL LABOUR

A report based on 10 papers received from Burma, Ceylon, China (Taiwan), Hong Kong, India, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, on manual labour and its more effective use in competition with machines for earthwork in ECAFE region was presented by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

The report pointed out that mechanisation, limited and controlled by technical and target considerations, should go hand in hand with manual labour operations in under-developed countries. This combination would lead to better use of existing resources and would help improve economic conditions in general. Further, there was greater scope for labour when use of the mechanical means was restricted for long leads and great lifts.

The techniques of operation, organisation and effective supervision were of equal importance, both in manual and mechanised earthmoving works.

The report added that time and motion study of different operations as also of the operational cycle of equipment would be of advantage.

OPTIMUM USE OF EQUIPMENT

The study placed special emphasis on optimum use of earthmoving equipment.

According to the Plant and Machinery Committee, set up by the Government of India, equipment, purchased for a project, should be utilised to the extent of 75% of its life on the project.

The percentage of utilisation rates of equipment in different countries showed wide variations ranging from 12 to 52 per cent. The report pointed out that there was considerable scope for improvement in this field in ECAFE countries.

Moreover, methods had to be evolved which would achieve not only the maximum but also the correct and efficient use of equipment. Grouping and synchronizing of operations of various equipment had to be constantly studied and improvements effected where possible.

The report also referred to the need for planning of operations for the construction and selection of equipment before a project was undertaken, standardisation of equipment and auxiliaries, and availability of trained personnel and maintenance facilities.

EXPERIMENTAL PILOT CENTRES

The Working Party on Earthmoving Operations drew up a scheme for establishing experimental pilot centres under varying conditions for study of earthmoving operations on those projects where manual labour was extensively employed. A pilot centre of this type was likely to be set up by the Rajasthan Canal Project where manual labour was largely used for earthmoving work.

The proposed centres would conduct experiments for selection of the right type of implements and tools to be used by manual labour for earthwork, and which were suited to varying job conditions, leads and lifts. A time-study of manual earthwork operations would also be undertaken with a view to avoiding wastage of time and improving performance of manual labour by raising output without any appreciable increase in capital investment. Further, the centres would undertake experiments for development of simple and rugged type of equipment for manual operations in difficult terrains.

A large number of implements of varied efficiency were at present in use by manual labour in Asia and the Far East, and it was felt that productivity of manual labour would be increased by proper choice and application of implements suitable to different conditions of labour and work.

Practical experiments would help in determining which particular implement was the most suitable for use by manual labour in given conditions.

It was expected that ECAFE and ILO would offer financial and technical assistance for establishing such centres in various regions in Asian and Far Eastern countries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

At the concluding session on September 14, the conference made a series of 15 recommendations. The Working Party recommended that manual labour should be employed in combination with animal and mechanical transport, such as animal-drawn carts, wheel-burrow and narrow-gauge trucks, hand-pushed, animal or loco-driven, as far as possible, in earthmoving operations in the ECAFE region. To raise the efficiency of this type of transport, pneumatic tyres and anti-friction bearings should be fitted to them, and steps taken to improve their loading and unloading.

BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS FOR HIGHER OUTPUT

It also recommended that in those ECAFE region countries where there was a general abundance of labour and a high rate of increase in population, manual labour should be employed to as large an extent as possible. Participation of labour of the locality would help the workers to acquire a feeling of being the beneficiaries of the project.

Recommending provision of fair wages, adequate welfare measures such as housing, recreation and medical facilities for the workers and their families and suitable safety measures and incentives, the Working Party observed that the objective should be to create a sense of satisfaction in the workers in the interests of increased production.

Further, it was suggested that it would be useful for research institutions in the ECAFE region to undertake studies of the design of construction equipment, which would permit greater utilisation of existing labour.

As a starting point a summary might be made of various methods improvised in the field, as reported by construction projects.

A number of recommendations dealt with various problems relating to use of mechanical equipment for earth moving work, such as its maintenance, repair and optimum use, with a view to bringing down operational costs.

The concluding recommendation of the Working Party stated that, even with the fullest degree of mechanisation, there was still a large scope for the use of manual labour for finish and detailed work. For this purpose, an exchange of information between the ECAFE countries had been suggested.

About 23 delegates from Australia, China (Taiwan), France, Iran, Japan, North Borneo, Republic of Viet Nam, Pakistan, Philippines, United Kingdom and U.S.S.R. participated in the meetings. The I.L.O., the International Federation of Free Trade Unions and the International Commission On Irrigation and Drainage — two non-governmental organisations — were also represented. The Indian delegation included Chief Engineers and other officers from the States and major projects in India who were engaged in earth moving operations.

The Third Regional Technical Conference of the ECAFE at Manila in 1957 held preliminary discussions on problems of earth moving operations in Asia and the Far East region, and suggested the convening of a Working Party to follow up these discussions.

Since many of the projects included in India's Second Plan involved large quantities of earthworking and the experience gained by participating nations would be beneficial to Indian engineers in improving and economising their working methods, the Government of India extended an invitation to ECAFE Secretariat and the Bureau of Economic Affairs for holding the Working Party in New Delhi.

The provisional agenda for the conference included problems of earth moving by manual operations in engineering works; problems of earth moving by methods involving mechanised operation; methods of improving performance and reducing costs in earth moving; and factors affecting the choice of manual and mechanised operations, and combination of both.

Discharged Workers From Bhakra

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 8 the Union Deputy Minister for Labour, Shri Abid Ali, stated that the number of workers to be discharged from the Bhakra Project up to December next would be 5,500. The phased programme of retrenchment would be as follows:

August, 1959	.. 2,000
September, 1959	.. 1,500
October, 1959	.. 1,000
Nov.-Dec., 1959	.. 1,000
	5,500

The State Co-ordinating Committee set up in Punjab decided to absorb these surplus workers in Bhakra Canals in Hissar District — 1,000; in Punjab Building and Roads Branch — 2,000; and in Rajasthan Canals — 1,000.

The possibility of absorbing unskilled workers as well as technical staff in the State Electricity Board, Government Transport Deparment, Nangal Fertilizers, Co-operative Sugar Mills and Capital Project were under examination.

The total number of workers expected to be discharged from the Bhakra Project would be about 11,000.

INSPECTORS FOR NEWSPAPER ESTABLISHMENTS

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 9 the Union Deputy Minister for Labour, Shri Abid Ali, said that according to information available, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Madras and Rajasthan and Delhi had already appointed inspectors for newspaper establishments. West Bengal had also sanctioned a post of inspector.

The implementation of the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act was the responsibility of the State Governments. Information regarding the number of newspaper establishments which had implemented the provisions of the Act was not readily available, he added.

Membership Of Central T. U. Organisations

Replying to a short notice question in the Lok Sabha on September 12, the Union Deputy Minister for Labour, Shri Abid Ali, said that the membership figures claimed by I.N.T.U.C., A.I.T.U.C. and H.M.S., as on March 31, 1959 were:

Organisation	*No. of Unions*	*Membership*
I.N.T.U.C.	1,269	15,03,605
A.I.T.U.C.	1,338	10,82,572
H.M.S.	324	4,80,290

The U.T.U.C. had asked for time upto September 15, 1959 for submitting its membership figures and this had been allowed.

Asked about the actual membership of these organisations, Shri Abid Ali replied that verification of the figures, which was being done in consultation with the representatives of the Central Trade Union Organisations would take several months to complete.

Earlier in a written answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 4, the Deputy Minister stated that the verification of membership of the Central Trade Union Organisations had not yet been completed. The verification figures, as on March 31, 1958, forwarded to the organisations to enable them to submit their objections, if any, were:

I.N.T.U.C.	.. 8,98,527
A.I.T.U.C.	.. 5,17,306
H.M.S.	.. 1,84,084
U.T.U.C.	.. 80,345

Industrial Relations In June, 1959

According to the Labour Bureau, Government of India, there were 102 fresh industrial disputes in June, 1959, bringing the total numbes of disputes current at any time during the month to 154 including 26 lock-outs. In May there were 84 fresh disputes out of 131 disputes current. The average duration of disputes current at any time during June was 10.1 days as compared with 6.6 days in May.

Disputes terminated during June were 111 of which 71 lasted not more than 5 days each and 15 lasted for more than 30 days each.

During the month under review, time-loss of 6,60,017 out of the total of 7,88,798 i.e., 83.7% was accounted for by the Manufacturing industry group. Mining and Quarrying group came next with a time-loss of 73,316 man-days i.e., 9.3% of the total. Time-loss in other major groups of industries was comparatively low.

During June, Madras recorded the highest time-loss (3,78,212) followed by West Bengal (1,19,691), Bombay (85,482), Orissa (59,668) and Madhya Pradesh (36,306). Compared to the previous month, time-loss increased in Andhra, Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal, and decreased in all other States.

For the Manufacturing industry group, the index of industrial unrest (base 1951=100) for June wos 228 (provisional) as compared with 85 (provisional) for May, 1959.

Work Of Employment Exchanges In July

According to an announcement of September 6, Employment Exchanges helped secure jobs for 25,827 persons during July 1959 as compared with 26,531 in the previous month, thus recording a decrease of 704. The decrease in placements was marked in Uttar Pradesh, Bombay, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab.

Of the total number of placements during July, 4,818 were under the Central Government, 14,643 under State Governments, 3,912 under Quasi-Government establishments and local bodies and the rest under other employers.

During the month, 8,220 employers utilized the services of the Exchanges as compared with 7.795 during June. The number of vacancies notified by them to the Exchanges was 36,541, which was 4,838 less than the number of vacancies notified in June.

The number of persons who registered with the Exchanges during the month was 2,65,326 as compared with 2,29,802 in the previous month thus recording an increase of 35,524.

The number of applicants on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges at the end of July was 13,47,314. This was 59,531 more than the figure at the close of the previous month.

E. S. INSURANCE SCHEME

In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on September 4 the Deputy Minister for Labour said that the number of factory workers who were expected to be covered by the Employees' State Insurance Scheme by the end of 1959 would be 17.36 lakhs. Till the end of June, 1959, 14.14 lakh employees had actually been covered.

Consumer Price Index Numbers In July

Accordng to the Labour Bureau, Government of India, the Consumer Price Index Numbers for Working Class (base shifted to 1949=100 except where otherwise indicated) increased at 9 centres, declined at 2 and remained stationary at 3 during July, 1959.

The maximum rise of 3 points was recorded by the index number for Kharagpur, which stood at 111. The index number for Akola and Jabalpur appreciated by 2 points each to 108 and 110 respectively and for Ajmer, Dehri-on-Sone, Berhampur, Ludhiana, Bhopal (base 1951=100) and Satna (base 1953=100) by one point each to 105, 100, 116, 101, 114 and 102 respectively. In this group of centres, the food group index numbers appreciated at all the 9 centres, the fuel and lighting group index numbers at 4 centres, the clothing group index numbers at 3 centres and the miscellaneous group index numbers at 5 centres.

The index numbers for Cuttack and Tinsukia declined by one point each to 122 and 115 respectively mainly due to a recession in the miscellaneous group index number in the former and in the food group index number in the latter.

The index numbers for Delhi, Monghyr and Mercara (base 1953=100) showed only fractional variations and stood at 117, 101 and 125 respectively. The provisional index numbers for Jharia, Gauhati and Silchar stood at 106, 97 and 114 respectively.

The provisional all-India index number appreciated by 2 points to 123 during July, 1959.

The States

PLAN PUBLICITY IN ANDHRA PRADESH

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on September 9 the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Dr. B.V. Keskar, stated that during the year 1958-59 the Andhra Pradesh Government incurred an expenditure of Rs. 3.32 lakhs on Plan publicity, and the corresponding Budget grant for 1959-60 was Rs. 12.37 lakhs. He pointed out that Plan publicity in the States was mainly the function of the State Government concerned.

He added that under the Integrated Publicity Programme for the Second Plan, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was also responsible for giving general publicity to the Plan and the development works included therein on all-India basis, through its various Media Units.

Aquisition of Land In Delhi

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on September 8 Shri K.C. Reddy, Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, said that 4,937.70 acres of agricultural land had so far been acquired for colonisation in the Union Territory of Delhi since Independence. Of this, 4,206.24 acres were acquired for Government and statutory bodies and 731.46 acres for house building co-operative societies. No land was given in exchange.

Consumer Price Index For Delhi In August

According to the Labour Bureau, Government of India, the Consumer Price Index Number for Working Class for Delhi (base shifted to 1949=100) appreciated by one point to 118 during August 1959.

The fuel and lighting group index number appreciated by 4 points mainly due to a rise in the price of firewood. The clothing group index number advanced by 3 points due to higher quotations for dhoti, long-cloth, khadi and shirting. The food and the miscellaneous group index numbers remained stationary.

On base 1944=100, the consumer price index number for Delhi for August 1959 was 156.35 as compared with 154.82 for the previous month.

On base shifted to August 1939=100, the consumer price index number for Delhi for August was 407.76. This was 3.99 points higher than the figure for the previous month.

ASSENT TO PUNJAB BILL

The President, says an announcement of September 1, has given assent to the Essential Commodities (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 1959, meant to prevent the smuggling out of controlled foodstuffs from the State.

The Essential Commodities Act, 1955, enables a court to order forfeiture of any essential commodity in respect of which an offence has been committed under the Act. There is no provision in the Act for the forfeiture of packages containing such commodities or the conveyances used in carrying such commodities.

The amending Bill empowers courts to order forfeiture of such packages and conveyances used in respect of foodstuff.

Defence

DEFENCE PRODUCTION CONFERENCE

Inaugurating a week long session of the second Defence Production Conference in New Delhi on August 27 the Defence Minister, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, revealed that production in the Ordnance Factories during 1956-57, including that for civil consumption was to the tune of Rs. 14.19 crores, while in 1957-58 it went up to Rs. 18.08 crores. In 1958-59, materials worth Rs. 21 crores were produced in the Ordnance factories.

The Minister also disclosed that the Bharat Electronics (Private), Ltd., produced components and equipment worth nearly Rs. 64.57 lakhs during 1958-59, representing 90 per cent of the target, compared to Rs. 27.88 lakhs in 1957-58 and Rs. 5 lakhs in 1956-57. Production to the value of Rs. 1 crore was planned for 1959-60, and the achievement of this target would result in considerable saving in foreign exchange.

During 1958, as many as 30 additional items of arms and ammunition were either under development or in the process of production. The savings in foreign exchange, as a result of increased reduction in the import of weapons and ammunition from the U.K. and elsewhere, during 1957-58 and 1958-59 was of the order of Rs. 7 crores. The civil trade output in the Ordnance Factories alone was nearly Rs. 6½ crores, making in all a saving of about Rs. 13.5 crores in foreign exchange.

Shri Menon expressed gratification that 95 per cent of the defence requirements of general stores, such as textiles, clothing, mechanical and chemical stores, steel and other ferrous and non-ferrous material, petrol and lubricants, leather goods and a variety of other miscellaneous items, were already being met by the defence industries as well as the public and private sectors.

He pointed out that today there was an increasing appre-

ciation and growing realisation in the Armed Forces of the value of weapon research. They had, during the last two or three years, built a capacity to absorb the results of development. With the advance of technology, there was now a very thin line between manufacture and maintenance.

Addressing the Conference on August 31, the Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, emphasised that the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force could be first-rate Services only if they kept pace with modern technology. It was no good at all if they completely relied on arms, ammunition and other equipment purchased from abroad. It should be an axiom for them that a second-rate or even a third-rate defence equipment manufactured in the country itself was much better than a first-rate weapon imported from a foreign country, which it might be difficult to obtain when it was most needed in an emergency.

He emphasised that every effort should be made to produce items which were of a general and common use. They could no longer afford to keep on sending large sums of money to other countries for arms purchase. He pointed out that India could not afford to have a large Army, Navy or Air Force, but they could certainly be efficient and competent Services on the technical and scientific front. He expressed satisfaction that, in recent years, a great push had been given by the Defence Ministry for the indigenous manufacture of arms and ammunition as also items of civilian consumption in the Ordnance Factories.

NAVAL EQUIPMENT

Addressing the Conference on the same date the Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice-Admiral R.D. Katari, emphasised the need for initial concentration on the production of a small range of selected machinery or equipment indigenously, and gradually widening the sphere of production to embrace major projects.

Briefly outlining the complexity of a host of naval items — electronic, electrical and mechanical — required by different types of warships, the Admiral said that one of the main objects was to ensure their quality and serviceability and, above all, safety of the user. The success of indigenous production, he felt, depended, to a large extent, on proper co-ordination and good relations between the scientist, the producer, the inspector and the user.

The Conference was attended by representatives of the Production and Inspection Organisation, the Research and Development Organisation, and the three Defence Services. It reviewed one-year progress in defence production. There were nearly a dozen panels to deal with subjects like armaments and explosives, electrical equipment, medical stores, electronics, communications and radar, aircraft and ground equipment, food production and preservation, breeding of livestock, re-utilisation of surplus stores and metallurgy.

The conference concluded on September 2.

Land-Air Warfare School

The Union Defence Minister, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, inaugurated the Land-Air Warfare School in Secunderabad on September 3. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Bhimsen Sachar.

The Defence Minister emphasised the need for an integrated command in the Armed Forces and the value of inter-service and interdepartmental co-operation. He pointed out that the three main roles of the Defence Services were to guard the frontiers of India, to go to the aid of civil power in times of national emergency, and to discharge such international obligations as the country may accept.

The Land/Air Warfare School is the only one of its kind in Asia. The School will train Army and Air Force officers in the principles, techniques and planning necessary for the three main categories of joint operations by air and ground forces. These are close air support, air transport support and air defence. This is the first inter-Service institution in the country which will be managed and run by the Air Force.

It was only a year ago that it became possible for Government to give a tangible shape to this idea of joint operations by the Indian Army and Air Force by establishing a separate school for specialised studies in this field of modern warfare. During the past 12 months, this institution has been busy compiling curricula for academic and field studies, lectures, instructional material and training exercises, and selecting instructional staff from the Army and the Air Forces.

In modern wars one of the main tasks of the air force of a nation is the execution of operations to help and support ground forces which will create favourable conditions for the successful conduct of war. To achieve this aim, both the army and the air force must jointly engage in what is called land/air warfare. And to obtain any measure of success during actual combat, the two Services must train for such combined warfare in peacetime. Both the army and air force commanders must fully understand the principles, techniques, organisation and planning of land/air operations so that they can competently appreciate the operational scope of the sister Services for efficient application of knowledge in any concrete war situation.

The role of the School of Land/Air Warfare is thus to train Army and Air Force officers in the doctrine and planning of joint operations by air and ground forces, namely close air support, air transport support and air defence. The School is, therefore, organised into three "wings" corresponding to these three distinct categories. Likewise, the instructional staff of the School is drawn from the two Services. Its Commandant, Air Commodore K.L. Sondhi, is a graduate of the RAF Staff College, Andover.

Though modelled on the corresponding institutions in other countries, the School is adapted to train officers in conditions obtaining in this country to be able to meet the nation's own defence requirements.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER 1 TO 15

September 1 — The President of Pakistan, General Ayub Khan, has informal talks with Prime Minister Nehru during a halt at Palam airport in New Delhi

2 — Prime Minister Nehru makes a statement in Parliament on the resignation, subsequently withdrawn, of General Thimayya, Army Chief of Staff

— The Lok Sabha begins a two-day debate on the Parliamentary Committee's Report on the Official Language Commission's recommendations

3 — The Union Defence Minister, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, opens the Land and Air Warfare School at Secunderabad

— The Union Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai inaugurates the first meeting of the Customs and Central Excise Advisory Council in New Delhi

5 — Prime Minister Nehru opens the thirteenth meeting of the National Development Council in New Delhi

6 — A seven-member Iraqi trade delegation arrives in Bombay

— The reconstitution of Central Social Welfare Board is announced

7 — Prime Minister Nehru submits to the Lok Sabha a White Paper containing notes and letters exchanged between India and China and agreements signed by the two countries from 1954 to 1959

— The Prime Minister of Bhutan, Mr. Jigme Dorji, arrives in New Delhi

— The Union Minister of Irrigation and Power, Hafiz Mohd. Ibrahim, inaugurates a one-week conference of Working Party on Earth Moving Operations, jointly convened by ECAFE and the U.N. Bureau of Economic Affairs in New Delhi

8 — The Lok Sabha approves the Government of India resolution on the reports of the Vivian Bose Board of Inquiry and the U.P.S.C. on certain transactions of the L.I.C.

— The Rajya Sabha begins a two-day debate on the Parliamentary Committee's Report on the Official Language Commission's recommendations

— The tenth meeting of the All-India Council of Sports is held in New Delhi

9 — The Prime Minister of Mongolia, Mr. Yumjagiin Tsedenbal, arrives in Calcutta on a seven-day visit to India

10 — The Union Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, leaves New Delhi for Bombay on a six-week tour abroad

— The first meeting of secretaries of recognised forward markets is held in Bombay

11 — The Rajya Sabha approves the policy of the Government of India regarding the frontier problem between India and China

— The Constitution of a Posts and Telegraphs Board is announced

— The Rajya Sabha approves the Government of India resolution on the reports of the Vivian Bose Board of Inquiry and the U.P.S.C. on certain transactions of L.I.C.

— The Rajya Sabha adjourns *sine die*

12 — The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, inaugurates the meeting of the Import Advisory Council in New Delhi

— The Lok Sabha approves the policy of the Government of India with regard to the frontier problem between India and China

— The five-week monsoon session of the Lok Sabha concludes

13 — The Export Promotion Advisory Council meets in New Delhi

14 — Prime Minister Nehru leaves New Delhi on a four-day visit to Afghanistan and Iran

15 — The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, inaugurates the experimental television service of All India Radio in New Delhi

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Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, presiding over the meeting of the Import Advisory Council in New Delhi on September 12

Shri Patanjali Shastri addressing the first meetting of the Central Sanskrit Board in New Delhi on September 2

Shri Morarji Desai, Union Finance Minister, prior to his departure from Palam airport on September 10 on a six-week foreign tour

Hafiz Mohd. Ibrahim, Union Minister of Irrigation and Power, inaugurating the conference of the Working Party on Earth Moving Operations, jointly convened by ECAFE and the U. N. Bureau of Economic Affairs, in New Delhi on September 7

Regd. No.
D—940

A Programme being rehearsed in the T.V studio

A.I.R. LAUNCHES T.V. SERVICE

The experimental television service, which was inaugurated by the President of India on September 15 in New Delhi, was started as part of the Research Division of A.I.R. The T.V. programmes will be telecast twice a week by four T. V. cameras from the Akashvani Bhavan in New Delhi. Fourteen T. V. sets have already been installed in rural and urban areas of Delhi and seven in schools. Twenty tele-clubs have been organised to register popular reactions to such programmes.

T.V. artists on the stage with the cameraman facing them

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Sardar Swaran Singh, Union Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, presiding over a meeting of the Coal Council of India in New Delhi on September 21

Shri K.B. Lall, Director-General of Foreign Trade and leader of an Indian trade delegation to Europe, prior to his departure from Delhi on September 27

Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh, Chairman of the Central Social Welfare Board, addressing the first meeting of the recently reconstituted Board in New Delhi on September 28

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COVER : The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, is greeted by students of the Maharani Usharani Girls High School at Domraon (Bihar) when he visited the school on October 3.

(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

JOINT STATEMENT OF PRIME MINISTERS OF INDIA AND MONGOLIA

The Ministry of External Affairs released on September 16 the following Joint Press Communique issued by the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's Republic, His Excellency Mr. Yumjagiin Tsedenbal, on the conclusion of the latter's visit to India:

On the invitation of the Government of India, His Excellency Mr. Yumjagiin Tsedenbal, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's Republic, paid a friendly visit to India from the 10th to the 16th September, 1959. During his visit to India he called on the President and the Vice-President of India and had discussions with the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.

During his stay in Delhi and visits to Agra, Bangalore and Bombay the Mongolian Prime Minister saw some of the ancient cultural monuments and a number of industrial and agricultural enterprises and scientific institutions.

The discussions between the two Prime Ministers were friendly and cordial. This exchange of views covered economic development of the respective countries and important current international problems. Both the Prime Ministers agreed that international problems should be resolved by peaceful methods and in a spirit of mutual understanding. They re-affirmed their strong belief in the principles of peaceful co-existence. They stated that agreement should be reached without further delay on the suspension of tests to be followed by prohibition of production, use and tests of nuclear weapons. This should be a part of general disarmament and the ending of cold war.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the forthcoming exchange of visits between the Soviet Prime Minister and the President of the United States of America and sincerely hoped that these visits would bring about a general relaxation of international tensions.

The two Prime Ministers referred in the course of their discussions to the age-old contacts between their two countries and were happy to note that in recent years this contact has been renewed and strengthened on a new basis.

