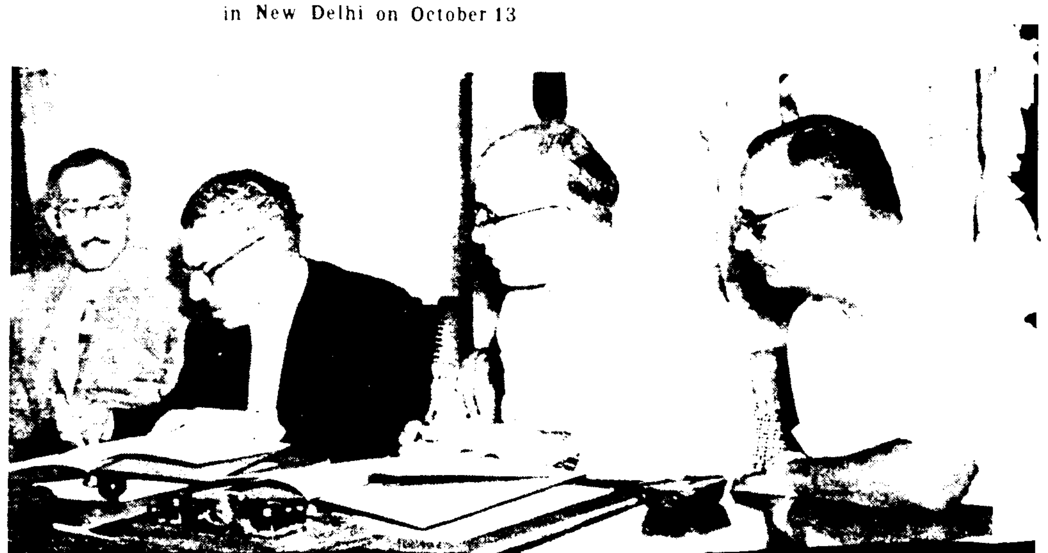
Indian Information

Vol. 2 November 1, 1959 (Kartika 10, 1881) No. 19

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, with H.E. Mr. N. A. Mukhitdinov, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Council of Nationalities, U.S.S.R., in New Delhi on October 9. The Soviet Ambassador in India, H.E. Mr. I.A. Benediktov and Shrimati Indira Gandhi are also seen.

Miss Arati Saha of Calcutta coming ashore at Sandgate in Kent, after crossing the English Channel on September 29. She is the first Asian woman to have performed this feat.

H.E. Mr. Qasim Hassan, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in India (left), and Shri K. R. F. Khilnani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, signing an Indo-Iraqi Trade Agreement in New Delhi on October 13



Indian

Information

VOL. 2 — November 1, 1959 Kartika 10, 1881 — NO. 19

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COVER : **H. E. Lt. Gen. K. M. Shaikh, Acting Foreign Minister and leader of the Pakistan delegation to the Indo-Pakistan Conference on border questions, with the Union Home Minister, Shri Pant, in New Delhi on October 15.**

(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 NEHRU'S REPLY TO PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI'S LETTER

The Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, in his reply to the Chinese Premier's letter of 8th September, has made it clear that there can be no question of discussing the whole northern boundary of India, which has been settled for centuries by history, geography, custom and tradition. The Prime Minister referring to the present situation has stated "no discussion can be fruitful unless the outposts on the Indian side of the traditional frontier now held by the Chinese forces are first evacuated by them and further threats and intimidations cease." As the terrain of the Sino-Indian border makes physical demarcation on the ground in many places impossible, it is possible that minor border rectifications in some places are required, and the Government of India are willing to have discussions for such a purpose. But any such discussions will have to be on the basis that the frontier is, on the whole, well-known and beyond dispute. The Government of India cannot discuss the Chinese claim to nearly 40,000 square miles of what has been for many decades, and in some places for centuries, an integral part of Indian territory. Mr. Nehru has pointed out in this connection that the suggestion that an independent Government of India are seeking to reap a benefit from the British aggression against China has caused deep resentment in this country. In the words of the Prime Minister "our Parliament and our people deeply resent this allegation. The struggle of the Indian people against any form of imperialism both at home and abroad is known and recognised all over the world and we had thought that China also appreciated and recognised our struggle. It is true that the British occupied and ruled Indian Sub-Continent against the wishes of the Indian people. The boundaries of India were, however, settled for centuries by history, geography, custom and traditions. The Government of India voluntarily renounced all the extra-territorial rights enjoyed by British in Tibet before 1947, and recognised by Treaty that Tibet is a region of China. In the course of the long talks that we had during your last visit to India, you had told me that Tibet has been and was a part of China, but that it was an autonomous region."

Maintenance Of Status Quo

Mr. Nehru has once more stated the Government's position that, pending discussions on the border alignment in particular sectors, the status quo should be maintained and both sides should respect the traditional frontier. So far as the Government of India are concerned, at no place at present have they any personnel on the Tibetan side of the traditional frontier. In fact, when the Government of India found that at one place, Tamadem, on the eastern sector of the boundary, their outpost was somewhat north of the frontier, they promptly withdrew it. On the other hand, Chinese personnel are now to be found at various places in Eastern Ladakh, and at Longju, in the North-East Frontier Agency. Referring to this the Prime Minister stated "I need hardly tell you that there is great resentment in India at the action of your troops in overpowering our outpost in Longju on our side of the McMahon Line, and although you have, uptil now, not withdrawn your troops, we have not sought to re-occupy the post".

"I entirely disagree with your view that the tense situation that has arisen on the border has been caused by India's tresspassing and provocation. In fact, as the attached note will show, it is the Chinese who have tresspassed into Indian territory across the traditional border at a number of places in recent years". "You have mentioned that we in India have staged a second so-called anti-Chinese campaign. This, if I may say so, is the reverse of the actual position. Despite the regrettable happenings on the frontier of our two countries, we in India have conducted ourselves with great restraint and moderation. At a number of places your forces assumed a threatening attitude; at others they actually came into our territory." "Such incidents, concerning as they do the integrity of India, were very serious, but in our anxiety not to create feelings against your Government, we deliberately avoided giving publicity to them. Questions in Parliament had, however, to be answered and the facts could not be withheld. When the facts thus became known, the reaction both in Parliament and among the public was one of dismay and great resentment. There was criticism of our Government both in Parliament and the press for our failure to give publicity to these developments at an earlier stage. Under the Indian Constitution, Parliament is supreme. India has also a free press and the Government could not restrain public criticism. In the circumstances to allege that the Government of India built up pressure on China in any manner is a complete misreading of the facts of the situation. It is also based on complete misunderstanding of the constitutional procedures under which the Government, Parliament and the press function in India. Needless to say, such an allegation is entirely baseless".

Ladakh-Tibet Frontier

Mr. Nehru's reply refutes in detail the assertions made in Mr. Chou En-lai's letter regarding various sectors of the Sino-Indian boundary. Concerning the boundary between Ladakh and Tibet, it is incorrect to say that the then Chinese Central Government did not send anybody to participate in the conclusion of the treaty between Kashmir and Tibet in 1842. The treaty was signed by the representatives of both the Dalai Lama and the Emperor of China. If the treaty referred merely to the "old established frontiers", this was because these frontiers were well-known and did not require any formal delimitation. The Chinese Government had never before suggested that this treaty was invalid or imprecise. The traditional frontier in this area was the main water-parting; and in course of time, as this area was better surveyed, maps began to show the frontier in accordance with the line now shown in Indian maps rather than that claimed by China. Even official Chinese maps of the late 19th century, and a non-official Chinese atlas of the 20th century, showed a boundary approximating to the Indian line. It is only in official Chinese maps of the 20th century that the Chinese Government have included large parts of Indian territory in this sector within Tibet.

Middle Sector

Mr. Nehru says there should be little doubt regarding the boundary between the Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in India and the Tibet Regions. The 1954 Agreement between India and China regarding Tibet specified six passes in this area, and these by implication were recognised, as border passes. In fact the Government of India have always been in control of the Indian ends of these passes.

The McMahon Line

Regarding the eastern sector of the boundary, which Mr. Nehru says is for convenience referred to as the McMahon Line though he does not like that description, it is wrong to argue that the 1914 Convention delineating this sector of the boundary is illegal. The arrangements for the Simla Conference were made with the full knowledge and consent of the Government of China. At the Conference, not only did the Chinese representative fully

participate but the Tibetan representative took part in the discussions on an equal footing with the Chinese and the then British Indian representatives. At no stage, either then or later, did the Chinese Government object to the boundary between India and Tibet, being discussed at the Conference. The Chinese representative was fully aware of the boundary that had been settled between India and Tibet. But the Chinese Government, did not, at the time or later, raise any objection to this delineation. In the circumstances, the boundary settled between India and Tibet in 1914 must in accordance with accepted international practice be regarded as binding on both Tibet and China.

Mr. Nehru goes on to say that this alignment settled in 1914 represented correctly the customary boundary in this area. The water-parting formed by the crest of the Himalayas was the natural frontier which had been accepted for centuries as the boundary by the peoples of both sides. The tribes inhabiting the area south of the "McMahon Line" are of the same stock as the hill tribes of Assam and have no kinship with the Tibetans. On the other hand, Indian administration gradually moved up to these areas, which were extensively surveyed in the years 1911-13. It was on the basis of this detailed information that the boundary was settled in 1914. "It is clear, therefore, that the McMahon Line was not an arbitrary imposition on a weak Tibet by the Government of India. It formalized the natural, traditional, ethnical and administrative boundary in the area".

Sikkim And Bhutan

Mr. Nehru completely rejects the Chinese Prime Minister's suggestion that the boundaries of Sikkim and Bhutan do not fall within the scope of the present discussion. The Chinese Government recognized as far back as 1890 that the Government of India had direct and exclusive control over the internal administration and foreign relations of Sikkim. There can be no dispute regarding Sikkim's boundary with Tibet, for the 1890 Convention defined that boundary and it was five years later demarcated on the ground. Chinese maps, however show sizeable areas of Bhutan as parts of Tibet, and under treaty relationships with Bhutan the Government of India are the only competent authority to take up with other Governments matters concerning Bhutan's external relations. The rectification of errors in Chinese maps regarding Bhutan's boundary with Tibet is, therefore, a matter which has to be considered along with the boundary of India with Tibet in the same sector.

Arguments From Maps

Mr. Nehru has answered the various Chinese arguments based on maps. Walker's Map of the Ladakh frontier, which the Chinese maps follow only where it suits them, was based on an earlier map of Strachey, who knew very little about Ladakh, and drew the frontier where he thought the main water-parting lay. Accurate maps of the whole Ladakh area became possible only from 1865, when surveys were undertaken, and most maps since then have been showing a boundary more in accordance with our line. If official Indian maps have been showing the "McMahon Line" only since 1937, it was because the British Indian Government had hoped that China would accept the Simla Convention as a whole. Another reason for the discrepancy between earlier and later official Indian maps before 1947 is that British cartographers as a rule showed in their maps the administrative boundaries irrespective of the actual alignment of the frontier.

The suggestion that Indian maps since 1947 have been showing more territory within India than the "McMahon Line" is also baseless. Only in the Migyitun area does the alignment shown in Indian maps differ slightly from the Treaty Map. This is because in 1914 the exact topographical features in this area were not known; and Indian maps are now showing the boundary precisely.

Mr. Nehru has also dealt with the Chinese arguments based on maps published privately in other countries. The edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica cited by Premier Chou En-lai shows in the eastern sector roughly the line now claimed by China; but the same map shows the whole Aksai Chin as part of Ladakh. And if such private maps are to be referred to, Mr. Nehru says there are a large number in support of the traditional boundary stressed by India, and cites some examples.

Chinese Intrusions

Mr. Nehru emphatically repudiates the allegation that in recent times the Government of India have "invaded and occupied" a number of places in Tibet. The note attached to the Prime Minister's letter proves conclusively that it is, in fact, Chinese personnel that have crossed the Indian border in a number of places. A road has been built across north-east Ladakh and in 1958 Indian personnel carrying out routine patrol duties in this area were arrested and detained for five weeks. In the Pangong area, also in Ladakh, Chinese forces have been pushing forward aggressively in recent years, and have established a camp on the western bank of the Spanggur Lake, which even according to some official Chinese maps is in Indian territory. In 1956 and 1957, Chinese parties were found in the Spiti area in the Punjab State. Shipki is one of the border passes mentioned in the 1954 Agreement; but in 1958 a Chinese patrol advanced well within the Indian side of the pass and on being asked to withdraw threatened to use arms. The Nilang-Jadhang area, in the Uttar Pradesh, which the Chinese Premier has cited as an example of a historical dispute, has traditionally been part of India; but here again armed Chinese personnel were noticed in 1956. Bara Hoti, which the Government of India are accused by the Chinese

Premier of having occupied, is in fact a small camping-ground in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Even Chinese maps up to 1958 showed the boundary in this sector in a manner which made clear that Bara Hoti was in India. Yet since 1954, Chinese personnel have been persistently visiting the area. At a conference held in Delhi in 1958 it was revealed that the Chinese representatives did not even know the location and extent of the area which they were claiming. But the Government of India, in the interests of a peaceful settlement, suggested that armed personnel should not be sent to the area. The Chinese authorities, however, have ignored this agreement. On the eastern sector of the boundary, Chinese troops visited Khinzemane in Indian territory and occupied Longju.

Territorial Air Space

Mr. Nehru states that there is no truth in the Chinese allegation that Indian aircraft have repeatedly violated Chinese territorial air space. Definite instructions have been issued to all Indian aircraft to avoid such trespass and the Government of India have been assured that this instruction has been carefully observed. But it is possible that aircraft engaged in dropping supplies to frontier outposts may accidentally cross the frontier or appear to do so. It was for this reason that advance information was given to the Chinese Government in July that a doctor would be "paradropped" in Longju and that survey operations on the Indian side of the border would be carried out this winter.

Tibetan Rebels

Mr. Nehru firmly rejects the charge that India has been shielding armed Tibetan rebels in the North-East Frontier Agency. In fact Tibetans who crossed the frontier were disarmed as soon as they entered Indian territory and instructed to move well away from the frontier areas. The few who showed disinclination to do so were told that they would not secure asylum in India and made to leave Indian territory.

The Indian Approach

What stands out prominently in Mr. Nehru's letter is the consistently constructive and pacific approach of the Government of India to the whole question of border disputes between India and China. Mr. Chou En-lai has charged the Government of India with applying all sorts of pressure on the Chinese Government, including the use of force, to make the Chinese Government accept the Indian demand. In fact, this is the reverse of what the Government of India did. To quote the words of our Prime Minister "we did not release to the public the information which we had about the various border intrusions into our territory by Chinese personnel since 1954, the construction of a road across the Indian border and Ladakh and the arrest of our personnel in the Aksai Chin area in 1958, and their detention. We did not give publicity to this in the hope that peaceful solutions of the disputes could be found by agreement by the two countries, without public excitement on both sides. In fact, our failure to do so has now resulted in sharp, but legitimate criticism of the Government both in Parliament and in the press in our country. Far from using force, we sought a peaceful settlement of the disputes". The suggestion that this public criticism is a form of pressure on China is based on a complete misunderstanding of the constitutional procedures that prevail in India. Equally baseless is the allegation that the Indian Government have been using force. At a number of places Chinese forces have advanced into Indian territory; and in others they have assumed a threatening attitude. On the other hand, Indian forces are nowhere in Tibetan territory. Indeed, till recently the Government of India had no military force anywhere in the border areas. There was only an armed constabulary in support of the civil personnel and even the frontier posts were manned by this constabulary. It was only when the outpost at Longju was over-powered by a superior Chinese military force and Indian personnel elsewhere on the frontier were intimated by Chinese forces that the Government of India decided to place the responsibility for the protection of the frontier on the army.

India-China Relations

In conclusion, Mr. Nehru affirms once again that the Government of India attach great importance to the maintenance of friendly relations with China. The spirit of Panch Sheel had always inspired India's policy, even before the five principles were formally enunciated in 1954; and it is based on this basis that the Government of India have always sought to conduct their relations with China. India was one of the first countries to extend recognition to the Chinese Peoples' Republic; and for the last ten years the Indian Government have consistently sought to maintain and strengthen friendship with China. Mr. Nehru says that he had hoped that with the signing of the Sino-Indian Agreement of 29th April, 1954, the main problems in the relations between the two countries had been peacefully and finally settled; but now, five years later, China has brought forward a problem which dwarfs in importance all that has been discussed in recent years. Mr. Chou En-lai's statement that China looked upon her frontier with India as a border of peace and friendship will remain true only if China does not bring within the scope of what is essentially a border dispute extravagant claims to thousands of square miles of territory which has always been and is an integral part of India.

MEETING OF STATE SUPERINTENDENTS OF CENSUS OPERATIONS

The State Superintendents of Census Operations assembled in New Delhi from September 24, 1959 for a ten-day conference to discuss matters relating to the 1961 Census.

Shri Asok Mitra, Census Commissioner addressing the conference said that "for the first time since Independence, the Census operations in 1961 will embrace Sikkim and several agency areas along with the various States of India including Jammu and Kashmir.

The 1951 Census, said Shri Asok Mitra, was held on the eve of a great experiment in development through the Five Year Plans. The forthcoming Census would enable the country to measure not only what had been achieved but would also bring out the future tasks of social, cultural and economic reconstruction. Now, as never before, the Census would give valuable scientific data of sociological importance and it is hoped, provide a useful guide for the formulation of effective economic policies and the test for the policies in operation.

Emphasis On Agriculture

In the forthcoming Census, said Shri Asok Mitra, emphasis would be on the collection and analysis of important basic economic data relating, firstly to agriculture, secondly to household activity and thirdly to other economic activities of the individual and the State. Another task would be to attempt two separate tables of occupational and industrial classification to measure the economic growth of the country.

While the investigation of religious and social denominations would be confined to the requirements of the Constitution, the Census of 1961 would measure the growth of urbanisation and industrialisation and of cultural and educational attainments. Shri Mitra said it was proposed to analyse the occupational and industrial classification by age-group, sex and other characteristics, such as education.

One Million Enumerators

The Census, he added, was also largely an honorary undertaking to which, by virtue of the Census Act, about a million citizens from all walks of life would devote themselves unselfishly and without remuneration for a fairly long period to a patriotic task. A million honorary enumerators would visit over 80 million homes inhabited by 400 million citizens. Not only did the Indian Census cover the largest population in the world under an elaborate enquiry; it was also one of the most economical administrative operations.

The Census Commissioner said that very few people realised that the Census was an administrative undertaking of great dimensions in which for a short-while the energies of the entire administrative machinery were employed. It afforded an opportunity for Government to reach every home throughout the length and breadth of the country.

The conference which ended in New Delhi on October 3 fixed the enumeration period of the 1961 Census for 22 days, from February 10 to March 3, the last three days being devoted to the revisional round.

The operation is to start in April next year when all households will be numbered and listed. From November, when this job is completed, the three-month training of about a million enumerators and supervisors would start. Provision will be made to cover a population of over 40 crores and about eight crore houses scattered over thousands of villages and towns.

Further Check

After the Census operations, a post-enumeration check would be conducted in April 1961 to test the accuracy of the information collected. This re-scrutiny would mean checking the main totals, etc.

The Census Superintendents also decided that the house-numbering and house-listing operations should cover new ground. Firstly, it should enumerate the total number of houeholds and Census houses in the country. Secondly it should devise an efficient system of house-numbering which could be useful for all administrative purposes, including the elections, and sample surveys.

This preliminary operation, it was hoped, would yield basic information on the housing condition in the country. It would also be possible to enumerate the number of factories, establishments and workshops according to their location, products, repairs or services they undertook, the number of workers employed and the kind of fuel or power used.

Contonments

Special arrangements were worked out for the enumeration of railway areas, cantonments, defence installations, coastal areas and persons living in coastal vessels and inland country crafts, ports, etc. Also, the enumerators would reach the persons making their living in the deep forests, inaccessible areas and on high seas.

It was decided that areas which become inaccessible or snow-bound in winter should be taken up in the autumn of 1960.

Quick Urbanisation

Noting the increasing pace of urbanisation throughout India, the Conference adopted a uniform definition of urban areas applicable to the entire country so that a common standard of urban concentration was available from 1961 for future Censuses. These standards, it was agreed, would help to make comparison with the previous Censuses to measure the pace of urbanisation.

The Census Superintendents also took note of the need to investigate the structure of urban growth, including suburbs and hinterlands of large cities or groups of towns operating as complex units.

Up-To-Date Maps

To ensure that every unit of territory was assigned to an enumerator, it was agreed that the maps be brought up-to-date for each part of the country. This would be possible, with the co-operation of the Surveyor-General of India and the State Departments of Land Revenue and Surveys.

The pattern of the enumeration agency, the conference decided, would be uniform. Apart from the Registrar General's office, which controlled the operation, the chief authority in the State would be the Census Superintendent, the District Officer and his nominee, the Subdivisional Officer, the Taluk, Tehsil or Circle Officer, and working with them a large army of Charge Superintendents, Circle Supervisors and enumerators.

SIMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE

As suggested by the Union Home Minister, the Census Superintendents agreed that the questionnaire together with its instructions, should be as simple as possible and intelligible to the common man.

A special set of instructions were devised for the enumerators of persons living in the institutions and for the houseless. To count the latter category, the help of the Social Welfare Organisations would be sought.

Since the pre-testing of the questionnaire had developed uniform definitions, concepts and illustrations for application throughout the country, it was decided to pool the printing operations at the three Government presses at Aligarh, Calcutta and Nasik.

Translations of all schedules and instructions would be made in the major languages of India and the enumerator would use forms in the languages which he and his locality knew best.

The enumeration work of the next census will begin sometime in February 1961 and end around March 3, 1961. The period will not exceed more than 23 days as was the case in the 1951 Census.

In Lahaul and Spiti, the counting will take place during autumn, 1960, because, later, the contact with these areas is difficult on account of snow.

The Census will collect data, among other things, on land, industry, business, trade, profession, service, agricultural labour, cultivation, etc. Information will also be sought about the martial status of a person, his or her birth-place, mother-tongue, education, place of work, etc.

Already, two draft questionnaires have been tested in selected rural and urban areas of the various States to find out the suitability of questions, the quality of response and the period of census count.

Census Medals For Enumerators

Special Census Medals will be given to enumerators and agencies participating in the forthcoming operations. A small honorarium is also to be paid to enumerators and a limited field supervisory staff for meeting out-of-pocket expenses. This is according to an announcement made on October 13.

It is estimated that about one million persons will be employed in various capacities and provision will be made to cover a population of over 40 crores and more than 8 crore houses scattered over thousands of villages and towns.

The Census operation is starting on February 10, 1961, and ending on March 3, the last three days devoted to the revisional round.

Personnel For Third Plan

The Manpower Committees of the five Zonal Councils, northern, southern, eastern, western and central, have nearly completed the study of personnel requirements for the Third Plan, according to an announcement dated October 1.

The studies generally relate to the assessment of men required for engineering, agriculture, medicine, health, education, industry, administration, etc.

Along with such studies, the State Governments of a particular zone are co-operating among themselves to assess the training facilities of the technical personnel required for the region. The purpose is to arrange for the necessary training within the zone itself.

As decided by the Cabinet in September 1956, a Directorate of Manpower was constituted and located in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in November, 1956. The Directorate provides the Secretariat for the Cabinet Committee on Manpower, and is concerned generally with the co-ordination of manpower policies and programmes whose implementation is done by the Ministries and other agencies concerned in the light of the decisions of the Committee.

The Directorate works in close co-operation with the Divisions of the Planning Commission dealing with manpower, and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, and maintains liaison with the Ministres at the Centre through officers nominated by them to deal with their manpower problems. There is also now a Manpower Officer in each State who looks after manpower work in his State and keeps the Directorate informed of developments.

The Manpower programme approved by the Cabinet provides, among other things, for review of manpower requirements and resources in different fields, e.g., engineering, agriculture, health, etc. by different agencies at the Centre.

TRAINING FOR PANCHAYAT OFFICERS

A New Delhi announcement dated October 4 says, twentyfive selected District Panchayat Officers from different States will undergo a 46-day training course at the Trainers' Training Institute at Rajpur. The course will start on October 15, 1959.

Following is the allotment of seats to the States for sending District Panchayat Officers: Andhra Pradesh 2; Assam 3; Bihar 2; Bombay 4; Kerala 1; Madras 2; Mysore 1; Orissa 1; Punjab 2; Rajasthan 1; Uttar Pradesh 5; and West Bengal 1.

The object of this training programme for District Panchayat Officers is to enable them to get an insight into the nature of duties which they have to perform and the problems that they are likely to face.

H. P. Administration Reorganised

The administrative set-up of the Union Territory of Himachal Pradesh has been reorganised, reducing the number of Secretaries from five to three and Under Secretaries from eight to five, says an announcement made on October 15.

Further adjustments, if any, will be effected in the light of experience gained after its working till the end of this year.