The Prime Minister of Mongolia extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India to visit Mongolia at a time convenient for him. The Prime Minister of India expressed his gratitude for the invitation and hoped that it may be possible for him to pay a visit to Mongolia.

JOINT STATEMENT BY PREMIERS OF INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN

The Prime Ministers of India and Afghanistan issued a joint statement on September 18 at the end of their talks in Kabul. Mr. Nehru and Sardar Mohammed Daud say it is a matter of continuing satisfaction to them that the relations between India and Afghanistan remain of the friendliest character. The policy of non-alignment which the two countries have adopted and actively pressed and their similarity of outlook on many matters of world importance have strengthened their relationship forged by history and traditional contacts through the centuries. They have agreed that these cordial relations should be sustained and enlarged by increased cultural co-operation and promotion of mutual trade.

Referring to the present talks between President Eisenhower and Mr. Khrushchev, the two Prime Ministers express the hope that these will promote mutual understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union, help reduce world tension and pave the way for a progressive solution of grave porblems that continue to pose a threat to the future of the world and of mankind.

They also welcome other favourable trends in the international scene like the move to break the deadlock in the disarmament discussions. However, the two Prime Ministers add, they cannot but be conscious of the existence of some international disputes and tensions. They reiterate their firm conviction that in the interest of world peace and humanity, all international disputes should be set tled by peaceful means alone and not through resort to arms.

They have also declared their full sympathy and continued support for the aspirations of peoples still under colonial rule and for their efforts to attain independence. They say that independence alone can ensure for these peoples opportunities for self-development and progress, as well as conditions of national equality which provide the fundamental basis for the promotion of international peace.

JOINT STATEMENT ON PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO IRAN

A joint statement issued at the end of Prime Minister Nehru's visit to Iran on September 22 expresses satisfaction over the efforts being made by the leaders of the world, especially the statements of the big powers to ease international tension. The statement says that the two Governments hope that these efforts will continue and lead to greater friendship, understanding and co-operation between the various Governments and their peoples.

It adds that Shri Nehru had cordial and friendly discussions with the Shah and the Prime Minister of Iran on problems of mutual interest, and, in particular, co-operation between the two countries in the economic and cultural fields. The statement expresses satisfaction over the revival and strengthening since 1947 of ancient contacts between India and Iran. The two Governments have agreed further to strengthen these ties.

The policy of the two Governments, the joint statement goes on, is based on respect for the principles of the U.N. Charter, non-aggression and non-interference in the internal affairs of any country, and good neighbourly relations between all nations of the world. It further says that both India and Iran are in need of peace to reconstruct their economy and provide a better living standard for their masses. It adds that during his visit, Mr. Nehru saw the progress being made in Iran in the social, educational and economic spheres under the inspiring and able guidance of the Shah.

International Court Of Justice Jurisdiction

The Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Shri C.S. Jha, filed India's declaration accepting the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice on September 14. The following is the text of the declaration:

I have the honour, by direction of the President of India, to declare on behalf of the Government of the Republic of India that they accept, in conformity with paragraph 2 of Article 36 of the Statute of the Court, until such time as notice may be given to terminate such acceptance, as compulsory *ipso facto* and without special agreement, and on the basis and condition of reciprocity, the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice over all

disputes arising after the 26th January 1950 with regard to situations or facts subsequent to that date, other than:

(1) disputes, in regard to which the Parties to the dispute have agreed or shall agree to have recourse to some other method or methods of settlement;

(2) disputes with the Government of any State which, on the date of this Declaration, is a Member of the Commonwealth of Nations;

(3) disputes in regard to matters which are essentially within the jurisdiction of the Republic of India;

(4) disputes concerning any question relating to or arising out of belligerent or military occupation or the discharge of any functions pursuant to any recommendation or decision of an organ of the United Nations, in accordance with which the Government of India have accepted obligations;

(5) disputes in respect of which any other party to a dispute has accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice exclusively for or in relation to the purposes of such dispute; or where the acceptance of the Court's compulsory jurisdiction on behalf of a party to the dispute was deposited or ratified less than twelve months prior to the filing of the application bringing the dispute before the court; and

(6) disputes with the Government of any State with which, on the date of an application to bring a dispute before the Court, the Government of India has no diplomatic relations.

Protection Of Cultural Property In Wartime

It has been announced on September 24 that details of the Instrument of Accession to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, which was signed at The Hague by representatives of the Government of India and of certain other States, are now available.

Recognising that cultural property has suffered grave damage during recent armed conflicts and that, by reason of the developments in the technique of warfare, it is in increasing danger of destruction, the contracting parties have agreed to take effective measures to ensure the preservation of the cultural heritage which is of great importance for all peoples of the world.

The Convention comprising 40 articles, divided into seven chapters, was adopted by a special conference convened by the UNESCO at The Hague on the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands from April 21 to May 14, 1954. For the execution of this Convention, the conference also adopted the regulations which run to 21 articles dealing with the organisation of control, the functions of the Commissioner-General, the compilation of an international register of cultural property and the affixing of the distinctive emblem.

The Government of India have signed the Convention and the Protocol and also confirmed and ratified them to which the President gave his signature on May 23, 1958.

CONTROL ON STAFF EXPANSION

An announcement of September 15 says that in an effort to promote general efficiency and effect economy in the Government offices, the Union Home Minister, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant, has urged the Central Ministries "to keep the staff expansion under firm control."

In a note circulated to the Central Ministries, the Home Minister has expressed the view that offices generally carry considerable amount of excess staff particularly in the lower and intermediate ranges. The scope of Government's activities, he adds, has no doubt expanded many-fold but the accretion of staff has generally been in excess of what the work would require.

DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY

The Home Minister, according to the note, is aware of agencies like the Organisation and Methods Division (O & M) and Services Reorganisation Unit (SRU) which carry out examinations of staff position. But it is recognised that the most effective check on the growth of staff "comes from within the department itself and is not so much the result of an outside team."

Shri Pant has observed that it may be possible that the excessive staff had been brought about by the process of engaging extra hands for every new bit of work when it could have been entrusted by re-distribution or some measure of reorganisation to an existing unit.

There is also the question of the distribution of staff as between an office or agency of Government which is primarily engaged on field work and the agency or office which is primarily concerned with policy making and other functions of the secretariat character. The excessive growth of staff in the latter has perhaps also the effect of encouraging centralisation.

In a meeting of senior officers—the decisions of which have been circulated to other Union Ministries—the recent decision of the Union Home Ministry that in future whenever any piece of work crops up, it should be entrusted normally to existing personnel by suitable re-distribution rather than by creating new posts, has been endorsed. This decision follows Shri G.B. Pant's recent suggestion that there be firm control on staff expansion.

It has also been agreed that there be, by convention, a "self-denying ordinance" whereby existing vacancies will not be filled up at least for some time to come.

NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TO WORK

Regarding Shri Pant's observation that there was a negative attitude to work and a general lack of initiative, particularly among officers of intermediate grades, it has been agreed that such "psychological failings" could be, to a great extent, corrected by proper training and guidance. The senior officers should provide the necessary guidance so as to improve the quality of performance of the other officers. In this connection, particular attention should be paid to the elimination of indefinite, vague and unnecessary references to other Ministries.

As already laid down in the Manual of Office Procedure references to other Ministries even where necessary, should be in self-contained notes setting out clearly the points on which the advice of the other Ministry was required. It has been suggested that wherever it was necessary to discuss cases with officers and other Ministries it would be useful to set out in advance the points for discussion so that there may not be any delay in reaching final conclusions.

So far as enhanced delegation of powers within the Ministry proper is concerned, the senior officers point out that each case would require to be considered on merits. However, enhanced financial, administrative and cognate powers have already been delegated to all Union Territories so as to eliminate delay.

Officers From States

According to an announcement of September 30, the Central Government requisitioned the services of 105 I.C.S. and I.A.S. officers during the two years ending March 31, 1959. Fiftynine officers were assigned to secretariat posts. During the same period 16 State Civil Service officers were also appointed at the Centre.

Normally, an officer borne on the State Cadre is appointed an Under Secretary for three years, a Deputy Secretary for four years and a Joint Secretary for five years.

The Government of India, in consultation with the State Governments, has already created an Administrative Pool to draw officers for staffing senior posts at the Centre. The purpose is to build up a reserve of officers with special training and experience for economic administration and for maintaining continuity of knowledge and experience in the field of general administration.

SPECIAL RECRUITMENT TO C. S. S.

Twenty- three persons, says an announcement of September 19, have been appointed probationers in Grade III of the Central Secretariat Service on the results of the Indian Administrative Service (Special Recruitment) Examination, 1956.

At the time of the Special Recruitment to I.A.S. the Union Government decided to offer some Grade III posts in the Central Secretariat Service to candidates who qualified in the Examination but did not secure sufficiently high rank to be absorbed in the Indian Administrative Service.

Special recruitment to the Indian Administrative Service was undertaken in 1956 primarily to cope with the increased demand for administrative officers at the Centre as well as to fill existing gaps in the State cadres.

The increased manpower requirements for the country's plans also necessitated revision of various all India services cadres to provide larger deputation quotas for the Centre. In addition, the State Governments needed more officers for their development activities.

Two modes of selection were prescribed: selection from the state services and recruitment from the open market through competitive examination.

More than 22,000 applicants sought admission, of whom 20,711 were found eligible. Of these, 17,559 took the written test. About 1250 candidates were called for interview.

Increase Of Working Days In High Courts

According to an announcement of September 23 every High Court in India has added, on an average, 15 working days to its earlier schedule of 185 to 195 working days in 1957. The period of vacation has been reduced and the number of working days increased. In the last three years, the combined gain of all the High Courts comes to about 223 working days, almost 7½ months.

STATE-WISE GAIN

Comparing the figures of 1957 with those of the current year, the increase of days made by individual High Courts is: Allahabad — 19, Andhra Pradesh — 13, Assam — 18, Bombay — 24, Calcutta — 7, Kerala — 17, Madhya Pradesh — 16, Madras — 17, Mysore — 2, Orissa — 31, Patna — 12, Punjab — 22, and Rajasthan — 25.

The increase follows a circular letter sent to the State Governments requesing them to send proposals in consultation with the High Courts for the fixation of vacations. In formulating their proposals, the State Governments were asked to consider the suggestion that the period of vacation in the calendar year be six weeks ,with not less than 210 sitting days.

NUMBER OF WORKING HOURS

As regards working hours for High Courts, the Law Ministers' Conference held in September 1957 had recommended that the number be 5½. This suggestion was communicated to the State Governments for being brought to the notice of the High Courts.

The High Courts of Orissa and Rajasthan have increased the number of working hours from 5 to 5½. In Andhra Pradesh and Madras High Courts, the number of working days are 5½. In Assam High Court, the number of working hours has been increased from 4 to 4¾. In all other High Courts, namely, Allahabad, Bombay, Calcutta, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Patna and Punjab, the number of working hours is 5 as before.

The increase in the number of working days and hours is a sequel to efforts made towards clearing arrears of cases pending before the High Courts. The question was first taken up in 1949 when a committee, called High Court Arrears Committee, was set up under the chairmanship of Shri S.R. Das, till recently the Chief Justice of India. The Committee recommended, among other things, that the High Courts increase their working days to 200 per year.

The matter was taken up by the Home Minister at the two conferences of Chief Ministers of States held in June and September 1957. It was also discussed at the Law Ministers' Conference held in September 1957 and the Chief Justices' Conference held in October 1957.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF M.P. HIGH COURT

Shri Justice Purushottam Vinayak Dixit, Judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court in succession to Shri Justice Ganesh Prasad Bhutt, who is to retire, reads an announcement of September 18. The appointment takes effect from September 22.

Special Judges For Corruption Cases

According to an announcement of September 29, five States — Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Madras — have appointed whole-time Special Judges to deal exclusively with the cases of Special Police Establishment.

This follows a request made by the Union Home Ministry to the various States. The purpose is to remove the delay in trials because of the court's pre-occupation with cases of murder, dacoity or others in which the accused persons are in jail custody.

As a general rule, wholetime Public Prosecutors of the Special Police Establishment are to conduct S.P.E. cases in the courts of Special Judges and Magistrates. Only in a few exceptional cases special counsels are to be engaged. In appeals and revisions coming up before the High Courts, the State Advocates-General or their deputies will, as at present conduct the S.P.E. cases.

The S.P.E., which is engaged in combating offences of bribery, corruption, misconduct, misappropriation, cheating, forgery, etc., took up in 1958, 108 cases of bribery, 215 cases of corruption and misconduct, 260 cases of misappropriation, cheating and forgery, six cases respecting joint stock companies, 62 cases involving infringement of the Import-Export Regulations and 241 cases of cheating and forgery in the import-export trade.

Work Of Special Police In August

According to the monthly report of the Special Police Establishment of the Union Home Ministry, open enquiry was launched against 84 Government servants, including 16 gazetted officers, during August this year.

Among the gazetted staff arraigned were: one Commissioned Officer; three belonging to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; three Engineers of the C.P.W.D.; two each from the Railways, Delhi Municipal Corporation, Customs, and Hirakud Dam, and one from the Indian Airlines Corporation. In five cases, four Railway employees and one of C.P.W.D. were actually caught taking bribe.

PROSECUTIONS

Investigation was also finalised and prosecution launched against 19 Government servants for bribery, corruption, cheating and criminal breach of trust. In addition, 24 cases involving 4 gazetted officers and 34 other employees were reported to the department concerned for suitable action.

CONVICTIONS

One gazetted officer and 10 other Government servants and two private individuals were sentenced to imprisonment and to fines totalling Rs. 6,450.

In one case, an Income-Tax officer of Bombay was convicted and sentenced to 18 months R.I. for cheating, bribery and corruption. In another, an Accountant-cum-Cashier in the Office of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Ambala was convicted and sentenced to 2 years R.I. and a fine of Rs. 2,000 for misappropriation of Government money.

DEPARTMENTAL ACTION

Departmental action was taken against 45 other Government employees. One gazetted officer has been reduced in pay and four officials of the Air India International have been warned and conveyed the displeasure of the Corporation.

Of the non-gazetted officers, 14 were either dismissed or removed from service, 17 were reduced in pay or had their increments withheld and nine were otherwise punished.

ELECTION SYMBOLS

A Press Note issued by the Election Commission on September 29 says that the Commission has issued a revised and consolidated notification regarding the choice of symbols by candidates at parliamentary and assembly elections. This supersedes the Commission's previous notification of May 12, 1958.

The symbols reserved for the various political parties which have been recognised by the Commission for this purpose, either on an all-India basis or in specified States, remain the same as before. Sixteen such 'reserved symbols' are listed in the notification, four of them for all-India parties and twelve for the State parties.

Candidates not sponsored by any recognised political party may make their choice from seven 'other symbols' which are 'Boat', 'Camel', 'Flaming Torch', 'Flower', 'Scales', 'Spade and Stoker', and 'Twig with two leaves.'

NINTH SESSION OF SECOND LOK SABHA

It has been decided that the Ninth Session of the Second Lok Sabha will commence on Monday, the 16th November, 1959, says a Press Communique issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat on September 22.

Planning & Finance

SHRI S.N. MISHRA'S ADDRESS TO PLANNING FORUM

In an address delivered to the Delhi University Planning Forum on September 12, on the occasion of the National Plan Day, which was celebrated by over 300 Planning Forums all over India, Shri S.N. Mishra, Deputy Minister for Planning, said that although the challenges of the Third Plan would be conditioned by the economic, social and political situation obtaining when it commences, they would also arise out of the unsolved problems of the Second Five Year Plan. Though it remained to be seen how far the Third Plan would be in the same mould as the Second and again how far such a mere extension would be satisfactory, the element of continuity enabled us to anticipate some of the challenges that would have to be met in the Third Plan period on the basis of the experience of the Second Plan, he said.

He emphasised that the level of food production was the greatest limiting factor on the size of our Plans. In an agricultural country like India, the core of the general price structure was the price of food and, therefore, the food problem was intimately linked with the problem of holding the price line. Conserving the food resources and expanding production were the only possible solutions. State trading in foodgrains, which was meant for the most effective distribution of available food resources, had to be made a success. People should also show the willingness to change their food habits in a difficult situation like the one faced by the country. The long-term solution was increase in production and this was hoped to be achieved by linking credit with production and marketing and fostering the development of Service Co-operatives. The target was three lakh co-operatives and for running them we would need to train at least two million people.

Referring to the foreign exchange problem, Shri Mishra said that our expanding economy needed more imports to maintain it and, therefore, the foreign exchange problem was going to be acute in the Third Five Year Plan. The normal foreign exchange earnings of India would be needed to maintain the economy and, therefore, we were going to face difficulties in servicing the debts in terms of payment of interest and repayment of capital. He suggested that there should be an endeavour to manage without food imports, consume less of commodities like sugar which could be exported for earning foreign exchange, and to do without luxury goods.

Since it was clear that India could not lean heavily on foreign assistance, the mobilisation of domestic resources would have to be stepped up, and at a steep rate too. Pockets of economic surplus would have to be mobilised first, but here also handicaps were faced because many sectors of the economy were not fully organised. Indian agriculture, distributive machinery and construction could not be called properly organised sectors and, therefore, they created problems in mobilising resources.

While pockets of economic surplus would engage first attention, Shri Mishra emphasised that everyone should make one's contribution. Besides economic reasons, there were impressive social and political reasons for insisting on this. Economic emancipation was the logical next step to political emancipation and, therefore, the masses should play the role in the battle against poverty. Secondly, if there was reliance solely on big capital for financing the Plans, the sheer logic of the situation would compel that class to be nursed into higher affluence and this had serious and possibly unsuspected consequences in terms of the social order that had been envisaged. He stressed that mobilising the resources in the rural areas was not so much a problem of the mathematics of taxation as of social engineering. While methods like increasing the land revenue could be explored, perhaps it would be better to think in terms of cesses for specific purposes like, for instance, a New Village Cess which would convince the villager that his contribution would return to him in increased amenities especially for production. According to Shri Mishra, the greatest challenge of the Third Five Year Plan would be the planning of the rural sector.

Shri Mishra concluded by stressing the importance which should be attached to the emotional appeal of the content of Plans. Deploring the pervasive dualism in the national psychology which made people call for bigger and better plans without creating an associated willingness to make greater and greater effort. Planning in a democracy like India could not be mechanistic a matter of purely material inputs and outputs. It had profound psychological significance and one of the greatest challenges in planning was the creation of the requisite emotional temper, needed in the large scale reconstruction of national life.

Increase In India's Quota To I. M. F.

The Government of India will be making a gold contribution of $ 50 million to the International Monetary Fund towards their increased quota, says an announcement of September 22.

The proposal that the quotas of member countries should be increased by 50 per cent was made at the New Delhi meeting of the Board of Governors of the Fund last year and the decision taken since then has come into effect.

India's quota has consequently increased by $ 200 million to $ 600 million. By the purchase of the first instalment of gold required for this purpose, India's foreign exchange reserves during the week ended September 18, 1959, fell by about Rs. 3 crores.

Although these purchases of gold will mean a fall in the foreign exchange reserves of India, there will be no depletion in her strength but the contrary, consequent on the increase in her I.M.F. quota and an increase in her gold deposit with the Fund.

Provision for the payment of subscription towards the increased quota was made in the budget for 1959-60 which has been approved by Parliament.

ANNUAL REPORT OF INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION

According to the 11th annual report of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India for the year ended on June 30, 1959, the gross income of the Corporation rose to Rs. 203.38 lakhs from Rs. 154.91 lakhs in the previous year. The net profit rose to Rs. 35.37 lakhs from Rs. 28.20 lakhs.

Loans worth Rs. 3.79 crores were sanctioned to 19 applicants from 6 industries bringing the total amount of loans sanctioned to 190 concerns since the inception of the I.F.C. in 1948 to Rs. 66.69 crores. As usual, the Corporation liberally sanctioned interim loans aggregating Rs. 4.25 crores during the year.

The third series of the Corporation's bonds issued in November 1958, which were thrown open to the public for the first time, were heavily over-subscribed on the opening day, the total amount of subscriptions being over Rs. 8 crores as against the sum of Rs. 4 crores for which the issue was made.

Repayment To Central Government

During the period under review, the report says, the Corporation repaid Rs. 5 crores to the Central Government, thereby reducing its borrowings from the Government to Rs. 10 crores. A sum of Rs. 3 crores was, however, subsequently drawn from the Central Government, raising the outstanding loans to Rs. 13 crores. These borrowigs continued to carry interest at 4½ per cent per annum.

Bonds

Borrowings from the Reserve Bank were sparingly availed of during the year mainly due to the success of the public issue of bonds, which were subscribed to the tune of Rs. 8.39 crores — i.e. Rs. 3.83 crores more than the previous year's subscriptions, even though the amount of issue in both the years was the same, viz. Rs. 4 crores. The maturity of the bonds was fixed at 10 years and the rate of interest offered was 4½ per cent. The issue price was 99 per cent.

The Corporation made allotments for a total sum of Rs. 4.38 crores, out of which the State Bank of India and the Life Insurance Corporation of India together received an allotment of Rs. 89.25 lakhs. The bulk of the allotment amounting to Rs. 3.49 crores was made to applicants from the private sector. The total amount of bonds outstanding at the end of the year aggregated Rs. 16.75 crores.

Gross Income

Out of the net income of Rs. 35.37 lakhs, Rs. 10 lakhs will be paid to the Central Government in order to reduce the Corpration's liability to Government on account of subvention drawn from them in previous years for the payment of the guaranteed dividend. Out of the balance of profit, Rs. 14.12 lakhs have been transferred to the General Reserve Fund which stood at Rs. 31.12 lakhs on June 30, 1959; Rs. 11.25 lakhs will be utilised for distribution among shareholders of the guaranteed dividend at 2¼ per cent on the paid-up share capital of Rs. 5 crores.

Loans

During the year, the Corporation sanctioned loans worth Rs. 3.79 crores on 19 out of 26 applications. The disbursements amounted to Rs. 7.48 crores. Compared to the previous year, the number of applications and the aggregate amount of loan applied for were less, principally because of the restrictions imposed by the Central Government on the issue of import licences. Nine loans aggregating Rs. 1.70 crores were sanctioned to co-operative societies. Of these, eight amounting to Rs. 1.45 crores were to co-operative sugar factories and the remaining one for Rs. 0.25 crore to a co-operative spinning mill. This brings the grand total of loans sanctioned to co-operative sugar factories to Rs. 14.69 crores and the total number of such recipients to 27 till the end of June, 1959.

Industries other than co-operatives which were sanctioned loans during the year were cement — Rs. 1.10 crores; cotton textiles — Rs. 40 lakhs; Iron and Steel (light engineering) — Rs. 33 lakhs; Mechanical Engineering — Rs. 20 lakhs and Electrical Engineering — Rs. 6 lakhs. The total amount of loans sanctioned to 190 concerns since the inception of the I.F.C. amounted to Rs. 66.69 crores. Of this, Rs. 44.43 crores was sanctioned to 107 new undertakings i.e. factories which went into production after August 15, 1947, and Rs. 22.46 crores to 83 old established undertakings for renovation, modernisation and expansion.

State-wise, Bombay was sanctioned the largest amount of loan (Rs. 19.50 crores) followed by Madras (Rs. 9.47 crores), West Bengal (Rs. 6.34 crores), Uttar Pradesh (Rs. 5.61 crores), Mysore

(Rs. 5.06 crores), Bihar (Rs. 4.98 crores), Kerala (Rs. 4.27 crores), Orissa (Rs. 3.77 crores), Andhra Pradesh (Rs. 3.10 crores), Punjab (Rs. 3.01 crores), Delhi (Rs. 20 lakhs) and Madhya Pradesh (Rs. 3.50 lakhs).

The total amount of interest charged on loans advanced since the inception of the I.F.C. was Rs. 7.03 crores of which Rs. 6.93 crores were actually received. The sum in default amounted to 1.4 per cent of the total amount due. The rate of interest remained unchanged at 7 per cent with the usual rebate of ½ per cent for payment of interest and repayment of instalments of principal on the due dates.

Review Of Industries

The report gives a general review of development of industries particularly in the fields in which the Corporation has advanced loans.

Despite the cuts in foreign exchange allocations, the year witnessed a further rise in output, an increase in industrial capacity, the setting up of new lines of production in many industries and the commencement of important new projects both in the public sector and in the private sector. However, there was decline in production in certain industries, the most important of which was the cotton textile industry; the main reason for the decline in production in this industry was a fall in consumer off-take resulting in the accumulation of stocks with mills. A fall in production was also recorded by the Automobile Industry, partly because of labour disputes and partly because of the cut in the foreign exchange for the import of raw materials and components. Likewise the shortage of foreign exchange reduced the availability both of steel as well as non-ferrous metals making it difficult for engineering industries to increase their output. However, in spite of difficulties of foreign exchange, the index of industrial production, if cotton textiles and sugar were excluded, showed an increase from 153.6 in 1957 to 160.8 in 1958. If cotton textiles and sugar were included, the general index for the same periods showed an increase from 137.3 to 183.3.

The increase in production was partly due to better utilisation of existing capacity and partly to the increase in capacity resulting from programmes of expansion undertaken earlier. Many industrial goods began to be produced in the country for the first time in 1956, chief among which were compounded electroplating salts, activated carbon, sodium perborate and heat treatment salts, heavy industrial sewing machines, mercury vapour lamps, PVR insulated aluminium cables and mica insulating bricks for steel projects.

Output in the public sector undertakings also was satisfactory and in many instances an appreciable increase in production was recorded. The most significant increase in public sector factories compared with the previous year were in machine tools, Penicillin, and insecticides.

Deferred Payments

During the year, the Corporation received 11 applications for guaranteeing deferred payments to the aggregate extent of Rs. 10.51 crores in respect of machinery and equipment to be imported from abroad. Of these, seven had earlier been sanctioned loans by the Corporation and the remaining four were new applicants.

The Corporation sanctioned two applications, both of which were from existing borrower concerns, for guaranteeing deferred payments to the extent of Rs. 55 lakhs.

Five Crore Loan Floated By I.F.C.

According to a Press Note issued by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India on September 24, the I.F.C. had decided, with the approval of the Central Government and the Reserve Bank of India, to augment its resources by the issue of bonds for Rs. 5 crores. These bonds are fully guaranteed by the Central Government in regard to repayment of principal and payment of interest and are approved securities under the Indian Trusts Act, the Insurance Act and the Banking Companies Act. They will have a maturity of 12 years and carry interest at 4%. The issue price will be 99.75%.

The subscription list will open at the offices of the Reserve Bank of India in Bombay/Calcutta/Madras/Delhi/Bangalore, on October 5, 1959 and will close on October 12, 1959, or earlier, as soon as the issue is fully subscribed.

These bonds being eligible securities for purposes of advances to scheduled banks by the Reserve Bank of India under Section 17 (4) (a) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, and being also included in the list of approved securities of the State Bank of India should prove to be an attractive investment to institutional investors as also the general public.

The usual brokerage of 6 nP. per Rs. 100 will be paid to recognised brokers and banks on allotments made on applications bearing their stamp. Arrangements will be made for listing of the bonds with Bombay, Calcutta and Madras Stock Exchanges.

The Corporation has already issued three series of bonds for an aggregate amount of about Rs. 17 crores. The last issue of Rs. 4 crores in November 1958 was heavily over-subscribed even on the opening day, the total amount of subscriptions received being over Rs. 8 crores.

The Corporation, which was established under the Industrial Finance Corporation Act 1948, has, during the last 11 years, sanctioned loans aggregating about Rs. 67 crores on the security of fixed assets valued at much more than twice this amount. Besides granting loans, it has also underwritten the issue of shares and debentures and guaranteed deferred payments to foreign machinery suppliers.

The working results of the Corporation have been very satisfactory in as much as during the last two successive years it has not only been paying the guaranteed dividend on the shares out of its own profits but has also paid back to Government more than Rs. 15 lakhs out of the subvention drawn for payment of dividend during the earlier years.

Repayment Of Hyderabad Loan

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on October 1 says that the outstanding balance of the 2½ per cent Hyderabad Loan 1954-59 (H.E.H. the Nizam's Government 2½ per cent O.S. Rupee Loan 1364-69F), issued in O.S. Rupees in terms of the late Government of Hyderabad Finance Department Notification No. 23 dated September 10, 1944, is repayable at par on October 16, 1959, and no interest will occur thereon from that date.

Yellow Nickel Brass Coins

It has been announced on September 16 that all yellow nickel brass one-anna coins and all yellow nickel brass half-anna coins will cease to be legal tender when the demonetisation order of the Government of India comes into effect on January 1, 1960. Since the demonetisation decision was announced three months ago, the rate of return of these coins has been rather slow.

Withdrawal of these coins can be speeded up if they are not put back into circulation by parties who receive them. While these two coins will cease to be legal tender with effect from the New Year, they will continue to be accepted till June 30, 1960, at all offices of the Reserve Bank of India, at all agency banks of the Reserve Bank of India conducting Government business and at all Government treasuries and sub-treasuries. During this period, they will also be accepted at railway offices and post offices in payment of dues. Even after this date, until further notice these coins will continue to be accepted by the offices of the Issue Department of the Reserve Bank of India.

Commerce & Industry

EXPORT POLICY FOR MANGANESE ORE

The Government of India, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on September 30, have been concerned about the continuing decline in the export of manganese ore, which seems to have been largely due to continuous sluggishness in the ore markets of the world. Although there are some signs of revival of buying activity in foreign markets, it seems clear that owing to growing competition from new areas of supply determined efforts will be called for if the export of manganese ore is to be maintained and extended.

The efforts so far made by shippers, mine-owners and the State Trading Corporation to keep exports moving during a period of declining demand have been reviewed in consultation with the interests concerned. While it is clear that each shipper can, in his own way, help to stabilise exports, it is considered that only co-ordinated and concerted endeavours on their part can help to augment the country's exports in the near future. Government expect that the S.T.C. and established exporters and mine-owners will, in co-operation with one another, be able to devise ways and means so as to fortify the goodwill of our traditional buyers and inspire confidence in regard to our ability to maintain and develop an even flow of supply and to enter into long term forward bulk contracts at competitive prices.

Government are keen to ensure that the country's export policy is so designed as to promote maximum co-operation between all categories of shippers, facilitate bulk and long term contracting, and ensure smooth implementation of contracts and secure maximum utilisation of available rail and port capacity. Keeping these objectives in view, it has, after consultation with the trading and mining interests concerned, been decided that during the current year, ending September 30, 1960, export of manganese ore shall be regulated as follows:

(i) The established shippers and mine-owner exporters and the S.T.C. will be given an allotment of quota for a quantity equal to the quota for 1957-58.

(ii) Firms and parties, whose individual allotments are small, are advised to form co-operatives or limited companies.

(iii) In order to encourage small quota holders to form themselves into co-operatives or limited companies, it has been decided that where the total of the individual allotments of the firms and parties joining a particular co-operative or company aggregates to 25,000 tons, a bonus allotment of 20 per cent of the total will be given to the company or co-operative concerned.

(iv) Quota holders with past performance during the period 1957-58 in more than one sector will be given movement facilities *pro rata* to their past performance on each sector. In the event of availability of wagons in any particular sector falling short of the total movement quotas, preference will be given to requests from parties having firm sale contracts registered in advance with the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports concerned. In the event of the availability of wagons being in excess of the total of movement quotas in any particular sector, wagons will be allotted freely on demand, made against firm sale contracts.

(v) Exports of low grade manganese ore from Garividi, Srikulam, Bobilli, Salur, Raigada areas will be licensed freely on production of foreign sale-contracts as hitherto and of manganese ore analysing 40 per cent and below from loading stations of Dohad, Shivrajpur, Nathpuri and Pani in Panchmahal District of Bombay and Rajasthan States. Performance on these sectors will not qualify for movement facilities on sectors on which the railway capacity available is already fully extended.

(vi) Barter transactions or compensation deals will be serviced by the S.T.C. on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon between the Corporation and its business associates, who shall be drawn, to the extent practicable, from amongst exporters and mine-owners. Where the business associates, individual movement quota is not sufficient to cover the commitments under barter transactions, the S.T.C. will make its movement quota freely available for this purpose.

It has been represented that uncertainties in regard to quota policies or export duties make it extremely difficult for buyers and sellers to enter into forward contracts. Further, individual parties may not find it too easy to enter into forward contracts for bulk sales for deliveries extending over a number of years to producers or to big buyers pursuing a common purchase policy. Government have accordingly directed the S.T.C. to co-ordinate its activities with those of experienced exporters and to evolve, in co-operation with them, as its business associates, marketing and production programmes extending over three to five years in an effort to take full advantage of such business opportunities as may present themselves, and to develop enduring relationship with leading users and importers of manganese ore. Government propose to give full facilities for the due performance of overseas contracts entered into by the S.T.C. or its business associates in pursuance of such co-operative marketing programmes.

Coal Council Of India Meets

The Coal Council of India met in New Delhi on September 21. Sardar Swaran Singh, Union Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, presided. The Minister called upon the Council to consider the different aspects of coal production plans and advise how best these plans could be carried out with the maximum economy and efficiency.

Most of the problems of coal production in India were of a continuing character and, as such, it was necessary that the Council should make proper assessment of the achievement made so far and the steps to be taken in the future to ensure the attainment of targets of the Plan.

He said that there was no unit of industry or production in the country which was being starved of coal at present. All the same the matter needed to be kept under constant review.

While reviewing the progress of coal production that had been achieved so far, the Council was of the view that while the overall demands of the industry had been met so far, it was important to bear in mind that these demands were likely to grow considerably within the next few months, particularly in 1960-61. Production of cooking coal needed particular attention in view of the requirements of the steel plants.

Third Plan Targets

The tentative target for the Third Plan was discussed in some detail. The Council felt that for purposes of planning the requirement of coal should be placed at 110 million tons or an additional 50 million tons over the Second Plan target.

It was decided that a small committee with the Coal Controller as a convenor should go into the question of the pattern of production of the additional target from each of the coalfields and report to the appropriate committees of the Coal Council.

The Council considered the reports of its Committees, namely, those on Assessment of Resources, Requirements and Utilisation and Production and Preparations. It noted with interest the assessment of the requirements of mining machinery and equipment during the Third Plan period. The view taken was that the equipment planned to be produced at the Durgapur Mining Machinery Plant and other similar projects should be used in the coal and metaliferrous mines. Besides, the planners of coal mines should also give necessary guidance to these projects as to the type and quantity of various kinds of equipment to be manufactured.

As regards man-power requirements, the Council felt that the question of training junior technical personnel should be pursued with vigour and steps should be taken by collieries both in the public and private sectors to provide adequate facilities for such a training.

The Coal Council, which was set up in August 1956, conducts reviews and studies for planning of the development, utilisation and due conservation of the coal resources of the country.

The 11-member Council includes representatives of the concerned Central Ministries and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The private sector in the coal mining industry is also represented on the Council.

FOREIGN TRAINING FOR MINING ENGINEERS

The National Coal Development Corporation have drawn up a scheme for training of over 400 mining engineers and officers in foreign countries, it has been announced on September 16.

So far, 15 officers have been sent abroad. Of these, 13 were sent to the U.K. and one each to the U.S.A. and West Germany. Another 42 trainees are likely to be sent soon under different foreign aid programmes.

Four training schools have also been set up by the Corporation to meet the demand for junior technical personnel. The schools were opened in 1956 with an annual recruitment of over 400 students.

Bauxite Deposits In Bihar

The Geological Survey of India have traced promising deposits of bauxite in the Kharagpur Hills in Monghyr district of Bihar State. The deposits occur at elevations of 1,300 feet and above in the Maruk and Khapra Hills. The reserves are favourably placed in regard to transport, communications, water supply and power.

The Department has recommended detailed prospecting by pitting and trenching and systematic sampling in order to assess the potentialities of the area and the average grade and tonnage available of different grades.

Limestone Reserves In U.P.

In a publication recently brought out by the Geological Survey of India, economic potentialities of the quarriable limestone reserves in Dehra Dun-Mussoorie area of U.P. have been discussed.

The formation, estimated to contain nearly 403,759,700 tons, occurs in the hills near Sisoli about 8 miles as the crow flies to the east-north-east of Dehra Dun at the one end and runs in a general north-west direction along Sahasradhara, Jud, Kerwan, Oak Grove, Jharipani, Bhatta, Hathipaon and up to the Cloud End south of Mussoorie on the other.

The survey was undertaken in 1954 to map out in detail the high grade limestone formation for carrying out representative sampling to calculate the reserves. According to the report the high grade limestone in the Dehra Dun-Mussoorie area is suitable for the manufacture of calcium carbide so far as the chemical composition is concerned. It, however, needs to be investigated regarding its physical properties to form definite conclusions about its suitability for the purpose.

In the chemical industries, lime is an expensive and widely used base and causticizing agent, and is an important re-agent in a host of industrial processes. It is widely used as flux, a refractory and also in agriculture and construction. It is the chief raw material in the manufacture of portland cement. An important use of high grade limestone is in the sugar industry.

Iron Ore Deposits In Ratnagiri

In a report published recently by the Geological Survey of India the iron ore deposits at Redi Central Block in Ratnagiri district of Bombay State have tentatively been computed by the Geological Survey to be of the order of 25 million tons. The estimate of reserves in the rest of the area is rather difficult as it is under cover of either laterite or alluvium. The report adds that should an expectation regarding the extent of the iron ore horizon be fulfilled by he exploratory programme reserves of the order of 200-250 million tons are likely to be proved.

The nature and mode of occurrence as revealed by the Survey appear to be similar to those of the Goa iron ore deposits which have been mined on a comparatively large scale by mechanised means. The deposits have the advantage of being very favourably located for export trade, being within 3/4 miles from the Redi Port.

The working mines are mostly concentrated to the south of village Redi. The village and the mines are connected with the Taluk town of Sawantwadi by a motorable road of about 23 miles. The nearest railway station Belgaum, on the Poona-Bangalore section of the Southern Railway, is about 103 miles from the Redi village.

The area was surveyed by the Department in December-January 1958-59 in connection with the submission of a report on the reservation of suitable areas of iron ore and manganese ore for exploitation in the public sector.

IRON ORE PRODUCTION IN JULY

According to the Indian Bureau of Mines the output of iron ore during the month of July 1959 was estimated at 635,000 metric tons. The total production since the beginning of 1959 was 4,420,000 metric tons as compared with 3,549,000 metric tons in the corresponding period of 1958.

The largest output was reported from Bihar and Orissa with 294,000 metric tons and 195,000 metric tons respectively.

Among the minor producing states, Mysore, Madhya Pradesh and Bombay accounted for 58,000 metric tons, 34,000 metric tons and 19,000 metric tons respectively.

During the month despatches of iron ore to iron and steel plants and export market were 437,000 metric tons and 140,000 metric tons respectively.

Rising Demand For Special Steels

According to an announcement of September 15, India spent nearly Rs. 60 lakhs on the import of 1,121 tons of stainless steel in the first half of the year 1959. The quantity imported in the preceding year was 2,025 tons valued at Rs. 1,10,85,407. The import of tool and alloy steel during 1958 was 26,013 tons valued at Rs. 4,74,79,849. The demand of special steels, bulk of which has been met by imports, has been increasing steadily. The import of these categories was only 6,000 to 7,000 tons five or six years ago.

There is no capacity in the country at present for the production of stainless steel, excepting an annual production of nearly 2,000 to 3,000 tons of special steels including alloy steel, tool steel and die steel.

Judging by the likely tempo of development in the Third Plan the demand might grow over 50,000 tons by 1965.

The Government of India have already announced their decision to set up an alloy and special steel plant with a capacity of 40,000 tons of ingots per year in the public sector.

The plant to be put up in the public sector, is expected to yield about 25,000 tons of saleable special steel products with provision for expansion at a later stage to 80,000 tons of ingots.

The target of six million tons for steel, in the Second Plan, is primarily for ordinary steels produced by conventional processes in large integrated iron and steel works.

While the demand for such steels is large and production is generally undertaken in big integrated works, there are other steels usually called "alloy and special steels' which are required in relatively small quantities but in a variety of qualities. They generally have alloying elements other than carbon — e.g., nickel, chromium, vanadium — to give special properties to the steel.

Both because of the small quantities in which they are required and because of the high degree of quality control and finish which goes into the manufacture of these steels, they are not convenient of manufacture in integrated iron and steel works. It is usual to make these steels in electric furnaces and to roll them in special rolling mills.

The Ordnance factories which at present manufacture certain grades of special steels have a proposal to modernise and expand existing facilities. It has been agreed that no wasteful capacity should be set up in the country but there is room both for the expansion of existing facilities in the Ordnance factories and for a unit outside, primarily, to meet the demands of civilian industry.

Training Of Engineers For Steel Plants

An announcement of September 30 says that out of 923 engineers sent abroad by the Hindustan Steel, 636 have returned after completion of their training. Those sent to the U.S.S.R. numbered 311, to U.S.A. 299, U.K. 151, West Germany 109, Canada 1 and Australia 52.

Training facilities in the U.K., Canada and Australia have been arranged under the Colombo Plan. The training programme in the U.S.A. is being financed by the Ford Foundation and the T.C.M.

Expenses on account of the training in the U.S.S.R. will be paid in 12 annual instalments according to agreement entered into by the Government of India.

Besides deputing for training abroad, the Hindustan Steel is also arranging training at the existing steel works in the country.

The total number of engineers required for the operaion of the three plants in public sector is about 2,000.

Steel Rolling Mills At Rourkela

According to a Rourkela announcement of September 24 the biggest steel rolling mills buildings in Asia involving approximately 44,000 tons of steel was completed at the Rourkela Steel Project on September 24.

The buildings, which have been put up in record time of 18 months cover an area of 2,25,000 square meters with a length of 928 meters and breadth upto 336 meters. The crane ways and roof are supported by 510 columns. Most modern equipment was used to erect the massive steel structure and to finish it within the target date. More than 1,000 tons of tools and tackles, capable of lifting in one operation, parts of the structure upto a weight of 110 tons assembled on the ground, was brought here from West Germany for the erection operations.

IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY

For the rapid economic development of the country, India has to develop the metallurgical industries, particularly the manufacture and processing of iron and steel. The existing iron and steel works in Jamshedpur, Burnpur and Bhadravati have been expanded to produce three million ingot tons of steel. Three new steel plants in the public sector of a million tons each are coming up in Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur. The first blast furnaces of Rourkela and Bhilai have gone into production. Steel has begun to be produced in Rourkela.

India is already self-sufficient in foundry pig iron and as the rolling mills in the steel plants under erection are completed and go into operation, most of the pig iron would be converted into steel.

A production target of about ten million tons of steel and about one and a half million tons of pig iron in the Third Plan is currently being envisaged.

Import Licensing Policy For Iron And Steel

In a Public Notice issued at Calcutta on September 30, the Iron and Steel Controller announced the new Import Licensing Policy for iron and steel for the period October 1959-March 1960. It includes some new items like alloy and tool steels (except stainless steel sheets) and wire of all types which were not permitted during the last two licensing periods.

The notice adds that in order to meet the growing needs of industry and to ensure increased supplies of steel items, of which there is no production or inadequate production, import licences will be issued to Established Importers for (i) Industrial scrap, (ii) alloy and tool steels excluding stainless steel sheets, strip and circles; (iii) wire of all types, to the extent of seven and a half per cent of the base quota.

Imports will be allowed to be made by Actual Users for the following eleven categories: (i) Tinplate — Prime and secondaries, (ii) Terne plate — Prime and waste, (iii) wire (all types), (iv) box strappings, (v) Steel strips, tapes, etc., (vi) tool and alloy steels (except stainless steel sheets), (vii) stainless steel sheets, (viii) indusrial scrap, (ix) castings and forgings — unmachined, (x) re-rollable scrap, and (xi) mild steel items not normally rolled in the country (to be defined by the Iron and Steel Controller).

In regard to these eleven items, allocations will be made to various States on the basis of foreign exchange available and the State Directors of Industries will sponsor applications within their respective ceilings.

Import licenses will be issued for all categories in respect of the eleven items mentioned above to Actual Users on the basis of sponsored recommendations. But, in regard to (i) tinplate — prime and secondaries, (ii) skelp and strip, (iii) sheets for automobiles, drum-making and electrical steel sheets, and (iv) wire rod and wire, it is the intention that the requirements of the larger units, borne on the Development Wing's list, and of the oil industry, will be imported and distributed by the Iron and Steel Controller. Actual users, borne on the Development Wing's lists have been advised to submit indents in the prescribed form to the Development Wing by October 30, 1959.

As regards tool and alloy steel, except stainless steel sheets, licences will be issued for double the quantity sponsored by the appropriate sponsoring authority in the April-September 1959 period, with a view to meet the requirements of industrial units until September 1960. If this quantity is considered inadequate, actual users may submit supplementary demands after they are sponsored by the appropriate sponsoring authorities. The quantities so sponsored will be licensed in full. The Notice directs that applications from established importers should reach the Iron and Steel Controller or his Regional Officers by October 30, 1959 while those from actual users should reach the sponsoring authorities by October 30, 1959 who are required to forward the same with their recommendations to the Iron and Steel Controller or his Regional Officers by November 30, 1959.

Import Policy For Oct. 1959 To March 1960

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on September 30, gives cover to the Import Policy for the half-year, October 1959 to March 1960. The emphasis has been laid on the maintenance of economy, raw materials for industries and export promotion.

There are increases in the quotas for non-ferrous metals including scrap, machinery spares, motor parts and certain instruments. Marginal increases have been made in the quotas for raw films and photographic negative and printing paper.

The quota for drugs and medicines has been reduced but additional licensing has been provided for certain medicinal items with the result that the overall foreign exchange provision for drugs and medicines remains unaltered. There will be increased supplies of some essential items.

Quotas have been reduced for items like cables, pumps, bleaching powder and water meters, etc. on account of the progress made by indigenous industry.

For a dozen items viz., printing machinery, mercury, electric carbons and certain paper items etc. an interim policy has been announced.

In the procedure for import licensing for capital goods a new category has been introduced viz., Import licences against earmarked exports. It is the intention that under this category, issue of licences for equipment will be considered if financed from the sale proceeds of additional exports of a promotional nature.

Sections II and III of the Red Book issued for the period only embody the changes in the policy. Section I relating to procedure, as amended, has been reproduced in full. In addition to the Red Book, a Public Notice has also been issued announcing the policy for certain items on which a decision was taken after the Red Book was sent to the Press for printing.

IMPORT OF ART SILK YARN ON RUPEE PAYMENT

According to a Press Note issued by the State Trading Corporation of India on September 22, the S.T.C. had earlier made arrangements for supply of viscose art silk yarn on rupee payment from German Democratic Republic, Hungary and Egypt. It is now permissible to import from these countries against the rupee payment quota all types of art silk yarn allowed to be imported by actual users.

Prospective importers may book orders for import of art silk yarn through the authorised agents of the foreign suppliers concerned against 24 per cent of their quota licences.

This will be subject to observance of the face value restrictions on import of certain special types of yarn such as viscose, acetate and certain types of deniers of synthetic yarn.

Exports Of Engineering Goods

According to an announcement of September 30, exports of engineering goods during the first seven months of 1959, recorded an increase of 60 per cent over exports during the corresponding period last year.

Exports during January-July this year were valued at about Rs. 3.70 crores, as against Rs. 2.29 crores during the same period in 1958.

Exports to South-East Asian countries increased by nearly 100 per cent and amounted to Rs. 1.26 crores, about one-third of the total exports. Exports to U.S.A. recorded an impressive rise from about Rs. 32 lakhs last year to about Rs. 78 lakhs this year. Exports to West Asia, Africa and Europe also were higher than during last year.

Some of the items where exports increased substantially were sewing machines, electric fans, steel furniture, textile machinery, aluminium-ware and diesel engines.

REBATE ON FREIGHT ON BICYCLES AND PARTS

As a part of the export promotion drive, the Railway Board has decided that a rebate of 50 per cent on freight should be allowed on consignments of bicycles and their component parts booked from Sonepat and Bahadurgarh to Amritsar for onward despatch to Afghanistan *via* Pakistan, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways on September 22, 1959.

The Railway Board has laid down detailed procedure for booking etc. for the guidance of the trade and for railway staff dealing with such consignments. The procedure is similar to the one already in force for booking of export traffic by sea routes on which rebate is allowed.

Trade Delegation To Europe

An Indian Trade Delegation of officials and businessmen led by Shri K.B. Lall, Director General of Foreign Trade left Delhi for Rome via Bombay on September 27 to discuss with Governments and representatives of trade and industry in Italy, Switzerland, France, Belgium and West Germany, measures for the promotion of Indian exports to these countries.

The Delegation will avail itself of the knowledge and experience of the leading Indian businessmen who are already in Europe or who are likely to be there on business trips.

It will endeavour to secure free access to the European markets for Indian goods through the relaxation of Governmental quotas and simplification of import procedures in these countries. It will also seek to strengthen organisational and institutional links between business houses in these countries and Indian export agencies. It is expected that the inclusion of a number of businessmen in the delegation representing India's major lines of exports to Western Europe will promote co-operative business relations for larger purchases by trade and industry of the raw material and finished goods which India can supply.

In recent years, India's import of raw materials and capital goods from West European countries have increased substantially while exports to this area have remained largely static.

India's requirements of such goods under the Third Five Year Plan are expected to be even larger than they are at present but she would have considerable difficulties in meeting them unless apart from foreign credits, her foreign exchange earnings also increase.