The reorganisation is aimed at making "the transaction of Government business more efficient and speedy." It had also become necessary after certain functions of the administration were transferred to the Himachal Pradesh Territorial Council.

SECRETARIES

Two posts of Secretaries, those of Development and of Co-operatives, Education and Civil Supplies, have been abolished. The Secretariat now has only: Chief Secretary, Finance Secretary, and Judicial Secretary.

In addition, there are six Heads of Departments, designated *ex-officio* Secretaries, who now function directly under the Lieutenant Governor. They are: Development Commissioner; Chief Engineer; Chief Conservator of Forests; Registrar of Co-operative Societies-cum-Director, Civil Supplies-cum-Director of Panchayats; Director of Education, and Director of Medical and Health Services.

The Chief Engineer is in charge of public works, electricity and irrigation.

NO RETRENCHMENT

No member of the existing staff is to be retrenched. The surplus staff is being deployed for work in other offices under the Administration. Where this is not possible, the employees are being continued in their present posts until alternative posts are found for them.

Until all the surplus personnel have been found alternative employment under the Administration or elsewhere, no recruitment is to be made to the grades of Superintendents, Assistants, Clerks, Typists or Stenographers.

A review is to be made in the offices of the Development Commissioner and the Chief Engineer, with a view to revising the nature, character and the strength of the staff in each of the offices. A report on the result of this revision is to be submitted to the Government of India.

DIVISION OF WORK

The offices of the three Secretaries have been divided into Sections consisting of Superintendents, Assistants, Senior and Junior Clerks, Typists and Stenographers. The salary-scales of Superintendents, Assistants, Clerks, Typists and Stenographers and Class IV servants are to remain as at present.

The Chief Secretary has under him: Recruitment and Services; Secretariat Administration; General Administration; Revenue; Home; Transport, Publicity and Tourism; Financial Commissioner, Himachal Pradesh and Organisation and Methods (including inspection of offices) and Vigilance.

The functions of the Finance Secretary include preparation of budget, control of expenditure and scrutiny of proposals which have financial implications. He is also in charge of the revenue yielding departments whose main function is the collection of revenue, such as Excise and Entertainment Tax.

The allocation for Judicial Secretary is: Law; Judicial; Evacuee Property; Relief and Rehabilitation; Elections; Legal Remembrancer, and Local Self-Government.

Contributions To P.M.'s Relief Fund

An announcement dated October 15 says, contributions to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund have been received from a number of individuals and institutions, within the country and from abroad, since the Prime Minister issued an appeal last week for generous help for the relief of suffering caused by floods in different parts of the country. The contributions received so far from October 7 total Rs. 2,23,409.37.

In his appeal, issued on October 6, the Prime Minister had said that owing to the various demands due to floods in different parts of the country, the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund was practically exhausted. "I am sure, however, that there are large numbers of people in the country who would like to give generous help for the relief of suffering caused by these floods, more especially in West Bengal and Orissa. I would appeal to them, therefore, to send contributions to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for this particular purpose."

Prime Minister Of Burma Arrives

The Prime Minister of the Union of Burma, the Hon'ble General Ne-Win, arrived in New Delhi on October 8, on a three-day visit at the invitation of the Government of India.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

A Press Note issued from the Rashtrapati Bhavan on October 1 says that the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, administered today in Rashtrapati Bhavan the oath of office to Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Sinha as Chief Justice of India.

NEW JUDGE OF SUPREME COURT

A Press Note issued on October 1 by the Ministry of Home Affairs states that the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Jayantilal Chhotalal Shah, a Judge of the Bombay High Court, to be a Judge of the Supreme Court of India, with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office.

NEW ASSAM GOVERNOR

According to a Press Communique issued from Rastrapati Bhavan on October 3 the President has been pleased to appoint General S.M. Shrinagesh, formerly Chief of the Army Staff, as Governor of Assam in the vacancy caused by the death of Shri Saiyid Fazl Ali.

Planning & Finance

MEETING OF I.M.F. BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Addressing the meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund at their annual meeting in Washington, on September 29, Shri Morarji Desai, the Finance Minister said that in the years to come, a major part of the activities of the Fund would relate to the less developed countries. The external capital which the under-developed countries needed for supplementing their resources, could only come appropriately from agencies which provided long term capital. But this did not mean that an institution such as that which provided short term finance for over-coming temporary balance of payments difficulties had only a minor role to play in the less industrialized countries, the Minister added.

Unlike the industrialized countries which had added greatly to their reserves in recent years, the Finance Minister said that the less developed countries, including India, had to deplete their reserves over the past few years. He said that investment in large reserves of their own necessarily imposed a relatively greater sacrifice on poorer countries than on others with the result that the secondary line of reserves provided by the Fund assumed much greater importance for the less industrialized countries. Even in regard to the promotion of appropriate financial and monetary policies, a major part of the activities of the Fund would necessarily relate to the less developed countries, he added.

The Finance Minister said that as India saw it, the Fund's concern with appropriate fiscal and monetary policies could not end with the establishment of conditions of stability alone. The primary and most pressing objective in large parts of the world today was rapid economic development and the Fund was enjoined by its articles of agreement to promote that basic objective. In this context, the economic content of stability was as important as stability *per se*. Inflation was never a safe or a sure way of promoting development. On this there could be no disagreement. But, stability was also to be viewed in the perspective of economic progress; and if inflation was not a cure for the fundamental problems of the developing countries, neither was it the source of all their difficulties.

Shri Desai said what the less developed countries basically needed was programme and policies which made for steady enlargement of their productive resources, with steadily rising levels of saving and investment. And this was a positive task which involved devising appropriate fiscal, monetary and other policies, conducive to rapid growth, he added.

In the formulation and crystalisation of these policies, the Finance Minister said, he was sure, the Fund had an important part to play.

Turning to the development in India, Shri Desai, who is India's Governor on the World Bank, the Fund and the Finance Corporation, said while the foreign exchange situation had been stabilised in recent months, the country had a fairly long difficult period ahead. He said that about the time the Board of Governors of the Fund met at New Delhi last year, India's balance of payments was under severe pressure and there was a tendency for prices, particularly the prices of food-grains, to rise. He said it was due largely to timely assistance from friendly countries and the continuance of severe import restrictions even at the cost of a certain setback in the plan, that the drain on foreign exchange reserves was virtually halted. The improvement in India's reserves, which took place during October, 1958 to March 1959, had been reversed with the advent of a less favourable seasonal period. But the level of India's reserves now was a shade higher than at the corresponding period of last year.

Shri Desai said the general price level in India also had risen but little over the past 12 months, and the index of wholesale prices today stood at about 117, as compared to 115 a year ago. He said that in keeping with India's objective of securing economic growth in an environment of financial stability, the Government and the Reserve Bank had continued to keep a close watch over fiscal and monetary trends. The overall budgetary deficit in 1958-59 was much smaller than in the preceding year; some two percent of what it was in the previous year, Shri Desai added.

In the ultimate analysis, the Finance Minister said, the sum total of India's efforts would be judged by the success achieved in assuring to the people steadily rising levels of living over the years to come. He said that despite the cuts that had to be made in initial investment and production targets, the Second Five-Year Plan, like the First Plan, would add greatly to the production potential of the country. But the tasks ahead remained large and difficult, he added.

Shri Desai said that India had already embarked on the preparation of her Third Plan which would commence its term in April, 1961. It would be some time before they were able to give the Plan a concrete shape. But whatever the details of the Plan, it was clear that the momentum of development that had already been built up, must be maintained, and this must be done without jeopardising financial or economic stability.

India's Third Five-Year Plan, Shri Desai said, would represent a crucial phase in development, and they could not afford to shrink from the onerous tasks it would entail.

Concluding, the Finance Minister expressed the hope that India's efforts would meet with the same understanding and support from international agencies and from friendly foreign countries as had been extended to her in the past.

Increased Indian Payment To I.M.F.

The Government of India have completed payment of the gold portion of their subscription amounting to $50 million, towards their increased quota in the International Monetary Fund, on October 13, 1959, says an announcement made on October 15. This gold has been made over to the Reserve Bank of India which is one of the officially designated depositories of the Fund, the other three depositories being the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the Bank of England and the Bank of France.

Payment of the balance of the increased quota amounting to $150 million, which had to be subscribed in rupees, has also been made to the Reserve Bank in the shape of non-negotiable, non-interest bearing securities.

These payments will raise India's quota in the Fund to $600 million.

Investment Centre For India

A New Delhi announcement of October 5 says, an initial grant was made today by the U.S. Technical Co-operation Mission as a part of the agreement between the Government of India and the T.C.M. to establish an Investment Centre. The agreement was signed in New Delhi on October 5.

This initial grant of Rs. 57,000 ($12,000) will pay for the services of a Foreign Investment Promotion Specialist who will come to India to consult with the Government of India, the T.C.M. and the governing council of the Investment Centre. The specialist will analyse the organisational and operational requirements of the Centre and make recommendations for the implementation of this project.

The Government of India plans to continue efforts to attract foreign capital through the establishment of the Investment Centre which will function as an independent, private, Government-supported, non-profit organisation. The Centre will be governed by a Council whose members will be the members of the Board of Directors of the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India, Bombay. It is expected that, if properly developed, the Centre will bring together, in one organisation, the diverse technical facilities for locating and attracting foreign capital and providing advice to foreign and local private investors.

TWO MORE CENTRAL LOANS

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance Department of Economic Affairs, on October 8 says that in view of the sustained demand for investment from institutional investors and the market generally, the Government of India have decided to create a further issue of 3½% Bonds 1969 for Rs. 25 crores at Rs. 99.40 per cent and of Rs. 3¾% Loan 1974 for Rs. 20 crores at Rs. 99.65 per cent. Both the issues will be taken up initially by the Reserve Bank of India on its own investment account but will be made available for sale through the usual procedure for the sale of special issues at prices to be ascertained from the Bank.

Tax On Company Dividends

A Press Note issued on October 1 by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue states that as a result of changes in the scheme of company taxation, introduced by the Finance Act, 1959, every company declaring dividends in India is required to deduct tax at source on the dividend payable to each shareholder except the Government or the Reserve Bank of India, and pay such tax to the Government. This applies to all dividends whether interim or final declared by a company in respect of its accounting year relevant for the assessment year 1960-61, viz. the accounting year ending after April 1, 1959, and subsequent years.

The procedure for such tax deduction and payment has been prescribed in the rules contained in the Central Board of Revenue Notification No. S.O. 1850 (IT) dated August 21, 1959, published in the Gazettee of India, Extraordinary, Part II Section 3 Sub-Section (ii) of August 23, 1959.

Commerce & Industry

SURPLUS IN INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE DURING AUGUST

A surplus was recorded in India's foreign trade during August, after nearly a year, according to an announcement dated October 8.

Provisional figures released by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics show that exports, including re-exports, of merchandise and gold during the month exceeded imports by Rs. 12 lakhs.

During the corresponding period last year, India had a deficit of Rs. 6.02 crores.

Exports of merchandise during August this year amounted to Rs. 58.26 crores, as against Rs.

48.77 crores in August 1958. Imports amounted to Rs. 58.37 crores, compared to Rs. 55.92 crores in August last year.

The previous favourable balance was registered in September 1958 when exports and re-exports had exceeded imports by Rs. 15 lakhs.

A Press Note issued by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics on the same day says the provisional figures of Foreign Trade of India by all routes, i.e., sea, air and land, on private and Government accounts during August, 1959 according to information available to-date in the Department were:

Merchandise, excluding overland trade with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan: Exports Rs. 58,26 lakhs. re-exports Rs. 26 lakhs, imports Rs. 58,37 lakhs. The import figures are exclusive of the value of certain consignments of Government Stores awaiting adjustment.

Treasure: Exports (including Re-exports) of Currency Notes Rs. 39 lakhs, Gold nil and Current coins (excluding gold coins) negligible. Imports of Currency Notes Rs. 2,10 lakhs, Gold Rs. 3 lakhs, Current coins (excluding gold coins) negligible.

Balance of Trade: Subject to the limitation in import figures mentioned above, the total value of exports (including re-exports of merchandise and gold) exceeded imports by Rs. 12 lakhs.

Report On Import-Export Trade Control

Over 200 items were freed from export control during 1958-59; 30 other items were placed on the Free Licensing list, says the Annual Report of the Import and Export Trade Control Organisation for 1958-59 published recently.

The Report points out that exports of only a few essential items, largely of strategic value, are prohibited.

Fresh restrictions on exports were imposed during the year in respect of three items. In four other cases, the existing controls were further tightened.

Import Trade Control

The import policy during 1958-59 continued to be directed towards the achievement of the twin objectives of maximising indigenous industrial production and conserving foreign exchange resources for essential imports.

During the year, higher foreign exchange were allocated for certain essential industrial raw materials. Under this arrangement, an attempt was made to sustain higher levels of production in the essential industries. For this purpose, licences for additional imports were granted on a selective basis.

In regard to capital goods, the Report observes, a rigid and austere policy was continued and licences were granted only in cases where imported machinery would be export-earning or import-saving. Licences were also issued where import of machinery was required for balancing industrial undertakings or financed by foreign aid, loans or long-term overseas investment.

Export Promotion Schemes

The scope of the Export Promotion Scheme was further widened during the year and the list of items importable under the Scheme was considerably expanded. In some cases, procedural simplifications were introduced to facilitate export of finished goods and allow the import of raw materials under the Scheme. At the same time, certain steps were also taken to ensure against misuse or profiteering of raw materials imported under the scheme.

Balance Of Trade

The Report points out that India's exports including re-exports declined by 8% from Rs. 619 crores in 1957 to Rs. 568 crores in 1958. Imports also substantially declined by 19% from the peak level of Rs. 1,068 crores in 1957 to Rs. 864 crores in 1958, thanks to the severely restrictive import policy adopted since 1957.

Speedy Disposal Of Applications

The disposal of applications for import licences, the Report observes, continued to be satisfactory during 1958-59. A total of 3.15 lakh applications for import licences was received. The disposal kept pace with the inflow and the carry-over at the close of the year was just 792 applications or 0.5% of receipts. In the case of applications for export licences, almost all the applications received during the year were disposed of before the end of the licensing period.

Import Policy For Newsprint

Under the policy regarding import of newsprint during the half year period October 1959 — March 1960 set out in the Import Trade Control Policy book published on October 1 actual user licences will be issued to publishers and printers of newspapers and periodicals only for meeting a part of their entitlement of newsprint. The balance of their entitlement will be made available from stocks arranged through canalised imports.

The entitlement for newsprint will be determined in consultation with the Registrar of Newspapers for India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, on the basis of the page-area, average number of pages and circulation during 1958. Further, on the entitlement thus calculated a cut of 10 per cent will be imposed. Newspapers will be allowed to make good this cut from indigenous newsprint manufactured by Nepa Mills. Separate applications for allocations of Nepa newsprint should be addressed to the Press Registrar, New Delhi.

The cut will not, however, apply to small newspapers whose entitlement during the current licensing period is less than 20 tons. Their entitlement in full will be met from canalised imports of newsprint and will be exempt from payment of licence fee or production of the I.V.C. Number.

Applications for additional quota to meet the requirements on account of increased circulation would also be considered provided a separate application is made and is supported by a chartered accountant's certificate showing the average circulation during 1958 and for the period January-September, 1959, separately.

Requests for additional newsprint on account of further increase in circulation during October 1959-March 1960 would be met from Nepa Mills as far as possible. Requests for such additional quotas should be made to the Registrar of Newspapers for India supported by a certificate from a chartered accountant showing the increased circulation for a period of at least three months.

Actual user applications from newspapers for their specialised requirements, e.g., stereo flongs, rubber blankets, specialised types of printer's ink not indigenously available in quality or quantity will also be cosidered by the Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi, on an *ad hoc* basis. Applicants should furnish full justification and their consumption during 1958 duly certified by a chartered accountant.

Established importers will be free to collect actual user licences and effect imports against the licences so collected after obtaining letters of authority from the Licensing Authority concerned. Those newspapers who are granted rupee account licences may either arrange for their import direct or obtain newsprint from the ready stock.

Policy For Import Of Books

The policy for the import of books during the licensing period October, 1959 — March, 1960 has been announced in an Import Trade Control Public Notice, according to an announcement of October 15.

Licences will be granted to established importers on a quota of 100% General and 100% Soft on a 'repeat' basis. It will not be necessary for established importers to make fresh applications to licensing authorities for quota licences for the current half year. It will be enough if the basic quota licences issued for import of books in respect of the half year April-September, 1959 are sent along with a forwarding letter, the Quota Certificate, and the necessary treasury chalan to the licensing authorities which issued those licences.

Quota licences granted for the current half year will, however, be issued subject to the condition that not more than 40% of their face value could be utilised for import of fiction and permissible non-technical journals and magazines. Within the balance 60% of the face value of licences, it will be permissible to import *inter alia* children's books but import of horror comics will not be allowed.

Applications from established importers for supplementary licences will also be considered *ad hoc* on evidence being furnished to the licensing authorities that the basic quota licences granted to them for October, 1959 — March, 1960 period have already been utilised at least up to 60% of their face value. Supplementary licences will be granted fairly liberally but these will be valid only for import of standard technical books or books of reference concerning law and legal practice, or for use in connection with medical practice, scientific research or industrial processes. The last date for receipt of applications for supplementary licences will be February 15, 1960.

Applications from actual users like libraries, technical and educational institutions, etc., will continue to be licensed on an *ad hoc* basis and these may also furnish details in regard to books intended to be imported by them.

Trade Between India And Iraq

A Press Note issued on October 13 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry states that discussions have ended in New Delhi between the Iraqi Trade Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Qasim Hassan, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in India, and the Indian Delegation led by Shri K.R.F. Khilnani, Joint Secretary Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Delegations exchanged views on the difficulties currently experienced in the way of the smooth flow of trade between the two countries, and the conclusion has been reached that closer trade and economic relations will be of mutual benefit, and that there is considerable scope for expanding beyond the present level the trade in traditional items particularly in Iraqi dates and Indian tea, and also of extending this trade to a large number of new products e.g., telephone and telegraph apparatus, sewing machines and fans, rayon piecegoods, scientific instruments, storage battteries, diesel engines, crown corks, sports goods, bicycles, drugs and medicines, chemicals, plastic manufactures, hosiery and knitted garments.

It has been agreed during the course of these discussions that the trade and economic relations between the two countries should be established on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. The two delegations hope that as a result of the discussions, expansion of trade to the mutual advantage of both the countries will take place.

Trade between India and Iraq is governed by the Trade Agreement which was signed at Baghdad on December 29, 1958. It came into effect in May, 1959, the date on which letters of ratification were exchanged, and is valid for a period of two years. The Agreement provides for mutual consultations on the progress of implementation. The trade talks between the two Delegations opened in New Delhi on September 10, 1959.

Cotton textiles, jute manufactures and coir manufactures are our major items of export to Iraq. On the import side, the only major item is dates. Last year, India's exports amounted to Rs. 1.49 crores while imports from Iraq were worth Rs. 2.14 crores. During the first six months of his year. India exported Rs. 1.39 crores worth of goods and imported goods worth Rs. 89 lakhs from Iraq.

INDIA-POLAND TRADE TALKS

A New Delhi announcement dated October 5 says, a Polish Trade Delegation, consisting of Mr. T. Olechewski, Director, Department of Foreign Trade and five other officials arrived on the same date.

The talks commenced in New Delhi on October 8 for the conclusion of a Trade Agreement for the next year. The present Agreement expires by the end of this year.

Welcoming the Polish Delegation, Shri K.R.F. Khilnani, Leader of the Indian Delegation, expressed his gratification at the fact that the existing Trade Agreement had resulted in considerable increase in the trade between the two countries. In 1953, the total volume of trade was Rs. 3.18 crores and this had risen to Rs. 5.3 crores during the period January to August 1959.

The Delegation will review the working of the Indo-Polish Trade Agreement and also hold discussions in connection with the formulation of a trade plan for the next year.

Indian Delegation For GATT Meeting

The 15th Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will be held in Tokyo from October 26 to November 21, 1959. Usually, sessions of the GATT are held in Geneva, but this time this is being held in Tokyo at the invitation of the Japanese Government.

During the first week of the Session there will be a meeting of the Trade Ministers representing the 37-member-countries. India will be represented by Shri Nityanand Kanungo, Minister for Commerce.

After the Ministerial meeting, the regular session of the GATT will be continued. The Indian team for this will be led by Shri L.K. Jha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

ART SILK YARN FROM YUGOSLAVIA

A Press Note issued by the State Trading Corporation of India Limited on October 6 says that the State Trading Corporation has arranged for the supply of art silk yarn from Yugoslavia on rupee payment. The S.T.C. had earlier made arrangements for import of art silk yarn from German Democratic Republic, Hungary and Egypt.

Metric Weights & Measures

The Government of India have decided to introduce from April 1, 1960 metric system with regard to the levy and collection of customs duties, says an announcement dated October 1.

The introduction of metric system for levy of customs duties will mark another important stage in the country's switch-over to the new system. It has been already introduced from October 1 last year in certain specified areas and in some major industries like cotton textiles, iron & steel, cement, paper, salt, engineering, coffee, etc. In jute industry the metric system was introduced earlier in July 1958.

The sugar industry will adopt metric system from the beginning of their next crushing season, namely, November 1, 1959. Vanaspati, paint, biscuit and soap industries will adopt the metric system from April 1, 1960 and coir industry from October 1, 1960.

BHILAI WORKS BEGIN STEEL PRODUCTION

The second milestone on the road to completion of the Bhilai Steel Project was reached on October 12, when the first open hearth furnace of the Steel Works commenced production of steel. The Bhilai Steel Works commenced production of pig iron on February 4, 1959, which was the first milestone on the project's road to progress.

There will be six open hearth furnaces of 250-ton capacity each, at Bhilai, producing one million tons of ingot steel annually.

Two other open hearth furnaces of similar capacity are expected to be completed within the next three months. The remaining three furnaces will be completed next year.

The plant has been so designed that the production can be increased from 1 million tons to 1.3 million tons immediately and to 2.5 million tons ultimately, by making certain extra installations and modifications.

Meanwhile, the first blast furnace of the Steel Works, has produced so far about 2,30,000 tons of pig iron, out of which more than 1,88,000 tons have already been despatched to different parts of the country and for export outside. The Project has received export orders for 53,400 tons of pig iron.

Steel Supply Position

India imported 1.17 million tons of steel during 1958 as against 1.67 million tons in 1957, says an announcement dated October 10.

The quantities imported on Government account and distributed by Steel Controller amounted to 753,805 tons in 1958 as against 1,037,063 tons in 1957.

The total supply during the period was 2.47 million tons including 1.30 million tons from indigenous sources.

The supply position during the present year is likely to ease with the first saleable steel — billets and plates — expected from the public sector plants at Bhilai and Rourkela.

About 200,000 tons of steel is also being brought from the U.S.S.R. Arrangements are being made to purchase about 200,000 tons with funds coming from the U.S. Government D.L.F. Loan.

Substantial quantities of steel for Railways are being purchased by them, again out of funds coming from the U.S. Development loan.

A few contracts for the purchase of steel against the export of scrap, iron ore and manganese ore have also been concluded.

Imports of steel were liberal till the beginning of 1957 when owing to foreign exchange difficulties, restrictions had to be imposed. No import licences were issued for prime quality mild steel on commercial account and imports were arranged by the Iron and Steel Controller directly.

The only item licensed were special categories of steel and some quantity of industrial and re-rollable scrap. The bulk of these licences were issued to actual users.

Even the comparatively smaller import of steel during the year as compared to previous years flowed to a large extent from outstandings of old orders placed earlier and the long-term contracts entered into in 1955-56 with USSR and West Germany.

Record Production Of Lead-Zinc Ores

A record production of 79,152 metric tons of lead-zinc ores in India was achieved during the half year ending June, 1959, according to a New Delhi announcement of October 1. Compared to the corresponding period of the preceding year, the production was higher by nearly 63 per cent.

The recovery of lead and zinc concentrates was also substantially higher being 3,229 metric tons and 4,677 metric tons respectively as compared to 2,139 and 2,668 metric tons in the first half year of 1958.

The entire production was reported from the Zawar mines in Udaipur district of Rajasthan State.

Lead concentrates are sent to Tundoo smelter in Bihar State for extraction of refined lead while the zinc concentrates are shipped to Japan for smelting of zinc as there is no zinc smelter in India at present.

The production of refined lead during the period January-June 1959 was 2,063 metric tons as compared to the production of 1,510 metric tons in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

Geological Find In South Of Bombay

Traces of rocks containing several minerals of economic importance have been found by the Geological Survey of India in the Kaladgi formation in Western India. Located in south of Bombay State, the Kaladgi formation corresponding to the Delhi System in Rajputana and the Cuddapah System in Madras, covers a wide area in Bijapur and Belgaum. Small isolated patches of the System are also seen in Dharwar, Ratnagiri and Kolhapur.

The basin occupied a very large part of the south Mahratta country in the past geological times and is now covered over by the Deccan lava flows.