Foreign Trade Of India In July

A Press Note issued by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, says that according to information available to-date in the above Department the provisional figures of foreign trade of India by all routes i.e., sea, air and land, on private and Government accounts during July, 1959, were:

Merchandise, excluding transit trade of Pakistan and other overland foreign countries, viz., Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan: Exports Rs. 51.20 crores, re-exports Rs. 26 lakhs, imports Rs. 63.11 crores. The import figures are exclusive of the value of certain consignments of Government stores awaiting adjustment.

Treasure: Exports (including re-exports) of currency notes 9 lakhs, gold nil and current coins (excluding gold coins) negligible. Imports of currency notes Rs. 15.45 crores, gold Rs. 2 lakhs, current coins (excluding gold coins) Rs. 28 lakhs.

Balance of trade: Subject to the limitation in import figures mentioned above, the total value of exports (including re-exports), of merchandise and gold fell short of imports by Rs. 11.61 crores.

International Fair At Zagreb

According to an announcement dated September 25, more than four lakhs of people visited the Indian Pavilion at the International Fair Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

The actual business negotiated at the Indian Pavilion was approximately Rs. 25 lakhs. This included Rs. 15 lakhs for textiles, Rs. 3.5 lakhs for sewing machines and Rs. 6 lakhs for linoleum. The necessary contracts and letters of credit are being finalised. Good business is also expected in tea, coffee and spices for which negotiations are continuing. Trade in all these commodities will be canalised through the State Trading Corporation of India.

The Zagreb International Fair, which opened on September 5, 1959, concluded on September 20, 1959.

Indo-Russian Agreement On Barauni Refinery

An agreement for the establishment of an oil refinery at Barauni between the Government of India and the U.S.S.R. was concluded in New Delhi on September 28, says an announcement of the same date.

Shri N.S. Mani, I.C.S., Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel, signed on behalf

of the Government of India and Mr. V.A. Sergeev, Counsellor for Economic Affairs, for the Soviet Government. The Minister for Mines and Oil, Shri K.D. Malaviya and the Soviet Ambassador to India, Mr. Ivan Alexandrovich Benediktov, were also present.

The refinery at Barauni will be the second to be established in the public sector and will be based on crude oil from the Nahorkatiya region in Assam. The first refinery in the public sector is being set up at Nunmati in Assam, with financial and technical assistance obtained from the Government of Rumania.

The Barauni Refinery will be designed to process about 2 million tons of crude oil per annum. For the purpose of establishing this refinery, the Soviet Government have extended a credit of 100 million roubles or Rs. 12 crores, with a long dated repayment schedule.

Handicrafts Development Corporation Meeting

Addressing a meeting of the Business Associates of the Indian Handicrafts Development Corporation, who were engaged in the export of Indian handicrafts, in New Delhi on September 19, Shri S.A. Teckchandani, Managing Director of the said Corporation, stressed the need for rigid quality control of handicraft products.

He announced that the Corporation had applied for registration of its seal with the Trade Mark Registration which would be affixed on the merchandise approved by the Corporation. He also appealed to the businessmen to co-operate with the Corporation in making the pre-shipment inspection service provided by the Corporation a success.

He said that the Corporation had already established its own trade centres at Frankfurt and a show-room in London. It was proposed to establish a trade centre at New York. The Corporation would also have sample rooms at Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay which would serve as centres to disseminate information regarding markets to the exporters and to exhibit handicraft products for being shown to foreign visitors. A nucleus sample room had already been established in the Corporation's office at New Delhi.

Explaining the assistance provided by the Corporation to its Business Associates he disclosed that the Corporation advanced loans up to a maximum of 80 per cent of firm export orders against which the loan was applied for. The money advanced as loans could be utilised for purchasing raw materials, payment to artisans and such other purposes for the execution of the export orders. Loans for less than Rs. 10,000 would not be entertained. The Corporation proposed to arrange for the import of raw materials in short supply.

There was a general discussion on the question of stimulating exports in the existing markets and exploring new markets for Indian handicrafts.

Production On Cotton Textiles In July

According to a Press Note issued by the Office of the Textile Commissioner in Bombay, on September 16, the cotton textile mills' production for July 1959 amounted to 146 million lbs. of yarn and 425 million yards of cloth equivalent to about 2.83 lakh bales. At the end of July the composite units of cotton textile mills carried a total stock of 4.12 lakh bales of cloth comprising of 2.07 lakh bales of unsold cloth and 2.05 lakh bales of cloth sold but not lifted.

The total production during the first seven months of the current year was 987 million lbs. of yarn and 2,870 million lbs. of cloth. The corresponding figures for the first seven months of 1957 and 1958 were 1,041 and 964 million lbs. of yarn and 3,168 and 2,870 million yards of cloth respectively.

The production for the month of August 1959 was provisionally estimated at 141 million lbs. of yarn and 403 million yards of cloth. The estimated stock of cloth with the mills at the end of August 1959 worked out to a total of 3.83 lakh bales consisting of 1.87 lakh bales of unsold cloth and 1.96 lakh bales of cloth sold but not lifted.

CEMENT PACKING CHARGES

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on September 25, says that on March 27, 1954, the Government of India announced that packing charges for cement would be fixed every quarter on the basis of the average of the maximum and minimum market price for packing material, during each week of the immediately preceding nine months, plus Rs. 1.25 per ton to cover incidental charges. On this basis, packing charges for the current quarter were fixed at Rs. 11.40 per ton.

The charges for packing one ton cement (20 bags) in New DW Heavy Cees quality Gunny bags for the next quarter commencing from October 1, 1959, work out to Rs. 11.65. The Government of India have fixed these charges for the next quarter and have informed all State Governments accordingly.

Development Councils' Chairmen Meet

The Chairmen of Development Councils met in New Delhi on September 25. Shri Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, presided over the meeting.

He suggested that the Development Councils should concentrate their attention on various aspects of indigenous production and internal prices with a view to compete in the world market. He also stressed the importance of indusrial designing.

The working of the 16 Development Councils and nine Panels was reviewed and a working group was set up to suggest measures for reorganising the Development Councils in order to cope with the increasing tempo of industrial development in the Third Five Year Plan.

Commodity Prices In August

According to a Press Note issued by the Office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India on September 27, wholesale prices as measured by the official index (with the year ended March 1953 as 100) went up by 0.3 per cent to 117.1 during the month of August 1959 as compared with 116.8 for July 1959. The index was higher by 1.0 per cent when compared with 115.9 for Agust 1958. During the month under review, "Food Articles" moved up by 0.6 per cent to 121.7 and "Manufactures" by 0.3 per cent to 109.5, but "Tobacco" receded by 0.7 per cent to 96.6, "Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants" by 0.1 per cent to 115.6 and "Industrial Raw Materials" by 0.7 per cent to 119.4.

Food Articles

A further increase in the prices of rice, wheat, jowar, barley and ragi raised the index for "cereals" by 2.1 per cent to 109.3 notwithstanding a decline in the prices of bajra and maize. When compared with a year ago, the index for cereals was lower by 3.7 per cent. Prices of gram and other pulses witnessed a fall and the sub-group index for "pulses" went down by 3.2 per cent to 92.6 during the month. Higher prices of potatoes, onions, oranges and bananas pushed up the index for "Fruits and vegetables" by 8.3 per cent to 152.1; the price of cashewnuts, however, drifted down. As a consequence of fall in the prices of both milk and ghee, the sub-group index for "Milk and Ghee" went down by 3.1 per cent to 113.9. Prices of all the edible oils, except coconut oil which showed a rise, were marked down and the index for this sub-group declined by 3.6 per cent to 126.6. The sub-group index for "Fish, Eggs and Meat" rose by 1.8 per cent to 116.8 reflecting an increase in the prices of fish and eggs although the price of meat recorded a fall. An advance in the prices of gur resulted in a rise of 1.1 per cent to 148.1 in the sub-group index for "Sugar and Gur". The index for "Other Food Articles" moved up by 2.5 per cent to 165.4 due to a rise in the prices of tea, coffee, black pepper, chillies, cloves and turmeric; the prices of cummin (Jira), cardamoms and betelnuts, however, witnessed a fall.

Fuel, Power, Light And Lubricants

The index for other articles in this group showed a slight fall of 0.1 per cent to 115.6 owing to a decrease in the prices of castor oil. Prices of coal produced in Bengal-Bihar fields were revised upwards in the last week of August, 1959.

Industrial Raw Materials

An increase in the prices of raw cotton and raw wool was offset by a decline in the prices of raw hemp and raw silk and the index for "Fibres" remained unchanged at its earlier month's level of 109.6. The sub-group index for "Oilseeds" recorded a fall of 2.7 per cent to 131.7 due to a fall in the prices of groundnuts, castorseed, gingelly seed and rapeseed although the prices of linseed and cotton seed showed advances. The sub-group index for "Minerals" stood stationary at 98.2. The sub-group index for "Other Industrial Raw Materials" moved up by 2.4 per cent to 116.3 owing to an increase in the prices of raw hides, raw skins, lac and logs and timber; the prices of tanning materials and bamboos, however, exhibited declines.

Intermediate Products

A rise of 0.6 per cent to 109.2 in the index for "Intermediate Products" was brought about by an increase in the prices of linseed oil, cotton yarn, coir yarn, zinc and tin although the prices of aluminium and German silver showed declines during the month under review.

Finished Products

An increase in the prices of jute manufactures (+3.0 per cent to 90.3) raised the index for "Textiles" by 0.4 per cent to 104.9 although the prices of cotton manufactures (—0.3 per cent to 113.0) and silk and rayon manufactures (—0.5 per cent to 92.3) exhibited declines. Among cotton manufactures, mill made cloth was slightly dearer but handloom cloth was cheaper. The sub-group index for "Metal Products" remained unchanged at its last month's level of 143.3. Higher prices of general chemicals raised the sub-group index for "Chemicals" by 0.4 per cent to 107.1 despite a fall in the prices of drugs and medicines. "Oilcakes", however, went down by 2.2 per cent to 142.1. The sub-group index for 'Machinery and Transport Equipment" receded by 0.1 per cent to 105.8 due to a fall in the prices of cycles. An advance of 0.2 per cent to 113.8 in the index for "Other Finished Products" was brought about by an increase in the prices of bricks and tiles. On the whole, the index for "Finished Products" rose by 0.2 per cent to 109.5 during the month under review.

Communications

MEETING OF NATIONAL HARBOUR BOARD

Addressing the inaugural session of the eighth meeting of the National Harbour Board which opened at Calcutta on September 29, Shri Raj Bahadur, Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications, dealt with the progress of each of the Major Ports and made a general survey of the problems of development of Minor Ports. He listed a number of measures which had been decided upon or were being considered to deal

with the urgent problems of Major as well as Minor Ports.

Calcutta Port

Referring to certain important decisions relating to the preservation and development of Calcutta Port, he said that during the last ten years, the river Hooghly had been deteriorating rather fast and the maintenance of adequate depths in the navigable channel from Sandheads to Calcutta jetties remains a continuous struggle against nature. This complicated problem had, of late, been the subject not only by technical experts of India but also by three foreign experts: Mr. Posthuma, Director of the Port of Rotterdam; Dr. Danel of the Hydraulic Research Laboratory, Grenoble, and Mr. Wichers Hoeth, a dredging expert from Holland. As a result of their study, three remedial measures were considered absolutely essential, namely, (a) intensive dredging; (b) river training works; and (c) restoration of adequate headwater supply.

New Dredger

As regards intensive dredging, Shri Raj Bahadur said that the present dredging fleet of the Calcutta Port Commissioners was not adequate for the requirements. A new section dredger had, therefore, been ordered which was expected to be delivered in about 15 months. It would be almost a duplicate of the dredger *Bhagirathi* which was delivered to the Calcutta Port Commissioners in 1958. Pending this delivery and to commence dredging operations early a team of the Commissioners' technical officers already visited Hong Kong to inspect a second-hand dredger. If needed, he continued, the same team would be sent to France to inspect another dredger lying at Marseilles. In addition, the Port Commissioners had been asked to take up urgently a complete overhaul of their dredger *Ganga* so that it might remain serviceable for another ten years or so. At the instance of the Government of India the Commissioners had also called global tenders for contract dredging and the last date for such tenders was September 30. It was hoped that some early decision would be taken on such tenders. For all these items the World Bank agreed on pressing request of the Government of India to earmark foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 250 lakhs out of their loan of Rs. 14 crores to the Calcutta Pay Commission.

River Training Works

Referring to training works, the Minister said that these could be undertaken only in stages on the basis of data collected from carefully conducted model experiments. The new spur at Akra was the first of these training works. The Fulta Project, intended to improve another difficult stretch of the river lower down, was now under execution. Experiments were in progress at the Poona Research Station to determine the river training works required to improve the Balari Bar and stabilise the Balari Channel. In the meantime the Commissioners were carrying out intensive dredging to the extent possible with their available dredgers in a bid to arrest deterioration in the Balari Channel and an improvement of one foot six inches in its depth had actually been obtained since January last.

The restoration of adequate headwater supply Shri Raj Bahadur said, was a complicated problem, which was engaging constant attention of the Government of India who were fully seized of its importance as well as urgency.

Haldia Anchorage

"We are thus striving our utmost to maintain the greatness of Calcutta as a Port," continuing the Minister said, "but being a river port it will always be subject to draft restrictions due to Bars and tides in the Hooghly. It is not likely that Calcutta will ever be able to take vessels of more than 26 ft. draft at any time, whereas modern shipbuilding trends point towards the construction of deeper-drafted and longer ships. Moreover, industrial and agricultural development is taking place rapidly in the hinterland of Calcutta which has a population of about 150 millions and is rich in mineral and agricultural resources. It will, therefore, be in the national interest that we should develop another port subsidiary to that of Calcutta. In his inaugural address at the last meeting of the Board, Shri S.K. Patil stated that the Government of India had accepted in principle the recommendation made by the World Bank Mission about the necessity for the construction of such a port in the Calcutta region. As a first step in that direction, an achorage has been set up at Haldia and I am glad to announce that all arrangements have been made for the off-loading of foodgrain ships at that anchorage during the next fair weather season commencing from November. Actually two ships carrying foodgrains and leaving the U.S.A. in the first half of October have been already given Haldia Anchorage as their place of call before proceeding to Calcutta". Shri Raj Bahadur pointed out that no pains were being spared to utilise the best available technical advice in the planning of port facilities at Haldia.

More Craft And Equipment

"Apart from what I have just mentioned, the development programme of Calcutta Port includes several other important schemes, such as the provision of additional harbour craft and equipment including a 60-ton and a 30-ton crane, diversion of the railway lines in the Budge Budge area, reconstruction of the Majerhat Bridge, expansion of the marshalling yard, construction of two general cargo berths in King George's Dock, construction of a new tea warehouse, reconditioning of the quay walls in Kidderpore Dock and electrification of cranes in that dock, purchase of additional mechanical cargo-handling equipment and diesel locomotives, improvement of ship-repair facilities and improvement of water supply to shipping".

Achievements Of Kandla Port

Referring to the new major port at Kandla, Shri Raj Bahadur said: In the year 1958-59, it handled a traffic of 1.07 million tons, of which the imports were 8.82 lakh tons and the exports 1.88 lakh tons. The chief commodities that entered the import trade were mineral oil, foodgrains, building material and iron and steel whereas iron ore and salt constituted the principal items of export. Such a record within a short period of four years after the declaration of the port as a major port is no mean achievement, particularly as we must remember that when the project was sanctioned, the traffic that was expected to flow through the port in the first five-year period after the completion of the first stage of development was only 8.5 lakh tons.

"The revenue of the port in 1956-57 was Rs. 29.52 lakhs. It rose to Rs. 47.96 lakhs and Rs. 68.07 lakhs respectively in 1957-58 and 1958-59. After incurring a running expenditure of Rs. 16.86 lakhs, Rs. 36.64 lakhs and Rs. 39.73 lakhs excluding payment on account of depreciation and interest charges on capital outlay, the working of the port resulted in surpluses of Rs. 12.66 lakhs, Rs. 11.32 lakhs and Rs. 28.34 lakhs respectively during these three years. At the time of sanctioning the project, the port was expected to earn an annual net revenue of only Rs. 12 lakhs during the first five years and no payment towards depreciation and interest charges was envisaged during the first 20 years. The results of the working of the port so far have more than fulfilled the original expectations.

"The traffic and hence the income of the port are bound to increase further when Ahmedabad is brought within the economic hinterland of the port by the provision of a broad-gauge link between Kandla and Jhund. This is proposed to be taken up in the Third Plan.

Problems Of Kandla

"However, Kandla too is not without its problems. The deterioration in the depth of the entrance channel has been engaging Goverment's attention for some time now. The new dredger acquired by the Visakhapatnam Port was pressed into service at Kandla for a short period of 1958-59 and the results were encouraging. We have recently decided to purchase a new dredger for the port. An order for its supply will be placed shortly. As at Calcutta, it appears that the long-term remedy for the maintenance of adequate depths in the channel will be the execution of training works and towards that end hydraulic model experiments are being carried out at the Poona Research Station.

Madras Port

The Minister continued: "I may say that the other major ports, namely, Madras, Cochin and Visakhapatnam, have also made satisfactory progress in the execution of their development schemes. Madras has embarked on an ambitious project known as the 'Wet Dock Scheme' which is intended to add to the berthing capacity of the port. The construction of the ore and coal berths under this scheme is making good progress. The new passenger station has been brought into commission. The contract for the excavation of a six-berth wet dock has been awarded and work on it has started.

Cochin Port

"The most important work undertaken by Cochin Port is the scheme relating to the construction of four additional wharf berths in the Ernakulam channel. The scheme is designed to afford the much needed relief to Cochin Port which is at present handling with great strain huge quantities of cargo at the existing wharf with four berths. Besides, a second coal berth is under construction to relieve congestion at the existing coal berth and the Boat Train Pier Jetty." All the works, he said, were designed and executed departmentally without any help from Consulting Engineers or contractors. This had not in any way affected the quality of the work. He referred to the Oil Tanker Berth in the Ernakulam Channel, which had been acclaimed by the oil Companies as one of the best of its kind, as a fine example of the quality of workmanship attained through departmental execution at this Port.

Visakhapatnam

Shri Raj Bahadur pointed out that Visakhapatnam would be the outlet for large scale export of iron ore to Japan in the near future. The Port should, therefore, be in a state of readiness to handle this export. With this end in view and also generally to add to the berthing capacity of the port, it was proposed to construct four additional berths, two for ore and two for general cargo, at an estimated cost of about Rs. 4.5 crores and also to mechanise the two ore berths by the installation of a belt-conveyer system. Designs and estimates for the scheme were under preparation. Another problem engaging Government's attention was the break-water at Visakhapatnam which deteriorated badly in recent years. The question as to how best to carry out long-term repairs to the break-water was being investigated in consultation with Sogresh, the Hydraulic Research Laboratory at Grenoble in France, he added.

Cargo Pilferage

"One other problem which has caused us considerable worry has been the problem of pilferage of cargo at some of the ports. Government have been closely watching the situation particularly at Calcutta. We fully share the anxiety of shipping interests and the trade for tackling this problem vigorously and intensively. I am glad to note that the Calcutta Port Commissioners have taken several measures in recent months to intensify their drive against this menace. But there can be no slackening of the tempo till the menace is completely stamped out. For this, the vigorous and enthusiastic co-operation of the officers and staff of the Port Commissioners, the

Police, and the clearing agents is needed".

Minor Ports

As regards Minor Ports, he stated that the Intermediate Port Development Committee, set up towards the end of 1958 was requested to recommend suitable intermediate ports for intensive development. It was expected to submit an interim report shortly. He assured the Board that the recommendations of this Committee would be given due consideration while framing the development schemes for ports other than major ports in the Third Five Year Plan.

Referring to the unsatisfactory progress in the execution of development schemes of certain minor ports, Shri Raj Bahadur added: "It is indeed an irony that while the Board has been asked to reconsider the question of creation of a port development fund with the specific object of finding resources for carrying out the development schemes of minor ports, some State Governments are not in a position to utilise fully the resources already made available to them in the form of loans.

"Their main difficulty, according to some, has been in the way of technical personnel. We ourselves are short of it, but the Central Government have always given whatever technical advice they can on a particular project, and it appears, though I may not be absolutely right in saying so, that once the designs and plans in respect of a project are drawn up in consultation with our Development Adviser and his staff, it should not be difficult for the State P.W.D. to carry out the work. Our staff may also be to some extent able to supervise the execution of the project". In the matter of expert technical advice, he observed, the Government were at present depending on firms of foreign consultants, who were the technical consultants to the ports of Calcutta and Madras".

Body Of Consultants

Concluding the Minister said, that at present the question of building up a body of consultants by selecting a few retired experts or specialists of eminence in different fields, such as harbour and mechanical engineering, dredging, navigation and traffic, for rendering advice to the Central and State Governments on technical problems relating to port development and inland water transport was being considered. This should remove whatever difficulty the State Governments might be experiencing in carrying out the port development projects for want of adequate technical aid. He expressed hope that at least a nucleus of this technical organisation would be functioning shortly.

Recommendations

Far-reaching proposals relating to the expansion of Major Ports, provision of facilities for ship repairs, development of Bombay Port and the setting up of a cadre of consulting engineers, were made by the National Harbour Board at its eighth meeting which ended here yesterday.

While reviewing the progress of expenditure in the six Major Ports for the first three years of the period of the Plan which amounted to a little over Rs. 24 crores, the Board emphasised that the provision of Rs. 78 crores for the development of Major Ports under the Second Five-Year Plan be utilised to the maximum possible extent and that all the Port Trusts should endeavour to expedite the execution of their various schemes in the next two years.

The Board informed that for the formulation of schemes for the Third Plan, the Planning Commission enunciated principles taking into consideration the acute shortage of foreign exchange, difficulties of internal finance and the desirability of according priority to items likely to yield revenue. The traffic capacity of the six major Ports was expected to be increased from 31 million tons to 40.80 million tons after the completion of the Second Plan projects.

The progress made in drawing up a scheme for the development of a subsidiary port to Calcutta was reviewed by the Board. It was disclosed that from November next, Haldia would be used as an anchorage for the lightening and topping up of ships. The anchorage will, in the initial stages, handle mainly foodgrains. Five foodgrain ships are already booked for lightening at Haldia and more ships are expected.

The question of development of the Port of Bombay was discussed by the Board which recommended that a suitable scheme be prepared, by providing additional deep draft berths, for inclusion in the Third Five-Year Plan.

The provision of facilities for ship repairs at the Major Ports was discussed in the light of the report of the Ship Repairs Committee. The Board recommended acceptance of the proposals of the Committee subject to the comments of the Port Trust authorities, shipowners and Government. The Committee had recommended that Government and the Port authorities should accept the principle that it was part of their responsibility to provide for the requirements of the ship repair industry and in pursuance of this objective had outlined a scheme.

The Board unanimously accepted a proposal to constitute a cadre of consulting engineers in India. The scheme prepared by the Union Ministry of Transport would be examined further and a decision was expected soon.

The question of the creation of a Port Development Fund by the levy of a special surcharge on imports and exports was considered by the Board which recommended that in view of the meagre amount of revenue expected and the adverse effect which the proposed surcharge might have on the export trade, the proposal be dropped.

It reviewed the progress made in the development of Minor Ports, expenditure on which amounted to Rs. 292.90 lakhs during the first three years of the Plan and urged that the revised provision of Rs. 500 lakhs should be utilised to the full.

The meeting was presided over by Shri Raj Bahadur, Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and attended by Ministers and officials of State Governments; representatives of port authorities; representatives of the Central Ministries of Transport and Communications, Railways and Irrigation and Power; of Naval Headquarters and other Central Departments concerned; representatives of trade and industry, shipping interests, sailing vessels industry and of labour. The Board is the chief advisory body on all aspects of the development of ports in the country.

RLY. CHIEF OPERATING SUPERINTENDENTS MEET

Addressing a meeting of Railway Chief Operating Superintendents in New Delhi on September 17, the Railway Minister, Shri Jagjiwan Ram, said that while improvements had been made in the punctuality performance of passenger trains, it was necessary for the railways to continue to make determined efforts to improve the performance still further.

He said that whenever trains ran late due to unavoidable reasons, the railways should keep the public informed of the reasons for such late running. He called upon railway officers working in the Commercial and Operating Departments to make conscious efforts to develop closer contacts with representative public bodies is order to understand their problems and difficulties insofar as they concern the working of the railways These contacts should also be utilised to explain the genuine difficulties and problems of the railways to the travelling and trading public.

Referring to railway accidents, the Minister asked the Chief Operating Superintendents to keep up an intensive drive to develop the maximum safety consciousness amongst railway staff.

Decimal Coinage Stamps

A Press Note issued, by the Director General, Posts & Telegraphs, on September 29, says that since the annas and pies series of postage stamps, except those of the denominations of 4 annas, 8 annas, 12 annas and Rs. 1/8- are being entirely withdrawn from use by members of the public with effect from October 1, 1959, those holding stocks of unused stamps on that day may get them exchanged at any post office with decimal coinage stamps before November 30, 1959. In the anna and pie series, only the 4-anna, the 8-anna, the 12-anna and Re. 1/8 stamps will be recognised in payment of postage by the members of the public on and from October 1, 1959.

Food & Agriculture

PLANNING COMMISSION'S PANEL ON AGRICULTURE MEETS

In his address at the first meeting of the Panel on Agriculture, constituted by the Planning Commission, in connection with the work on the preparation of the programmes for the Third Five Year Plan, held in New Delhi on September 29. Dr. P.S. Deshmukh, Minister for Agriculture favoured progressive mechanisation of agriculture and especially the use of tractors for land reclamation. Apart from reclamation, there was growing need for mechanical assistance for the farmers. The Minister for Agriculture felt that the agriculturists were finding it difficult to get their requirements of steel and iron due to their unsatisfactory distribution.

Dr. Deshmukh pointing out certain instances where tubewells had been dug but the water was not being utilised, said that the need for intimate co-operation between departments like the P.W.D. and the Agricultural Department was essential. Dr. Deshmukh made the suggestion that an Agricultural Division should be established at new, large water sources for the proper utilisation of water. He referred to the important role of minor irrigation, especially in areas where the only possible source of irrigation was wells. He strongly recommended increased supply of electricity for the operation of pumps.

Shri S.K. Dey, Minister for Community Development and Co-operation who also addressed the meeting felt that it would be difficult to have sufficient number of Government officials at all levels to look after the work of increasing agricultural production. It was, therefore, necessary, in his opinion, to make common cause with progressive cultivators and give them training in improved methods of agriculture. For this purpose he suggested that we should provide in each of the progressive farms one agricultural officer who should be exclusively responsible for training the cultivators. He also suggested that agricultural specialists and extension officers should have six months' inernship in a farm in order to enable them to acquire practical experience.

The Minister laid stress on the need for giving adequate recognition of good work done by progressive farmers. Shri Dey also strongly pleaded for ending the discrimination between agriculturists and industrialists in the matter of elecrtic supply. Industry was getting electricity for one anna a unit or less while cultivators had to pay two or three annas. He made a strong plea that this double standard should not figure in the Third Plan.

While he did not want to dwell too much on co-operative farming on the present occasion, Shri Dey mentioned that there were large sections of farmers in the villages with low holdings who did not look upon agriculture as their substantive means of livelihood. If these small holdings were to yield the optimum results, it was of utmost importance that the holders grouped themselves together in co-operatives, pooling the small fragments of lands into co-operative farms. He also mentioned that the present arrangement by which the Agricultural Department collected the seeds from the seed farms and handed them over to registered seed growers for distribution had unsatisfactory features which could be eliminated by organising service co-operatives in the villages for this work.

In a brief review of the agricultural programmes in the First and Second Plans, Shri Shriman Narayan, Member Planning Commission and Chairman of the Panel of Agriculture, pointed out that the index of agricultural production, with 1949-50 as the base, had increased to 117 in 1955-56 and that with the production of 73.5 million tons of foodgrains in 1958-59, we could without undue optimism hope to exceed the target of 75 million tons which was the original target suggested for the Second Plan.

Approach For The Third Plan

In fixing targets for the agricultural production for the Third Plan, Shri Shriman Narayan said that we had to take into account the needs of a rapidly increasing population and the urgency of improving the diet of our population. The production of raw materials for our growing industries and the need to earn or save foreign exchange were equally important considerations. We must aim at a level of production of foodgrains which will include sufficient margin for unfavourable seasonal conditions and also counter the possibility of inflationary pressure resulting from an accelerated pace of investment. Our goal should be self-sufficiency in food atleast by the end of the Third Plan.

Shri Shriman Narayan outlined certain targets of production for the Third Plan which were under consideration for some time. A target of 110 million tons of foodgrains had been suggested for the end of the Third Plan. This involved a very substantial increase in foodgrains production during this period but should not be incapable of achievement, if full use was made of all available resources.

The proposed target of production for oilseeds was 92 lakh tons by the end of 1965-66. The estimate of domestic requirements in 1965-66 was 84 lakh tons. The target suggested for cotton was 78 lakh bales against the anticipated domestic requirements of 66 lakh bales. For jute the proposed target was 65 lakh bales against the anticipated domestic requirements of 25 lakh bales. If these targets were achieved we should be in a position to have sizeable exports of these commodities. The provisional target for sugarcane was 92 lakh tons in terms of Gur against the anticipated domestic requirements of 91 lakh tons, leaving a small quantity for export.

The realisation of these targets depended to a considerable extent on our ability to increase the yields per acre. Notwithstanding improvements in this direction achieved over the past few years our average yields were considerably lower than those in other countries, he added. The measures needed were full utilisation of irrigation facilities, covering the entire area under paddy, wheat and millets with improved seeds and application of organic and green manures and chemical fertilisers in the right proportion. Measures of contour-bunding and soil conservation were equally important.

Integrated Programme

The tendency in the past was to pursue separately programmes for the use of improved seeds, application of organic and inorganic manures, provision of irrigation etc., said Shri Shriman Narayan. But it was now recognised that the best result could only be obtained by a combined application of all these improved practices on the same field. The effective method of ensuring that there was an integrated approach was to have production plans for every agricultural family in a village. Every cultivator should be assisted in adopting these improved practices by the timely provision of supplies and credit. In drawing up these plans, the Extension staff at the block level and the village level workers will naturally have a very important role, he added. The Co-operative had not only to provide credit but to arrange for supplies of fertilizers, seeds, etc.

Full utilisation of available irrigation facilities, continued the Member, was a very important factor in stepping up the country's agricultural production. Early utilisation of irrigation provided by new projects was necessary as only then we get a return for the investment. Cultivators should be encouraged to dig field channels in time to utilise water from irrigation sources as soon as it is available. It is also necessary to arrange for proper maintenance of irrigation sources, especially smaller ones like tanks. In several parts of the country, the beneficiaries have, by custom, the responsibility of keeping them in good repair. "We have advised the State Governments," said Shri Narayan, "that customary obligations in regard to maintenance of irrigation works and construction of field channels should be clearly defined by law and effective steps taken to enforce the obligations."

We must also have a programme for multiplication and distribution of improved seeds so that farmers may get supplies of good seed easily and at reasonable cost. An effective and economical machinery for multiplication and distribution was essential.

Intensive efforts are needed for conserving local manurial resources, for raising green manure and for their application in combination with inorganic manures.

Plans for organic and green manures should receive special attention not only because these manures are cheap but that they are essential from the point of view of building up soil fertility. Steps for conserving local manure and for the production of compost in villages could best be taken up by the village Panchayats.

Programmes of contour-bunding and dry farming should receive greater attention in future. However much we may spread irrigation in the country, there will be left a large area of about 140 to 150 million acres, in which we can step up the yield only through contour-bunding and dry-farming techniques. The advantage of these practices is particularly noticeable when the rains fail.

It was accepted that the use of improved implements would reduce costs and would also give better yields, Shri Narayan added. Considerable research was necessary for evolving improved implements suitable for the different regions of the country. It would be useful if each Agricultural College had a separate section devoted to the problem of producing improved implements suited to the needs of the regions. Facilities had to be provided for the manufacture of improved implements so that they might be available at reasonable price to the farmers, for which local craftsmen should be trained in their manufacture and repair.

Drawing the Panel's attention to the cattle breeding policy, Shri Shriman Narayan pointed out that the scope for mechanisation of agriculture in our country was limited. The country must continue to depend on animal power, as it has done for centuries past. Every effort must be made to improve the breed of the bullock so that it may serve the cultivator efficiently as a draught animal. At the same time steps should be taken to improve the usefulness of the cow as a milch animal. A few of the well-defined breeds in the country are of the dairy-type but a large majority of them are of the draught type. What was wanted was the development of a good dual-purpose breed of cattle. This required proper integration of the dairy development programmes and the schemes for improvement of cattle.

Administrative Requirements

Concluding, Shri Shriman Narayan said, "all our programmes for increasing agricultural production would essentially depend for successful implementation on a well organised and adequately manned administrative organisation. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture had appointed a committee to go into this question. The recommendations of the Agricultural Administrative Committee were considered by a conference of State Ministers for Agriculture a few months ago and it was decided to implement the recommendations at an early date. There are some recommendations of the Committee which do not involve any additional expenditure. I hope these recommendations would be implemented by the State Governments in a systematic manner without any further delay. In regard to others which involve additional expenditure, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Planning Commission are awaiting the specific proposals of the State governments so that final decisions could be reached shortly.

"I would like to draw particular attention to the urgent need for much greater co-ordination between the departments of Irrigation, Co-operation, Agriculture and Community Development," Shri Narayan added.

Assuring the Members of the Planning Commission's Panel on Agriculture for the Third Plan Shri Shriman Narayan, said in his concluding address that the second meeting of the Panel would be convened shortly after the publication of the draft outline of the Third Five-Year Plan so that the views of the members of the Panel on the draft proposals could be ascertained before finalising them.

Referring to the need emphasized by many members for fixing fair and remunerative prices to the agriculturists, particularly of foodgrains, Shri Shriman Narayan said that the principle had been accepted by the Government of India and the Planning Commission. The main question was of working out the precise methods for determining the prices of food-grains which were fair both to the producers as well as the consumers as also to devise the proper machinery for the determination of such prices. Shri Shriman Narayan mentioned that this important problem was already being studied in the Planning Commission and, if necessary, a special Study Group would be set up for the purpose.

The Chairman assured the Panel that the Planning Commission would try to make adequate allocations for minor irrigation programmes subject, of course, to the limitation of resources which would be left over after completing the existing major and medium irrigation works. It was also essential to mobilise the participation of the people in the execution of minor irrigation works so that the resources of the Government might be adequately supplemented by contributions from the people in cash, kind and labour. The fullest co-operation of the people would also be necessary for the proper maintenance of these minor irrigation works.

Rural Electrification And Soil Conservation

Under the Third Plan proper attention will also be paid to the question of rural electrificaion so that the agriculturists and the small artisans could avail of cheap electric power for increasing their production. According to the current estimates it is expected that about 26,000 new villages will be able to secure the benefits of electrification during the Third Plan period. The supply of this power will be primarily for assisting the agriculturists to step up their production particularly of foodgrains.

As regards the programme of soil conservation, it has been decided that a few demonstration projects on private lands in each State should be undertaken as a Centrally sponsored scheme. Twenty such projects will be taken up in the current year and 20 more next year, each project covering an area of about 1000 acres on a complete watershed basis. The projects will demonstrate the methods of contour-bunding and terracing, contour tillage, improved seed and cultural practices.

The serious problem of water-logging particularly in Punjab will receive a high priority under the Third Plan. Shri Shriman Narayan said that the Planning Commission was awaiting detailed schemes from the State Governments in regard to water-logging and it was hoped that the allocation in the Third Plan for this programme would be able to make a visible impact on the water-logged areas.

Referring to the urgent need for reclaiming waste lands in different States, Shri Shriman Narayan said that the Ministry of Food and Agriculture had already set up a committee of experts for quickly surveying the waste lands in different States and preparing a practical programme of reclaiming these culturable wastes during the Third Five Year Plan. This programme would not only be useful for extensive cultivation, thus increasing agricultural production, but also for providing gainful employment to a large number of people particularly in the rural areas.

Referring to the need for improving the standard of training and education of the Agricultural Graduates, Shri Shriman Narayan pointed out that the Agricultural Personnel Committee had already gone into this question in some details and it would receive particular attention in regard to various programmes during the Third Five Year Plan.

Concluding, Shri Shriman Narayan said: "Lastly, I would observe with all the emphasis at my command that the problem of increasing agricultural production is not so much dependent on science and technology as on improving the administrative organisation and strengthening the local village institutions like the Panchayats and the Co-operatives. Food production cannot be increased merely by increasing the number of officials. It can be increased only by improving the morale of the agriculturists, particularly, the smaller ones and by supplying them their needs adequately and in time. From this point of view the importance of establishing efficient Service Co-operatives in the countryside cannot be over-emphasised.

The Panel has been set up by the Planning Commission which felt that it would be an advantage to associate leading non-officials who have experience in agriculture, rural development and co-operation and farmers from different parts of the country with the knowledge of local agricultural conditions and interest in broader questions relating to agricultural development, with the work on the preparation of the agricultural programmes of the Third Five Year Plan.

Central Arid Zone Research Institute

The Government of India have decided to set up in collaboration with the UNESCO a Central Arid Zone Research Institute by upgrading the existing Desert Afforestation and Soil Conservation Station at Jodhpur, reads an announcement of September 18.

The Institute will carry out fundamental research in aspects of desert control, such as basic resources and their utilization, hydrological investigations, human factor and animal studies.

The object is to find out the amount and fate of water received by the arid areas, regional dynamics of the landscape and its tendency to change as a result of climatic factors and use by man, the most suitable natural plants for growing in the area and to determine the best use of water and land for obtaining optimum balance between forest, pasture, cultivation of crops and livestock development.

The setting up of the Institute envisages an expenditure of Rs. 87 lakhs over a period of 7 years — 20 lakhs during the current Plan period and 67 lakhs during the Third Plan. Additionally, Rs. 15 lakhs would be required for the construction of buildings to house the Institute.

The UNESCO have agreed to make available $ 60,000 for the purchase of equipment required for the Institute.

Progress Of Work

Considerable research work has already been done by the Desert Afforestation and Soil Conservation Station, Jodhpur. During the past three years, it has established 9 nurseries in western Rajasthan where trees and grasses are raised for experimental afforestation, avenue-planting and distribution. It has also distributed during this period over 71,000 pounds of plant-seed to over 1,700 agencies for the creation of vegetation oases to provide shade and shelter along the roads besides protection to adjoining fields and lands against hot and desicating winds. Over 50 miles of roads have been planted with 2-3 rows of trees on either side.

The Jodhpur Research Station has achieved noticeable success in immobilizing the sand at 5 places along railway lines near Sikar and Bikaner. In certain parts in Rajasthan the shifting sands invade the railway lines during summer months and the railway authorities have to incur considerable expenditure on the clearing of sands.

Demonstration work of afforestation on two different kinds of areas — shifting sands and rocky over-grazed lands — is also under progress.

MEETING OF INDIAN CENTRAL COTTON COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Indian Central Cotton Committee was held in Bombay from September 21 to 26. Addressing the meeting on September 22, Shri S.K. Patil, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, referred to the progressive increase in population, both in India and abroad, and observed that everything could be expanded but not the land. The country had, therefore to produce as much as possible within the available acreage, though some marginal increase in the cultivable land may be possible. So far as agricultural production was concerned, he added, India was at the lowest rung of the ladder and they had to strive to step up production by at least 50 per cent, if not double it. Intensive cultivation to produce more was the need of the hour.

Shri Patil pointed out that intensive propaganda and education of the farmers played an important part as could be seen in the increased production in Madras State. Fertilisers played an important part in securing increase in yield per acre and he would press the demand for increased production of fertilisers during the Third Five Year Plan.

He complimented the Indian Central Cotton Committee for the valuable work it had been doing during the last thirty years, and praised the work of the research workers and experts in tackling the problems relating to the expansion of cotton cultivation and improving their strains and particularly for the remarkable work done by them in respect of the cotton strain 320 F and sea island cotton respectively.

Dr. M.S. Randhawa, Vice-President of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Additional Secretary to the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture, stressed the need for more fertilisers, weedicides and pesticides factories in the country. He underlined the need for mechanised cultivation in areas where bullock power could not be used, in order that the country's agricultural output could be stepped up to match the needs of the growing population.

Recommendations

The Indian Central Cotton Committee recommended that a French expert from West Africa should be invited for advising on measures to be taken for increasing cotton yields in the rainfed areas in the country, and a deputation of two Indian scientists should be sent to Tashkent, highest cotton yielding area in the U.S.S.R., to study the agro-economic techniques employed there, with a view to adopting them in India.

The Committee approved the report of the Working Group constituted to examine the possibilities of increased production of extra-long staple cotton to meet domestic requirements under the Third Five-Year Plan and expressed the view that the ceiling for 1.1/8″ cotton should be not less than Rs. 1,500 per candy. This, the Committee felt, would serve as an incentive for the farmers to grow long staple cotton and maintain its purity.

In view of the progress made during the current plan period the Committee considered the target of production of 72 lakh bales under the Third Five-Year Plan to be more realistic. It emphasised the need for more intensive efforts on the part of the State Departments of Agriculture for implementing the various intensive measures under the cotton extension schemes.

It noted that sea island cotton was grown on an area of 4,000 acres in the States of Kerala and Mysore during the season 1959-60 and that officers had been appointed recently to survey the area at present under cultivation and the potential areas for further expansion in these States. As the growing of this cotton was in areas new to cotton cultivation, the Committee recommended certain incentives for its proper development amongst which were the removal of ceilings on land intended for cultivation of this cotton, waiving of the levy of agricultural income-tax, grant of loan in kind to the needy cultivators of seeds, fertilisers, insecticides and barbed wire for fencing. As a further incentive, it also recommended that the cotton might be auctioned at the *kapas* stage provided the purchaser agreed to give the cotton at a specified ginnery and return the seed to the authorities. This would facilitate early disposal of the produce and enable growers to realise the money sooner.

The Committee agreed to the extension of three existing schemes and also sanctioned a new scheme aiming at the control of jassids, a serious pest of cotton, by exploring the possibility of inducing sterility in them through the use of radio-active isotopes and radiations.

It laid considerable emphasis on the need to have the cotton seeds tested for their germination and purity prior to distribution to the farmers.

The loss sustained by the long staple Punjab-American cotton crop from the rains received in the month of September in recent years engaged the Committee's attention and it suggested that the cultivation of cotton crop, where the water table was high should be discouraged and that proper attention should be paid to drainage. The breeders should also intensify work towards the evolution of strains tolerant to heavy rains.

It was also decided to undertake a scheme under the direct aegis of the Committee for the development and extension of Comilla cotton in the eastern States of Assam, Tripura and Manipur, in view of its potentiality for earning foreign exchange.

The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Sub-Committee that as the foreign matter in cotton was on the increase, the State authorities should enforce strictly the provisions of the various legislations to check the malpractice. The Sub-Committee reviewed the present position of cotton legislation in different States.

The Committee suggested that the model crop competition schemes with slight modifications should be put into operation in the States of Mysore, Bombay, Andhra Pradesh and Madras and stressed the need for the remaining States to put up similar schemes.

Recommendations of Sub-Committee

The Cotton Forecast Sub-Committee of the Indian Central Cotton Committee recommended a target of 78 lakh bales of cotton production under the Third Five Year Plan. It also reviewed the progress made under the cotton extension schemes during the years 1958-59 and 1959-60 and suggested the setting up of seed farms with small ginneries so that pure seeds for multiplication could be produced at these farms. The Sub-Committee also considered the report of the working group constituted to examine the possibilities of production of extra-long staple cotton to meet domestic requirements.

The Sea Island Cotton Development Sub-Committee reviewed the achievements during the preceding years and recommended that the levy of agricultural income-tax in the case of sea island cotton may be waived to serve as an incentive to extend the area under this cotton. It also recommended that needy cultivators may be given loans in kind in the form of seeds, fertilisers, insecticides and barbed wire for fencing.

The Technological Research Sub-Committee reviewed the progress of the work carried out at the Committee's technological laboratory while the Agricultural Extension Sub-Committee considered the results of the Committee's research schemes during the previous year.

Import of Rice From Burma

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture on September 30 says that the Trade Delegation from Burma led by U. Thi Han, Minister for Trade Development had discussions on September 28 and 29 with Shri S.K. Patil, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, and officials of the Government of India.

The two Delegations reaffirmed the principle that the trade between the two countries should expand and steps should be taken to achieve as near a balance in the trade as may be possible. It was felt that it would be desirable to try to conclude a long-term agreement between the two countries providing for a mutually advantageous level of imports of rice from Burma to India and for an increase in Indian exports to Burma, so as to reduce the present imbalance in the trade between the two countries.

The Burmese Delegation offered to export up to 150,000 tons of rice out of 1959 crop, over and above the 350,000 tons already contracted for. The Burmese Delegation agreed that the payment for the rice will be made in non-convertible Indian rupees and that it would be used for the purchase of additional goods on a mutually agreed basis.

The Indian Delegation agreed that subject to satisfactory arrangements being made to ensure that the exports financed out of the sale proceeds of the additional quantity of rice now offered would, in fact, constitute a net increase in India's exports to Burma, India would buy up to 150,000 tons of rice of acceptable quality.

As regards 1960 crop, there was a firm commitment for the purchase of 350,000 tons of rice. If the total quantity of rice to be purchased by India was increased substantially above 350,000 tons, both the delegations agreed to hold further discussions.

New Wheat Variety Developed

It has been announced on September 25 that the Indian Agricultural Research Institute of the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture has developed a new wheat variety — N.P. 829 — for growing in the lower hills of North India. This variety has now been released for commercial cultivation.

Field trials carried out in the hilly regions of the States of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and the Punjab have shown that in several areas the per acre yield of the new wheat variety was much higher than that of all existing varieties, both improved and indigenous. This variety is also resistant to the common diseases of the wheat crop such as the rusts and loose smut.

About 65,000 maunds of nucleus seed of N.R. 829 produced during 1958-59 is being allocated to the Agriculture Departments of these States for further multiplication and distribution to the farmers.

EXPORT OF KHANDSARI FROM U.P.

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture on September 30, says that the Government of India have removed with effect from October 1, restrictions on export of *Khandsari* sugar from the State of Uttar Pradesh. Restrictions on export of *Khandsari* sugar from other States will, however, continue under the Sugar (Movement Control) Order, 1959. There will be no restrictions on the import of *Khandsari* sugar from Uttar Pradesh into any State.

Conference Of Warousemen

The fourth All India Conference of Warehousemen was held at Poona on September 14 and 15 to consider improvement of warehousing facilities as part of a co-ordinated drive to bring about self-sufficiency in food. Shri L.G. Rajwade, Managing Director, Central Warehousing Corporation, presided.

The need for co-ordination between warehouses and co-operative marketing societies, and specific proposals in regard to giving special consideration to small producers and co-operative societies was discussed at the meeting. The question of simplifying the procedure of issuing advances by banks against warehouse receipts and reducing the cost of insurance was also taken up.

As transport difficulties often create a bottleneck in the movement of agricultural produce from the interior to the warehouses, the conference considered a proposal to help the growers and co operatives by offering transport facilities for warehousing their commodities.

In order to help the producer to realise better prices for his stocks by keeping him informed of the market rates at different centres, a proposal for exchange of information between warehouses was also considered.

The need for co-ordination between warehouses and co-operative marketing societies and specific proposals in regard to giving special consideration to small producers and co-operative societies was discussed at the conference.

The conference was preceded by a meeting of Warehousemen on September 14 at which the question of part delivery of stocks at warehouses and the desirability of creating a self-insurance pool was taken up. Measures were also formulated to bring about a closer link between the co-operative marketing societies and the warehouses by according preferential treatment to such societies over other desposi-tors.

The conference was attended by Members of the Board of Directors of the Central Warehousing Corporation, Chairmen and Managing Directors of the State Warehousing Corporations, Registrars of Co-operative Societies of States, State Marketing Officers and representatives of Co-operative and Scheduled Banks.

The conference, which is held every six months, reviewed the progress of work done in accordance with the resolutions adopted in the last conference of warehousemen held in Hyderabad in March, 1959. The Hyderabad Conference had resolved to make efforts through the State Bank of India and the Reserve Bank of India to simplify procedure regarding banking facilities and minimise delays in advancing loans to depositors against warehouse receipts.

Central National Herbarium

The Government of India, it has been announced on September 26, have set up a five-member Governing Body for the Central National Herbarium under the chairmanship of the Chief Botanist, Botanical Survey of India. The members of the Governing Body are the Conservator-General of Forests, West Bengal; Superintendent, Indian Botanic Garden, West Bengal; a representative of the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs. The Keeper, National Herbarium, will act as member-secretary to the Governing Body.

Besides day-to-day management, the Governing Body will review the progress of research in the botanical field and chalk out the necessary scientific programmes.

Under the scheme of expansion of the Botanical Survey of India in the Second Plan, the Indian Botanical Garden, Sibpur, was transferred to the Centre from West Bengal in 1957. The Sibpur Botanical Garden served as a nucleus for building up the National Herbarium as part and parcel of the Botanical Survey of India.

Horticulture Board's Meeting

The Horticulture Development Board of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in New Delhi met on September 19. Dr. M.S. Randhawa, Vice-President of the Council, presided.