Minerals in rocks traced in the area are abrassives, construction materials like building stones, slates, road metal, ballast etc., calcite, clays, glass-sand, limestone, dolomite, and lithographic stone.

Traces of alum, copper-ore, iron-ore and manganese-ore found in the area have only mineralogical significance.

Systematic re-mapping of the area and the underlying and overlying formations was commenced in field season 1946-47 followed by an examination of the limestone deposits around Bagalkot in 1945.

SHEEP AND WOOL DEVELOPMENT

There is considerable scope for sheep and wool development in the country. The estimated population of 40 million sheep produces about 70 million pounds of wool annually. The major portion of the clip is hairy and coarse and includes a considerable quantity of coloured produce. The yield of wool varies from three fourths of a pound to four pounds per sheep per year. The present average yield per sheep in India is estimated at 1.7 pounds per annum. Annually more than 50 per cent of the clip, valued at Rs. 12 crore, is exported. The mill industry concerned with the manufacture of superior cloth has to depend on the import of raw or semi-pocessed wool to the extent of 15 million pounds estimated to cost not less than Rs. 11 crore in foreign exchange. If the quality of indigenous wool is improved, India can gradually decrease the import of wool from outside.

"The demand for wool comes from five main sources from cottage industries for making carpets and floor rugs; for blankets; for the manufacture of clothing material and knitting yarns in mills and for other industries like the manufacture of shawls, tweeds etc. Also there is an increasing demand for mutton, which is an important item of diet. It is estimated that the annual yield from mutton comes to about Rs. 30 crore. Sheep manure is also a valuable source of fertiliser in many intensive farming areas.

Production of higher yields of wool from sheep needs long-term effort. The Indan Council of Agricultural Research promoted a number of research programmes in different sheep raising areas and assisted the State Governments in establishing research stations prior to and during the First Plan period. During the First Plan period sheep breeding farms were established in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan Bombay and Bihar.

The programme for sheep and wool improvement during the Second Plan period lays emphasis on the practical application for the findings of research. For increasing wool production in the country and for improving the quality of wool, four sheep breeding farms and two wool testing laboratories have been set up. Initial work on four more farms has been taken up. These research stations will produce rams of good quality, both for pure breeding and for cross-breeding. Further, 222 sheep and wool extension centres have been organised in ten States. It is hoped that a total of 300 such centres would be established by the end of the Second Plan. The main objective is to improve the wool quality of the existing sheep by selective breeding and by crossing with the exotic fine-wooled breeds, so that superior wool would be produced in the country and ultimately self-sufficiency could be reached as far as the requirements of raw wool is concerned.

The Second Plan envisages the organisation of intensive sheep improvement programmes in the rural areas, with the co-operation of the flock owners, so that superior stud rams are bred under the supervision of trained personnel and made available for effecting improvement among as large a sheep population as possible. For this purpose, the main emphasis is on setting up an organisation for developing a specific number of sheep population in selected villages. The unit for organising a centre is a flock of 2000 to 3000 sheep in a village or in a group of villages. This unit is termed the Sheep and Wool Extension Centre and in each centre the flock owners are to be assisted with superior wooled rams and all efforts to eliminate the undesirable types are to be made by mainaining a continuous programme of assisance to the sheep breeders.

Increasing wool production is not a short-term process. Even in countries favoured with natural pastures a period of 150 to 200 years of continuous efforts were necessary to reach the level of production of 6 to 8 pounds per sheep. India's efforts may, therefore, have to extend over a number of years for achieving increase in wool production.

Establishment of a Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, introduction of a training centre in sheep husbandry and setting up of wool laboratories and sheep shearing and wool grading centres are the tentative programmes now being considered for inclusion in the Third Plan for sheep and wool development.

WOOLLEN HOSIERY INDUSTRY

The Tariff Commission in 1952 estimated that the woollen hosiery industry in India consisted of 875 small-scale units, the bulk of them located at Ludhiana (Punjab) and the remainder dispersed over the States of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi and Bombay. According to a recent survey conducted by the Government of Punjab, there are 800 hosiery units in Ludhiana. The total number of knittng machines of all kinds engaged in the manufacture of hosiery articles is about 10,000 including 1,500 flat machines, 2,000 hand-driven circular machines, 500 power-driven circular machines 5,000 hand sock machines and 80 raschal machines.

Capital investment in all the hosiery units is estimated to be Rs. 3 crores, of which the Ludhiana units alone account for a little over Rs. 2.5 crores. Majority of the machines employed in the industry are manually operated and locally fabricated.

The Ludhiana industry, if worked on two shifts all the year round, has a productive capacity of goods worth about Rs. 12 crores, but in actual practice it works only for six months (July to December) and employs about 20,000 workers directly in the establishments and an equal number, mainly women, outside. The present production of woollen hosiery in Ludhiana is valued at Rs. 3.5 crores to Rs. 4 crores.

Quantity of yarn consumed by the hosiery industry is estimated at about 5 million lbs. of which about 4 million lbs. of hosiery and knitting yarn are consumed by the Ludhiana hosiery units.

In 1957, hosiery goods valued at Rs. 11,76,025 were exported; in 1958, this figure rose to Rs. 21,47,194.

I. T. I. Exceeds Production Targets

The production in the year 1960-61 target for the Indian Telephone Industries was fixed at 65,000 telephones and 45,000 exchange lines. But the factory is now planning to produce 1,20,000 telephones and 71,000 exchange lines in 1960-61.

I.T.I. has already exceeded the annual production targets laid down for the Second Five-Year Plan in the production of telephones and exchange lines. During the Second Five-Year Plan it was envisaged that a total of 3,20,000 telephones and 2,15,000 exchange lines would be produced. Against these targets, in the first three and a half years of the Plan period (from April, 1956 to September, 1959), I.T.I. has already produced 2,37,000 telephones and 1,50,000 exchange lines. During the remaining year and a half of the current Plan period, it is estimated that I.T.I. will produce 1,75,000 more telephones and 1,00,000 exchange lines thereby exceeding the Plan target by 92,000 telephones and 35,000 exchange lines.

In addition, I.T.I. has undertaken the production of various items for Railway Electrification Control, viz., wayside station telephone sets; control room equipment for train control; portable telephone sets for emergency control; control room equipment for emergency control; block filter units; terminal and wayside units for interwire telegraph, etc. The delivery of these items has already commenced. This equipment was not originally included in the production schedule. Apart from telephone exchange equipment, I.T.I. is producing transmission equipment and in this field considerable design and development work has been done.

Cotton Textile Production

A Press Note issued from the Office of the Textile Commissioner on October 14 says, the cotton textile mills production for August, 1959, amounted to 144 million lbs. of yarn and 404 million yards of cloth equivalent to about 2.69 lakh bales. At the end of August, 1959, the composite units of cotton textile mills carried a total stock of 3.84 lakh bales comprising of 1.87 lakh bales of unsold cloth and 1.97 lakh bales of cloth sold but not lifted.

The total production during the other eight months of the current year was 1.131 million lbs. of yarn and 3.274 million yards of cloth. The corresponding figures for the eight months of 1957 and 1958 were 1.185 and 1.104 million lbs. of yarn and 3,589 and 3.278 million yards of cloth respectively.

The production for the month of September, 1959, was provisionally estimated at 148 million lbs. of yarn and 413 million yards of cloth. The estimated stock of cloth with the mills at the end of September, 1959, worked out to a total of 3.73 lakh bales consisting of 1.81 lakh bales of unsold cloth and 1.92 lakh bales of cloth sold but not lifted.

EXCISE DUTY REBATE FOR MATCH PRODUCERS

A Press Note issued on October 14 by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue says that in order to give further relief to the small scale producers in the match industry, thé Government of India have decided that the size of Central Excise duty rebates admissible to B. C and D category of match manufacturers should be further enhanced by 3, 6 and 9 nave paise per gross respectively for the manufacture of 60s size of match boxes, and by 2, 4 and 6 naye paise per gross respectively for the manufacture of 40s size of match boxes. The enhance rebates will be effective from October 15, 1959.

ELECTRICITY OUTPUT IN JUNE

The total electricity produced by the public utility power stations in India in June 1959 amounted to 1,200.3 million kWh., of which 963.3 million kWh. were sold to ultimate consumers, says an announcement dated October 15.

Corresponding figures for June 1958 were 1.009.1 million kWh. and 810.7 million kWh. and for June 1951 499.6 million kWh. and 408.8 million kWh., respectively.

These figures show that the annual increase in electricity production is 20 per cent. The consumption in the year also increased by 18 per cent.

Quality Control In Handicrafts

Specifications for several handicrafts have been worked out by the Committee on Quality Control set up by the All India Handicrafts Board, according to an announcement made on October 6.

The specifications, which have been finalised in consultation with representatives of handicraft manufacturers and the Indian Standards Institution, cover six items — silk goods, printed textiles, art metalware, namdas of Kashmir, crochet laces of South India and brocades of Varanasi.

These standards have been formulated in pursuance of the decision taken by the All India Handicrafts Board to introduce quality control measures in important handicrafts of the country.

The need for thorough and widespread quality control has been emphasised by foreign buyers who have complained that bulk supplies made by some Indian exporters were not in accordance with the samples and were not also of the required quality. In the absence of definite specifications or qualitative standards, the exporters in the country have also been handicapped. The formulation of suitable specifications, in consultation with all interests concerned, will help to rectify this situation.

Handicrafts Co-operatives Development

The Co-operative Advisory Committee of the All India Handicrafts Board at a meeting in New Delhi on October 14 recommended that for developing handicraft co-operatives during the Third Plan period, emphasis should be laid on providing adequate marketing facilities to these co-operatives.

The Committee also stressed that craftsmen from co-operatives should be given opportunities to learn improved techniques at the different centres set up by Central and State Governments.

The Committee considered the question of setting up apex societies at State level and an All India Federation of Handicraft Co-operatives. It recommended that federal societies might be set up wherever warranted by the number of handicraft societies. Wherever possible, the services of existing federal organisations could be utilised.

Subsidies For Tea Gardens

According to a Press Note issued on October 15 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry the Government of India have approved a scheme proposed by the Tea Board for the grant of subsidies to the tea gardens in Cachar and Tripura for meeting a part of the cost of transport and fertilizers. This is expected to reduce the cost of production of common teas and improve their competitive ability.

The amount of subsidy will be Rs. 1.58 per maund for transport of teas by rail from Cachar while for transport by river, the amount will be Rs. 0.61 per maund. Tea gardens in Tripura will be given a subsidy of Rs. 3.68 per maund for transport of teas by air.

The subsidy sanctioned towards meeting the cost of fertilizers will be Rs. 122 per ton of sulphate of ammonia. The subsidy will be available for tea gardens of 300 acres and below in Cachar and Tripura.

The scheme will be initially for a period of one year.

L.I.C. REPORT FOR 1958

The Second Annual Report of the Life Insurance Corporation of India shows a big increase in the total business in 1958 over that of the previous year says an announcement made on October 6. The Report, which has been adopted and submitted to Government, marks the completion of three years of its working.

The following are the salient features of the Report:

1. *Total Business in force*: As against the addition to the total business in force of Rs. 44 crores in 1953, Rs. 120 crores in 1954 and Rs. 37 crores in 1955, which are the peak pre-nationalisation years, at the end of 1958, the total life insurance business soared up to Rs. 1,682 crores, showing a record addition of Rs. 209 crores over the 1957 business of Rs. 1,473 crores.

2. *Lapses*: While the lapse ratio, i.e. ratio of the sum assured lapsed, less the sum assured revived in the year 1957, to the mean business in force during the year was 6.4%, detailed and complete statistics of lapses in respect of the year 1958 are being compiled according to the Annual Report. The Chairman of the Corporation, Shri P.A. Gopalkrishnan, in his address at the 42nd meeting of the L.I.C. last month, however, indicated that according to the available statistics the lapse ratio in 1958 was of the order of 4.5%.

3. *Life Fund*: The Life Fund has increased to Rs. 447.81 crores from Rs. 410.41 crores in 1957.

4. *Premium Income*: Premium income for the year ended 31st December, 1958, amounted to Rs. 73.08 crores as against Rs. 88.12 crores for the sixteen months period ended 31st December, 1957; Rs. 37.56 crores for the eight months period ended 31st August, 1956, and Rs. 58.55 crores for the year 1955.

5. *Rate of Interest*: The Report discloses that after deduction of income tax at source and including refund of tax received during the year, the rate of interest realised was 3.52% p.a. as against 3.74% during the previous accounting period. The reason for this fall is that the Corporation has yet to receive a considerable amount by way of refund of tax relating to the year. Taking this refund into account, the rate of interest earned during the year would very nearly be the same as in the previous year.

6. *Claims*: During 1958, claims inclusive of bonus addition amounted to Rs. 25.05 crores. Of this Rs. 7.00 crores were claims by death and Rs. 18.05 crores by maturity.

7. *Expense Ratio*: While the over-all expense ratio, i.e., the ratio of expenses to premium income for the year is 29.2%, against 27.3% for the earlier period of account, the increase is accounted for by the first year's commission and other initial expenses on the larger volume of new business completed during 1958. The renewal expense ratio for the year has come down to Rs. 15.46% as against 15.89% during the previous year.

8. *Investments*: The Report which touches various aspects of Corporation's work, points out that total investments pertaining to life business of the Corporation as on 31-12-1958 amounted to Rs. 420.94 crores.

9. *Management Compensation*: By 31st July, 1959, management compensation had been determined and offered to 70 'Part A' insurers; 85 'Part B' insurers and 65 'Part C' insurers, i.e. 220 insurers in all. Of these 69 'Part A' insurers, 67 'Part B' insurers and 46 'Part C' insurers, i.e. 182 insurers in all have accepted and been paid the compensation totalling Rs. 17.30 lakhs.

10. *Acquisition Compensation*: Acquisition compensation was determined and offered to 70 'Part A' insurers, the aggregate compensation in their case amounting to Rs. 435 lakhs. Acquisition of Rs. 413 lakhs has already been paid to 64 of them. In respect of 'Part B' insurers, this was offered to 49 insurers and payments aggregating Rs. 11.10 crores have been made or settled in the case of 43 insurers.

The Report also deals with organisation of development and other activities of the Corporation which include training, publicity, decentralisation of policies, delegation of powers etc.

RISE IN NATIONAL INCOME

A Press Note issued on October 1 by the Cabinet Secretariat says, the National Income of India in real terms recorded a rise of 6.8 per cent in 1958-59 over 1957-58 according to the 'quick' estimates prepared by the Central Statistical Organisation on the basis of the trends disclosed by the current available data. On this overall rise, as much as 5.0 per cent was contributed by agriculture (proper) alone and 1.8 per cent by other sectors together. Based as they are on very incomplete material, the present estimates are tentative and liable to be revised in the annual paper on National Income to be released in next April. Contributions of some individual sectors to the overall percentage change in National Income in 1958-59 over 1957-58 at 1948-49 prices are shown in the following table:—

Sectors	Percentage contribution to total national income 1957-58	Percentage change in 1958-59 over 1957-58	Contribution to the overall percentage change in 1958-59 over 1957-58.
Agriculture (proper)	37.7	+ 13.2	+ 4.98
Mining	0.8	+ 1.1	+ 0.01
Factory establishments	7.9	+ 1.3	+ 0.10
Communication	0.4	+ 8.7	+ 0.03
Railways	2.5	+ 2.6	+ 0.07
Organised banking and insurance	0.8	+ 6.6	+ 0.05
Other commerce and transport	15.6	+ 4.3	+ 0.67
Other Sectors	34.3	+ 2.6	+ 0.89
All Sectors	100.0	+ 6.8	+ 0.89

The table below indicates the trend of National Income and per capita at 1948-49 prices during the quinquennium ending 1958-59, subject to revision:

Year (Financial)	National Income (Rs. crores)	Per Capita Income (Rupees)
1954-55	10,280	271.9
1955-56	10,480	273.6
1956-57	11,000	283.5
1957-58	10,830	275.6
1958-59	11,570	290.7

The figures show that the net rise in national income in real terms during the first three years of the Second Plan i.e., 1956-57 to 1958-59, was of the order of 10.4 per cent. The corresponding rise in per capita income was 6.3 per cent.

Communications

RECOMMENDATIONS OF TRANSPORT COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE

The conference of State Transport Commissioners/Controllers, inaugurated in New Delhi on October 5 by Shri Raj Bahadur, Minister of State in the Union Ministry of Transport and Communications, concluded the next day after recommending a series of far-reaching changes in the transport administrative set-up and licensing procedures. Shri R.L. Gupta, Transport Secretary to Government of India, presided. The measures recommending re-organisation of the transport set-up in the State and the Central Governments emerged out of a review of the report of the Masani Committee on the re-organisation of transport administrative set-up in the States and allied matters and in the light of the expansion of road transport in the country. The views of the conference will be considered by the Government while formulating its decisions on the Masani Committee report.

Besides this report, the conference discussed a number of other subjects of immediate interest to the development of road transport.

The recommendations of the Masani Committee were divided into various categories. Dealing first with the recommendations on the re-organisation of administration, the conference endorsed the Committee's emphasis on the need for close co-ordination between road transport and road construction. The conference felt that the best method of achieving this co-ordination would be to have one Minister as recommended by the Masani Committee.

State Transport Authority

The Masani Committee's recommendation on the constitution of State Transport Authorities was accepted in principle. The Committee had recommended that a State Transport Authority should have an official Chairman with judicial experience, two other official members and two non-officials. The Transport Commissioner should normally be the Chairman of the State Transport Authority and the non-officials should be representatives of bodies like Chambers of Commerce and trade associations. While accepting this in principle, the conference felt that the membership may be increased to seven where absolutely necessary.

Single-Member Regional Authority

The conference also endorsed the recommendation of the Masani Committee that a single-member Regional Transport Authority consisting of an experienced official was best suited to the scheme of administration that the Committee had suggested.

Appellate Tribunals

With regard to appeals and petitions, the Masani Committee had recommended that these should be heard by a State Transport Appellate Tribunal consisting of a full-time judicial officer not below the rank of a District and Sessions Judge and no provision for a second appeal need be made.

The conference agreed that it would be ideal to set up a single-member Transport Appellate Tribunal in every State, constituted by an official with judicial experience, but wherever there were serious practical difficulties in having a single-member tribunal, a State may appoint a tribunal with a maximum of three members.

Advisory Bodies

The Masani Committee's recommendation that transport advisory committees should be set up in each State was endorsed.

Central Set-Up

The conference agreed with the Masani Committee on the need to strengthen the road transport division in the Department of Transport of the Government of India.

Licensing Policy

On the question of licensing policy, the conference agreed with the recommendation of the Masani Committee that private carrier permits for bona fide use should be issued without any restrictions and the permits may be valid in a State or as many States as desired by the applicant.

With regard to Inter-State public carrier permits, the

Masani Committee had recommended that within the estimated overall capacity of the State, permits should be free and unrestricted subject to the allocation of certain number of permits to each region in order to ensure all-sided development, and that intra-State permits for goods vehicles should be valid for the whole of the State, unless an operator wanted to confine himself to a region. On this point the conference recommended that the best way of achieving the objective would be that permits granted for a region should be freely countersigned for other regions in the State.

The conference also agreed that a more liberal policy should be followed in the grant of stage carriage permits until travel facilities caught up with the demand and that increase in the number of vehicles was necessary on routes where the existing occupation ratio was more than 70%. Permit holders with good record should have guarantee of renewal.

On the Committee's recommendation that in the matter of inter-State motor traffic, while the States may be left free to initiate and negotiate proposals, the Inter-State Transport Commission should be vested with power to issue permits in case of need, the conference felt that the Motor Vehicles Act already provided for the grant of powers to the Inter-State Transport Commission to issue permits and that the power could be invoked if the Commission did not succeed in a particular case in bringing about a satisfactory reciprocal arrangement by pursuasion.

Tourist Traffic

On the question of tourist traffic, the conference agreed with the Masani Committee that until the principle of single-point taxation was given effect to, it was desirable for all States to specify in their rules that all tourist coaches and other vehicles with permits under Section 63(6) of the Motor Vehicles Act, which have paid taxes in their home States, should be exempted from further taxation.

Truck-Trailer Combination

The conference agreed with the Committee that tax concessions and preference for Government contracts should be given to encourage the extensive use of multiple unit vehicles and that the vehicle tax on the trailer part of a truck/trailer should not exceed half the tax on the truck itself.

Sales Tax

Sales tax on trucks and buses, the conference agreed, should not be at luxury rates but at rates applicable to essential goods.

Besides the Masani Committee's report, the conference dealt with a number of other subjects. On the question of taxation, the conference agreed that the policy of consolidation of taxes, fixation of ceiling, elimination of indirect taxes and abolition of double taxation should be given effect to wherever it has not already been done.

On the question of formation of viable units of operators so as to achieve greater economies, higher efficiency and better services by the operators to the public, the conference felt that while everything must be done to create viable units, proper safeguards should be provided against monopolistic tendencies and the creation of vested interests. There should also be no ban on the grant of permits to new comers.

The conference recommended that automobile manufacturers, in conjunction with their dealers, should be encouraged to provide suitable servicing and repair facilities along the highways. With regard to the facilities to the public, it was felt that these should be essentially the responsibility of the operators, but wherever it was not possible for the operators to provide adequate facilities, the local bodies concerned should undertake this work, which could gradually become self-financing from the canteens etc. Oil companies should be requested to provide facilities for the public at petrol pumps.

During the course of its deliberations, the conference had a discussion with a deputation of the All India Motor Union Congress.

Expert Body's Report On Bridge Design

The High Level Committee of Engineers on Bridges, appointed by the Ministry of Railways in 1957, has submitted its report to the Railway Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, says an announcement dated October 1.

The committee was headed by Dr. A.N. Khosla, Vice Chancellor of the Roorkee University, and its members included senior engineers from the Ministries of Railways, Defence, Transport and Communications, Central Water and Power Commission, and the Meteorological Department. A number of other eminent retired engineers were also co-opted on the committee.

The committee was asked to review the methods of design of bridges in the light of the latest knowledge and experience and to indicate the standards which should generally guide the design of new bridges in India in future.

RAILWAY TRAINING FOR NIGERIAN STUDENTS

The Railway Board has agreed in principle to provide facilities for training in mechanical and civil engineering to a certain number of Nigerian students, according to an announcement dated October 13.

The trainees will be sponsored by the Nigerian Railways Corporation.

KALKA MAIL DERAILMENT ENQUIRY

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Transport and Communications on October 5 reads: The Government Inspector of Railways, Calcutta, who held an enquiry into the derailment of No. 2 Down Kalka Mail at mile 366/14-13 between Khurmabad Block Hut and Shiu Sagar Road stations of Eastern Railway on August 13, 1959, at about 23.37 hours, has submitted his preliminary report.

His provisional finding is that the accident was caused by tampering with track by some unknown persons. As a result of the accident, 9 persons were injured, two of them grievously.

India-Australia Air Talks

Talks between India and Australia on civil air transport matters opened between the representatives of the two Governments in New Delhi on September 28, 1959.

The Indian delegation to the talks was led by Shri M.M. Philip, Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Departments of Communications and Civil Aviation).

Food & Agriculture

NEW WAREHOUSES FOR M. P. AND MYSORE

To extend the facilities for storage of agricultural commodities, the Central Warehousing Corporation has decided to construct immediately two warehouses, one each in Madhya Pradesh and Mysore States, at a cost of Rs. 13.42 lakhs says an announcement dated October [illegible]. The warehouses, which will have a capacity of 5,000 tons each, will be located at Bhatapara and Gadag, respectively.

Bhatapara is in the Raipur District of Madhya Pradesh and has a centrally situated market in Chhatisgarh area where about one lakh tons of foodgrains and other agricultural commodities are transacted annually. Besides paddy and wheat, pulses like gram, khesari, arhar, musur, urd and oilseeds like linseed, til and dhaniya are received in the Bhatapara market in large quantities. It is estimated that about 20,000 to 30,000 tons of foodgrains and 5,000 to 6,000 tons of other agricultural commodities are stored at Bhatapara. During season storage becomes a problem in the whole area.

Gadag is the Sub-Divisional Headquarters of Dharwar District in Mysore State. The market at Gadag, which is regulated under the Bombay Agricultural Act, 1939 (Gadag was formerly in the Bombay State) is well known for transactions in cotton, groundnut and jowar. Other foodgrains like wheat, bajra and rice, pulses like tur, moong and gram and oilseeds like linseed and safflower and coriander are received in the market in good quantities. The total arrivals in the market is estimated at 50,000 to 60,000 tons. A Central warehouse has already been functioning there for about 18 months in hired accommodation which has been filled to capacity and custom had to be refused in a number of cases due to lack of accommodation. It is expected that the construction of a new warehouse at Gadag will ease the situation.