The Board strongly recommended that legislation should be passed by States preventing nurseries of fruit plants from selling spurious saplings to orchard owners and regulating fruit and vegetable markets. A draft Bill for licensing of cold storages to assure better standards of storage of perishables like fruits and vegetables was also approved by the Board.

For the proper co-ordination of development work, the meeting recommended the setting up of fruit technological laboratories along with the regional fruit research stations and sub-stations in various parts of the country.

The Board considered a note on the new fruit and vegetable products like fruited cereal flakes, fruit toffees, strained baby foods and papain and pectin from raw papayas, standardised at the Central Fruit Technological Research Institute, Mysore, and agreed that a detailed report should be prepared indicating if the production of such products on a commercial scale could be an economic proposition.

Joint Indo-American Team On Agriculture

The Government of India have appointed a second joint Indo-American Team to evaluate the progress of agricultural education, research and extension during the past five years and to recommend on these with special reference to the Third Five-Year Plan, says an announcement of September 15.

The Team will also review the sisterhood arrangements concluded in 1955 with the five Land Grant Universities of the U.S.A. under the Indo-U.S. Technical Co-operation Programme to find out the extent to which they have helped in the development of agricultural education, research and extension programmes in the country.

The Team is expected to start functioning in October, 1959 and complete its work by the end of January, 1960.

Dr. M.S. Randhawa, Vice-President, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, is the chairman of the Team which has as its members the Agricultural Commissioner to the Government of India, Dr. L. Sahai, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Dr. B.N. Uppal, Chairman, Expert Committee on Location and Reclamation of Waste Lands, a representative of the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, Shri Lal Singh, Representative of the Committee on Plan Projects, Planning Commission, Shri P.D. Nair, Agricultural Adviser to the Government of Kerala, Dr. M.D. Patel, Director, Institute of Agriculture, Anand, three representatives from the American Land Grant Universities and one representative of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. K.C. Naik, Chief of Agricultural Education, will be the Secretary of the Team.

The first joint Indo-American Team was appointed by the Government of India in November, 1954 to suggest measures for the improvement of existing facilities in the field of agricultural education and research in the country. This Team submitted its report in September, 1955.

River Projects & Power

HIRAKUD PROJECT TRANSFERRED TO ORISSA GOVERNMENT

At a meeting of Hafiz Mohd. Ibrahim, Union Minister of Irrigation and Power, and Dr. H.K. Mahtab, Chief Minister of Orissa, held in New Delhi on September 25, it has been decided that the Hirakud Dam Project will be transferred to the Orissa Government, and its administration will be taken over by the State Government from the Government of India on April 1, 1960.

The financial arrangements between the Central and State Governments for this purpose are at present being worked out, and will be completed before the date of the transfer of the project.

Among those who attended the meeting were Dr. G. Gopala Reddy, Minister of State, Union Ministry of Finance; Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power; Shri C.M. Trivedi, Member, Planning Commission; and senior officers of the Union Ministries of Finance and Irrigation and Power, and the State Government.

The Hirakud Dam is located about nine miles upstream of Sambalpur across the river Mahanadi, and the masonry, concrete and earth-filled barrier has a length of about three miles, flanked by 13 miles of low earthen dykes.

The reservoir, formed by the Dam, has a capacity of 6.60 million acre feet of water, of which 4.5 million acre feet will be available for irrigation purposes.

The main canals and branches, about 91.5 miles in length, and distributaries and minors, about 460 miles in length, would ultimately provide irrigation for over 5 lakh acres of land in Sambalpur district in Orissa.

The Power House situated at the base of the Dam, has an installed capacity of 123,000 kw.

The works relating to the Dam were started in 1948 and completed in 1957. The canal system has also been completed this year.

D.V.C. STUDY TEAM APPOINTED

An announcement of September 24 says that a study team, with Shri S.D. Khungar, as Chairman, has been constituted by the Damodar Valley Corporation to survey the water resources of the Damodar Valley, and recommend how best these could be utilised for economic development of the region.

The terms of reference for the team include study of the present and future water requirements of the region for agricultural, industrial navigational and other purposes, and the need for augmenting the flood control capacity of the D.V.C. The team will further examine the effect of the Tilaiya, Konar, Maithon and Panchet Hill dams on the Damodar and Barakar rivers, and on the lower reaches of the Damodar and Rupnarayan rivers and the Hooghly as they affect the Port of Calcutta. The possible repercussions following construction of additional dams and the availability of stowing sand for collieries will also be considered.

On the basis of these studies, the team will make recommendations regarding construction of one or more dams at Aiyar, Bokaro, Belpahari, Bermo or at other suitable places. It will keep in view the question of submergence of any coal-bearing areas while selecting suitable sites for additional dams in the valley.

The team includes a representative each from the Union Ministries of Commerce and Industry, and Steel, Mines and Fuel, and Chief Engineer (Civil), D.V.C. The Manager, Reservoir Operations, D.V.C., will act as member-secretary.

The team is likely to submit its report to the D.V.C. by October 31, 1959.

Education & Culture

MEETING OF SECRETARIES OF SECONDARY EDUCATION BOARDS

A two-day conference of Secretaries of the Boards of Secondary Education was held in New Delhi on September 21. Shri P.N. Kirpal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, and Chairman, All India Council for Secondary Education, presided.

Addressing the opening session of the conference, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, referred to the large number of failures in the High School and Higher Secondary examinations during the last few years. It was rather curious that the number of failures was growing in spite of all that was being done to improve the examination system and develop education, he said.

The question of reforming the examination system had been under discussion for the last 30 or 40 years, but no practical measures had been taken to remedy the situation until recently. This was the first time, the Minister pointed out that the Union Ministry of Education had earnestly taken up this question and was determined to tackle the problem.

Analysing the causes of failures, Dr. Shrimali said that the examining bodies had become impersonal and that they had no real contact with the students who passed every year. There was no vital link between the Boards of Examination and the actual work that was being done in the educational institutions. The solution of the problem, the Minister added, required hard and sustained work on the part of teachers, students and the parents. There was a growing tendency to feel satisfied with lower standards and lower output in Secondary education.

Referring to some of the measures of examination reform recommended by Secondary Education Commission he said that one of them was internal assessment of students' work. There was some risk in the system of internal assessment because confidence had to be reposed in the judgment of teachers, some of whom were likely to be partial. Reliance would have to be placed on teachers who had moulded the character of children during all these years.

Dealing with the question of introducing new types of objective tests, Dr. Shrimali said that in testing young people, three kinds of abilities, recognised by psychologists, would have to be taken into account, viz., verbal ability, manual ability and aesthetic ability. Types of examinations which would test all kinds of abilities would have to be devised to suit the environments of the children. The present type of examinations were more suitable to those with verbal ability. The type of tests that should be devised would have to incorporate some of the features of the old tests which had stood the test of time. At the same time, scope should be given for assessing manual and aesthetic abilities so as to strike a balance between the new and traditional type of tests.

The Minister also referred to some other measures of examination reform which the Education Ministry had suggested. These measures included publication of separate results of private and regular candidates and improvement in the teaching of English and Mathematics, the two subjects mainly responsible for the large number of failures and also holding of supplementary examinations. He also stressed the need for improvement in teaching techniques and methods.

Main Recommendations

The conference recommended important measures to deal with the problem of large failures at the Secondary school examination, reform in the examination system and to raise the general standard of education at the Secondary level.

With regard to the problem of large failures at the Secondary School examination, the conference was in agreement with the following suggestions offered by the All-India Council for Secondary Education:

(i) Better balanced syllabi might be framed through a constant reappraisal of existing syllabi by teachers and a specially constituted State Curriculum Committee, and (ii) educational procedures should be so closely inter-related that examinations really measure the intellectual growth and development of pupils rather than their memory.

The conference further recommended that the Examination Sub-Committee of the A.I.C.S.E. might examine the possibilities of (i) staggering the examination at the tenth and eleventh grades so as to reduce the load of studies on the pupil and (ii) holding a two level examination, one for those candidates for whom such an examination will be terminal and the other for those who proceed to higher studies.

Standards In English And Mathematics

As regards poor performance of pupils in English and Mathematics in the High School Certificate Examination it recommended that (a) planned and concerted efforts to improve the language competency of the English teacher leading to better instruction in English should be made by the State Departments of Education; and (b) the boards of Secondary Education (i) should adopt as early as possible a syllabus in English based on controlled vocabulary and graded structures; (ii) set questions in examinations to test mastery of the skills involved in the use of the English language rather than a knowledge of content of set text-books and (iii) evolve suitable scoring procedures to ensure maximum objectivity and uniformity in marking answer scripts.

Regarding the poor standards of attainment in mathematics, the conference recommended that the Boards of Secondary Education should (a) investigate the factors that contribute to poor attainment in mathematics and seek to remove them, (b) examine the possibility of so structuring the examination in mathematics that an examinee is free to answer questions on those sub-areas for which he has an aptitude, rather than every area of the subject, and (c) provide in-service training to teachers of mathematics in the lowest classes, so as to make them competent in motivating children adequately to the study of mathematics right from the beginning.

It further recommended that the Boards of Secondary Education should (a) provide for the automatic scrutiny of the answer scripts of all marginal cases of examinees who fail by not more than five marks, (b) ensure uniformity of standards in passing, by (i) maintaining the passing level at 33% in all subjects and (ii) keeping the total number of subject offerings at 6, subject however, to the proviso that failure in English may be condoned.

Supplementary Examination

On the question of holding supplementary examination for failed candidates, the conference expressed its agreement in principle to hold such examination. However, it recommended that the Boards of Secondary Education should study (a) the possibility of declaring eligible for college course, talented candidates who may fail in one subject but score in the aggregate 55% provided they do not offer at the college the subject in which they have failed; and (b) ways of rationally awarding grace marks which ought to be earned by the candidates according to a graded scale but not given automatically.

Internal Assessment

As an integral part of the reform in examination system, the conference generally favoured the introduction of internal assessment. As many as 10 Boards had either introduced or decided to introduce internal assessment as part of the final examination. The conference expressed the hope that the other Boards would implement the suggestion after preparing themselves to meet the difficulties that stood in their way. It further recommended that the Central Examination Unit should undertake research in the problems and difficulties which had been brought to light by this reform.

It was of the view that the internal assessment should supplement the external assessment in judging a candidate's total performance and that though a minimum might be laid down for each type of assessment, separate passing in each or either should not be required.

The conference recommended that in subjects in which the Central Examination Unit is preparing test material, part of the question paper, carrying 25% of the total marks, be organised along new lines, the reform being introduced in the internal examinations at a date not later than the examination of 1961 and in the external examinations not later than in the examination of 1962.

It also recommended that a Central Bureau of Curriculum Development and Curriculum Research be set up to work in close co-ordination with the Central Examination Unit.

Admission Standards

Regarding minimum standards to govern admissions and promotions in all school classes, the conference recommended to the State Governments to lay down certain definite minimum standards. In this connection it suggested that schools on their part should (i) carefully formulate principles of promotion and adhere to them firmly so that children would be aware of the levels of achievement expected of them and would work towards them, and (ii) organise special free tuitions and remedial teaching for backward pupils well in advance of the examinations.

In regard to the results of private and regular candidates, it recommended for adoption by all Boards, the practice of publishing their results separately so that the performance of private candidates might not depress the results of the whole examination. It further recommended that except in the case of girl students and over-aged pupils, the Boards might restrict the admission of private candidates to the examinations.

The conference also recommended that the Directorate of Extension Programmes should take effective steps for bringing about greater co-ordination among the Central Examination Unit, State Education Departments, State Boards of Secondary Education, Extension Services Departments and Training Colleges.

The conference, which was sponsored by the Directorate of Extension Programmes for Secondary Education, was attended by representatives and Secretaries of the State Boards of Secondary Education, eminent educationists, representatives of some of the universities and University Grants Commission.

National Council For Women's Education

The Union Ministry of Education has constituted a 25-member National Council for Women's Education to advise Government on matters relating to the education of girls at school level and of adult women, reads an announcement of September 27. Shrimati Durgabai

Deshmukh will be the Chairman of the National Council.

Besides the Chairman, the National Council will have 14 nominees of State Governments, one member of the Central Advisory Board of Education, two members of Parliament, one representative each of the Planning Commission, the Ministries of Community Development and Co-operation, Health and Labour and of the Centrally-administered areas and two representatives of the Ministry of Education.

The Council, whose headquarters will be at New Delhi, will meet at least once every year. The tenure of office of non-official members will be two years. The State Governments' representatives may either be officials or non-officials.

Functions

The Council will suggest policies, programmes, targets, and priorities for the expansion and improvement of the education of girls of school-going age and of adult women. It will also suggest measures for utilising voluntary effort and educating public opinion in favour of the education of girls and women.

The Council will make recommendations for the collection of specific data on problems relating to education of girls and women, sample surveys, research projects and seminars. The progress achieved will also be evaluated from time to time by the Council.

Members

Members of the Council include: Shrimati Chandravati Lakhanpal, Member, Rajya Sabha; Shrimati Jayaben Shah, Member, Lok Sabha and Shrimati Hansa Mehta, Member, Central Advisory Board of Education.

The State Government representatives are: Shrimati Subramanyeswari, Andhra Pradesh; Shrimati Puspa Lata Das, Assam; Shrimati Zahra Ahmed, Bihar; Dr. A.G. Pawar, Bombay; Begum Barkat Jalal-ud-din, Jammu and Kashmir; Mrs. O.C. Srinivasan, Kerala; Shri S.P. Varma, Madhya Pradesh; Shri S. Viswanathan, Madras; Shrimati M.R. Lakshamma, Mysore; Shrimati L.L. Sinha, Orissa; Deputy Directress of Public Instruction, Punjab; Shrimati Prabha Misra, Rajasthan; Kumari K.D. Khanna, Uttar Pradesh, and Shrimati K. Gupta, West Bengal.

The representatives of the Central Government are: Shrimati Mona Hensman, Ministry of Education; Shrimati Indumati Chiman Lal, Ministry of Education; Shri M.R. Kothandaraman, Planning Commission; Dr. (Miss) P. Dass, Ministry if Community Development and Co-operation; Dr. S. Bhatia, Ministry of Health, and Shri V.R. Antani, Ministry of Labour.

The representative of the Centrally-administered areas, who has not yet been named, will be nominated by the Union Ministry of Education in consultation with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Kumari S. Rajan, Assistant Educational Adviser, Union Ministry of Education, will act as the Secretary of the Council.

The decision to constitute the National Council was taken on the recommendation of the National Committee on Women's Education, which submitted its report to the Government of India in January, 1959. The National Committee was set up in May, 1958, under the chairmanship of Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh.

Basic Education Week

An announcement of September 15 says that the Basic Education Week next year will be observed from January 20 to 26, 1960 all over the country. The main purpose of the Week is to create better understanding of the system of basic education among the people.

The next Basic Education Week will be of special significance. During the current year a nation-wide programme of orientating elementary (non-basic) schools towards the basic pattern was launched. It was envisaged that the programme of full conversion towards the basic pattern and the orientation programme should stimulate each other, focussing the attention of the teachers and the public towards the evolution of the national system of education at the elementary stage. Special steps will be taken during the week for popularising the orientation programme. The Union Cabinet has also decided that every effort should be made to provide universal, free and compulsory primary education for the age group 6-11 during the Third Five Year Plan.

The programme of celebrations during the week includes organisation of lectures and discussion groups to explain the concept of basic education and the essential features of the orientation programme, radio broadcasts, screening of films and film strips, organisation of basic education exhibition in towns and rural centres, demonstration of different crafts and craft produce of the trainees of basic training institutions, decoration, beautification and illumination of school buildings, organisations of special cultural and recreational programmes as part of the community activities, organisation of contests in general knowledge, sports, etc. among the students of elementary schools, distribution of posters and pamphlets in regional languages depicting developments of basic education in States, etc.

Technical Education Committee Meeting

The Seventeenth meeting of the Eastern Regional Committee of the All-India Council for Technical Education was held in Calcutta on September 25 under the chairmanship of Shri Jehangir J. Ghandy.

In his speech, Shri Ghandy stated that in the Eastern region there would now be 13 engineering colleges and 35 polytechnics. Three new engineering colleges would be set up at Durgapur, Jamshedpur and Jorhat. Of the seven new polytechincs, three would be established in West Bengal, three in Bihar and one in Orissa.

With the new colleges and polytechnics, the total in-take capacity in technical institutions in the Eastern Region, comprising West Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Orissa, will be 8,700 students per annum. Of this, the in-take capacity of the engineering colleges will be 2,960 and of polytechnics 5,740 students annually. The ratio of diploma students to degree students will be 2:1.

Shri Ghandy felt that the country would need more mechanical and electrical engineers in view of the industrial expansion envisaged under the Second and Third Five-Year plans. Hitherto, in technical institutions there was more emphasis on civil engineering, where the total in-take was almost double than that of the other two branches of technology. He said that some of the institutions have already proposed reorientation of the seats in their respective institutions by providing more seats in mechanical and electrical engineering as compared to that of civil engineering.

Referring to the facilities available at various institutions, the Chairman regretted that a great majority of the polytechnics were still not properly equipped, though sufficient grants had already been made available to most of them. He, however, expressed hope that the respective State Councils for Technical Education would appoint the necessary inspection staff required to periodically inspect the polytechnics under their jurisdiction and ensure the procurement and erection of machineries at an early date.

Teaching Staff

On the question of teaching staff, the Chairman pointed out that there had been a slight improvement in this respect, though the number of vacancies was still very large. In order to remove the dearth of teachers, about 70 scholars, under the scheme of Senior Teaching Fellowships, had been selected for training at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and the Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur, he added.

Referring to the part-time degree courses started in the Jadavpur University for the first time in India, Shri Ghandy observed that it would go a long way in increasing the number of graduates and diploma holders in the country, without increasing the number of full-time colleges, which involved great expenditure to the States.

He welcomed the proposal from the Birla Vidya Vihar Trust for the establishment of a new engineering college at Calcutta.

Decisions Of The Committee

The Committee approved the establishment of seven polytechnics in the Eastern Region. Of these, three would be set up in West Bengal, three in Bihar, and one in Orissa. In West Bengal the polytechnics would be located at Ultadanga, Barasat, and Malda, with a total in-take of 540 students annually. Purnea, Darbhanga and Gaya in Bihar would have one polytechnic each, with a total intake of 180 students annually in each of the institutions. In Orissa the new polytechnic would be set up at Kendrapara in Cuttack district, with a capacity of 120 students annually.

The committee agreed to expansion in the intake capacity of the Birprasad Palchoudhury Institute of Technology, Krishnagar, and Sree Ramkrishna Silpa Vidyapith, Suri, in West Bengal. These institutions will now have an annual intake of 180 and 120 students respectively.

It approved the proposal for the establishment of a new engineering college at Calcutta. An expert committee was set up to work out the details of the proposed college, which is sponsored by the Birla Vidya Vihar Trust.

The Committee agreed to increase admissions in the part-time degree courses in engineering at Jadavpur University from 20 to 40 students in each course of civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering.

The Government of West Bengal submitted various schemes before the Committee, including establishment of a Chemical Polytechnic at Calcutta, development of textile engineering courses at Colleges of Textile Technology at Serampore and Berhampore and the development of degree courses and opening of diploma courses in leather technology at the College of Leather Technology, Calcutta.

Science Consultants Service

A pilot project designed to improve science education in elementary schools by making available expert guidance to teachers is proposed to be launched by the Union Education Ministry, it has been announced on September 20.

The pilot project — "Science Consultant's Service", will be implemented during the remaining period of the Second Five Year Plan. Initially, it will be instituted in selected areas in each State.

The project, besides making the teaching of science adequate, interesting and effective at the elementary stage, will also seek to familiarise the average citizen with the working and the nature of principles and apparatus which they will be called upon to handle.

Under the scheme, a science consultant will be put in charge of a small area with about 100 elementary schools and entrusted with the task of bringing about practical improvements in the teaching of science in the schools of that area by trying out new methods and experiments, discussing and demonstrating better techniques and improving teaching aids and materials. It is also proposed to hold a Central Seminar of all such science consultants at the initial stage to ensure uniformity of approach to the subject.

In accordance with the detailed plan formulated by the Union

Education Ministry, the science consultant will be attached to the staff of a junior basic training college. Where adequate facilities for this are not available, he may be attached to a secondary school, or a Vigyan Mandir. Besides undertaking a study of the existing science curricula of the State at the elementary stage and working out a model curriculum in the light of experiences gained, the science consultant will also initiate an intense on-the-spot study of current practices with the help of school teachers and Research Bureaux of training colleges to build up the science curricula and techniques for elementary schools.

The scheme, estimated to cost Rs. 2 lakhs, will cover grades I to VIII of the elementary schools. Later it is proposed to expand the scheme to cover the whole of the State on the basis of experience gained in the implementation of the pilot project.

The rapid industrialisation of the country envisaged under the development plans, the extension of electricity to the villages and the speed at which new scientific techniques are replacing the old has made it increasingly necessary to spread the general knowledge of science among the average citizen of the urban and the rural areas.

MEETING OF CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology was held at Bhubaneswar on September 30, 1959. Shri Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs and Chairman of the Board ,presided. Shri Harekrishna Mahatab. Chief Minister of Orissa, inaugurated the session.

In his presidential address Dr. Humayun Kabir, disclosed that the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act enacted in 1958 and the Rules framed thereunder would be brought into force from October 15, 1959. The new Act would put an end to the haphazard constructions near protected monuments which detracted from their aesthetic value. Further, in conformity with the provsions of the new Act, the programme of explorations and excavations would be a co-ordinated one for the whole country.

He added that from October 15, 1959, a School of Archaeology would start functioning at Delhi to train students in professional archaeology. The establishment of the new School of Archaeology was first suggested by the late Maulana Azad. The School would go a long way in meeting the manpower requirements of archaeologists, both at the Centre and in the States. In-service training in conservation and other ancillary services, provided at the School, would help in improving the standard of performance of officers.

Dr. Kabir urged the need for local support and enthusiasm in the preservation of India's national heritage. The need for such support could hardly be overemphasised in a vast country like India.

Referring to the "fairly large-scale" vandalism in certain parts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh where heads of beautiful statues and statuettes had been cut off apparently for commercial purposes, Dr. Kabir said that he was glad to report that strong action had recently been taken to check this evil.

Orissa Heritage

From the point of view of archaeological interest, the Minister stated, Orissa was one of the richest centres in India. He added that nowhere else in India could one see and study the origin, development and decay of a homogeneous and coherent architectural order as as Ekamra-Kshetra, now known as Bhubaneswar.

With such abundant materials scattered all around, the Department of Archaeology had actively carried out many excavations in this region. Since 1948, excavations at Sisupalgarh, near Bhubaneswar, and Jaugada in Ganjam district had yielded new and interesting results, but of still greater interest was the recent excavation at Ratnagiri of one of the most impressive Buddhist establishments of early medieval India. The newly-discovered remains furnished material for the study of medieval Buddhist art, architecture and religion.

He said that Orissa was one of the States which did not inherit a Monuments Act and a Department of Archaeology from pre-Independence days. Yet it was one of the first States to promote legislation and to start an archaeological organisation of its own. Besides, a preliminary archaeological survey was almost complete of the many Princely states which had merged with Orissa.

Alamgirpur Finds

The Minister said the discovery of a Harappa settlement at Alamgirpur, 28 miles north-east of Delhi, was an archaeological event of first-rate importance. Since we already had some idea of the civilization which flourished in the Indus Basin, the time had come to explore the Ganga Basin to find out if there was a comparable contemporary civilization in this part of India.

He also made special mention of the light thrown on India's past by the important excavations at Lothal, Navadatoli, Kausambi and Mahbubnagar and Chandraketugarh carried out by the Department or Universities and other learned bodies.

Archaeological Museums

The Minister said that grants totalling Rs. 11 lakhs out of the total budget provision of Rs. 15 lakhs for museums during the current year for their maintenance, development, etc., had already been spent. The foundation stone of museums at Nagarjunasagar and Lothal had already been laid, while local museums were to be established also at Rupar, Vaisali, Ratnagiri, Konarak, Srirangapatna, Hampi and Halebid.

He appealed to the State Governments and local authorities to take the initiative in arranging for the preservation of monuments taken off the national list. A definite policy in this regard for co-ordinating the Central and State activities was under consideration of the Government, he added.

The Director-General presented to the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology the Report on the working of the Department of Archaeology during 1958-59 in the form of a review at the meeting.

Extensive exploration was carried out throughout the country, covering all early epochs of Indian history. It resulted in the location of a large number of new sites which have enlarged the horizon of the early Stone-Age cultures of India.

Surveys were also carried out of some important tracts in Chambal Valley in Madhya Pradesh and Tapti Valley in Bombay which were to be inundated in the near future as a result of the launching of new irrigation projects. In the Chambal area rock-shelters with primitive paintings and medieval temples were discovered while in the Tapti Valley sites with ancient tools and microlith relics were found.