Nation-wide Plan

Since it is felt that effective preservation of agricultural commodities is no less important than increasing production in the country, the Central Warehousing Corporation has planned to construct storage accommodation for one lakh tons of foodgrains at 20 centres during the Second Five Year Plan. Besides constructing new storages, the Corporation also proposes to start more warehouses in hired accommodation during the same period. Already 16 warehouses are functioning under the Corporation and 10 more are proposed to be set up before the end of the current financial year. The number of Central warehouses already functioning in different States are as follows: Andhra Pradesh 3, Bombay 3, Kerala 1, Madhya Pradesh 1, Mysore 2, Orissa 1, Punjab 1, Rajasthan 2, Uttar Pradesh 1 and West Bengal 1.

Training In Scientific Grain Storage

As part of the programme for eliminating waste and improving storage in farms, in the grain markets and in the Government godowns, the Grain Storage & Research Training Centre at Hapur (U.P.) has provided practical training in scientific methods of grain preservation and inspection to 236 persons.

In the eight short and long courses arranged so far training was given to 185 officers of the Central Government, 47 officers of State Governments and 4 private traders and stockists.

The next session of the short-term training course will begin on October 19, 1959.

Free accommodation is provided to the trainees by the Central Government and no tuition fee is charged.

The syllabus includes training in modern techniques to improve the indigenous methods of storage, importance of dunnage, elimination of factors causing damage to foodgrains in storage, godown hygiene, categorising of stocks, control of pests, methods of sampling and analysis of foodgrains and fixation of price in relation to quality.

Research On Wheat Types

An announcement dated October 15 says that recent successful experiments in transplanting wheat late in December on an originally water-logged piece of land carried out by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, suggest possibilities of growing wheat in flood affected areas.

In view of the recent floods over several lakh acres of wheat growing regions in the country, the I.A.R.I. experiment gains importance. The flooded areas are generally left uncultivated as such areas do not come into condition even by the end of December by which time the normal sowing season is over. In the Ganga and Jamuna *khadar* tracts, the normal season of sowing wheat is from middle of October to middle of November but as a result of floods these areas do not come into condition until December when the water on the surface dries up. The onset of winter at this time prevents the farmers from sowing wheat or any other crop in these regions.

Sowing is also not done in areas where *kharif* crops mature late, as very little time is left between the harvesting of *kharif* crop and preparation of the land and sowing of the *rabi* crop. The process of transplanting makes it possible to cover such areas with the wheat crop.

Incentive For Sugar Production

According to a Press Note issued by the Directorate of Sugar and Vanaspati on October 13, to increase the production of sugar during the next month, the Government of India have decided to allow the factories which start crushing on or before November 4, 1959 in Western Uttar Pradesh a concession of 31 nP per maund of cane crushed by them from the date of start to November 15, 1959.

This concession will also be allowed to all such factories in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and North Bihar which start crushing on or before November 10, 1959 on all cane crushed by them from the date of start upto November 21, 1959.

CORROSION AND ITS PREVENTION

An announcement dated September 21 says that a five-week refresher course on "corrosion and its prevention" — commencing from the first week of November, 1959 — will be held at the Central Electro-Chemical Research Institute at Karaikudi in Madras State. The course is open to persons sponsored by the industrial organisations and Government Departments in the country.

The subjects to be covered in the course include economics and mechanism of corrosion, classification of corrosion processes and methods of prevention. Extension lectures on allied subjects and practicals and demonstrations will also be arranged. In addition, candidates will be taken to the Mandapam Test Farm where corrosion field testing station of the Institute is located.

It is expected that by the end of the Second Five Year Plan, the production of iron and steel will be stepped up to 4.5 million tons or more from its present figure of 2 million tons. Further, the country imports almost all commercially important non-ferrous metals, excepting aluminium, and production of steel and aluminium is being constantly outstripped by the increasing demand for these metals. According to present estimates, the cost of corrosion control in India will reach Rs. 150 crores by 1960-61.

Advanced Training In Fish Boat Design

The Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture have organised an advanced training course in fish boat design and construction at the Central Fisheries Technological Research Station, Cochin, says an announcement of October 1. The object is to provide training in the modern methods of designing and construction of bigger boats. Fisheries Development Officers of the State Governments and representatives of the fish industry would be eligible for the training.

Besides working on a complete design for specialised vessel for use in specific areas, the trainees will be given instructions in boat handling and boat performance.

Community Development

MORE PRE-EXTENSION BLOCKS ALLOTTED

The Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation authorised 11 State Governments to launch pre-extension work in 161 Blocks, on October 2, 1959. The State of Jammu and Kashmir is already fully covered by Development Blocks.

Following is the allotment of pre-extension Blocks: Andhra Pradesh 18; Assam 5; Bihar 23; Madhya Pradesh 15; Madras 13; Mysore 10; Kerala 5; Orissa 12; Uttar Pradesh 37; West Bengal 15 and Rajasthan 8.

State Governments have also been allowed to convert 116 Blocks from the pre-extension stage to Stage I. Following is the allotment of the Blocks to be converted to Stage I: Andhra Pradesh 13; Assam 5; Bihar 17; Madhya Pradesh 9; Madras 10; Mysore 7; Kerala 4; Orissa 9; Uttar Pradesh 28; West Bengal 11; and Rajasthan 3.

The selection of the Blocks by the State is to be determined by certain tests of self-reliance and self-help shown by the people, e.g. fair evidence of cleanliness and sanitation in the village and extent of coverage by panchayats and co-operatives.

To bring about a rapid increase in food production, State Governments have been asked

to give the highest priority to the location of the Blocks, or Blocks to be allotted in the remaining period of the Plan, to paddy and wheat areas of the State with secure irrigation facilities or adequate rainfall, and in which intensive work is to be undertaken.

For selecting the location of the Blocks, State Governments have been advised that the new Blocks should be contiguous to the existing ones, so as to form a compact unit. Stress is to be laid on the location of Blocks round agriculture and veterinary colleges and extension training centres. Preference is to be given to areas comprising Gramdan villages and also to other areas where there is a preponderance of backward classes. It has also been suggested to the State Governments that each district in the State should receive adequate coverage.

It has been impressed on the State Governments that steps should be taken to train the untrained Block Development Officers, Social Education Organisers, Extension Officers (Co-operation) and Village Level Workers in the existing Blocks by April, 1960. The Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation will give all possible assistance by way of providing training facilities for the untrained personnel.

According to another announcement made on October 9 the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation has allotted 27 pre-extension Blocks and 21 Stage I Blocks to Bombay, one pre-extension Block and one Stage I Block to Manipur Administration and one pre-extension Block to Tripura Administraion.

This brings the total number of Blocks allotted in the October 2, 1959 series to 190 pre-extension Blocks and 138 Stage I Blocks by conversion from the pre-extension Blocks.

Education & Culture

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACT COMES INTO FORCE

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, came into force on October 15 according to an announcement of that date. The new Act makes offences against protected monuments by way of destruction, removal, defacement or misuse hereafter cognisable under the law.

Rules for the enforcement of the new Act have also been published in a gazette notification issued the same day.

The essential safeguards provided by the Act afford a greater measure of protection to cultural relics than was possible hitherto under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904.

Among the salient features of the new Act and Rules is the provision for the proper maintenance of the monuments which are privately owned. Hitherto, the Government found it very difficult in many cases to persuade the owner of such protected monuments to enter into agreements with the Government, with the result that such monuments suffered structural deterioration or were interfered with by the owners to the detriment of their proper preservation.

The new legislation empowers the Central Government to make an order binding the owner or other competent person who has failed to enter into agreements to accept the terms and conditions imposed by the Government and to maintain the monument in a proper state of preservation, at reasonable expense which will be payable by the Central Government.

The new clause for the enforcement of agreements empowers the Government to take up necessary repairs to the monument in respect of which the owner had refused or failed to carry out essential repairs and to recover the cost thereof from the owner.

In order to ensure proper preservation of ancient sites for posterity or for their scientific excavation by Archaeologists, the new Act provides that no person, including the owner or occupier of such sites, shall encumber the site with modern construction or undertake mining, quarrying, excavating and blasting operation without the permission of the Central Government.

Compulsory Acquisition

The new legislation provides for the compulsory acquisition of antiquities of historical or archaeological importance which are in private possession and in danger of being destroyed or misused. The Central Government also reserves to itself the right to prohibit the movement of such antiquities except with the permission of the Director-General.

New Rules

The new Rules lay down the conditions for obtaining licences for carrying out excavations and other activities in protected areas. The conditions for photographing and filming protected monuments are also outlined.

The new Rules regulate the entry of visitors to protected monuments, particularly those of great national importance.

Important monuments in the country have been selected, entry to which will be regulated by a small uniform fee of 20 naye paise per person except in the case of children below the age of 15 who will be admitted free of charge.

The monuments are: Char Minar at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh; Site of the Mauryan palace at Kumrahar and the Buddhist monuments at Nalanda in Bihar; Ajanta caves, Elephanta and Karla caves in Bombay State; the Delhi Fort and Qutab archaeological area in Delhi; Group of temples at Khajuraho; Buddhist caves at Hagh and the Buddhist monuments at Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh; Gingee Fortress including monuments on Krishnagiri and Rajgiri hills in Madras State; Gol Gumbad at Bijapur, Daria Daulat Bagh at Seringapatam and Kesav temple at Somnathpur in Mysore State; Agra Fort at Agra, Akbar's Tomb at Sikandara and Residency Building at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.

Assessment Of Work Of Vijnan Mandirs

The Government of India have constituted a four-member Committee, under the chairmanship of Shri Balwantray G. Mehta, M.P., to assess the work of Vijnan Mandirs and make recommendations for their improvement, says an announcement made on October 9.

The Committee will also consider whether the scope of Vijnan Mandirs should be enlarged to include cultural activities. Suggestions have been received that the association of cultural activities in a Vijnan Mandir would have the advantage of linking up the work of preservation of rural arts and crafts with the dissemination of scientific knowledge. Besides, the cultural activities would themselves be subjected to scientific scrutiny and appraisal.

As the Vijnan Mandirs have been functioning for some years now it has been considered desirable to evaluate the work done by them before their numbers and scope are expanded.

The Committee has been requested to formulate its recommendations by the end of 1959.

The "Vijnan Mandir" Scheme was launched in 1953 by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research to make rural people "science conscious" and to make them familiar with the scientific principles involved in the day-to-day problems arising, for instance, in agriculture and village sanitation.

The Council set up 3 Vijnan Mandirs at Kapashera (Delhi), Masauli (U.P.), and T. Kallupatty (Madras). The Scheme was taken over by the Government of India in 1955. Since then another 35 Vijnan Mandirs have been set up.

Licenses For TV Sets

A Press Note issued on October 8 by the Directorate-General of Posts and Telegraphs says a licence fee of Rs. 30 per annum has been prescribed for a domestic television receiving set. The television licence will cover sound-cum-vision-television sets.

These licences will be governed by the existing rules and conditions for the licensing of wireless receiving sets. As in the case of the latter, television licences will be issued for a calender year beginning on January 1 and expiring on December 31. Licences applied for in the course of the year will be valid till December 31 of the same year, the fee being charged on a prorata basis.

Commercial Licences

As in the case of sound receiving wireless sets, a scale of fees has been prescribed for commercial, administrative and school licences for television sets. A commercial licence is necessary when a television set is used at a public or business place or in a room which is used jointly for residential-cum-business purposes. A fee of Rs. 120 per annum has been prescribed for commercial licences. For demonstration licences, the annual fee will be Rs. 30.

School Licences

For the use of television in schools, the licence fee will be Rs. 10 per annum.

T.V. receiving licences will in the first instance be issued only in the Delhi Postal Circle by the Director, Postal Services, New Delhi.

Competition For Books For Neo-Literates

A Press Note issued on October 1 by the Ministry of Education says that the 30 prizes of Rs. 500 each to the authors of the following books in Indian languages on the results of the Sixth Competition for Books for Neo-Literates under the Government of India Scheme "Encouragement of Popular Literature" have been awarded.

ASSAMESE

RAIJEI RAJA by Dwijendra Nath Sharma.

PRITHIBIR MANUHBOR by Nirmaleswar Sarma.

BHARAT DARSHAN by Smt. Mrinmoyee Dutta.

BENGALI

SAMAJER SHATRU by Dr. Brindaban Chandra Bagchi.

KI MUSKIL by Prabhatranjan Chakraborty.

SUDHU SAKH NAY by Amarnath Roy.

BIPADER BANDHU (Part II) by Alokenath Chakravorty.

GUJARATI

BHOODAN POTHI by Subhadra Gandhi.

SUKHI GAM by Govindji V. Patel, Kapil Ram N. Adhvaryu and Chandulal C. Shah.

DIL NA DIWA by Jaibhikhu.

HINDI

SATLUJ KI KAHANI by Rajendra Sharma.

DAN VEER KARN by Dev Raj Dinesh.

AJ KI LOK KATHAYEN by Manmohan Madaria.

NAYA TIRATH by Rajendra Avasthi 'Trishit'.

SHANKARACHARYA by Vishnu Prabhakar.

GODAVARI by Dev Raj Dinesh.

KANNADA

UPANISHATTINA SANNA KATHEGALU by Shankaranarayana Navada.

MALAYALAM

KATALUM MANUSHYANUM by K.K.P. Menon.

MARATHI

NAVYA GOSHTI by S.R. Deole.

BHALE DIWAS by N.G. Shukla.

PATRAVAL by Mrs. Sumati Ponkshe

GHARANTALA HISHEB by Madhukar Vishnu Sowani

ORIYA

AMA NUA DUNIA by Bhubaneswar Mizra

PUNJABI

LOK RAJ by R.S. Ahluwalia

TAMIL

PEENGAN by C.N. Vaidheswaran alias Vaidhanna

THINGALO THINGAL by P. Gunasekar

TELUGU

MANA PRANALIKALU by Bulusu Venkata Subba Rao

SUNDARAMANDIRAM by Samarajyam Srinivasa Rao

URDU

NAI KIRAN JAGI by Kishwar Zaidi

EK AUR EK GYARAH by Safdar Abbas Naqvi

Out of these books, a further selection of the five best books will be made for additional awards of Rs. 500/- each. For this purpose, the authors of the prize-winning books may send English translations of their books to the Ministry of Education for consideration for additional prizes. These awards will be announced sometime in January, 1960.

Realising the great dearth of suitable literature in Hindi and other Indian languages for the adult neo-literates, the Ministry of Education initiated a scheme "Encouragement of Popular Literature" in 1954. The object of this scheme is to provide wholesome literature in adequate quantity for literates, as well as for neo-literate adults and juveniles in the country.

Under the scheme, prizes are awarded annually for good books for neo-literates in every regional language and at the same time prize-winning books and their approved translations in other regional languages are bought in bulk for distribution in community projects, N.E.S. Blocks and other educational centres. Prizes are announced each year on Gandhi Jayanti.

In the earlier five competitions, 171 books have been awarded prizes of Rs. 500 each and 25 books Rs. 1,000/- each.

Good books for neo-literates in Hindi are purchased in bulk, the State and Central Governments sharing the cost equally. The Central Government, in addition, also pays transportation and packing charges.

About 440 books were received for the sixth prize competition this year.

Award Of UNESCO Prizes For Books

Another Press Note issued on the same day by the Union Ministry of Education announces the award of UNESCO prizes of Rs. 2,280 each, approximately, (US $480-00) to the authors of four Hindi and two Bengali books on the results of the first competition for books for the New Reading Public.

The prizes are for:

HINDI

CHIKITSA KI PRAGATI by Dr. Bhanu Shankar Mehta.

UNNAT KRISHI KI OAR by Panna Lal Jaiswal.

ADMI KI KAHANI by Mushtaq Ahmed.

INDONESIA by Uma Rao.

BENGALI

AMRA FASAL FALAI by Hironmay Bandopadhaya.

JUBA KALYAN by Benoy Ghosh.

In all, 10 UNESCO prizes were to be awarded for books in four Indian languages, four in Hindi, three in Tamil, two in Bengali and one in Urdu.

No prizes have been announced for books in Tamil and Urdu as the books submitted in these languages either have not fulfilled the conditions laid down or have not been approved for the award of a prize.

With a view to promoting the growth of literature for the New Reading Public, the UNESCO decided in October 1958 to award, in co-operation with the Government of India, ten prizes of $480 each to Indian authors of the best books for the New Reading Public. The object of the scheme is to provide literature to people who have advanced beyond the stage of neo-literates, but who are, as yet, unable to comprehend material containing subtle literary flourishes, involved sentences, relatively technical language and abstract ideas.

Under the scheme the competition was limited to books published between January 1957 and December 1958. The books dealt with international understanding, simple science, economic and social development or were translations of simple classics.

Improvement Of Govt. Presses

An announcement made on October 4 says that the Union Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply has appointed a committee to report on the steps that may be necessary to bring about improvement in the quality of printing executed at the Government of India presses and to effect economy consistent with requirements of quality work.

The committee will visit the Government Presses at Calcutta, Delhi, Nasik, and Faridabad and some leading private presses. It is expected to submit its recommendations by the end of the year.

Basic Education For Scheduled Tribes

More than 1,000 institutions have been opened in the States for the basic education of Scheduled Tribes, says an announcement dated October 12.

These institutions are of two categories: Ashrams and Sevashrams. Ashram schools are residential institutions where training in different trades or crafts like carpentry, weaving, smithy, tailoring and agriculture is given along with general education. All expenses are borne by the Government. Sevashrams are day schools where training in spinning and gardening is given along with general education. The students are supplied with clothing, books, spinning material, etc., free of charge.

The expenditure incurred by the Central and State Governments for the educational advancement of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes came to Rs. 13.87 crores in the First Five Year Plan. This formed 32.6 per cent of the total provision of Rs. 42.54 crores allocated in the First Five Year Plan for the welfare of Backward Communities.

The Second Five Year Plan has a provision of Rs. 32.37 crores for the educational advancement of students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In addition, there is the allocation of the State Governments outside the Plan.

Indian Scholarships For Foreign Students

With a view to promoting friendly relations between India and foreign countries, the Government of India have decided to award 140 scholarships to non-Indian students as well as students of Indian origin permanently domiciled abroad in about 47 countries in Asia and Africa for higher studies in India under the General Scholarships Scheme, 1960-61, says an announcement dated October 1.

Scholarships under this Scheme will be awarded for studies in the Arts and Humanities, Science, Commerce, Agriculture, Veterinary Scence, Medicine, Engineering, Technology, Education, Journalism etc. Preference will be given to candidates who are desirous of pursuing and who are eligible for post-graduate courses. Applications for courses for which facilities are not available in their own respective countries will be preferred.

As in previous years, a monthly scholarship of Rs. 200 p.m. will be paid to each scholar. In addition, tuition and university examination fees will be paid by the Government. Scholars will also receive financial assistance in the shape of book-allowance, medical expenses, vacation grant, etc. The cost of passage either way and all expenses on journeys in India, except approved study tours forming part of their course of studies in India and Summer Camps for the Introduction Course run by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, will be met by the students themselves.

Danish Government Scholarship

According to a Press Note of October 15, one candidate has been awarded a scholarship offered by the Government of Denmark for post-graduate study/research/training in that country during 1959-60.

This scholarship is administered by the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

New Members Of Sports Council

The Government of India have nominated Lt.-Col. G.V. Raja, President, Kerala Sports Council, and Shri V.N. Kak, Vice-President, Rajasthan State Sports Council, to be members of the All-India Council of Sports, according to an announcement dated October 15.

The new members have been nominated in the vacancies caused by the resignation of Dr. P. Subbarayan and Shri M.N. Masud.

The All-India Council of Sports advises the Government of India on all matters concerning sports and games and acts as a liaison between various sports associations and the Government.

Health

HEALTH REPORT FOR AUGUST

According to a New Delhi announcement dated October 8, births and deaths registered in towns with a population of 30,000 and over during July, 1939, were of the order of 25 and 11 per thousand of population respectively as against 23 and 11 during June, 1959.

According to the available information, three cases of plague were reported from Salem district of Madras State during the first week of August. Cholera and smallpox, however, continued to be reported from some parts of the country.

Based on preliminary reports for the third week of August, 1959, the situation regarding cholera and smallpox was as follows:

Cholera: Considerable incidence was reported from Gohilwad district in Bombay. Mild incidence was reported from the districts of West Godavari and Krishna in Andhra Pradesh; the district of Poona, Central Saurashtra, Halar and Nagpur in Bombay State; and Rajgarh district in Madhya Pradesh; Bijapur district in Mysore State; Cuttack and Balasore districts in Orissa State; and the Calcutta city.

Smallpox: Considerable incidence was reported from the Madras city. Mild incidence was reported from the districts of Krishna, West Godavari, Guntur, Nellore, Anantapur, Chittoor, Srikakulam and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh; Greater Bombay, Poona, Ahmednagar and Chanda districts in Bombay State; Tiruchirapalli, Madurai, Chingleput, Tirunelveli and the Nilgiris districts in Madras State; Balasore and Koraput districts in Orissa State; Jodhpur city in Rajasthan State; Lucknow city, Kanpur city, Bijnor, Hardoi and Moradabad districts in Uttar Pradesh State; Pondicherry and

LEPROSY ERADICATION IN INDIA

The 'Mission to Lepers' started functioning in 1875. In 1958 some 30,000 outpatients were treated in institutions managed by the Mission. The Leprosy Investigation and Treatment Centre at Zaheerabad in the Medak district of Andhra Pradesh was started in October 1939. During 1958, this institution treated 425 patients. Two more institutions which came to the field comparatively recently are the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh and the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation — a section of the Gandhi Memorial Trust. The establishment of the Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute at Chingleput, near Madras, and the launching of the National Leprosy Control Scheme were taken by the Central Government during the First Plan period.

Under the National Leprosy Control Scheme, Subsidiary Centres and Treatment and Study Centres have also come into being. Subsidiary Centres provide for survey of a population of about 50,000 to 60,000 under each centre for the early detection of the disease and its treatment on mass scale with sulphones. The Study Centres carry out epidemiological surveys and assessment of the results of sulphone therapy.

By the end of the First Plan period, 4 treatment and study centres and 29 subsidiary centres were established. During the Second Plan period, 100 more subsidiary centres are proposed to be established. Out of these, 39 centres were established up to December 1958.

Under the Leprosy Control Scheme, up to the end of December 1958 the population surveyed in the project area was 53,00,470. During the same period the number of persons examined was 34,98,445 while the number of cases detected was 53,637. Cases registered for treatment were 64,586 and 45,935 persons were attended for treatment.

Karikal districts in Pondicherry territory.

Gastro-enteritis: During the week ended August 8, 53 cases and six deaths were reported from Uttar Pradesh as against 83 cases and 14 deaths during the week ended August 1, 1959.

Kyasanur Forest Disease: Nine attacks were reported from Shimoga district of Mysore State during the fortnight ended August 15, 1959.

Influenza: Reports of sporadic cases were received from Assam, Bombay, Mysore and West Bengal during the month under review.

Note: 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 any number less than 30 cases per week per million of population.

Master's Degree Course In Nursing

According to an announcement dated October 1 the Union Ministry of Health has sanctioned the starting of a course leading to the Master's Degree in Nursing of the University of Delhi at the College of Nursing, New Delhi. The first session will begin from October 20. Only those students who are B.Sc. (Hons.) in Nursing or B.Sc. (Nursing) of a recognised university with three years experience in a teaching hospital or in public health services will be admitted to this course.

Social Welfare

HOME GUARDS TO HELP IN EMERGENCIES

According to a New Delhi announcement of October 6, the Government of India has suggested the formation of a voluntary corps of Home Guards in every State for meeting such emergencies as floods, fires, earthquakes, epidemics, etc.

Several States like Bombay, U.P., Mysore and West Bengal, have such a nucleus though with a different nomenclature. U.P. has Raksha Dal while West Bengal has the National Volunteer Corps.

However, now the training will be more organised and on the lines started in Delhi, where a voluntary body has been set up under the supervision and control of a Commandant-General. The members of this body are required to "discharge such functions and duties in relation to the protection of persons, the security of property and the public safety as may be assigned to them."

Relief Organisations

At the instance of the Central Emergency Relief Organisation of the Union Home Ministry, the States are already setting up organisations, both at the State and District level, to achieve the maximum coordination in the best possible manner. The objective is to assess the types of calamities occurring within a particular area, listing the agencies dealing with them and estimate resources available with the welfare agencies for rendering assistance to the affected persons.

The Central Emergency Relief Organisation has also started a training institute to help persons learn about rescue and rehabilitation work.

E. Pakistan Refugees In Andamans

More than 10,000 persons, mostly from East Pakistan, have been settled in the Andamans, a string of about 200 islands. By the end of the Second Plan period another 2,500 families would have found homes in the islands. This is according to an anouncement made on October 7.

Under the colonisation scheme initiated in 1953, each family gets ten acres of free land, five for paddy cultivation and the other five for cocoanut and other plantations. Till the first crop is harvested, Government grants a subsistence allowance of Rs. 70 per month in addition to reimbursing passage money, Rs. 210. A loan of Rs. 1,730 is also advanced to every family for house-building and purchase of draught animals, seeds, utensils, etc.

Before selecting a place for settlement, the Administration makes a detailed survey to determine its suitability. Land is tested from agricultural viewpoint. The settlers from other colonies are brought to see it. Once approved, the land is stripped of jungle and grass cover to make it habitable. Small huts are also put up. Then schools, hospitals and markets follow.

Later, a team is sent to West Bengal to 'sell' the land to the displaced persons living in camps. The Centre allots the quota but the State selects the families, who have to be normally agriculturists.

Labour & Employment

JOINT MANAGEMENT IN D. D. T. FACTORY

The Joint Management Council in the Hindustan Insecticide Factory at Delhi, set up as a result of an agreement between the workers and management, was inaugurated on September 30.

The Council, consisting of three representatives each of the workers and the management, will be consulted on such matters as retrenchment, rationalization, and closure or reduction of operations of the Factory. It will also have the right to receive information on the economic condition of the factory, production and sales programme, the annual balance-sheet and connected documents etc.

The Council will be entrusted with administrative responsibility in certain respects, viz. administration of welfare measures, operation of vocational training and apprenticeship schemes, preparation of schedule of working hours and holidays etc. Questions such as wages, bonus etc., which are subjects for collective bargaining, will not be within the scope of the Council.

The Hindustan Insecticide Factory is the second public sector undertaking where a joint Management Council has been constituted to enable workers to participate actively in management. The first such Council was inaugurated at the Hindustan Machine Tools at Jalahalli in June 1958.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS DURING JULY

There were 93 fresh industrial disputes in July, 1959, bringing the total number of disputes current at any time during the month to 139 including 25 lock-outs says an announcement dated October 4. In the previous month, there were 102 fresh disputes out of 154 disputes current.

According to the Labour Bureau, Governmen of India, the average duration of disputes current at any time during July was 12.4 days as compared with 10.4 days in June.

One hundred and one disputes terminated during July. Of these, 66 lasted no more than 5 days each and 14 lasted more than 5 days each and 14 lasted more than 30 days each.

During the month, time-loss of 5,54,080 man-days out of a total of 6,85,279 i.e. 80.9 per cent was accounted for by the 'Manufacturing industry' group. 'Mining and Quarrying' and 'Commerce' followed next with time —losses of 66.832 and 34,676 man-days respectively i.e. 9.8 and 5.1 per cent of the total. Time-losses in other major groups of industries was comparatively low.

During July, Madras recorded the highest time-loss (3,26,271) followed by West Bengal (1,50,979), Bombay (73,605), Madhya Pradesh (42,559), and Mysore (32,000). Compared to the previous month, time-loss increased in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh, and decreased in all other States.

For the Manufacturing industry group, the index of industrial unrest (base 1951=100) for July was 179 provisional) as compared with 228 (revised) for the preceding month.

Craftsmen Training Schemes

The meeting in New Delhi of the State Representatives in charge of craftsmen training schemes concluded on September 30. They recommended a target of 1,00,000 additional seats in Industrial Training Institutes and Centres for the training of craftsmen during the Third Five Year Plan period. They have suggested that 40,000 seats should be provided for increasing the capacity of the existing institutes, 50,000 by opening new institutes and the remaining 10,000 by expanding private training centres.

They also reviewed the progress so far made in the implementation of the Craftsmen Training Scheme. As compared with 59 Industrial Training Institutes at the beginning of the

Second Plan period, there were now 142 such institutes in various parts of the country. The number of seats in these institutes has also increased from 10,500 to over 36,800. By the end of the Second Plan period, it is proposed to have in all 40,000 seats for the training of craftsmen. In addition 3,000 seats have been provided under the Work and Orientation Scheme for the educated unemployed and another 4,000 under the scheme for training of displaced persons. Thus the total capacity for the training of craftsmen and others by the end of the Second Plan period will be 47,000 seats.

Abolition Of Gorakhpur Labour Organisation

An Informal Committee of Members of Parliament has been set up to draw up a scheme for implementing the decision to abolish the Gorakhpur Labour Organisation says an announcement dated September 26. The decision, the announcement says, was taken at a tripartite meeting of representatives of the coal industry workers' organisation and Government, held at New Delhi on August 9, 1959. The Union Deputy Minister for Labour, Shri Abid Ali, is the Chairman of the Committee.

In working out the scheme, the Committee will take into account the following considerations:

(a) there should be no distinction between Gorakhpur labour and other employees at work sites;

(b) as many of the existing facilities as possible should be made available to future recruits; and

(c) there should be security of employment for existing workers recruited through the Gorakhpur Labour Organisation, even after the abolition of the Organisation.

INDIAN TEAM FOR ILO MEETING

An announcement dated October 15 says that India will take part in the meeting of the I.L.O. Committee on Building, Civil Engineering and Public Works, which will be held in Geneva from October 19 to 30, 1959. Recent events and developments in the construction industry, prospects for young workers and international migration of labour in the industry are among the subjects to be discussed.

The Indian Delegation will include a Government delegate and delegates representing Workers' and Employers' Associations.

EMPLOYMENT OF D.P.s IN AUGUST

An announcement of October 14 says out of 3,524 displaced persons who had registered with Employment Exchanges during August 1959, 511 secured employment. The figures for the previous were 4,136 registrations and 350 placements. Of those placed during August, 397 were migrants from East Pakistan and 114 from West Pakistan.

At the end of August, 45,311 displaced persons were on the Live Register of Exchanges as compared with 44,999 at the end of the previous month.

JOBS FOUND FOR SCHEDULED CASTE APPLICANTS

Employment exchanges helped 3,396 scheduled caste applicants to secure jobs during August says an announcement dated October 10. This was 222 less than the figure for the previous month.

Of those placed in employment during August, 812 secured jobs in the Central Government, 1,818 in State Governments, 416 in quasi-Government establishments and local bodies and the remaining 350 under other employers. At the end of the month, 1,58,403 scheduled caste applicants were on the Live Register of exchanges as against 1,53,486 at the end of July.

As regards applicants belonging to scheduled tribes, 330 secured jobs with the help of exchanges during the month as compared with 450 in July. Of those provided with employment during August, 114 secured jobs in the Central Government, 126 in State Governments, 43 in quasi-Government establishments and local bodies and the remaining 47 under other employers. At the end of the month, 20,334 scheduled tribe applicants were on the Live Register. This was 855 less than the number of applicants at the end of July.

Working Class Consumer Price Index Numbers

The Consumer Price Index Numbers for Working Class (base shifted to 1949=100 except where otherwise indicated) increased at 8 centres, declined at 3 and remained stationary at 2 during August, 1959, says an announcement dated October 11.

According to the Labour Bureau, Government of India, the maximum rise of 6 points was recorded by the index number for Tinsukia which stood at 121. The index number for Kharagpur and Mercara (base 1953=100) appreciated by four points each to 115 and 129 respectively; for Akola by 2 points to 110 and for Delhi, Dehri-on-Sone, Bhopal (base 1951=100) and Barhampur by one point each to 118, 101, 115 and 117 respectively.

In this group of centres, the food group index numbers appreciated at 7 centres, the fuel and lighting group index numbers at 2 centres, the clothing group index numbers at 3 centres and the miscellaneous group index numbers at 4 centres.

FALL AT THREE CENTRES

The index number for Cuttack declined by 4 points to 118, for Monghyr by 2 points to 99 and for Ludhiana by one point to 100. In this group of centres, the food group index numbers declined at all the three centres, the fuel and lighting group index number at one centre and the miscellaneous group index number at 2 centres.

STATIONARY AT TWO CENTRES

The index numbers for Ajmer and Satna (base 1953=100) showed only fractional variations and stood at 105 and 102 respectively.

The provisional index numbers for Jharia, Gauhati, Silchar, Jamshedpur, Beawar and Jabalpur (base 1951-52=100) stood at 104, 97, 114, 129, 103 and 109 respectively.

The provisional all-India index number appreciated by 2 points to 125 during August, 1959. The final all-India Index Number for June, 1959, was 122.

The States

UNAUTHORISED COLONIES IN DELHI

So far 22 unauthorised colonizers attempting to sell plots to intending house builders without having their layout plans approved by the Standing Committee of the Municipal Corporation have been detected in Delhi says an announcement dated October 5. Several of the unauthorised colonies do not bear any name at all or change their names frequently.

Section 313 (5) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act provides that "no person shall utilise, sell, or otherwise deal with any land or layout or make any new street without or otherwise than in conformity with the orders of the Standing Committee." Any action contrary to this provision is illegal.

The Corporation, after coming into existence, has sanctioned layout plans of 13 colonies under Section 313 of the Act on the following conditions:

'No land covered by the sanctioned layout shall be sold, or built upon until the services covered by the layout plan have been laid to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, Delhi Municipal Corporation.'

2. The sanction given to the layout shall lapse, unless the services are provided within a period of 12 months. The time limit may, however, be extended by the Commissioner by another 12 months for reasons to be recorded.

The colonizer, within 15 days of the sanction of the layout plan, shall deposit a cash security at the rate of 25 nP. per sq. yd. of the gross area covered under the layout plan as a guarantee for developing the land and providing the services to the satisfaction of the Commissioner within the prescribed time and on his failing to do so the Commissioner shall have the right to forfeit a part or whole of the security amount.

Bombay Bill On Criminal Procedure Code

An announcement dated October 5 says that the President has given assent to Code of Criminal Procedure (Bombay Amendment) Bill, 1959, which seeks to amend sections 411 and 362 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1898.

Under section 411 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1898, no appeal lies if a Presidency Magistrate sentences a person to imprisonment for a term up to six months or to a fine up to Rs. 200. Further, under section 362, in a case in which no appeal lies, a Presidency Magistrate can sentence a person to six months rigorous imprisonment without recording any evidence. Such person can only come in revision when, ordinarily, he would not be heard on questions of fact.

This unsatisfactory position which obtains in regard to trials before Presidency Magistrates in the State of Bombay is sought to be removed by the present Bill.

Bombay Bill On Property Transfer

The President has given assent to the Transfer of Property (Bombay Provision for Uniformity and Amendment) Bill, 1959, according to an announcement dated October 14.

The Bill seeks to extend the provisions of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, to Saurashtra and Marathwada areas of Bombay State and to repeal the corresponding law. It further seeks to extend the Transfer of Property and the Indian Registration (Bombay Amendment) Act, 1939, to the areas to which it does not apply.

The Transfer of Property Act, 1882, is in force in the pre-reorganised Bombay State area, Vidarbha region and Kutch area. In Saurashtra area the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, as adapted and applied under an Ordinance of 1948, is in force and in Marathwada a separate law is applicable.

The present legislation is intended to unify all these measures.

Bombay Bill On Wharfage Fees

The President has given assent to the Bombay Landing and Wharfage Fees (Unification and Amendment) Bill, 1959, according to an announcement of October 9.

The Bill is designed to unify the existing enactments for minor ports administration in all the areas of Bombay State and to facilitate levy of charges which cannot be levied under the Indian Ports Act, 1908.

With the reorganisation of States on November 1, 1956, the ports of Saurashtra, Kutch and former Bombay State came over to the present Bombay State. The Bombay Landing and Wharfage Fees Act, 1882, applies to minor ports of former Bombay State. This Act was also applied to minor ports in Kutch area by the Central Government. The

charges at Okha Port are levied under the Okha Port Rules, while those at the ports of Saurashtra are levied under the Saurashtra Ports (Administration) Ordinance, 1950.

The need had, therefore, arisen to unify the law for better and convenient administration. The present Bill seeks to meet the need by amending the Bombay Act.

Madras Bill On Ryots And Tenants

The Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1959, has received the assent of the President, according to an announcement of October 1.

The amending legislation seeks to afford protection against eviction to all cultivating tenants in Madras State by extending for two years the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection Act, 1949, which would have otherwise expired on October 7, 1959.

The process of taking over estates under the Madras Estate (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948, is not yet complete as some estates still remain to be taken over. The Madras Government has also under consideration certain proposals for protecting the rights of the tenants in inam villages which became estates by virtue of the Madras Estates Land (Third Amendment) Act, 1936.

Assent For Madras Rent Bill

The President has given assent to the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Amendment Bill, 1959, says an announcement of October 7.

The amending legislation extends for a period of six months the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1949.

There is still shortage of accommodation, residential and non-residential, and the housing position has not improved in Madras State. With a view to amending and consolidating the provisions of the Act, a Bill is proposed to be introduced in the State Legislature. Pending the enactment of the Bill into law, the State Government has promoted the present Bill to extend the life of the Act.

Assam Bill On Monuments

The President has given assent to the Assam Ancient Monuments and Records Bill, 1959, says an announcement of October 2.

The legislation applies to those ancient monuments and records in Assam which are not covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, enacted by the Central Government exclusively for ancient monuments etc., of national importance.

Defence

GRATUITY TO WIDOWS OF SERVICEMEN

According to a Press Note issued on October 6 by the Ministry of Defence, Government orders were issued in December 1957 authorising the grant of gratuity or family pension to the widows of combatants, below the officer rank, who died while in service or within five years of retirement due to causes unconnected with service in the Armed Forces. These orders took effect from October 1, 1957.

It has now been decided by Government to grant, on an *ex-gratia* and *ad-hoc* basis, 50 per cent, of the awards, admissible in accordance with the general orders, to the widows of combatants, below the officer rank, who died during the period from June 1, 1953, to September 30, 1957.

The widows are required to address their claims for the *ex-gratia* awards to the Record Offices concerned.

Compassionate Gratuity Fund

A New Delhi announcement of September 26, says that a sum aggregating to Rs. 64,500 has been sanctioned from the Compassionate Gratunity Fund to the widows or dependants of ten Service officers as awards, ranging between Rs. 2,500 and Rs. 10,000. Claims in respect of other officers who have died since June 1, 1953, are under consideration.

The Compassionate Gratuity Fund (Defence Services) was created early last year for the grant of ex-gratia awards to widows of children of deceased commissioned officers of the three Services, who died while in service on or after June 1, 1953, or who die hereafter but whose deaths are not due to, or hastened by, a wound, an injury or disease, which is attributable to, or aggravated by service. Last year, Rs. 1,31,800 were awarded out of the fund to the widows of 23 Service officers.

Under the scheme a sum of Rs. four lakhs has been provided for ex-gratia awards to dependants of officers who died on or after June 1, 1953, but before April 1, 1958.

Total amount to be paid in respect of deaths on or after April 1, 1958 will be Rs. one lakh per year.

Indian Military Academy

A Press Note issued on September 28 by the Ministry of Defence says that the Military College, Dehra Dun, will be re-designated as Indian Military Academy with effect from October 1, 1959.

As there has been a desire on the part of the Indian commissioned officers who have received training at this establishment to call it by its old name of the Indian Military Academy, it has been decided to re-designate it by that name. This will also avoid any confusion with the Sainik School, which has been re-designaed as the Rashtriya Indian Military College.

Previously also known as the Indian Military Academy, this institution was set up in December 1932 at Dehra Dun for providing pre-commission training for Indian candidates for the grant of commissions in the Army. Pending the construction of the permanent building to house the National Defence Academy at Khadakvasla, that Academy was organised at Dehra Dun in 1949 with two Wings — the Indian Military Academy, which was called the Military Wing, and the inter-Services Services Wing. When the Joint Services Wing was shifted to Khadakvasla in 1955, the Military Wing was re-designated as Military College.

ELECTRONICS EXHIBITION AT BANGALORE

A 15-day Electronics Exhibition was opened on September 28, at Bangalore in connection with the first Defence Electronics Convention to be organised under the auspices of the Ministry of Defence.

Among the participants in the Exhibition were the Armed Forces Establishments and Installations, the Defence Research and Development Organisation, the Defence Production Organisation, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Atomic Energy Establishment, the All-India Radio, the Directorate of Civil Aviation, the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the electronics trade and industry.

The Exhibition was open exclusively to the delegates of the Electronics Convention for the first four days and was later thrown open to the public.

Garhwal Himalayas Survey Team

A team of civilian scientists and Air Force personnel, led by Air Commodore S.N. Goyal, Vice-Chairman of the IAF Trekking Society, left Delhi on September 27, on a five-week mountaineering-*cum*-survey expedition in the Garhwal Himalayas. The expedition has the support of the IAF Trekking Society.

The party have planned to explore the Chaukhamba-Nilkantha region near Badrinath. Weather permitting, the expedition hope to attempt climbing one of these two summits.

The Team includes four scientists, two from the Botanical Survey of India, one from the Directorate of Geological Survey of India, and one from the geodetic and research section, an experienced mountaineer, seven IAF members, and six Sherpas.

India & The World

GANDHI JAYANTI IN NEPAL

A 12-member cultural troupe, four musicians and eight Manipuri dancers, went from New Delhi to Kathmandu to participate in the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations there. The party was sent at the request of the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu and as part of the programme of cultural activities for 1959-60.

Diplomatic Relations With Venezuela

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on October 1 says that with a view to further developing and strengthening the friendly relations existing between India and Venezuela, the Government of India and the Government of the Republic of Venezuela have decided to establish diplomatic relations and to exchange Missions at the Legation level.

It has been agreed that the Government of Venezuela will establish a Legation in New Delhi. The Indian Ambassador in Brazil will be concurrently accredited to Venezuela.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR AUSTRALIA

A Press Note issued on October 5 by the Ministry of External Affairs says Shri Samarendranath Sen, I.C.S. at present Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed High Commissioner for India in Australia and concurrently accredited as High Commissioner for India to New Zealand. He will assume charge of his new posts in November, 1959.

India's Ambassador To Netherlands

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on September 25, Shri Raj Krishna Tandon, Chief of Protocol and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as Ambassador of India to the Netherlands. He is expected to assume charge of his assignment early in March 1960.

Envoy Presents Credentials

An announcement of September 27 says that Mr. Ahmed Hassan Elfeky, Ambassador-designate of the United Arab Republic presented his Credentials to the President on the same date in New Delhi.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER 1 TO 15

October 1 — The Community Development programme completes seven years of its operation

2 — The 90th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi is celebrated

— The scheme for democratic decentralisation is inaugurated in Rajasthan by Prime Minister Nehru

— The Union Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Shri Humayun Kabir, inaugurates in Bhuvaneshwar the 20th session of the all-India Oriental Conference

3 — An air service linking Kulu valley and Delhi is inaugurated

4 — Shri Nehru's reply to the Chinese Prime Minister's letter of September 8, explaining India's stand on the Sino-Indian border question, is released

5 — An agreement is signed in New Delhi between the Government of India and the U.S. Technical Co-operation Mission to set up an All-India Investment Centre

— A Polish trade delegation arrives in New Delhi to review the working of the 1956 Indo-Polish Trade Agreement which is due to expire next December

6 — The Union Deputy Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Satish Chandra, inaugurates in Bombay the 12th Annual Conference of the All-India Plastic Manufacturers' Association

— Both Houses of the Kashmir legislature pass the State Constitution (Amendment) Bill which extends the jurisdiction of the Election Commission to the State and brings the status of the Kashmir High Court on par with that of other High Courts in the country

7 — Shri Morarji Desai, Union Finance Minister, inaugurates in New York an Investment Consultative Committee to train Indian students in American business and industrial firms

8 — The Burmese Prime Minister, General Ne Win, arrives in New Delhi on an official visit

9 —A four-member committee under Shri Balwantrai Mehta is set up by the Government to assess the work of Vigyan Mandirs and make recommendations for their improvement

— India begins her reply in the International Court at the Hague to the Portuguese arguments claiming the right of passage through Indian territory to the former Portuguese possessions of Nagar Haveli and Dadra

— The Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Council of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet, Mr. M.A. Mukhtidinov, arrives in New Delhi

11 — Shri Nehru launches the scheme for democratic decentralisation in Andhra Pradesh

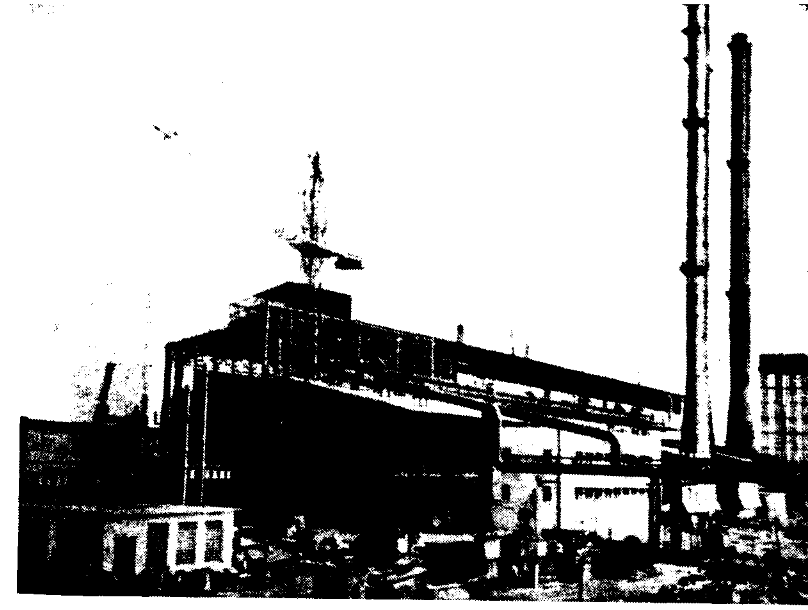
12 — The first Open Hearth Furnace of the Bhilai Steel Project is commissioned and the Plant starts producing steel

15 — Talks on border questions, between the Pakistan delegation led by Lt.-Gen. K.M. Shaikh, Acting Foreign Minister, and the Indian delegation led by Shri Swaran Singh, Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel begin in New Delhi

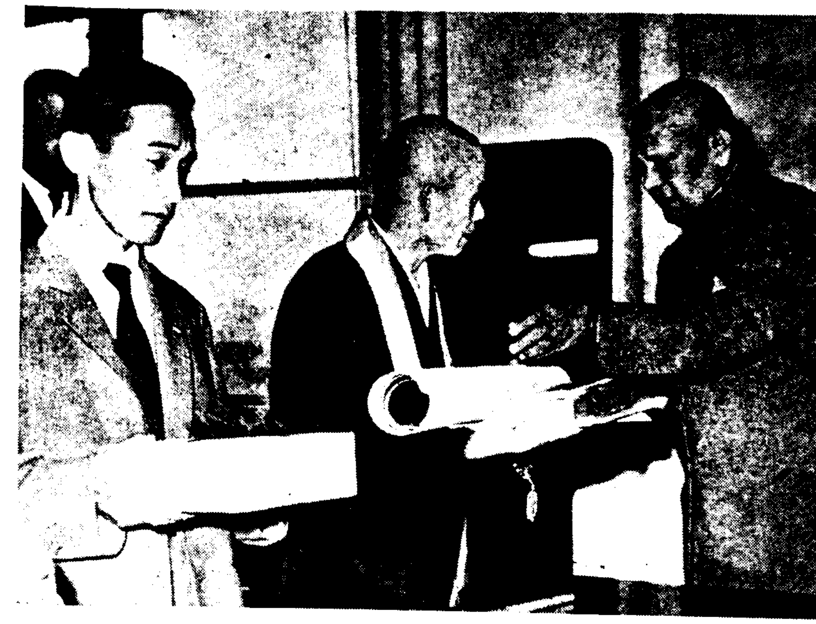
— Financial talks between officials of India and Pakistan begin in Karachi

Edited and published by the Director, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Delhi-8, and printed at the Zodiac Press, Tilak Marg, Delhi-6.

A general view of the Open Hearth Plant at the Bhilai Steel Project where the first Open Hearth Furnace commenced production of steel on October 12



The Indian Ambassador in Japan, Shri C.P.N. Singh, presenting on September 25 a few objects connected with sacred Buddhist places in India to the representative of the Makota-Kai, a Buddhist Association of Japan



The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, inspecting diving operations at Gobind Sagar during his recent visit to the Bhakra Dam

Princess Lalla Aicha, daughter of His Majesty the King of Morocco, who inaugurated an Indian Photographic Exhibition in Rabat recently being taken round the Exhibition by the Indian Ambassador in Morocco, Shri R. Goburdhun

Regd. No.
D 940

Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister of Singapore, going round the 'Art of India' Exhibition which he formally opened recently in Singapore

Indian Information

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The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, inaugurating the sixth Radio Sangeet Sammelan in New Delhi on October 24

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, receiving in New Delhi on October 26 a party of Mayors of several U.S. cities now on a goodwill tour around the world

The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, presiding over the meeting of the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in New Delhi on October 17

Indian Information

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MAIN CONTENTS

COVER : The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, distributing milk to children while inaugurating the Delhi Municipal Corporation's scheme for supply of milk to school children at a Municipal School in New Delhi on October 17

(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

CHINESE FIRING ON INDIAN POLICE PATROL PARTY IN LADAKH

According to a New Delhi announcement of October 23, seventeen Indian policemen were killed and three seriously injured in a clash in the Chang Chenmo Valley in southern Ladakh at a place about 40 miles inside Indian territory, when an Indian police patrol party was overwhelmed by Chinese armed detachment on October 21.