Alamgirpur Finds

One of the most important sites excavated was at Alamgirpur, 28 miles from Delhi. The archaeological finds there were expected to be of great value to future historians and archaeologists. The new excavation showed that Alamgirpur had passed through four periods belonging respectively to the Harappa, Painted Grey Ware, early historical and very late medieval periods. From all evidence, the last period of the site may be regarded as belonging to the late 17th or early 18th century.

Archaeologists have found at the Alamgirpur site fascinating evidence about cloth. Impressions on a trough showed that the yarn must have been fairly fine. The pile of thick platters and troughs belonging to the Harappa Age found at the site were presumably used for preparing bread.

According to the report it was known that the Painted Grey Ware culture succeeded the Harappa culture but no direct link was available. The new discoveries added a pier to the bridge which, it was hoped, would link the two cultures.

Another site in the Ganga Valley, Sravasti, yielded a few specimens of the Painted Grey Ware culture. The find of iron at Sravasti, as at Alamgirpur, along with Painted Grey Ware, seemed to suggest that both the sites represented the last phase of the Painted Grey Ware culture.

Around Delhi

The medieval fortifications of Delhi were further investigated in the Mehrauli area to the north of Qutab. Excavation work was resumed at Lal Kot to ascertain the relationship of the inner wall with the outer fortification. It appeared that the inner citadel of Lal Kot had been more compact than hitherto believed and the high wall, pierced by Ghazni, was of later construction.

To the south east of Qutab Minar a four-armed image of Vishnu in black stone was found with A.D. 1147 inscribed as the date of installation.

Link With Iran

Excavation was continued at Nevadatoli which was established as the key-site of Chalcolithic culture of Central India and particularly of the Narmada basin. It was felt that there was evidence that the site had Iranian contacts from its very inception. A link between the Narmada and Godavari cultures was also provided at Navdatoli by the occurrence of Jorwe Ware.

Excavations were continued during the year at Lothal, an important southern outpost of Harappa culture. Evidence pointed out that the town must have been twice as much larger than was indicated by the present mound. It was believed that an enormous brick enclosure, in the form of a wharf, which was exposed might testify to the water-borne trade carried on by the Harappans.

The report added that sanitary arrangements in ancient Lothal included soakage troughs and cess-pools to dispose of sullage water. To ensure quick flow of water into the drain, drops were provided at regular intervals in the brick flooring.

Ratnagiri Monasteries

At Ratnagiri in Orissa, the Archaeological Department discovered the remains of two most impressive Buddhist monasteries. According to the Report, Ratnagiri had now taken a definte place in the history of late Buddhist art and architecture. Sealings discovered showed that the Buddhist establishment there had borne the same name as the place did today.

Excavations at the fortifications of Kausambi continued to yield interesting evidence about the defensive system of the site and its stratigraphy.

Re-excavations at Vaisali, an early historical site in northern Bihar, yielded remnants of defences falling within three Periods ending with the late Kushan and early Gupta age.

The report stated that a larger part of the temple traced last year at Chandraketugarh in West Bengal had been brought to light. The temple was believed to belong to the Gupta Age.

Work continued in full swing at Nagarjunakonda. Neolithic burials, Buddhist and Brahmanic monuments figured among the excavated remains.

Among other discoveries, mention was also made of stone sculptures in the Buddhist caves at Pitalkhora in the Deccan; previously unnoticed Buddhist caves at Khambhalida in Saurashtra and the remains of residential structures at the top of the caves at Junagadh.

The review stated that a large number of monuments received attention by way of structural repairs, chemical preservation and general tidying up.

The review referred in detail to the close co-operation and collaboration between the Department and the Universities and other bodies engaged in the important work of excavation.

Reference was also made to the epigraphical discoveries, maintenance of museums, preservation of monuments, archaeological gardens and the work of the Chemical Branch of the Archaeological Department.

Survey Of Temples

According to the review considerable progress had been registered in the architectural survey of ancient temples in the northern and southern regions of India, carried out separately by Temple-Survey Teams of the Archaeological Department of the Government of India.

In the north, the Gupta temples and the early medieval temples of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Central India were studied. In the South, interesting results were obtained by the analysis of the elements of Pallava and other contemporary rock-cut cave-temples and monolithic temples.

North India Temples

The northern region temple survey team completed a survey of the early temples, from A.D. 400 to 800, in Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Central India. Only a few temples situated in the outlying regions of Saurashtra, Assam, West Bengal and Orissa remained to be covered to complete the survey of such temples in North India.

A comparative study was also made of the early northern-type temples in Alampur situated on the Tungabhadra in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

In addition, the team carried out an extensive survey of the early medieval temples of Rajasthan at Haras, Parangar, Mandor and other places. The important groups of Paramara temples situated in Central India were also subjected to an intensive comparative study.

Southern Region

In the South, a survey was made in great detail of the numerous cave-temples in the Chola and Pandya regions. The findings of the southern region survey team revealed that the Pandya cave-temples were contemporary with the later examples of the Pallavah i.e. 8th century and after. In addition, they had some characteristic architectual details of their own as compared with the Pallava cave-temples. The most striking feature was their iconographic content.

The survey discovered at Malayadikkurichi, Tirunelveli District of Madras, one of the three unique cave-temples with foundation-inscriptions which would form the basis for the relative dating of other cave temples not having such inscriptions.

The team in their report made a special mention of the cave-temples at Namakkal, Salem District of Madras and particularly of the Ranganata temple built up by the contemporary minor dynasties.

A clearer picture about the classification and affinities of different groups of temples in the South was expected to emerge with the completion of the survey of a few more cave-temples of non-Pallava origin in Kerala State.

The Advisory Board was constituted for the purpose of cultivating closer contacts between the Union Universities and learned societies as also of arousing public interest in the activities of the Department. As a result, several universities and institutions are lending their co-operation in furtherance of the archaeological interests. Besides, many young scholars are receiving training in field-archaeology. The Standing Committee of the Board met on September 29.

Music and Dance Competition

Prof. Humayun Kabir, Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, inaugurated a four-day competition in music and dance, open to the Government employees and their families, on September 17 in the Central Secretariat in New Delhi. The competition was organized by the Staff Welfare Section of the Union Home Ministry.

Items included in the competition were: Hindustani and Karnatic classical vocal music; instrumental music, sitar, violin, sarod, veena, flute and tabla or mridanga and dances. The closing function was presided over by Shri Gopala Reddy, Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure.

The Staff Welfare Section has been set up by the Government of India to look after such domestic and personal problems of Class II, Class III and Class IV employees relating to education, health, accommodation, recreation etc.

Competition In Printing And Designing

An announcement of September 16 says that the fifth State Awards Competition for excellence in Printing and Designing of books and other publications instituted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will be held towards the end of November, 1959.

Prizes are to be awarded for 25 different categories, which cover children's books, illustrated and art books, book production in English and Indian languages, daily newspapers in

English and Indian languages, display advertisements, art magazines and annuals, house journals, periodicals, posters, folders, calendars, diaries, Devnagari type faces, labels, best bound books, packaging and point of sales (counter and display material). Printing of various kinds, whether on paper, tin-plate or aluminium falls within the scope of the competition.

This year, the entries produced wholly in India between August 15, 1958 and August 14, 1959 will be considered. One of the important conditions is that the designing of the various entries and their printing should have been completely executed in India.

The entries will be adjudged by a Committee of Judges, consisting of a Chairman and other experts representing printing, advertising and publishing industries and eminent artists. No entry fee is prescribed. After the prizes are awarded, there will be an Exhibition of selected entries in New Delhi.

The State Awards for excellence in Printing and Designing of books and other publications were instituted in 1955 in recognition of the rapid progress made by the printing industry and other graphic arts in India and during the last four years this measure of state recognition has served as an impetus for technical progress in the field.

RECOGNITION OF DEGREE

An announcement of September 30 says that in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission, the Government of India has extended upto September 17, 1961, the recognition accorded to the Shastri Examination of the Kashi Vidyapith as equivalent to B.A. degree of a recognised university.

Scholarships For The Deaf

It has been announced on September 26 that the Government of India have decided to grant in 1959-60 a limited number of post-school scholarships under their scheme of scholarships for deaf persons over 16 years.

The scholarships are for academic education above the primary or middle stage, professional education or training in technical institutions including training in fine arts or crafts.

The maximum amount admissible is Rs. 75 per month. The scholarship amount will be reduced by half in the case of students whose parents or guardians earn more than Rs. 400 per mensem. Students whose parents or guardians earn an income exceeding Rs. 750 per mensem will not be eligible for the scholarship.

No special academic or technical qualifications are prescribed, Although candidates are expected to possess such qualifications as may be required by the institutions which they expect to join.

FELLOWSHIPS FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A Press Note issued by the University Grants Commission on September 22 says that under the scheme of award of Senior Research and Post-Doctoral Fellowships for Science, Engineering and Technological subjects, the U.G.C. has selected 43 candidates for the awards for the year 1959-60. Of these candidates 17 have been selected for Senior Research Fellowships (Rs. 500 per month), 16 for Post Doctoral (or Junior) Fellowships (Rs. 300 P.M.) and 10 for Engineering.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs on September 20, says that under the Australian International Awards Scheme, the Government of Australia have offered a Senior Fellowship for an Indian national for study/training in Organisation of Art Galleries and Museum Objects Maintenance Technique during 1959-60. The duration of the study/training will be six months to one or two years.

The selected candidate will get about £A-860 per annum i.e. Rs. 9,130/- per annum approximately as maintenance allowance, cost of first class passage both ways, other facilities like text-books and tuition fees and other allowances etc.

LONDON INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on September 18, one candidate each from the Kayastha Pathshala Training College, Allahabad, and Government Training College for Women, Simla, have been selected for the fellowship tenable at the London University Institute of Education, London.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs on September 30 one candidate has been selected from the Bharat Electronics, Bangalore, for the award of a scholarship offered by the Government of France for Higher Studies in Workshop Technology during 1959-60.

AWARD OF G.D.R. GOVT. SCHOLARSHIPS

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs on September 17, says that the first batch of 20 candidates have oeen selected for the award of scholarships offered by the Government of German Democratic Republic (East Germany) 1959-60 for post-graduate studies in East German Universities/Institutions.

Of these candidates seven are for Engineering, three each for Electronics, Civil Engineering and Metallurgy, two for Technology and one each for Nuclear Science and Medicine. Under this scheme, 31 scholarships are to be awarded. The names of the remaining 11 candidates will be announced later, the Press Note adds.

NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Government of Norway, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on September 15, have offered a scholarship for a period of six months for an Indian scholar for post-graduate study/research in Pure Mathematics in Norway.

The value of the scholarship is Kronor 500/- (About Rs. 333/- p.m.) with exemption from registration dues and tuition fees. Cost of tourist or second class sea passage will also be provided.

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

According to an announcement of September 27 two candidates have been selected for the award of scholarships offered by the Government of Italy for study, research or training in Industrial Pharmacy and Agricultural Engineering in that country during 1959-60. The award of all the 21 scholarships for 1959-60 offered by the Italian Government is now complete.

The scholarships are administered in the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

SWISS GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs on September 22, says that one candidate has been selected for the award of a scholarship under the Swiss Government Scholarships Scheme 1959-60.

The scheme is administered by the above Ministry.

Health

ANTI-V.D. CAMPAIGN IN KULU VALLEY

It has been announced on September 23 that a short-term mass intensive campaign against venereal diseases is soon being launched in Kulu Valley in Kangra district by the Punjab Government in consultation with the Union Ministry of Health. The State Government will depute 60 teams for the work. The area of operation will be divided into three zones, namely, Kulu Valley, Inner Seraj and Outer Seraj and the campaign will be started in these areas simultaneously.

The campaign is expected to last for a period of about 2 months. Prior to the beginning of the campaign, an intensive health education programme and publicity will be carried out. The scheme has been prepared by the State Government and has the technical approval of the World Health Organisation.

The quantity of penicillin (PAM) required for the programme will be 78,600 vials of 10 cc. each. This will be supplied by the UNICEF. All other expenses will be met by the State Government. The cost of the campaign is estimated to be Rs. 7 lakhs.

To quicken the pace of the programme and to reach a big population within a short period, it is proposed to carry out the blanket-treatment programme on the entire population by giving the optimum dose of penicillin (PAM) in one injection. It is hoped that this will break the chain of infection and reduce its reservoir. The aim is to cover at least 90 per cent of the population at risk during the period of the programme. In this mass approach individual serologic testing will not be done.

A V.D. team is working in Kulu Valley since 1951 but it has not been able to reduce the incidence of V.D. to any appreciable extent. It is reckoned that up to July, 1959, about 42,500 people were treated by this team.

Venereal diseases are a major public health problem in the Kulu Sub-division which has a population of 1,30,000 concentrated in an area of 1,934 sq. miles. The incidence of syphilis is reported to be 30 per cent.

Sanitary Inspectors' Training Classes

A Press Note issued by the Union Ministry of Health says that the Ministry has approved the syllabus prescribed for the sanitary inspectors' training classes recently opened in New Delhi by the All India Institute of Local Self-Government, Bombay. The syllabus has been scrutinised by the technical experts of the Ministry and considered satisfactory.

The Ministry has written to the State Governments suggesting that they might consider the desirability of commending the course based on this syllabus to various local self-Government institutions in their jurisdiction. In this connection, it may be stated that the Government of India are not directly concerned with the recognition of such courses. This matter is the concern of the State Governments. The States in which the training centre is located must recognise the course. The Government of India recognise those courses which are recognised by the State Governments.

The period of six months' training prescribed in the syllabus is considered sufficient in view of the fact that the theoretical teaching and practical training will run concurrently and a similar course is already being conducted in Bombay.

The sanitary inspectors' training classes have been started by the All India Institute of Local Self-Government following the recommendation of the Central Council of Health in

January, 1955, which inter alia stated that it would be advisable to establish an all India institute for this purpose on the lines of the Royal Sanitary Institute, London. The All India Institute of Local Self-Government proposes to conduct sanitary inspectors' training classes in important cities.

Training Of Opticians

Seventy-eight persons, says an announcement of September 27, are receiving training as refractionists and opticians in various hospitals in the country. The duration of the course is two years.

There are 27 trainees in the first batch in the Gandhi Eye Hospital, Aligarh, 32 trainees in the Sitapur Eye Hospital and 19 trainees in the Sarojini Devi Hospital and Institute of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, Hyderabad.

The scheme to train refractionists and opticians was launched in 1957-58 when the Government of India decided to give financial assistance to State Governments for the purpose during the remaining period of the Second Five-Year Plan. Under the scheme, it is proposed to establish six training centres. Apart from the institutions which are at present giving training, three more will soon undertake courses under the scheme. These are the Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras, Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Trivandrum, and Minto Ophthalmic Hospital, Bangalore.

The Governments of Andhra Pradesh and U.P. were given grants of Rs. 75,000 and Rs. 76,200 during 1957-58 for establishing the training centres.

Dental Clinic to be Opened

According to an announcement of September 18 the Union Ministry of Health has sanctioned the establishment of 29 dental clinics in various States during 1959-60. Andhra Pradesh will be given a grant for setting up 8 clinics, Bihar for 4, Kerala for 1, Madhya Pradesh for 1, Madras for 3, Rajasthan for 4, U.P. for 2, West Bengal for 5 and Mysore for 1. The places where these clinics will be located will be determined by the State Governments.

Financial assistance to the extent of 75 per cent of the normal non-recurring expenditure on equipment limited to Rs. 15,000 and 50 per cent of the recurring expenditure on the maintenance of the clinics up to Rs. 6,600 will be given by the Union Government for the Plan period. The State Governments are to provide accommodation and bear the remaining expenditure.

Health Condition During July

Births and deaths registered in towns with a population of 30,000 and over during June, 1959, were of the order of 23 and 11 per thousand of population respectively, says an announcement of September 25. These figures are the same as in the month of May, 1959.

According to available data, the country remained free from plague. Cholera and Smallpox, however, continued to be reported from some parts of the country.

Cholera: Based on preliminary data for the week ended July 25, 1959, mild incidence was reported from Patna and Palamau districts in Bihar State; Ahmednagar and Nagpur districts in Bombay State; Guna district in Madhya Pradesh; Mandya district in Mysore State; Ganjam district in Orissa; and Calcutta city.

Smallpox: Mild incidence was reported from the districts of Srikakulam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Nellore, Kurnool, Anantapur, Guntur and Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh; Nagpur, Greater Bombay, North Satara and Poona in Bombay State; Raisen district in Madhya Pradesh; Ferozepur district in Punjab; Kotah and Tonk districts in Rajasthan; the districts of Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, Madurai, Salem, Madras city, Cingleput, Tiruchirappalli and Kanya Kumari districts in Madras State; Tumkur, Mandya, South Kanara, Dharwar, Belgaum, Chikmagalur, Bellary and Bijapur districts in Mysore State; Puri, Sambalpur, Dhenkanal and Mayurbhanj districts in Orissa, and Pondicherry.

Gastro-enteritis: During the week ended July 18, 1959, 131 cases with 25 deaths were reported from Uttar Pradesh as against 160 cases and 40 deaths during week ended July 11, 1959, and 215 cases and 45 deaths during week ended July 4, 1959.

Kyasanur Forest Disease: Three attacks were reported from Shimoga district in Mysore State during the fortnight ended July 18, 1959.

Influenza: Reports of sporadic cases were received from Assam, Bombay and Mysore States during the month under review.

Epidemic means 100 cases or more per week per million of population.

Heavy incidence means 50-100 cases per week per million of population.

Considerable incidence means 30-50 cases per week per million of population.

Mild incidence means less than 30 cases per week per million of population.

Social Welfare

MEETING OF STATE DIRECTORS OF YOUTH PROGRAMME

Addressing a three-day conference of State Directors of Youth Programme and Inservice Training which commenced in New Delhi on September 18, Shri B.S. Murthy, Deputy Minister for Community Development and Co-operation, emphasised the need for promoting organisations of the youth particularly in rural areas.

He pointed out that the scheme of democratic decentralisation which was now being inroduced in various States offered every villager an opportunity to make his contribution to the development of his village. The youth, properly institutionalised and working in functional groups, would play an important role in this respect.

He maintained that the creation of community feeling, the building up of character and health and the inculcation of discipline, self-help as well as mutual aid would wean away the younger generation from destructive and frustrating tendencies.

Opinion was divided on the age limit of persons to be covered by youth associations. Some State Directors maintained that the age limit should be 21. Others felt that persons upto the age of 30 should be allowed to join such organisations. However, they were generally in favour of eschewing rigidity in this matter. Persons who took real interest in youth activities should be drawn into *yuvak mandals* and other youth associations irrespective of their age.

The need for co-ordination between various functional groups promoted by different Ministries was also stressed at the meeting.

One of the decisions was that the youth organisations must be voluntary in character. The panchayats and government agency should stimulate the interest of the people in youth programmes and promote youth organisations by providing proper guidance and also some financial assistance.

The meeting took stock of the organisation and working of *yuvak* and *bal mandals*, also worked out the broad pattern by which the new programmes were to be phased, so that modifications, if necessary, could be made to achieve better results on the ground expeditiously.

The meeting also prepared a broad syllabus for the additional two subjects, namely co-operatives and panchayats, which were to be included in the *gram sahayak* training courses.

The Mysore Conference on Community Development had recommended the starting of 10 pilot blocks in each State for intensive youth work, and the phasing of the programme for the formation of *yuvak* and *bal mandals* in every village before the close of the Third Five Year Plan.

The *gram sahayaks'* training programme for the current year, according to the Conference, is to consist of the agriculture group of subjects, with the addition of the roles of co-operatives and panchayats. The Conference had also recommended higher training facilities for *gram sahayaks* and for members of functional sub-committees of panchayat samitis at Block level.

Training Of Personnel For Welfare Projects

According to an announcement of September 21 a total of 1,104 women are now under training in various training institutions for employment as welfare workers in the welfare extension projects, in the production centres attached to homes started under the programme of after-care and social and moral hygiene in urban welfare projects and other welfare schemes for women sponsored by the Central Social Welfare Board. Of these 601 are under training as *gram sevikas*, 97 as *mukhya sevikas*, 26 as midwives, 106 as dais, 211 as amber charkha instructors and 63 as handicraft teachers.

In addition 190 women are expected to start a training very shortly — 160 as *gram sevikas* and 30 as *mukhya sevikas*.

Since the commencement of training courses for welfare personnel for the welfare projects of the Board, 2,953 women had already been trained as *gram sevikas*, 146 as *mukhya sevikas*, 235 as midwives, 5 as dais, 193 as amber charkha instructors and 74 as handicraft teachers, making a total of 3,606.

Refresher Course in Sociology

According to an announcement of September 16, a regional Refresher Course in Sociology for sociologists in southern Asia — sponsored by the UNESCO — will be held in Agra from December 15, 1959 to January 5, 1960. Participants from Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Malaya, Pakistan, Singapore/British Borneo Group, Thailand and Viet-Nam have been invited to attend the course.

The Government of India have agreed to act as host to the refresher course which will be organised with the co-operation of the Institute of Social Sciences, Agra University.

The course, which is being held in implementation of a resolution adopted at the 10th General Conference of UNESCO, will be devoted to a study of sociological theory, planning and organisation of sociological structure in the countries of southern Asia.

Central Social Welfare Board Reconstituted

The Government of India, says an announcement of September 17, have reconstituted the Central Social Welfare Board for a period of three years from August 13, 1959 to August 12, 1962. The new Board will have 18 members including the Chairman. It includes 10 prominent social workers, three Members of Parliament — two from Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha — and five representatives of the concerned Ministries.

Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh has been renominated as the Chairman of the new Board. The other members of the Board are: Smt. Asoka Gupta, Smt. Dhanvanti Rama Rau, Smt. Indumati Chimanlal, Smt. Konda Pavathi Devi, Smt. Mahindra Kaur, Smt. Sarojini Varadappan, Smt. Tara Ali Baig, Smt. Zohra Ahmed, Dr. J.F. Bulsara, Smt. Ganga Devi, M.P. Representative of Lok

Sabha, Smt. Shakuntala Devi, M.P. Representative of Lok Sabha, Smt. Pushpalata Das, M.P. Representative of Rajya Sabha, Shri R.P. Naik, I.C.S. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Representative of Ministry of Education, Shri A.C. Bose, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Lt. Col. Jaswant Singh, Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Representative of the Ministry of Health, Shri G.F. Mankodi, Commissioner (Panchayats), Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, Representative of the Ministry of Community Development & Co-operation and Shri M.R. Kothandaraman, Adviser (Social Services), Planning Commission, Representative of the Planning Commission.

Central Social Welfare Board Meeting

At a meeting of the re-constituted Social Welfare Board, presided over by Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh, Chairman of the Board, in New Delhi on September 28, a scheme was adopted under which social welfare work in India would be supervised by individual non-official members of the Board on a zonal basis. Members would interpret established policies and programmes in the respective areas assigned to them and act as a liaison between the Central and State Social Welfare Boards.

Under the scheme, members would be given every year different zones for supervision. In addition, the Board members would be entrusted with the responsibility of supervising special schemes, such as socio-economic projects, which were spread throughout the country.

Members would undertake frequent tours of their areas under their charge and submit reports which would be considered at the meetings of the Board.

Family Planning

The Board discussed the steps that should be taken to co-ordinate its projects with the Family Planning Board's programme.

The Chairman pointed out that this programme was in fact a national movement directed towards educating women, particularly in rural areas, about the benefits of family planning. The welfare extension centres could be utilised for popularising the family planning programme in the rural areas, she added.

The Board agreed to continue the existing urban welfare extension projects beyond the Second Plan period.

Among other items taken up by the Board were the progress reports on the various welfare projects, sanctions for certain special training schemes and relaxation of conditions relating to the finances of aided institutions.

Homes For Rescued Women

Till the middle of August 1959 68 protective homes had been opened in the country to accommodate women rescued from brothels, etc. reads an announcement of September 30.

The homes are to be set up in various States under the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956, which came into operation from May, 1958. Vocational training as distinct from general education is the main feature of the programme.

The number of homes opened at the various places are: Andhra Pradesh — 3, Bihar — 1, Bombay — 17, Kerala — 7, Madras — 9, Mysore — 6, Orissa — 1, Rajasthan — 5, Uttar Pradesh — 13, West Bengal — 2, Delhi — 1, and Himachal Pradesh — 3. There is no such home in the Union Territories of Manipur, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar and the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands since these areas are practically free from traffic in women.

The Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act was brought on India's Statute Book in pursuance of an International Convention held in New York in 1950. Besides setting up shelters for sufferers, the 1956 Act seeks to prevent immoral traffic within the country. Nearly 400 persons were prosecuted till December 1958 for running brothels, seducing or procuring women for immoral purposes and for living on the earnings of prostitution.