It was subsequently announced on October 26 that according to the latest information about the above incident received by the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi nine men (and not 17, as was presumed from the first reports of the incident) died and 10 others, including a porter, were captured by the Chinese. Of the 20 Indian personnel involved in the incident, 19 had thus been accounted for. One was still missing.

The Government of India made a strong protest on October 23 to the Chinese Government against the intrusion by Chinese troops into an area which was part of Indian territory.

An official statement issued from New Delhi on October 23 said that the area in which the incident occurred was about 40 to 50 miles west of the traditional Sino-Indian frontier which had been shown in official Indian maps. The Chinese Government could not be under any misapprehension about the traditional border because, in connection with an earlier incident, the Government of India had described the traditional frontier in this part of Ladakh in a note presented to the Chinese Foreign Office on August 13, 1959. The Chinese authorities obviously ignored this traditional frontier and came into this area in considerable strength during recent months, the statement added.

The Government of India had no troops in this area. Indian police parties had been discharging their normal functions of patrol duty this year as in previous years.

First reports of the incident were received in New Delhi by Government of India on October 21. As this was a matter of grave consequence, they waited for fuller details before taking up the matter with the Chinese Government. Meanwhile, the Government of India was surprised to receive a memorandum about the incident from the Chinese Government on October 22 containing a narration of events was not in accordance with the facts known to them and which, in fact, were entirely contradicted by the reports which had reached the Government of India so far. It was further stated that the Government of India had not accepted the protest contained in the Chinese memorandum. They asked for the immediate release of the Indian personnel who had been arrested by the Chinese. They also asked that the Chinese authorities should withdraw their forces from the area and prevent their illegal entry into Indian territory in future and interference with Indian personnel. The Government of India reserved their right to claim adequate compensation from the Chinese Government when the precise extent of the losses was known.

The Government of India received a Note from Peking on October 25 in which it was stated that the Chinese had arrested 10 men, three of them on the day before the clash. The Chinese had found nine bodies. Only one member of the Indian patrol party remained unaccounted for. The Chinese account of the incident said that there were some casualties on their side also, but the number was not known.

It was further announced on October 27 that the Government of India asked the Chinese Government to fix the time, date and place for the return of the 10 Indian policemen who were captured by the Chinese as well as for the return of the nine bodies of Indians killed in the clash.

This communication from New Delhi followed a Peking statement which stated that the Chinese Government was prepared to hand over the captured Indian personnel and the bodies of those killed. Meanwhile, the Government of India received from the Indian Embassy in Peking a copy of the Chinese Government's recent statement setting out their position on the India-China border question. This statement was now under consideration of the Government of India.

The Indian police party was camping at a place called Hot Springs, about 45 miles west of Lanak La, the border pass in Southern Ladakh. Two constables of this party went out on patrol in the neighbourhood of Kong Ka Pass on October 20 but did not return by the afternoon. An unsuccessful search was carried out for them the same day and a detachment of the Indian party went out again on October 21 to look for the missing men. It appears that this party was surprised by sudden and heavy fire from Chinese troops entrenched on a hill top. The Indian party fired back in self-defence, but the Chinese overwhelmed them by their superior strength and the use of grenades and mortars. In that clash nine men of the Indian party died and 10 others were captured by the Chinese. One was still missing. The place where this incident took place was reported to be about a day' march from Hot Springs.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON INDO-PAK BORDER TALKS

A Joint Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on October 24 says that at their meeting on 1st September, 1959, the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India agreed, in pursuance of their desire to promote good neighbourly relations between their two countries on a rational basis, to an Indo-Pakistan conference at Minister level to devise measures to end disputes and incidents on the Indo-East Pakistan border. This Minister-level Conference, with Sardar Swaran Singh and Lt. General K.M. Shaikh, leading their respective delegations, started in Delhi on 15th October, 1959, continued its deliberations at Dacca from 18th to 20th and had its concluding session at Delhi on 21st and 22nd October.

The Delegations approached the various questions discussed in a positive and constructive spirit and, while they had full and frank exchange of views, the objectives of arriving at agreed decisions and procedures to end disputes and incidents and establishing and maintaining peaceful conditions on the Indo-East Pakistan border regions throughout guided the deliberations of the Conference.

The fact that there has been no settlement of the respective claims of India and Pakistan in the areas of the Patharia Forest Reserve and the Kushiyara river in accordance with the Radcliffe Award in spite of these disputes having been referred to an international tribunal which gave awards in 1950 has been one of the principal causes of conflict and tension along these Indo-East Pakistan border areas. The leaders of the two Delegations agreed that these and other disputes between the two countries should be resolved in a spirit of give and take in the larger interests of both countries. With a view to avoiding dislocation in the life of the population of these border areas and promoting friendly relations, the following agreed decisions have been reached in respect of these disputes:

(i) The dispute concerning Bagge Award No. III should be settled by adopting a rational boundary in the Patharia Forest Reserve region.

(ii) The dispute concerning Bagge Award No. IV in the Kushiyara river region should be settled by adopting the thana boundaries of Beani Bazaar and Karimganj as per notification No. 5133-H dated the 28th May, 1940 as the India-East Pakistan boundary.

(iii) The status-quo should be restored in Tukergram.

It was also agreed that detailed procedures should be worked out to maintain peace on the Indo-East Pakistan border and to bring immediately under control any incident that may occur.

Detailed ground rules to be observed by the border security forces of both sides which, among other things, provide that no border outpost will be located within 150 yards of the border, on either side, and other procedures laid down in the ground rules regarding frequent contacts between those in charge of border security forces and other officials of the Governments concerned at various levels, will secure maintenance of peaceful conditions on the Indo-East Pakistan border and ensure that immediate action is taken to re-establish peace should any incident unfortunately occur.

Detailed procedures for expediting progress of demarcation work and for orderly adjustments of territorial jurisdiction, due regard being had to local agricultural practices and the interests of the local border population, have been worked out. It was also agreed that, in their quarterly review, the Governments of East Pakistan, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura will ensure that the target dates for progressing demarcation work are observed.

Both Governments re-affirmed their determination to resolve border disputes by negotiation and agreed that all outstanding boundary disputes on the East Pakistan-India border and the West Pakistan-India border, raised so far by either country, should, if not settled by negotiation, be referred to an impartial tribunal for settlement and implementation of that settlement by demarcation on the ground and by exchange of territorial jurisdiction if any.

Both Governments agreed to appeal to the press to exercise restraint and assist in the maintenance and promotion of friendly relations between India and Pakistan. In furtherance of this objective, both Governments agreed to take early action for a meeting of the Indo-Pakistan Information Consultative Committee which is being revived.

Both Governments are resolved to implement, in full and as expeditiously as possible, the Noon-Nehru Agreement and the present agreement on Indo-East Pakistan border settlements and to that end to devise expeditiously the legal and constitutional procedures necessary for implementation. Both Governments agreed to maintain contact with each other continuously on the progress of implementation of these agreements and to carry out periodical reviews of the working of the procedures adopted to maintain peaceful and friendly relations in the border regions.

GROUND RULES

As instructed by the leaders of the two delegations the Military Sub-committee met on the 17th October, 1959. In pursuance of the directive, this joint Paper was written by Major General Urmao Khan, S.Pk., G.O.C., 14th Division, East Pakistan, and Lt. General S.P.P. Thorat, DSO, G.O.C.-in-Chief, Eastern Command, India. From the Pakistan side Mr. S.M. Koreishi, P.F.S., Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from the Indian side Brigadier Ghasi Ram, Commander 181 Inf. Bde. also attended the meeting.

For the sake of clarity the paper is divided into two parts — part I deals with the basic requirements which will have direct bearing on the implementation of the "Ground Rules" which are outlined in Part II. We earnestly feel that unless the basic requirements are fulfilled, the implementation of the "Ground Rules" will not be as effective as we would like them to be.

The Ground Rules formulated in this paper deal with the Indo-East Pakistan border.

PART I

2. During the general discussions between the two delegations held from the 15th to 19th October, 1959, it was agreed:—

(a) That legal provision must be made for effecting the exchange of territories after demarcation has

ANNOUNCEMENT

Started two years ago, INDIAN INFORMATION has been growing in popularity as a journal which provides a handy record of the activities and official announcements of the Government of India.

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The new price will be effective from the issue No. 21 dated December 1, 1959. Annual subscribers will, however, continue to receive their copies without any extra payment until their present subscription expires.

We hope that our readers will not mind this slight rise in price and will continue to extend their patronage to the journal.

taken place. wherever it becomes necessary.

(b) That the boundary should be demarcated as early as administratively possible. The progress of demarcation should be reviewed every quarter by the Governments of Pakistan and India with reference to the field programmes settled by the D.L.Rs and necessary action taken to resolve difficulties, if any, and to expedite progress of demarcation work. In case of a dispute, the disputed portion may be left out, the dispute being reported cartographically and in writing to the Chief Secretaries of the Governments concerned who would resolve the dispute or refer to the Central Government concerned and the demarcation should proceed from where the disputed area ends.

(c) That following demarcation, exchange of territories in sizeable stretches of the border should by agreement take place without waiting for the entire length of the border to be demarcated.

To implement this it was agreed that the transfer of territorial jurisdiction should take place on an agreed date which shall not be later than the 31st of December of the year in which demarcation has been completed by the 31st of May. The State Government shall make every attempt to speedily transfer the territorial jurisdiction of these areas in respect of which the following processes have been completed:

(i) The mechanical part of the process of demarcation would be deemed to be completed when the final traverse has been done after construction of pillars and the position of th pillars has been jointly checked and proved by the D.L.R.s concerned;

(ii) Necessary time should be allowed to the farmers to harves their crops before the transfer of territorial jurisdiction; and

(iii) Before the transfer of territorial jurisdiction, the authorities on the two sides should collect data on the populated and farm areas and on properties held by individuals. This will enable the Governments concerned to exchange these data and ensure that special responsibility is placed on the local commanders and/or police and other officials to provide full protection to the person and property of the people so that their interests are not prejudiced by the transfer of jurisdiction on the agreed date.

PART II

3. On the Indo-East Pakistan border the security forces of both the countries are located in close proximity of each other. Owing to a variety of reasons there have been occasional firings across the border. The causes which usually lead to firing are:

(a) Often, border security forces on both sides do not know where the International Boundary lies on the ground. Therefore, when nationals of the other country cross into what they think is their territory, fire is opened to prevent the ingress.

(b) Where the boundary in the riverine area is crisscross and portions of land on the home side of the river are owned by the other country, fire is opened when these lands are cultivated or attempts are made to dispossess their rightful owners.

(c) When a char land is formed after the floods, whether in the bed of the river or as an accretion of the mainland, attempt is made by nationals of both countries to seize the newly formed char lands. This leads to claims and counter-claims as to which side owns the char lands. Firing is resorted to support claims of the respective sides.

(d) When the river falls on the international boundary, fishing and navigational disputes occur and fire is opened to stop cattle lifting or other raids by local inhabitants on either side.

(e) Occasionally fire is opened because of suspected movement in the vicinity of border security posts —this happens usually at night.

(f) Sometimes a build-up of border security forces leads to a race between the two countries and tempers are frayed. A "trigger happy" person lets off a round and this develops into a shooting match.

4. The problem is how to prevent such firings.

Most of the causes for the firing can be eliminated or at least considerably lessened if the security forces on either side 'keep out' of each others way. (This does not apply in the case of commanders as stated in para 6 to 8 below).

5. We think that the possibility of fire being opened will be considerably reduced if border security forces on both sides observe the following simple rules:

(a) Where the international boundary is not properly demarcated by pillars, a "working boundary" which can be easily identified on the ground should be decided between the commanders of the border security forces of both sides. The working boundary will be decided upon as under:

(i) *Assam/East Pakistan Border*: Between D.G., E.P.R., and Commander 101 Inf. Bde.

(ii) *West Bengal/East Pakistan Border*: Between D.G., E.P.R., and I.G.P. West Bengal Border.

(iii) *Tripura/East Pakistan Border*: Between D.G., E.P.R., and I.G.P. Tripura.

(b) The working military boundary may or may not coincide with the International boundary and its acceptance by both sides will not commit the two Governments in any manner in respect of their *de jure* claims. The working military boundary should, if necessary, be marked in some simple manner and the demarcations should be shown jointly and recorded on one inch maps.

(c) After an identifiable boundary line whether real or working has been demarcated, neither side will have any permanent or temporary border security forces or any other armed personnel within 150 yards on either side of this line. Also no permanent posts will be constructed till the final demarcation has been done.

(d) This will not prevent either side from patrolling up to the 'real' or 'working' boundary provided:

(i) Where possible adequate warning is given to the other side;

(ii) Patrols are small in numbers, i.e. not exceeding a section (1 and 10); Patrols will invariably move with flags.

(iii) Nothing but non-automatic small arms are carried by the patrol.

(e) If defensive works of any nature including trenches exist in the stretch of 300 yards (150 yards on each side of the working boundary) they must be destroyed or filled up.

(f) It will be the duty of the border security forces on either side to prevent armed civilians entering the 300 yard stretch of the border (150 yards on either side of the working boundary).

(g) Border security forces of both sides are charged with the responsibility of preventing smuggling in their respective areas. Therefore it is incumbent upon them to arrest smugglers of any nationality, whether armed or unarmed, and to deal with them under the law of the land.

(h) Wherever the boundary "real" or "working" runs through midstream of a river, the facilities to use the main channel will be provided by both sides. The following procedure will be adopted to regulate traffic and ensure that the nationals of both the countries are not harassed.

(i) Joint check-posts will be established on the bank if possible or in the main channel where it leaves or enters the mid-stream boundary.

(ii) A check will be made and manifests of commodities will be prepared at the Joint Check-post. Manifests signed by Joint Check-posts will be accepted as the permit to use the main channel for navigation purposes only.

(iii) The boats using the main channel in the other country will not be allowed to touch the bank or exchange goods or engage in any other transaction with the nationals of other side.

(iv) Border forces on both sides shall on no account participate in any quarrels between nationals of the two countries living on the border. If nationals of one country ingress the working boundary and enter illegally and commit or attempt to commit an offence, the border security forces would be at liberty to take appropriate action in the exercise of the, "right of private defence" preferably without resorting to fire. In case fire has been opened the local commander will intimate his action to opposite commander and to his own higher authorities.

(j) In case of inadvertant crossings, after satisfying themselves that the crossing was done inadvertantly, the border security forces shall immediately return the persons concerned to the opposite commanders at the officers level. Similarly, the cattle straying across the border will be handed over to the authorities on the order side.

(k) Certain bonafide governmental bodies, e.g. survey parties, forest guards etc. will be operating in the near vicinity of the international borders. Border security forces shall not interfere with their working — in fact they are expected to help. The existence of such parties will be notified to both sides, by the department concerned.

6. For the practical implementation of the above, the border on both sides shall be divided into Sectors/Sub-sectors. The existence and the Headquarters of these sub-sectors will be intimated to each other and attempt should be made to link the Headquarters of both sides with telephone.

7. The sub-sector commanders should be of the rank of Capt/Major or of equivalent ranks in the police.

8. The duties of the Sector/Sub-sector/Post Commanders in their respective areas of responsibility shall be as under:

(a) They will maintain close liaison with their opposite numbers;

(b) They will, by frequent visits, make themselves known both to the Border Security Forces of the opposite side and to own local populations.

(c) They shall receive all complaints regarding territorial disputes referring to title to any land, immovable property lying on the other side of the border, char lands, navigation facilities and difficulty of harvesting. They will immediately hold a joint enquiry not later than 24 hours of the information report.

(d) They will immediately enforce a status-quo e.g. if a national of one country lays a fresh claim to land and takes any step in furtherance of that claim which is objected to by the other side, then the two commanders will hold a joint enquiry on the spot and restrain the person from enforcing his claim until the matter is settled at the appropriate level;

(e) The two commanders shall be responsible for referring disputes to the appropriate authorities and for seeing that they are progressed with a view to bringing the disputes to a final settlement.

(f) Similarly the military Commanders on both sides will keep close in touch with the progress of Survey parties working in their areas. Where in their opinion the progress is not according to the programme or work is stopped on account of difference of opinion or for any other reason, immediate reports by quickest means will be submitted to the G.O.C.-in-C/G.O.C. concerned who will report the matter to their respective Governments with a copy to the Chief Secretary concerned.

9. We suggest that the tension on the borders will be greatly minimised if there is close personal touch between commanders of the two border security forces, particularly military commanders on either side. We recommend that they should meet periodically to discuss matters of mutual interest. Sector Commanders or their senior representatives will normally meet each other at the time of routine DMs/DCs' meetings. The brigade commanders shall also meet as and when the situation demands and whenever they consider it necessary. In any case when it is apprehended that trouble is likely to occur they must meet. We further recommend that in case the situation is likely to become serious, the G.O.C. 14th Div., East Pakistan and G.O.C.-in-C., Eastern Command or their representatives of sufficiently high rank should meet to discuss the situation and evolve means of eliminating the tension.

10. We attach great importance to such contacts for we feel that they will contribute substantially towards the good relations between the two forces, and help in removing misunderstanding about moves by both sides.

11. If in spite of this, unfortunately firing does start, the other side shall refrain from replying. The

local commanders will get in touch with each other by telephone and will meet with a view to implementing the cease-fire forthwith. After every firing incident, it is necessary for both sides to carry out an investigation, for the responsibility and submit the report for information of their higher authorities.

12. *Communications*: In order to maintain close liaison between the border forces of the two countries, it is essential that adequate telephone and other communications are provided at various levels.

13. *Telephone*: G.O.C.-in-C., East Command and G.O.C. 14th Div, East Pakistan, should be able to talk to each other directly without any formality. Similarly, D.G., E.P.R. and Comdr. 181 Inf. Bde, I.G.P., West Bengal and I.G.P., Tripura should be able to talk to each other whenever necessary. Telephones between the two opposing Coy/Wing Headquarters and between important border posts of either side should also be installed, which will be done as early as possible, in any case, not later than January 1960.

14. *Communication by Flags*: In the absence of telephone conversation/contact whenever any Comdr. on either side wishes to meet his counterpart, he will wave a flag, of the specifications given below and will proceed to the border unarmed without any escort to a pre-arranged place. The opposite Comdr. or the Senior Officer present on seeing the flag hoisted, will acknowledge the signal and proceed to the place of meeting, also unarmed and without escort. The use of flags shall be introduced by 15 Nov. 59.

15. All pickets and patrols on both sides will have flags of the following description:

	Pickets	
	Pole	Cloth
Size	7 ft.	4 x 3 ft.
	Patrols	
	Pole	Cloth
Size	3 ft.	2 x 2½ ft.
Colours	Indian:	Orange.
	Pakistan:	Blue.

16. At night flags will be substituted by light signals (two red very lights) or signal by torches as arranged between the two commanders.

17. In the past, tension has mounted on false rumours and exaggerated reports to such a pitch that the movement of extra forces and reinforcements to the affected areas was undertaken. Repetition of such moves in future is inadvisable from all points of view. To prevent such contingencies in the future, it is necessary that whenever there are reports of concentration and build up of forces on either side, Military Commanders of all levels, including the G.O.C.-in-C, Eastern Command and G.O.C. 14 Div., East Pakistan should meet and ascertain the authenticity of the reports if necessary even by a visit to the affected area. Similarly joint inspection will also be applicable to any fresh digging which is likely to create unnecessary misunderstandings.

18. Whenever there is a joint enquiry by D.Ms or Commissioners on the two sides, the respective overall commanders of security forces shall also attend the meeting and submit for the information of the higher respective military commanders their assessment of the situation created by the particular incident.

19. Finally, we think that much harm is caused by alarming reports which are occasionally published in the press. We recommend that the press on both sides be persuaded to exercise restraint and not to publish material which is likely to inflame the feelings of the population on both sides. Should incorrect reports be published we recommend that contradiction on a governmental level be issued at the earliest opportunity.

Sd/-
Lt. Gen. S.P.P. Thorat,
D.S.O.,
G.O.C.-in-C., Eastern Command,
India.

20 Oct. 1959.

Sd/-
Major Gen. Umrao Khan
S.Pk.,
G.O.C., 14th Div.,
East Pakistan.
20 Oct. 1959.

Indo-Pakistan Financial Talks

According to a Press Note issued on October 18 by the Ministry of Finance the representatives of India and Pakistan, who met at Karachi from October 15, 1959 to October 18, 1959, to discuss the outstanding financial matters between the two countries, have covered a large part of the field in relation to the Assets and Liabilities of the Centre, and hope to complete the picture at their next Conference at New Delhi towards the end of November, for final consideration at a meeting of the Ministers of the two Governments. At the next official meeting, the questions relating to the divided provinces of Bengal, Punjab and Assam will also be taken up with a view to final settlement.

The recent Conference was headed by Shri M.V. Rangachari (India) and Mr. H.A. Majid (Pakistan).

The Indian delegation returned to New Delhi on October 18 from Karachi.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF GOVERNORS

The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, inaugurated the two-day annual Conference of the Governors on the morning of October 27 at Rashtrapati Bhavan. In his inaugural address the President reviewed the important events of the year since the Conference met last and referred to the various political and economic problems facing the country.

The first item on the agenda was the economic situation in the country with special reference to self-sufficiency in food production, and unemployment. The Finance Minister gave an appraisal of the economic situation, the position relating to foreign exchange, current monetary trends and the prospects of the Third Plan. The Minister for Planning spoke about the unemployment position. The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission also gave an account of the resources for the Third Plan and in this connection spoke about the improvement in agricultural production and the importance of holding the price level.

A general discussion followed in which all the Governors took part. Special attention was devoted to and emphasis laid on the question of food production. Each Governor gave an account of the food situation in his State and an appraisal of the trend of opinion in his State on such matters as price level, food zones, procurement and ways and means of increasing food production.

The Deputy Food Minister, Shri A.M. Thomas, replied to the various points made by the Governors during the discussion and explained the Central Government's policy regarding procurement and prices and stressed the need for the co-operation of all the States in meeting the food problem.

In the afternoon session the Home Minister initiated a discussion on the law and order situation with a review of the crime statistics, corruption, etc., and methods of dealing with it. He also touched upon the question of recourse to firing by police during breaches of law and order. In the discussion that followed, the Governors referred to the incidents and situations in their respective States which affected law and order and analysed the various aspects involved and the attendant circumstances in each case.

The Conference was attended by all Governors (except the Governor of Mysore) and the Sadar-i-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir and the Lt. Governor of Himachal Pradesh, the Vice-President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, Pandit G.B. Pant, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, the Minister for Planning, Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Shri V.T. Krishnamachari, Shri A.M. Thomas, Deputy Minister of Food, Law Minister and the Chief Election Commissioner.

In the forenoon of October 28 the Prime Minister spoke about the international situation and explained, in particular, the situation in the northern and north-eastern frontier areas relating to the recent border incidents. The Prime Minister was assisted by the Foreign Secretary, Shri S. Dutt, and the Chief of the Army Staff, General Thimayya. It was followed by a general discussion in which all the Governors participated.

In the afternoon the Conference discussed matters relating to elections with special reference to the question of reducing the expenses both in respect of candidates and the Government machinery responsible for conducting them.

Shortly after the afternoon session on October 28 the Conference concluded with a vote of thanks by the Governors to the President.

CONTROL OF STAFF EXPANSION

The Union Home Minister, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant, has urged Government offices not to make recruitment for "whatever additional or new work" during the current Plan period, says an announcement dated October 19.

The only exception is to be made in the case of experts and specialists. Otherwise, no further expansion in administrative and ministerial posts should be made.

In a note circulated to the Union Ministries and their Branch Offices, Shri Pant has observed that whenever any new scheme is framed or an additional piece of work has to be done, the staff requirements are set down according to a fixed pattern. Staff is required for handling the scheme in the field and another set of staff is obtained for dealing with the scheme in the Secretariat. If an officer is required for the scheme, a certain number of sections, according to the fixed pattern of staffing, is attached to him by an almost automatic process.

This method of staffing by a set pattern, says the note, may be convenient because of its simplicity, but is possibly responsible for much of the excess staff that seems to cluster round every new scheme. The method of staffing needs to be closely examined whenever the staff requirements of a new scheme or extension of an existing scheme is considered.

CAREFUL EXAMINATION

Shri Pant has suggested that it would be useful if the staffing of the units which have been set up in the Ministry in consequence of new work is carefully examined, the work load all along the line assessed and the surplus staff located. It is possible that there may be quite a few instances where the work being handled by two sections could have been done as well, and perhaps better, by one suitably strengthened section. Similar assessment needs to be carried out in the Branch Offices also.

The surplus staff that may thus be located can be shifted elsewhere or used to fill the vacancies that may arise in future, thus reducing the need for making fresh appointments.

Assessing the staff requirements by the number of receipts, says the note, is no doubt a convenient method but when an assessment has to be made in detail, from section to section, account should also be taken of the nature of the receipts. One has to bear in mind that receipts have a natural tendency to increase in number but every such increase does not necessarily involve extra work beyond the routine operation of indexing and serialisation.

Experiments In Prison Reform

It has been announced on October 29 that a "Jail without walls" is to be set up in the new township of Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh. The scheme is intended to rehabilitate certain categories of prisoners by providing them clean environment and conditions of life as free as possible. In this way, it is hoped, that the offenders would become useful citizens, and not revert to crime, which is a product of circumstances and environment.

To start with, 50 prisoners between 29 and 50 years will be admitted in this jail. They will be employed on the construction work of the new Bilaspur township and paid wages according to the nature of work. The wages earned will be credited to the personal account of a prisoner who can carry it as a saving on release.

A scheme for building a modern jail at Nahan and reorganising the present jails in Himachal Pradesh is also being worked out.

A Jail Manual on an all-India basis is also nearing completion. The I.Gs of Prisons working on the Manual are to make proposals for prison reforms and make recommendations on such specific items as classification of prisoners, short-term sentences, smoking, use of handcuffs and fetters, desirability of having uniform rules relating to prisoners on parole, leave, remissions, diet of prisoners, etc.

A Central Bureau for Correctional Services is also being set up to develop a uniform policy on matters relating to the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders. This follows a recommendation made by Dr. Reckless, United States expert in Criminology, who visited various States in the country and submitted a report on "Jail Administration in India."

Common Training Of Personnel In N. Zone

A common training for the police in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and the Union Territories of Himachal Pradesh and Delhi, is to be organised at the Police Training School, Philaur, near Ludhiana according to an announcement of October 27. The training will include special instruction for the policemen in Delhi, which is a metropolitan town.

Already, a decision has been taken to have a Common Police Manual for the area, making allowances for the local variations. Uniformity in the fundamental rules, it is hoped, will promote "efficiency, promptness and co-operation" between the police forces of the participants in the scheme.

Accounts Training School

The States of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and the Union Territories of Himachal Pradesh and Delhi have also decided to set up a Common Training School for the Treasury and Accounts officers in Rajasthan.

Such decisions are reached by the Manpower Committee set up in each of the five Zones, Northern, Southern, Western, Eastern and Central. The Committee assess the technical personnel required by a particular Zone and arranges the necessary training within the Zone itself.

A Directorate of Manpower has also been constituted in the Union Home Ministry to co-ordinate manpower policies of the various Ministries. There is also a Manpower Officer in each State who looks after manpower work in his State and keeps the Directorate informed of developments.

Police Medal For Radio Operator

The President's Police Medal has been awarded to Radio Head Operator Shri Virendra Chandra Upreti, Uttar Pradesh Police Radio Section, for showing exemplary courage, and technical skill under extremely trying circumstances.

In September 1957, a sudden deterioration in weather conditions resulted in the closure of the 18,000 ft. Khangru and Unta passes in the Almora disrict, Uttar Pradesh. Consequently, detachments of the U.P. Provincial Armed Constabulary located at strategic points at over 16,000 ft. near Lathpal, Sanchmala and Topidunga, were completely cut off and faced with starvation. When all efforts to carry relief and supplies proved futile from September 15 to 20, the detachment at Sanchmala and Lathpal made its way in desperation to Topidunga after crossing the Khangru Pass, leaving all their equipment there when they were informed that an air-drop would be arranged at a place called Lauka.

On September 26, Head Operator Shri Virendra Chandra Upreti, who was in charge of the Radio Station at Sanchmala, reached Lauka with his wireless alone at considerable personal risk and succeeded in establishing contact with the I.A.F. plane carrying supplies. He guided the plane until it could locate the party and the entire supplies were dropped.

Awards For Police Officers

Six police officers, five of the 2nd Assam Police Battalion and one of Border Security Force, Assam, have been decorated by the President for gallantry, according to the Gazette of India published on October 17.

The President's Police and Fire Services Medal has been awarded to Shri Jitram Sharma. Sub-Inspector of Police (officiating). Shri Lochomo Lotha, Sub-Inspector of Police (officiating). Shri Mohendra Chandra Das, Havildar (officiating), Shri Bhim Bahadur Rana, Lance Naik and Shri Wickson Lyngdoh, Constable, and the Police Medal to Shri Bhudhor Chandra Deka, Constable.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF PUNJAB

A Ministry of Home Affairs Press Note dated October 22 says that the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Gopal Das Khosla, Judge of the Punjab High Court, to be the Chief Justice of that High Court, vice Shri Justice Amar Nath Bhandari resigned with effect from November 18, 1959.

NOMINATION TO RAJYA SABHA

The President has nominated Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, former Governor of Assam, to Rajya Sabha to fill the seat vacated by

Dr. P.V. Kane, says an announcement made on October 22.

The President is empowered under Article 80 of the Constitution to nominate to Rajya Sabha 12 members having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art, and social service.

INDIAN DELEGATION FOR COLOMBO PLAN MEETING

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi, Minister for Revenue and Civil Expenditure, will lead the Indian delegation to the forthcoming annual meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee in Jogjakarta in Indonesia says an announcement dated October 21.

The meeting of the Committee, at ministerial level, will begin on November 11, 1959, and is expected to last four days. Earlier, officials of the Colombo Plan countries will begin their discussion on October 26, 1959 and go on till November 6, 1959.

Dr. Gopala Reddi will leave New Delhi on his way to Indonesia on October 31, while Shri N.C. Sen Gupta and the other members of the delegation are leaving on Saturday, October 24.

Copyright Act Extended To Lebanon Works

It has been announced on October 27 that the Government of India have extended the operation of the Copyright Act, 1957 (14 of 1957) to the works of Lebanon. This is consequent on the accession by that country to the Universal Copyright Convention.

ESTATE OFFICE UPGRADED

It has been announced on October 23 that the Government of India have decided that the Estate Office attached to the Union Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, will henceforth be known as the Directorate of Estate and the Estate Officer will be designated as the Director of Estates. This has been done in pursuance of an earlier decision to upgrade the Estate Office.

P M.'s NATIONAL RELIEF FUND

According to an announcement of October 25, a further amount of about Rs. 1.5 lakhs has been received as contributions to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund, since the Prime Minister recently appealed to the people for generous help for the relief of suffering caused by floods in the country.

Planning & Finance

MEETING OF NATIONAL SAVINGS ADVISORY BOARD

Inaugurating the first meeting of the National Savings Central Advisory Board in New Delhi on October 28, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, declared that if the Third Plan was to succeed, the activities of the Board would have to help in educating the masses on the importance of the Plan and on the need for increased investment by every person in the country even at the cost of stinting himself for a few years to come. The money that would be secured from the work of the Board would form the most important part of the resources for the Third Plan.

The living standards in the country were rather low and in many cases even below subsistence level. It was from that condition that the country had to be raised in order to bring it to a level where the living standards would be what they would want to make it. For that purpose there had to be more investment in the various sectors so that there would be increased and gainful employment. The same applied even in respect of essentially welfare activities which, although did not give direct results in addition to the resources, would enable the resources to be husbanded and created. That would be the work of the Board, the Finance Minister added.

Referring to the existing wide gap between the gross and net collections, he said that this was because the collection work had not gone on along proper lines. Unhealthy practices were suicidal and apart from the discredit they brought, they defeated the purpose of a continuously rising investment in small savings. Therefore, their effort should be directed towards rousing the enthusiasm and co-operation of the people. The measure of effectiveness of the Board would be seen in the gap between gross and net collections.

Shri Morarji Desai attached a great importance to the propaganda value of the Board's work —propaganda not merely for getting more money but also for educating the people into a consciousness about our problems and responsibilities.

Expressing satisfaction at the emergence of a single Board by the amalgamation of the two Boards which existed previously, he assured the full co-operation of the Government in the fulfilment of the work of the Board.

The Chairman of the Board Dr. Sushila Nayyar, who presided over the meeting, said in her report that publicity for the Plan and National Savings should go hand in hand as an integrated campaign. A Sub-Committee could be set up in the States in order to Plan and execute the work of National Savings by linking it with development plans especially the plan of each State. This Sub-Committee would consist of the Officer-in-charge of Plan Publicity, the Regional National Savings Officer, the Officer-in-Charge of

Posts and Telegraphs, the State Director of National Savings and the State Members of the Central Advisory Board. She hoped that during the current financial year, active savings groups would be appointed in every place and that a target of Rs. 100 crores by way of net savings would be reached. Dr. Nayyar emphasised the need for mobilising non-official effort to make the savings movement a mass movement. Social workers and social welfare organisations should also help. District Committees, city committees, and for big cities, mohalla committees of men and women, willing to give their time for this national service of the highest order should be formed everywhere, she added.

The Board was informed that the net collections in 1958-59 reached the record figure of Rs. 79.70 crores as against nearly Rs. 70 crores in the previous year. There were 72,864 agents throughout the country, who, between them, collected nearly Rs. 41 crores.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Among the important problems discussed by the Board was the premature encashment of savings certificates. An analysis of the encashments in 1958-59 disclosed that, on the average, certificates were held from about 6 to 9 years and that about 40 per cent of the certificates were held till maturity. The Board, however, recommended that in order to discourage premature encashment, the loss involved should be given adequate publicity.

Other important recommendations made by the Board were: the introduction of a new non-encashable 5-year certificate, payment of interest on certificates not claimed for encashment after maturity, measures for extending the Pay-roll Savings Scheme and simplifying its procedure, introduction of a two-rupee deposit account in the case of the Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme and appointment of agents other than the Post Office for sale of savings certificates. The Board appointed a Sub-Committee to review and simplify the forms prescribed for the use of investors. The publicity arrangements were also reviewed and several measures suggested to improve them. The Board recommended the production of greetings cards with a savings appeal for issue on important festivals.

The Board was constituted on September 1, 1959, by amalgamating the Advisory Committee at the Centre and the Central Advisory Board of the Women's Savings Campaign, to co-ordinate and guide the activities of the State Advisory Boards and to advise Government on measures for studying the National Savings Movement and for popularising the Small Savings Scheme.

The Board consists of 23 members, including 14 members representing the State Advisory Boards and six nominated by the Central Government. The Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs and the National Savings Commissioner are ex-officio members. The National Savings Commissioner is the Secretary of the Board.

Since the reconstitution of the Central Board, Savings Advisory Boards have so far been formed in eight States by reconstituting the State Advisory Committees and the State Boards of Women's Savings Campaign into a single integrated Board for each State.

Two new schemes—Pay-roll Savings Scheme and Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme—had been recently introduced. The former scheme which was open to employees of establishments, had been in operation for nearly a year. It had been generally approved by the Indian Labour Conference. During the eight months of the current financial year, the number of savers under this scheme exceeded 19,000, mostly in industrial establishments and the collections per month amount to more than Rs. 1,60,000. The Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme was introduced in January 1959. The amount collected since its inception till August 1959 is Rs. 25 lakhs.

The total net collections from all Small Savings Schemes upto August 1959 amounted to nearly Rs. 20.5 crores.

Technical Assistance From U. N. Special Fund

The United Nations Technical Assistance Board in New Delhi has announced that a Standard Agreement between the United Nations Special Fund and the Government of India was signed in New Delhi on October 20. This agreement embodies conditions under which the United Nations Special Fund will assist the Government of India in respect of all projects already approved or to be approved in future.

The Agreement was signed by Mr. James Keen, Resident Representative in India of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board on behalf of the Managing Director of the Special Fund and Shri N.C. Sen Gupta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, on behalf of the Government of India.

The Special Fund was created under a United Nations resolution in October 1958 for large scale technical assistance projects designed to have immediate impact on economic and social development of under-developed and semi-developed countries.

During the first year of the operation, the Special Fund has already sanctioned in favour of India one project and approved three more projects covering about $4 million in foreign exchange. The project of an Industrial Instructors' Training Institute to be set up near Calcutta has already been sanctioned. The projects which have been approved in principle are: Power Engineering Research Institute at Bhopal and Bangalore, a Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute at Durgapur and three Regional Labour Institutes at Calcutta, Kanpur and Madras.

The Government of India contributed in 1959 the equivalent of $500,000 to the Special Fund, and for 1960, would be contributing

upto an equivalent of $2 million i.e. four times last year's contribution if the total resources of the Special Fund reached the 100 million dollar target, as originally planned. If the total resources of the Fund do not reach this figure, India's contribution would be proportionate.

Balance Of Payments In 1958-59

A large cut in imports accompanied by an increased inflow of foreign assistance, helped to relieve considerably the strain on India's balance of payments in 1958-59. The decline in the foreign exchange reserves during the year was only Rs. 47 crores against Rs. 260 crores in 1957-58. In fact, for the first time since the start of the Second Five Year Plan, there was even a seasonal increase in the foreign exchange reserves; between November 1958 and March 1959 the reserves rose by Rs. 44 crores.

IMPORTS

Total imports at Rs. 1046.5 crores in 1958-59 were Rs. 157 crores lower than in the preceding year. While private imports dropped by Rs. 177 crores, Government imports showed an increase of Rs. 19 crores, thus becoming larger than private imports.

The largest fall in private imports was recorded in *capital goods*, (Rs. 65 crores) followed by *intermediate goods* (Rs. 54 crores) and *consumer goods* (Rs. 40 crores). *Raw materials* showed the smallest decline (Rs. 10 crores) as they were rather liberally licensed for the maintenance of the economy.

Government Imports: The biggest item in Government imports was capital equipment for Government projects; these showed a marked rise, over the year, of Rs. 67 crores to Rs. 154 crores. Food imports, which were the biggest item in the preceding year showed only a nominal decline.

Imports of machinery and iron steel: Total machinery imports rose only a little during the year but iron and steel imports recorded a considerable fall as shown below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	*Machinery*	*Iron & Steel*
1956-57	207.9	133.4
1957-58	252.2	132.0
1958-59	263.4	79.6

EXPORTS

India's exports at Rs. 576 crores during the year were Rs. 19 crores lower than in the previous year and Rs. 59 crores lower than in the year 1956-57. The recessionary conditions in the U.S. and West European countries seriously affected the exports of manganese ore and jute textiles, which declined over the year by Rs. 16 crores and Rs. 12 crores respectively. The fall in the export incomes of several primary producing countries in South East Asia and Africa caused them to curtail their imports from India, particularly of cotton textiles which had also to face keen competition from China and Japan with the result that exports dropped by Rs. 14 crores. The exports of vegetable oils declined by Rs. 5 crores, mainly due to higher internal demand and prices. Partly because of the lack of an exportable surplus and partly on account of lower international prices, sugar exports declined by Rs. 7 crores.

Significant improvements were, however, noted in exports of tea, raw cotton and rayon textiles. As against the fall of Rs. 30 crores in tea in 1957-58, there was an increase during the year of Rs. 19 crores. The revival of U.K. demand, following the depletion of stocks, and larger purchases by the USSR and Egypt were the factors responsible for the improvement. Reduction of the duty on raw cotton and lower internal prices helped in improving exports of raw cotton by Rs. 7 crores. Exports of rayon textiles improv-

	1958-59 (*Preliminary*)			1957-58 (*Revised*)		
	Receipts	*Payments*	*Net*	*Receipts*	*Payments*	*Net*
Merchandise (Imports c.i.f., exports f.o.b.)	576.1	1046.5	—470.4	594.7*	1204.2	—609.5
(a) Private	570.1	518.1	+ 51.5	587.5	695.1	—107.6
(b) Government @	6.0	527.9	—521.9	7.2*	509.1	—501.9
Invisibles	248.6	117.0	+131.6	248.3	114.7	+133.6
Current Account	824.7	1163.5	—338.8	843.0	1318.9	—475.9
Capital Transactions	399.2	79.0	+320.2	330.8	110.8	+220.0
(a) Private	30.0	32.5	— 2.5	48.7	45.0	+ 3.7
(b) Banking	25.7 @@	20.9	+ 4.8)	282.1£	65.8££	+216.3
(c) official **	343.5	25.6	+317.9)			
Errors & Omissions			— 28.0			— 4.1
Movement in Foreign Exchange Reserves (Increase+, Decrease—)			— 46.6			—259.9

* Excludes exports of silver to U.S.A. valued at Rs. 74.4 crores against Lend-lease obligations.

** Includes official loans of Rs. 216.7 crores in 1958-59 and Rs. 92.3 crores in 1957-58.

@ Includes official donations of Rs. 40.9 crores in 1958-59 and Rs. 32.7 crores in 1957-58.

@@ Includes repayment by the U.K. Government of Rs. 34.7 crores under the Sterling Pensions Settlement.

£ Includes drawing on I.M.F. of Rs. 34.5 crores.

£ £ Excludes contra-entry of exports of lend lease silver to U.S.A. valued at Rs. 74.4 crores.

ed by Rs. 12 crores in 1958-59 largely due to the special incentive scheme.

INVISIBLES

Net invisibles were Rs. 2 crores lower during the year. Receipts on account of official donations, however, at Rs. 41 crores were Rs. 8 crores higher than in the previous year, due to increased receipts from the dollar area. There was also an increase of Rs. 15 crores under the item 'Government not included elsewhere', largely due to increased expenditure by the U.S. Embassy out of the P.L. 480 balances held by it in this country. On the other side, there was a decline in net receipts on account of private donations and transportation. The net outgoings on investment account showed an increase reflecting the reduced earnings from our investments abroad (mainly due to the fall in the foreign assets of the Reserve Bank) and increased payments for servicing a growing external debt. The current account deficit thus amounted to Rs. 339 crores.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

Official loans showed a significant increase during the year; they stepped up from Rs. 92.3 crores in 1957-58 to Rs. 216.7 crores in 1958-59. The major components were drawings on the IBRD (Rs. 74 crores), on the three steel credits for Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur (Rs. 96 crores), on I.A.T.C.A. (Rs. 13 crores), on the Canadian Wheat Loan (Rs. 15 crores) on the Development Loan Fund (Rs. 6 crores) and on the ECGD. There were also other official capital receipts such as repayments by the U.K. under the Sterling Pensions Resettlement arrangement of 1955 (Rs. 35 crores) and receipts under P.L. 480. After taking into account the small net inflow of banking capital and the small net outflow of capital in private sector, the net capital inflow amounted to Rs. 320 crores. This necessitated the withdrawal of only Rs. 47 crores from the reserves, to meet the current account deficit of Rs. 339 crores after allowing for errors and omissions of Rs. 28 crores.

CUT IN PETROLEUM PRODUCTS' PRICES

At a Press conference held on October 23 Shri K.D. Malaviya, Minister for Mines and Oil, Government of India, made the following announcement:

It will be recalled that the Oil Companies agreed in 1958 to an *ad hoc* reduction amounting to about Rs. 10 crores a year in the prices received by them for the major petroleum products, which had included the drop that had then occurred in landed costs. It was at the same time agreed between the Oil Companies and the Government that a cost examination would be conducted by a Cost Accounts Officer appointed by Government, and that the prices would be reviewed again after this examination.

Following further recent discussions between the Companies and the Government, an agreement has been reached, covering the period to the end of March 1961. Under this new agreement the Companies will forego a further sum of about Rs. 3 crores for the first seven months of the present financial year.

From November 1, 1959, the fresh agreement with the Companies provides for reduction at the rate of about Rs. 15 crores a year, instead of the existing rate of about Rs. 10 crores.

In addition to this, there will be a further reduction at the rate of another Rs. 4 crores a year due to the drop in landed costs, assuming that there are no further upward or downward movements in landed costs.

Thus, the immediate effect of the agreement is that from November 1959, there will be a total net reduction at the rate of about Rs. 19 crores a year.

The final disposal of this further reduction is under Government's consideration; meanwhile the consumer prices of these products will remain unchanged.

Increased Excise Duty On Petroleum Products

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on October 31, says that as a result of further discussions between the Petroleum Oil Companies and the Government of India, an agreement has been reached by which the Companies will further reduce their prices.

With the object of mopping up the amount which will result due to this reduction, a notification is being issued under the Mineral Oils (Additional Duties of Excise and Customs) Act, 1958, increasing to the extent the rates of additional duties. The consumer prices of these petroleum products will, however, remain unchanged.

CURRENCY CIRCULATION IN INDIA

According to official figures, as on March 31, 1959, currency notes (other than one-rupee notes) in circulation amounted to Rs. 1,658 crores. Rupee coins and one-rupee notes in circulation totalled Rs. 121 crores.

During 1958-59, Rs. 2.24 crores worth of the new decimal coins were put into circulation. Of this, 10 nP. coins accounted for Rs. 99 lakhs, 5 nP. Rs. 64 lakhs, 2 nP. Rs. 30 lakhs and 1 nP. Rs. 31 lakhs.

The Reserve Bank received 5,489 forged notes (including

Government of India one-rupee notes) during 1958-59. The number of counterfeit coins cut at treasuries and railway stations was 11.4 lakhs. The Reserve Bank admitted claims worth Rs. 48 lakhs in respect of lost, destroyed and mutilated notes. Payment made against them amounted Rs. 44 lakhs.

Commerce & Industry

PRODUCTION OF HANDLOOM CLOTH IN 1958-59

According to an announcement of October 28 production of handloom cloth in the country during 1958-59 totalled 1,865 million yards. Production in the two previous years amounted to 1,714 million yards in 1957-58 and 1,599 million yards in 1956-57.

The 1958-59 production was higher by more than 25 per cent when compared to the handloom cloth production of 1,471 million yards at the end of the First Plan (1955-56).

During the first three years of the Second Plan, the Government of India incurred a total expenditure of about Rs. 17 crores on various development schemes for handloom industry. Of this about Rs. 11 crores were given in the form of grants and the balance as loans. The grants were utilised for the supply of improved equipment, organising training facilities for weavers, opening of dye houses, sales depots, etc. and for rebates on sales of handloom cloth. The loans were for financing the share capital and working capital of the weavers' co-operative societies, industrial co-operatives and apex societies and for common service facilities.

HANDLOOM CO-OPERATIVES

The number of handlooms in the co-operative sector has been progressively rising. Out of about 27 lakh looms in the country, nearly 12 lakhs were in the co-operative fold at the end of 1958. In September 1953, when the Handloom Board initiated the programme for financing development schemes, the number of looms in the co-operatives was less than 7 lakhs. There were about 9,900 handloom co-operative societies with a total membership of about 11.75 lakh weavers at the end of 1958.

IMPROVED TECHNIQUE

The progress made in regard to schemes for improved techniques in the handloom industry has also been considerable. By the end of 1958, 382 dye houses and 51 pattern-making factories had been opened. Seven calendering and finishing plants had also been set up.

EXPORTS

More than 35 million yards of handloom cloth valued at about Rs. 5.23 crores were exported in 1958. Ceylon was the most important customer and imported about 14 million yards of Indian handloom piecegoods. Other major importers were Malaya, Nigeria, Singapore and Aden. The United Kingdom, Sudan, Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia also imported sizeable quantities of Indian handloom cloth.

Working Of Handicrafts Development Corpn.

The first Annual Report of the Indian Handicrafts Development Corporation for 1958-59, which has recently been published, has introduced a scheme for giving loans to exporters of handicrafts against firm export orders. The Report says that loans amounting to nearly Rs. 2 lakhs has been given on a nominal rate of interest and that this has resulted in handicraft exports worth about Rs. 5.5 lakhs.

It observes that the Corporation's activities during 1958-59 have been directed towards organising handicrafts industry at home and developing foreign markets rather than taking up trading activities. Now that the spade work has been done, the future build-up should be easy. The Report adds that a potential market for Indian handicrafts can be developed in foreign countries like U.S.A., Russia, and Eastern Europe.

During the year, the Corporation has sent a small consignment of handicrafts to Copenhagen to explore markets in the Scandinavian countries.

HANDICRAFT CENTRES

The Corporation proposes to set up four regional centres in India and two abroad. These centres will be equipped with a complete range of representative samples of Indian handicrafts and will provide a ready guide for intending buyers.

A sample room has already been set up at the head office of the Corporation at Delhi. The Design Development Centres now working under the All India Handicrafts Board will be taken over by the Corporation to facilitate production of approved samples of handicrafts in commercial quantities.

Building For Handicrafts Museum

At a meeting held in New Delhi on October 27 the Crafts Museum Committee of the All India Handicrafts Board approved a proposal for an initial expenditure of Rs. 6 lakhs during 1960-61 for constructing a permanent building for the handicrafts museum. The first phase of construction to the extent of two wings is expected to be completed next year.

The Committee considered in detail a plan for organising the proposed museum which will be housed at a central place in New

Delhi. It was decided that the total floor area of the museum should be about 100,000 sq. ft. Apart from display rooms and open air arrangement, the museum will have an auditorium, library and reading rooms and a special exhibition hall. There will also be a children's section.

The Crafts Museum will be the first of its kind in India. The All India Handicrafts Board has already collected about 10,000 handicrafts exhibits for the museum.