Remission Of Loans To Displaced Women

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Rehabilitation on September 16, says that in order to assist displaced widows and unattached women etc. in the Punjab to earn their living, the State Government had advanced to them, out of their own funds, loans upto Rs. 300 and in some cases even in excess of this amount, for the purchase of sewing machines.

The State Government requested the Central Government to have these loans converted into grants so that the displaced persons might not be called upon to repay the loans.

In the case of non-claimant persons it had already been decided that loans upto Rs. 300 in general and in the case of loans for the purchase of sewing machines even if the amount exceeded Rs. 300 need not be recovered. This involved a remission of Rs. 21 lakhs.

On the analogy of this decision, the Government of India have now decided that the loans amounting to Rs. 20.06 lakhs advanced by the Punjab Government to the non-claimant displaced widows and unattached women etc. should also be treated as a grant and not recovered from them. Thus the total remission would amount to a little over Rs. 41 lakhs.

Labour & Employment

STUDY OF EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

According to the study undertaken by the National Employment Service of the Labour Ministry of trends in the number and types of employment seekers, as reflected in the Live Register of Employment Exchanges, the proportion of applicants seeking educational jobs through Employment Exchanges more than doubled itself during the period July 1953 to June 1958. If, therefore, more educational jobs could be created during the coming years, the situation in regard to the 'educational' category of applicants would ease.

As in the case of the 'educational' category, the study has revealed a conspicuous increase in the proportion of 'unskilled' category of applicants on the Live Register during the period. On the other hand, the proportion of applicants under the 'industrial supervisory', 'skilled and semi-skilled' and 'clerical' categories showed a decline. As regards the 'domestic service' category, the proportion was practically constant during the period.

The state-wise position, i.e., the number of persons seeking employment assistance through the exchanges in each State, was also analysed. During the period July 1957 to June 1958, the Live Register exhibited a conspicuous rise in West Bengal (42,790), Bombay (36,763), Kerala (26,970), Uttar Pradesh (25,326) and Madras (20,175). These five States accounted for 68 per cent of the increase in the all-India Live Register. The size of the Live Register in the other States also showed a rise although the extent of increase was not considerable.

The monthly rate of growth of the all-India Live Register which had shown a fall from 1955 to middle of 1957 increased thereafter. The rate of growth rose from 6,408 per month in 1956 to 23,233 in 1958 (January to June). A rapid insrease in the number of monthly registrations at the Exchanges was one of the primary factors responsible for the growth of the Live Register. The opening of 44 additional exchanges during July 1957 to June 1958 also contributed to the swelling of the Live Register. Another important factor was the fall in the proportion of registrations lapsed during the year ended June 1958. According to the study, this indicated that a greater proportion of applicants were now keeping their registrations 'alive' by renewing them after every two months.

Analysis Of Awards And Agreements

According to an announcement of September 15, the Labour Bureau of the Government of India has made an analysis of 279 important awards given by adjudicators and tribunals during the half year ended December 31, 1958, which shows that 123 of these awards are in terms of mutual settlement reached by the parties. All awards except 21 are in respect of individual units.

The analysis has been made to collect information periodically on revision of basic wages and dearness allowance and bonus paid to industrial workers as a result of awards.

During the half-year period, there has been a revision of wages of workers in cotton textile mills in West Bengal following an award given in June, 1958. The basic wage of the lowest paid worker has been increased from Rs. 20.15 to Rs. 28.17 per month and D.A. from Rs. 30 to Rs. 32.50. Female workers have been awarded the same basic wage as their male counterparts. They are, however, given only ⅘ths of D.A. allowed to male workers in view of the maternity and welfare benefits admissible to them. As a result of another award, the wages of unskilled workers in engineering units having 250 or more workers in West Bengal have been increased from Rs. 35 to Rs. 36 per month and D.A. from Rs. 30 to Rs. 31.

The analysis further shows that cotton textile workers at all centres except Sholapur, have been paid dearness allowance at enhanced rates during the period under review. The increase is appreciable in the case of textile centres at Ahmedabad, Baroda, Bombay and Kanpur. Bonus has been awarded to workers at widely varying scales during the half-year period.

Joint Management Council At D.D.T. Factory

A Joint Management Council consisting of equal number of the representatives of labour and management set up in the Hindustan Insecticide factory in Delhi was inaugurated on September 30.

From the very inception of the factory, a Works Committee consisting of representatives of labour and management had successfully functioned and labour-management relations had been cordial throughout. Recently a Workers' Education Centre at unit level was opened to train workers, among other things, in methods of improving their efficiency. One of the workers of the factory is taking the classes.

The second of its kind in public sector projects the Council would enable workers to participate actively in management and promote harmonious labour-management relations. The first Joint Management Council was set up in the Hindustan Machine Tools, Ltd., Jalahalli in June last year.

Set up in 1955 by the Government of India in collaboration with the United Nations agencies of International Children's Emergency Fund and Technical Assistance Administration, the factory showed progressive increase in production. Last year its production of D.D.T. amounted to 1130 tons.

PROGRESS OF COAL MINES P. F. SCHEME

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Coal Mines Provident Fund held at Dhanbad on September 22, which was presided over by Shri P.M. Menon, Labour Secretary, and Chairman of the Board, the progress of the Coal Mines Provident Fund scheme was reviewed.

The Board discussed the annual report on the working of the Scheme for 1958-59 as also the revised budget estimate for 1959-60. The question of delinking the above Scheme from the Coal Mines Bonus Scheme was also considered.

The Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme, which came into force in May 1947, has a membership of about 3.44 lakhs of colliery workers. The total accumulations in the Fund till the end of June, 1959 exceeded Rs. 15.62 crores.

E. S. I. Scheme In Madhya Pradesh

From September 26 the Employees' State Insurance Scheme has been extended to Nagda and Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. About 6,000 more factory workers in Madhya Pradesh will get cash and medical benefits due to this extension. The Scheme is already in force at six centres in the State.

Medical care in the new areas will be provided by the State Government under the service system and four whole-time dispensaries, two in each place, have been set up. For payment of cash benefits, one Local Office at Bhopal and a Sub-Local Office at Nagda have been set up.

The owners of factories in these areas will now be required to pay the employers' special contribution at 1¼% of the total wage bill instead of ¾% which they were paying so far.

The States

ECONOMIC SURVEY IN UNION TERRITORIES

A techno-economic survey in the Union Territories of Himachal Pradesh, Manipur and Tripura will be started during this month to determine the resources, their present use and potentials for further development, says an announcement of September 22.

The survey, entrusted to the National Council of Applied Economic Research, will cover all aspects of the economy of the territories, such as agricultural base, food production, availability of agricultural and other raw materials for industrial development, etc. The report will also give an indication of the pattern of income, savings and investment, etc.

By the time the survey report is available — towards the end of April 1960 it is expected that the broad details of the Third Five Year Plan for the territories would have been worked out. The data will be useful for drawing up long-range plans in certain fields.

Such an appraisal has been considered necessary for determining the lines on which development programmes in the territories should proceed in future. Despite the considerable progress made in the last few years, it is felt that more steps will have to be taken to strengthen the economy by tapping the agricultural, mineral and other resources.

India's Union Territories — almost equal to Ceylon in area, 24,148 sq. miles, and to Ghana in population, 45 lakhs — are administered by Parliament through the Union Home Minister who has an advisory committee of M.P.s and a few others in each territory to assist him in matters of general policy, legislation and budget. The territories have larger representation in Parliament, unlike the other federal Governments which have virtually disfranchised the directly-administered areas.

On an average, more than Rs. 2 lakhs per day have been spent in the last three years on the development of India's Union Territories, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur and Trpiura. During the current year, the expenditure will go up to almost Rs. 3½ lakhs per day because now the requisite personnel is generally in position and the work has picked up speed.

Survey Of Laccadives

The President has promulgated a Regulation providing for the survey of lands and settlement of boundaries in the Union Territory of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, says an announcement of September 25.

The Regulation empowers the Administrator to order, whenever necessary, a survey of any land in the islands or of any boundary of such land.

The islands of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi are located in the Arabian Sea, south-west of the country. The population is estimated at 21,000.

ASSENT FOR BOMBAY BILL

The President has given assent to the Bombay Rents Hotel and Lodging House Rates Control (Amendment) Bill, 1959, reads an announcement of September 29.

The legislation replaces an ordinance which expires on the same date. It was promulgated to remove the bar against subletting the premises by the tenant in Bombay State.

Under the Bombay Rents, Hotel and Lodging House Rates (Control) Act, 1947, it is not lawful for a tenant to sublet the premises let to him, except as permitted by the proviso; and if he does so both the tenant and the sub-tenant are liable to eviction. Recently, a large number of landlords have resorted to the court to evict tenants. With a view to avoiding hardship that may be caused to a large number of people in these days of acute shortage of accommodation, an ordinance was promulgated in May this year. It has now been replaced by the present Bill.

ASSENT FOR U.P. BILL

The President has given assent to the Uttar Pradesh Nagar Mahapalika (Amendment) Bill, 1959, says an announcement of September 25.

Under section 25 of the Uttar Pradesh Nagar Mahapalika Adhiniyam, 1959, a person convicted for an offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than six months stands debarred from election for a period of five years. This provision was criticised in the Vidhan Parishad at the time of the passing of the Bill.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has decided that this provision should be modified and brought on the same lines as the provisions in the Representation of People Act by raising the limit of imprisonment and by removal of the disqualification. The State Government has accordingly promoted the present Bill.

Defence

SEA HAWKS FOR AIRCRAFT CARRIER

In response to a Calling Attention Notice regarding purchase of Sea Hawk aircraft from the Hawker Siddley Group of the United Kingdom, the Deputy Defence Minister, Shri K. Raghuramiah, made the following statement in the Lok Sabha on September 12.

As the House is aware, the Government of India have already approved the acquisition of Aircraft Carrier I.N.S. *Vikrant* for the Indian Navy. Since fighter aircraft are one of the necessary components of a Carrier, these were also required to be purchased. For this fighter component the decision has been made to purchase Sea Hawk aircraft. Before taking this decision all aspects of the matter including the possible purchase of other aircraft were considered. The reasons why it was finally decided to purchase Sea Hawk aircraft are briefly as follows:

The Indian Navy has no experience of Carrier operations of a complicated and specialised nature. Our first objective, therefore, is to secure a type of aircraft which will serve the purpose primarily of initiating the Fleet Air Arm in embarked operational flying. At such a stage there is also danger of the accident rate being comparatively high. The aircraft to be selected must, therefore, be simple, comparatively cheap, well-proved, and known to have good deck operating characteristics. Expensive and sophisticated types of aircraft would not serve our need. The Sea Hawk fufils our requirements fully. It is a well-proved aircraft, easily handled and manoeuverable and fully suitable for operation from a Carrier. It is also at the moment the least expensive jet Carrier-borne fighter in the world. It has been in use in the Royal Navy and its use there, as far as we are aware, will continue for some time. The Sea Hawk is also already in service in the Royal Netherlands Navy and the West German Navy. The bigger and more complicated aircraft by which the Royal Navy proposes to replace the Sea Hawk can only be used in respect of Carriers which are bigger and heavier than the one which we are acquiring.

Undoubtedly it will be necessary after some years to select another aircraft to replace the Sea Hawk, after the expiry of its operational life. This question of replacement was, in fact, considered in detail at the time the Sea Hawk was ordered. By the time such replacement becomes necessary it is hoped that we will be able to manufacture a suitable aircraft for this purpose within the country itself."

Service Conditions Of Naval Personnel

Addressing the personnel of I.N.S. *Adyar*, the Navy Office in Madras, Vice-Admiral R.D. Katari, Chief of the Naval Staff, spoke about the efforts being made to improve their service conditions and career prospects. Owing to its complexity, this problem, he said, was being tackled on an inter-Service basis. An important scheme now being worked out was aimed at providing greater facilities for the education of the children of Naval Officers and men. When implemented, he hoped that it would go a long way in solving the difficulties faced by personnel due to their transfers from place to place. In this connection he said that initially two schools would be started, one at Bombay and the other at Cochin.

Referring to the creditable progress made during the past decade in the matter of providing family accommodation, the Admiral pointed out the increased tempo in building houses at various Naval bases, especially at Bombay and Cochin.

I. N. S. *BETWA* Launched

I.N.S. *Betwa*, an anti-aircraft frigate for the Indian Navy, under construction in the United

Kingdom, was launched at New Castle-on-Tyne on September 15 in the traditional Indian manner by Mrs. Kakar, wife of Mr. J.C. Kakar, Councellor to the High Commissioner for India in the U.K.

Named after the river Betwa, which is a tributary of the river Jumuna, this frigate is 340 feet long and has a beam of 40 feet. She is one of the new anti-aircraft frigates acquired by the Indian Navy. Though designed primarily for the protection of convoys against aircraft, this frigate can also be employed on other roles. The ship is all welded and most up-to-date technique has been incorporated in the structural arrangements. The *Betwa* will be fitted with Controllable Pitch Propellors.

New Housing Colony For Troops

General K.S. Thimayya, Chief of the Army Staff, formally inaugurated on September 19, the new housing colony at Damana, six miles west of Jammu.

Addressing the officers and men who took part in the construction of the colony, Gen. Thimayya said he had been always opposed to the employment of troops on construction projects like this because it interfered with their training and fighting efficiency. But owing to various reasons, it was not possible to provide comfortable living accommodation to troops in the forward areas. The defence budget provided about Rs. 4 crores to the Army for provision of accommodation to troops. But if construction were to be carried out through contractors, it would take several years to be completed and, therefore, it became necessary to devise a quicker method. He, therefore, as an experimental measure, reluctantly agreed to utilise troops' labour to carry out constructional work. The successful completion of the Amar project at Ambala encouraged the authorities to undertake more of such projects.

The General paid tributes to Maj.-Gen. S.H.F.J. Maneckshaw and other officers and men for executing an excellent project at Damana, which would be followed soon by three more housing projects in Jammu and Kashmir. The work at another colony at Koluchack, costing Rs. 30,00,000, had already started. During the last ten years, troops in Jammu and Kashmir had been living in tents, bunkers and other improvised shelters under great hardship, with little protection against the extreme rigours of the climate. Gen. Thimayya hoped that with the progress of these various projects and with better and more comfortable living accommodation available, the morale and fighting efficiency of the troops would go up.

The construction of the colony, extending over an area of nine square miles was started last year, and was completed mainly by troops' labour in the record time of nine months. The colony comprises residential accommodation for officers and other ranks, including suitable buildings for schools and regimental institutions. The project has been designed and developed on modern lines with adequate open spaces, roads and drainage.

World War II Battle Honours

Units of the Indian Army says a New Delhi announcement of September 20, which took part in different operations during the second World War will now be eligible for the award of battle honours.

The task of awarding such honours has been entrusted to a Battle Honours Committee which has been set up at Army HQ under the chairmanship of Lt.-Gen. Sant Singh (Retired), with the Adjutant-General and three senior Directors of Army HQ as members. The Combined Inter-Services Historical Section of the Ministry of Defence is also represented on the Committee.

A list of battles in which Commonwealth troops participated has been prepared on behalf of all Commonwealth countries by the Battles Nomenclature Committee in the War Office, London. The battles in which the Indian Army took part have been selected from this list and the regiments/corps concerned have been asked to submit their claims for the honours which they wish to be awarded. On receipt of claims from the units, the Battle Honours Committee will go into the merits of each after consulting the official war diaries. The honours approved by the Committee will be finally submitted for Government approval and publication in the Gazette of India.

Battle honours are issued in commemoration of creditable participation by troops in various battles, actions and engagements. In accordance with tradition, the honours are emblazoned by units on regimental colours, standards and guidons, and serve as a permanent reminder of the gallantry displayed by troops on the battlefield. The custom in the Indian Army is that battle honours are awarded only to units of the Armoured Corps, the Regiment of Artillery, the Corps of Engineers and the Infantry. The battle honours for the second World War will be displayed side by side with the cherished honours of the past already in possession of the units.

Rashtriya Indian Military College

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on September 17 says that the Sainik School, Dehra Dun, will be redesignated as *Rashtriya Indian Military College* with effect from October 1, 1959.

The Sainik School, which is run by the Ministry of Defence, imparts education on public school lines and serves as a feeder institution to the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla. The strength of the School at present is 180.

Admissions are made on the result of a qualifying eyamination held bi-annually on an all-India basis. Boys between the ages of 11 and 12 years are eligible for admission. Vacancies are generally allotted to different States on a population basis. The duration of the course is 5 to 5½ years.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER 16 TO 30

September 18 — The Prime Ministers of India and Afghanistan issue a joint statement in Kabul

— Prime Minister Nehru arrives in Teheran from Afghanistan on a four-day goodwill visit to Iran

— The declaration filed by the Government of India accepting, with certain reservations, the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice at the Hague is released

19 — The Indian delegation to the third session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency Commission leaves Bombay for Austria

21 — The Coal Council of India meets in New Delhi

— A two-day conference of the Secretaries of the Boards of Secondary Education begins in New Delhi

22 — A meeting of the Indian Central Cotton Committee opens in Bombay

— A two-day conference of the Commonwealth Finance Ministers begins in London

— A gold contribution of $50 million to be made by the Government of India to the International Monetary Fund towards India's increased quota of $600 million is announced

— Prime Minister Nehru returns to New Delhi after his visit to Afghanistan and Iran

— A joint statement is issued at the end of Prime Minister Nehru's visit to Iran

25 — It is announced that the Government of Orissa will take over control of the Rs. 70-crore Hirakud project from the Government of India on April 1, 1960

26 — A meeting of the Chairmen of the Development Councils for various industries is held in New Delhi

27 — An Indian Trade Delegation for Italy, Switzerland, France and West Germany leaves New Delhi for Bombay on its way to Europe

— A ten-day conference of State Superintendents of Census Operations begins in New Delhi

— The Government of India set up a National Council for Women's Education to advise them on matters relating to the education of girls at school level and of adult women

— The first meeting of the reconstituted Central Social Welfare Board is held in New Delhi

28 — An agreement between the Governments of India and the U.S.S.R. for the establishment of an oil refinery at Barauni is signed in New Delhi

29 — Talks between India and Australia on air services between the two countries begin in New Delhi

30 — The import policy of the Government of India for the next six months is announced

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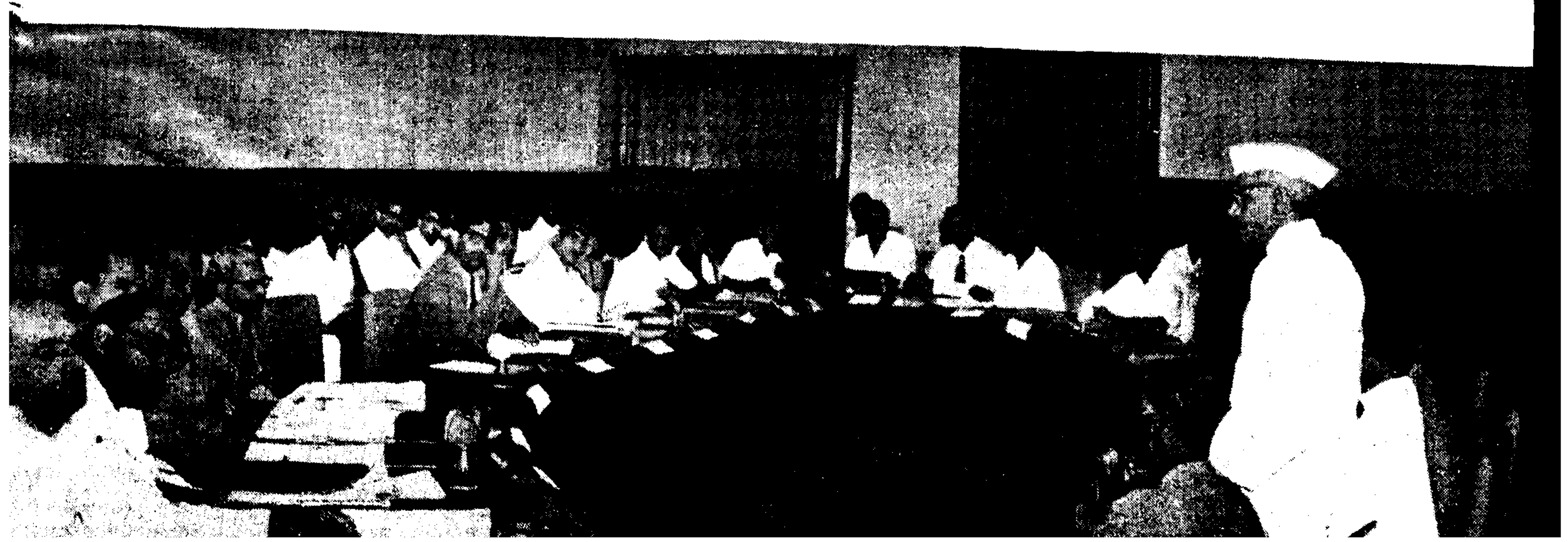
The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, at Teheran airport on September 18 with H.E. the Prime Minister of Iran, Dr. Manushar Eghbal

Shri N.S. Mani, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel, and Mr. V.A. Sergeev, on behalf of the Government of U.S.S.R., signing an agreement in New Delhi on September 28 for the establishment of an oil refinery at Barauni



Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, inaugurating a conference of Secretaries of Boards of Secondary Education in New Delhi on September 21

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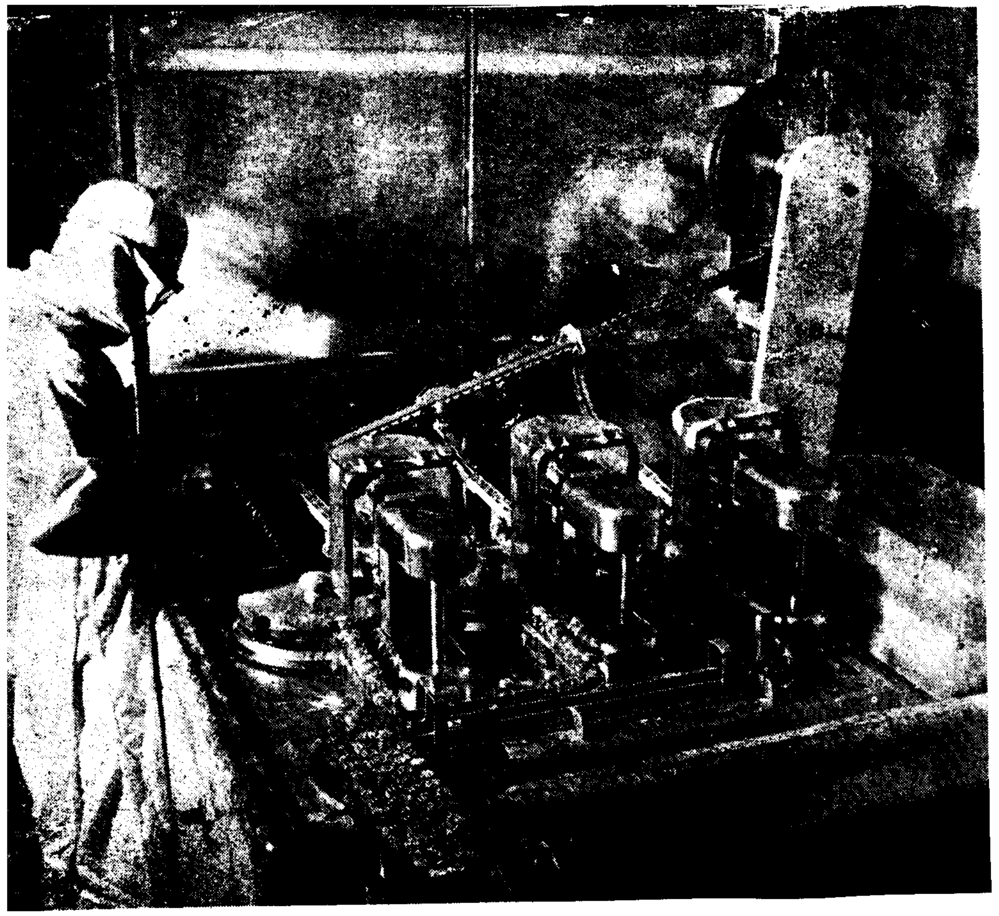

Corner of the Bottling Section

HINDUSTAN ANTIBIOTICS FACTORY

The Hindustan Antibiotics Limited at Pimpri near Poona, was started as a State enterprise with an authorised capital of Rs. 4 crores. In its first year of working in 1956-57, it produced 9.89 million mega units of penicillin. In 1957-58 production rose to 29.03 million mega units and with a further expansion of the factory last year, the rate of yearly production has gone up to 40 million mega units.

The Factory is planning further expansion to be able to manufacture streptomycin and also broad-spectrum antibiotics of the tetracyline group.

View of the neatly laid out Factory