Indian Delegation To GATT Conference

The Indan delegation to the forthcoming GATT Conference at Tokyo led by the Union Minister for Commerce, left New Delhi for Calcutta on October 23. Other members of the delegation were Shri B.N. Ganguli, Director, Delhi School of Economics; Shri G.L. Bansal, Secretary-General, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry; Shri S. Narasimhan, Under Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Shri L.K. Jha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The first week of the Conference will be devoted to a discussion among the trade ministers of the 37 member countries. After this, the regular session of the GATT will be continued. The Tokyo Conference, which will last for nearly four weeks, will review the current trends in the international trade and assess the progress made in the implementation of the trade expansion programme. It will also examine programmes for economic integration through trade liberalisation on a regional basis and harmonisation of these programmes with the world-wide objectives of the GATT.

Among the important subjects for discussion will be the difficulties faced by the less-developed countries, like India, in expanding their trade with the rest of the world. The Tokyo session will review the action taken so far by the GATT and may suggest positive measures for expansion of trade of underdeveloped countries. The procedure for arranging a further round of tariff negotiations within the GATT framework will also be decided upon at the meeting.

S.T.C. TEAM LEAVES FOR JAPAN

An official team led by Shri D. Sandilya, Managing Director, State Trading Corporation, left New Delhi on the morning of October 18 for Calcutta *en route* to Tokyo.

The team will negotiate the price of the current year's supply of iron ore to Japan. Under the contract signed two years ago, India is to export seven million tons of iron ore over a five-year period and the price is to be negotiated annually.

The team will also explore the prospects of augmenting India's exports of salt, manganese ore and coal to Japan. The possibilities of importing fertilizers from Japan in exchange of Indian goods will be examined by them.

EXCISE DUTY REBATE ON COTTON HANDKERCHIEFS

The Government of India have decided to extend the procedure under rule 191-A of the Central Excise Rules, 1944, for export out of India of articles under claim for rebate of duty on the excisable goods used in their manufacture, to cotton handkerchiefs as well, reads a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on October 29. It is already applicable to ready-made apparel, tents, sugar products, cotton bags, umbrellas, chaddars, pillow cases, table covers and several other articles.

It has also been decided to permit the manufacture in bond of cotton handkerchiefs for the purpose of export, under rule 191-B of the said rules.

Import Licenses For Woollen Exporters

The Government of India have decided that mills and factories exporting woollen textiles will be granted licences for import of raw materials, namely, raw wool, wool tops, shoddy wool, etc. and also permissible types of dyes and chemicals says an announcement dated October 22.

Mills and factories exporting woollen manufactures other than carpets, rugs, druggets and garments will be entitled to import raw materials up to 75 per cent of the f.o.b. value of the goods exported. The import of the type of the raw materials will depend on the raw materials used in the particular item exported.

Mills and factories will also be allowed to import permissible types of dyes, chemicals, etc. up to 10 per cent of the f.o.b. value of the goods exported. In lieu of this, mills and factories will also have the option to utilise 10 per cent of the entitlement for import of permissible items of machinery, spare parts and accessories.

Manufacturers and exporters of woollen carpets, rugs and druggets will be entitled to import permissible types of dyes and chemicals up to 5 per cent of the f.o.b. value of exports. In addition, they will be allowed to import raw wool and shoddy wool up to 5 per cent of the f.o.b. value of exports to countries in the American continent.

Manufacturers and exporters of woollen garments will be entitled to import raw materials up to 50 per cent of the f.o.b. value of the exports. In addition, they will be allowed 2½ per cent of the f.o.b. value of the exports for other embellishments such as zip fasteners, buttons, sewing threads, etc.

Exporters of woollen shawls which are being exported by exporters and not by mills will be entitled to import raw-wool and wool tops up to 50 per cent of the f.o.b. value of their exports of shawls.

The scheme, which will be operative from April 1, 1959, will also be applicable to exports against payment in rupees. Import licences under the scheme will be issued by the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Bombay on the recommendation

of the Secretary, Development Council for Woollen Industry, Office of the Textile Commissioner, Bombay.

Export Promotion Of Iron And Steel

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel on October 27 says that in view of the price concessions, allowed since 1957, on raw materials used for the manufacture of articles for export and the consequent reduction in the value of finished goods, the Government of India have now decided to reduce the ceiling from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 800 per ton in the case of steel articles and from Rs. 600 to Rs. 500 in the case of pig iron articles.

It was announced on August 7, 1957, that additional allocation of iron and steel will be made under the export promotion quota only in respect of articles of iron and steel, the export price of which is not less than Rs. 1,000 per ton; and in the case of pig iron articles not less than Rs. 600.

The Press Note adds that in giving effect to these revised prices, the Engineering Export Promotion Council will, no doubt, satisfy themselves that the exported goods, on which the iron and steel quotas are being granted, are processed goods and not merely pig iron or steel with little processing.

Work Of Import Control Organisation

An announcement of October 25 says that during the licensing period April-September, 1959, the Import Trade Control Organisation, in the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, received 1,77,970 applications for import licences. This was the highest figure for any licensing period, barring July-December, 1956. The disposal of applications kept pace with the receipts and at the close of the licensing period, only 2099 applications, i.e. about 1.1 per cent were pending.

In addition to applications for import of goods, the Organization dealt with a huge volume of correspondence on questions of policy, interpretation of rules and regulations, appeals etc. received from the trade and various Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations. The number of such letters reached a record figure of 7.43 lakhs.

During the Period upto June 27, 1959, in all, 79,859 import licences were issued and 71 firms blacklisted for contravening the import and export trade regulations.

Production Of Minerals In India

The production of minerals in India in the last year was valued at Rs. 130 crores. Efforts are being made to raise the target of production from 12.5 million tons of minerals in the Second Plan to 34 million tons in the Third Plan, out of which more than 30 per cent may be exported, and the value of production from Rs. 130 crores to Rs. 300 crores by the end of the Third Plan if India is to achieve the ultimate goal of reaching Rs. 1000-crore target by the end of the Fourth Plan. This scale of production is essential not only to industrialise the country rapidly but, more so, to earn foreign exchange.

India no longer holds monopoly of supplying minerals to those countries who need it. Brazil, USSR and South Africa have now become competitors. For example, the United Kingdom has increased its import of Russian manganese from 27,000 tons to more than a lakh tons in the last four years.

Increasing production of non-ferrous ores, especially copper, is of great importance. More reserves have been proved by Indian experts and development of Khetri, Daribo, Sikkim and Rakha mines is being looked forward to. The target of production aimed at is 35,000 tons. Present production is 8,000 tons. Further, there are plans to manufacture sulphur from pyrites and a target production of 90,000 tons of sulphur by 1965 or 1966 is aimed at.

The programme of obtaining sufficiently large number of mining experts has assumed great importance in this context. To prepare field geologists, Union Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel took up a special Post-Graduate university students' training programme and created facilities to give them field training and knowledge of field organisation by inviting them to be associated with the activities of the Geological Survey of India.

Clay Deposits Of Andhra Pradesh

An announcement of October 29 says that the Geological Survey of India located a number of occurrences of clay in the Cuddapah and Kurnool districts of Andhra Pradesh. Results of tests indicate that the clays may prove useful in the manufacture of architectural terra cota, stoneware jars and pipes, face bricks, paving bricks, drain tiles, floor tiles, roofing tiles, hollow blocks, conduits, sewer pipes and other vitrified ceramic ware. These clays can also be used as a filler in textiles, rubber, and in the manufacture of paints, coloured chalk, crayons, etc.

The clays, which have been found as a result of the weathering of the shales and flags of the Cuddapah and Kurnool systems, occur, in general, in stream beds and at the head of rain gullies on the hill slopes. They form more or less lenticular bodies in the shales and flags, and there is, in general, a gradual transition from white clays to buff purple clays and yellow ochre, and then to unaltered shales.

First examination of the occurrences was made by the Department during 1944-48 in connection with the investigation for ceramic raw materials by the Government of Madras.

OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION

An announcement made on October 16 says the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has become a statutory organisation, according to a Gazette of India Notification issued by the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel.

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission Act, 1959, providing "for the establishment of a Commission for the development of petroleum resources and the production and sale of petroleum and petroleum products produced by it and matters connected therewith" was passed in the last session of the Parliament.

Under the new Act, Shri K.D. Malaviya, Minister for Mines and Oil, has been appointed part-time Chairman with Shri P.C. Bhattacharya and Shri A.M.N. Ghosh as Members. Shri Bhattacharya will be Member (Finance) of the organisation. Under the Act, the Commission "shall consist of a Chairman and not less than two and not more than eight other Members appointed by the Central Government and the Members may be required to render whole time or part-time service as the Central Government may direct provided that one of the Members shall be a whole time Finance Member in charge of the financial matters relating to the Commission."

Set up initially as a Directorate under the then Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research, the Oil and Natural Gas Commission was constituted on August 14, 1956.

Pipeline From Assam Oilfields To Bihar

An agreement providing for the designing and construction of the pipeline from Nahorkatiya oilfields in Assam to Barauni (in Bihar) via Nunmati (near Gauhati in Assam) between the Government of India and the Burmah Oil Company was signed in New Delhi on October 29, says an announcement issued on the same date.

Shri S.D. Bhambri, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel, signed on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. A.N.C. Lothian, on behalf of the Burmah Oil Company.

Under the agreement, the Burmah Oil Co. Pipelines — a subsidiary organisation of the Burmah Oil Company — will design and construct a pipeline from Nahorkatiya oilfields to carry not less than 2.7 million tons of crude oil per annum to Nunmati refinery owned by the Indian Refineries Ltd. and from Nunmati to Barauni refinery not less than 2 million tons per annum of crude.

Throughout its entire length — 720 miles — the pipeline will be so designed and constructed that as and when required, the total throughout can be economically expanded to 4 million tons per annum upto Nunmati and 3.25 million tons per annum between Nunmati and Barauni.

LIMESTONE FOR CALCIUM CARBIDE PRODUCTION

An announcement of October 27 says that the Central Electro-chemical Research Institute at Karaikudi, Madras, have successfully investigated into another outlet for the utilisation of crystalline limestone deposits of Tinnevelly and Salem Districts as a raw material for the calcium industry. There is a big demand for calcium carbide in India where its annual rated capacity is to be raised to 40,000 tons by 1960-61. The present production is about 5,000 tons per year.

Calcium carbide is the main source of acetylene, used for welding and metal-cutting, and is the basis for synthetic organic chemicals.

CHEMICALS FROM SAMBHAR LAKE

A process for obtaining dense soda ash from Sambhar bittern, the liquid residue left over after recovery of common salt from the Sambhar Lake water, has been developed at the Central Salt Research Institute, Bhavnagar, according to an announcement of October 22.

Dense soda ash is used by the glass and dichromate industries. At present, the entire demand of this variety of soda ash, about 50,000 tons per year, is met through imports.

Sodium sulphate and additional quantities of common salt are also recovered in the process.

About 150,000 tons of Sambhar bittern, considered so far a waste product, are available every year. Out of these about 8,000 tons of soda ash, 15,000 tons of sodium sulphate and 40,000 tons of edible common salt can be produced.

ENAMELS FOR TEXTILE BOBBINS

A bobbin coating composition, based on a mixture of modified urea resin and alkyd resin, has been developed at the National Chemical Laboratory, Poona, reads a New Delhi announcement of October 25. The New composition has been tested by some of the leading paint manufacturers and has been reported upon favourably. The composition can be prepared by firms engaged in the manufacture of paints or urea formaldehyde resins. The equipment required for commercial manufacture consists of two reaction vessels, two ball mills and necessary tanks.

Wooden bobbins used in the textile industry are coated with water-proof enamels for increasing their utility. Black enamels based on cashewnut shell liquid or bhilawan shell liquid, are already being used for this purpose in India. However, for various practical considerations, bobbins in different bright colours are in demand. The requirements of enamels for coating bobbins have been estimated at one lakh gallons or 100 tons per annum.

WAX FROM SISAL WASTE

It has been anounced on October 24 that investigations now in progress at the National Chemical Laboratory, Poona, show that the wax recovered from waste material left over after separating the fibre from the leaves of plants of the Agave family, commonly known as sisal, are a very good substitute for carnauba wax.

Carnauba wax is used in the preparation of polishing compositions for cars, shoes, floors, carbon papers, phonographic records and photographic films. With no indigenous sources of carnauba wax, India spends about Rs. 10 lakhs annually on the import of prepared polishing compositions.

Sisal plants grow widely in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Madras, Bombay and West Bengal.

Two factories in India now undertake the defiberation of sisal leaves. About 400 tons of the waste are available annually from these factories. Defiberation is also done on a small scale in the rural areas. If all the waste material available in the country is used for extraction of the wax, about 50 tons of wax would be available every year This quantity would nearly meet the present requirements of hard waxes in the country. The estimated cost of production of sisal wax comes to about Rs. 3 per lb. as against the import price of about Rs. 5 for carnauba wax.

Neyveli Lignite Project Plans

The entire quantity of 27 million cubic yards of earthburden over the Lignite reserves at Neyveli is expected to be removed by the end of March 1961, says an announcement dated October 17.

The earthmoving operations were inaugurated by the Prime Minister on May 20, 1957.

In 1958 the target of 2.52 cubic yards fixed for the removal of overburden was exceeded by 0.33 million cubic yards.

The integrated Neyveli Lignite Project envisages the mining of 3.5 million tons of lignite per annum and processing and utilisation for the generation of 2,50,000 kw of electricity, the production of nitrogenous fertilizers in the shape of Urea with a fixed nitrogen content of 70,000 tons per annum and the briquetting and carbonization of the remaining output to produce 3,80,000 tons of carbonized lignite briquetts per annum for domestic and other purposes.

The mining part of the integrated project is estimated to cost Rs. 16.90 crores.

Iron Ore Production In August

An announcement dated October 20 says the output of iron ore during the month of August, 1959, was estimated at 587,000 metric tons, according to the Indian Bureau of Mines.

The total production since the beginning of 1959 was 5,008,000 metric tons as compared with 3,997,000 metric tons in the corresponding period of 1958.

The largest output was reported from Bihar and Orissa being 267,000 metric tons and 193,000 metric tons respectively.

Among the minor producing States, Mysore, Madhya Pradesh and Bombay accounted for 57,000 metric tons, 28,000 metric tons and 17,000 metric tons respectively.

During the month despatches of iron ore to iron and steel plants and export market were 451,000 metric tons and 158,000 metric tons respectively.

Limestone Requirements Of Steel Plants

An annoucement of October 18 says, the recent assessment has revealed that the annual requirements of limestones for the three plants in the public sector will be 23,92,000 tons a year.

The extensive prospecting at Purnapani area has revealed sufficient quantities of limestone for the Rourkela blast furnace, sintering plant, and the fertilizer plant.

This deposit, however, is not suitable for the steel melting shop which requires 170,000 tons per annum. Preliminary investigations in Satna area in Madhya Pradesh have revealed suitable deposits and a few mine owners have also assured that they would be able to supply the requirements of Rourkela.

The Bhilai Steel Plant will need about 7,44,000 tons of limestone per year, which will be supplied from the Nandini reserves.

The need for limestone at Durgapur has been estimated at 7,08,000 tons. The supply for the first few years of operation will be drawn from the existing sources in the Birmitrapur-Hathibari area of Orissa. For future supplies, the Geological Survey of India are exploring the possibility of obtaining suitable deposits in the Shahabad District of Bihar. Some deposits in Assam are also being considered.

Calcining Plant At Rourkela

An announcement issued from Rourkela on October 29, says that the first mixed gas-fired dolomite kiln of the lime and dolomite calcining plant at the Rourkela Steel Project has been lighted up by the Resident Director Shri M. Ganapati on the same date.

The Plant, which consists of three lime kilns and two dolomite kilns, has been designed, supplied and erected by a West German firm. A team of 15 German technicians and 200 Indian erection workers are working on the erection of the plant.

Calcined dolomite is used regularly for making up the banks of the open hearth furnaces and lining the L.D. converters. The plant is fully automatic and specially designed to meet the requirements of L.D. converters and other steel making furnace. When completed, it will not only meet the requirements of the Rourkela steel plant but also be able to supply calcined dolomite and lime to other steel plants.

Mining Personnel For Third Plan

The additional requirements of mining personnel for the Third Five Year Plan have been assessed at 40,950, says an announcement dated October 19. These include 3,000 Mine Managers, 950 Surveyors, 7,000 Overmen, 12,500 Sirdars and 17,500 Shotfirers.

Among the many steps taken by the Government of India to meet the shortage is the increase in the annual in-take of students at the Indian School of Mines and Applied Geology, Dhanbad, from 45 to 90 and that at the Benaras Hindu University from 20 to 40.

Seven more institutions have started mining courses with annual in-take of 25 each.

Four schools have also been started by the National Coal Development Corporation for training as Surveyors, Overmen, Supervisors and Shortfirers etc.

Nine institutions have been set up by the respective State Governments with Central assistance for conducting National Certificate Course in mining and mine surveying.

Other steps taken by the Government of India include relaxation in the Coal Mines Regulations for a limited period to permit graduates in Mining Engineering to act as understudy to First Class Managers.

The feasibility of holding two examinations in a year, as against one at present, for Mine Managers, is also being examined.

Avenues for directed practical training abroad of graduates in mining and other branches of engineering are being explored.

The State Governments concerned have been requested to draw up schemes for the reorganisation of evening mining classes.

A Joint Committee of the All India Council of Technical Education and the Coal Council has been set up to consider the integration of the academical course in mining engineering with practical training, and the formulation of common standards and the preparation of syllabi for the Overmen and mine surveyors courses.

Selling Price Of Caustic Soda

The Government of India have, on the recommendation of the Tariff Commission, fixed ceilings for the selling prices of caustic soda, chlorine and hydrochloric acid, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on October 27.

After examination of the cost of production of caustic soda in all forms and of allied products in representative units, the Tariff Commission, in its report, had recommended fair selling prices which would be in force till December 1960.

The Commission had recommended the fair selling prices of the following products: (1) fused solid caustic soda — Rs. 35 per cwt., (2) caustic lye on the basis of 100% NaOH content — Rs. 25.80 per cwt. The price will include filling charges but not the cost of rental of containers, (3) caustic soda flakes — Rs. 40 per cwt., (4) liquid chlorine in returnable containers inclusive of filling charges—Rs. 22.20 per cwt. (5) the fair ex-works price of dry gas chlorine, naked, supplied for the manufacture of chlorinated products within the factory or in adjacent units — Rs. 13 per cwt, and (6) commercial grade hydrochloric acid, naked, inclusive of lling charges — Rs. 10.80 per cwt.

At the suggestion of the Government, the Tariff Commission again examined the advantages of sale of caustic soda in liquid form. The production of caustic soda lye led to substantial saving in fuel as well as steel, which were needed for packing the solid caustic soda in drums. Moreover, this could also be transported in tank wagons. The Tariff Commission, after considering this matter, has suggested that the fair selling prices of caustic soda lye might be fixed as Rs. 29 per cwt. on 100% strength basis in the form of liquid. In the case of solid and flakes, the price would be for material of purity of ISI specifications.

The Government of India have accepted all the recommendations of the Tariff Commission with the modification regarding the fair selling price of caustic soda lye. These prices are ceilings for selling prices for purchases ex-factory either directly or through agents or distributors of the manufacturers and will be effective from October 27, 1959.

Selling Price Of Bleaching Powder

As regards bleaching powder, the Tariff Commission had recommended the fair selling price to be Rs. 24.20 per cwt and that this price should be applied both to stable and unstable bleaching powder. In order to reduce the gap between the fair selling price of domestic bleaching powder and that of the imported product, it had recommended that the Government should consider the possibility of permitting imports of bleaching powder free of duty. If this suggestion was not acceptable, a pool operated by the State Trading Corporation would be the only way of reconciling the two disparate prices. The S.T.C. should acquire the entire indigenous production of bleaching powder at the fair ex-works price of Rs. 23.20 per cwt., pool the imported and indigenous product and sell it through established distributors at a fair average price after providing for administrative charges and selling commission.

This recommendation is under examination.

Stores Purchase From Small Industries

It has been announced on October 27 that the National Small Industries Corporation has so far secured orders worth about Rs. 4.2 crores for small industrial units from the Directorate-General of Supplies and Disposals, Government of India.

During the first half of the current financial year alone, contracts worth nearly Rs. 1 crore were secured by small units with the Corporation's assistance.

Over 4,800 small units have so far been enlisted by the Corporation for participating in the Central Government's purchase programme. Whenever the Directorate is in the market for stores, these small units are supplied with tender sets free of cost. They are also not required to furnish security deposits; instead

a Competency Certificate issued by the N.S.I.C. will suffice.

To assist the small-scale industries in the execution of their contracts, a separate division is already functioning in the Corporation.

Reserved Items

In respect of 27 items, purchases have to be made only from the small scale units. These include several kinds of leather products, metal boxes, some types of padlocks, cutting scissors, washing soaps, cotton and woollen hosiery etc. Additions to the Reserved List are made from time to time, depending on the capacity of the small-scale units to cater fully to Government requirements.

Apart from these reserved items, small units can also compete with large-scale manufacturers for the supply of stores to Government. In these cases, a price preference ranging upto 15 per cent over the acceptable quotation from large units is allowed in favour of small industries.

Hire-Purchase Scheme Of Small Industries Corpn.

According to an announcement of October 19, the National Small Industries Corporation has so far supplied about 2,900 machines of different types valued at more than 2.5 crores to small industrialists under its Hire-Purchase Scheme.

The Corporation has accepted applications for the supply of nearly 10,000 machines from about 2,400 applicants. The total value of these machines will be more than Rs. 7.8 crores.

The Scheme which was started in March 1958 aims at providing improved equipment which the small entrepreneur cannot purchase against cash payment. The Corporation supplies machinery against an initial payment, generally ranging between 10 to 20 per cent of its total value. The balance is payable in easy instalments over an eight year period.

Machinery supplied under the Hire-purchase Scheme includes general purpose machines like lathes, drilling, grinding and welding, bricks, tiles, plastic goods, shoes, rubber goods, etc. are also supplied.

Training In Hide Flaying And Carcass Utilisation

An announcement of October 25 says that the first training course in hide flaying and carcass utilisation is expected to begin from March 1960. Work is now in progress for setting up the proposed all-India Centre for higher training in hide flaying and carcass utilisation by upgrading the existing Centre at Bakshi-ka-Talab, Lucknow. The Rs. 33-lakh scheme aims at providing higher training in scientific methods of flaying, curing of hides and skins and its development as a rural industry.

The Netherlands Government will provide technical equipment and experts at a cost of Rs. 12.5 lakhs and the F.A.O. has agreed to make available expert technical assistance and instructors for developing training facilities in three branches — hide flaying, curing and carcass utilisation; vegetable and mineral tanning and footwear and leather utilisation.

A regional centre started in Delhi in November, 1958 has already completed two 3-month courses. The third course now in progress has 20 candidates from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Bombay, Delhi, Mysore, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

The training centre at Bakshi-ka-Talab was set up by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in 1953 with technical assistance from the F.A.O. Another training centre was established at Kora Gramodyog Kendra, Bombay by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

The number of bovine carcasses available in India is estimated at 1.8 crores worth about Rs. 22 crores. The carcasses are, however, not fully utilized and most of the meat, bones, tallow and horns is allowed to go waste, resulting in low economic returns. Surveys have indicated that by scientific utilisation and processing of the carcasses, it is possible to derive three times the value than realised at present.

FORWARD TRADING IN CAMPHOR BANNED

A Press Note issued on October 20 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry says the Government of India have decided to ban forward trading in camphor with immediate effect.

Outstanding contracts entered into on or before October 20, 1959, will be cleared at the rates prevailing at the close of business on that date.

REMUNERATION OF MANAGING AGENTS

On the advice of the Company Law Advisory Commission, Government of India have decided that the remuneration of Managing Agents and Secretaries and Treasurers should ordinarily be fixed according to a sliding scale of commission on net profits of the managed companies, says a Press Note issued by the Department of Company Law Administration on October 23.

Under the Companies Act, 1956, Government of India have to satisfy themselves that the conditions of the agreement to be entered into between the managed company and the Managing Agents or Secretaries and Treasurers are fair and reasonable. While considering applications in this behalf, therefore, Government have to determine what would be a fair and reasonable remuneration and tenure within the maxima permissible under the Act in the circumstances of each case. This matter was recently given very careful consideration and the Government have fixed the remuneration and tenure for Managng Agents or Secretares and Treasurers.

The scale of commission for Managing Agents will be 10 per cent on the first Rs. 10 lakhs or fraction thereof, 9 per cent on the next Rs. 10 lakhs or fraction thereof, 8 per cent on the next Rs. 10 lakhs or fraction thereof, 7 per cent on the next Rs. 10 lakhs or fraction thereof, 6 per cent on the next Rs. 10 lakhs or fraction thereof, 5½ per cent on the next Rs. 25 lakhs or fraction thereof, 5 per cent on the next Rs. 25 lakhs or fraction thereof and 4 per cent on any sum over one crore of rupees.

The scale of commission for Secretaries and Treasurers, the Press Note adds, will be 7½ per cent on the first Rs. 10 lakhs or fraction thereof, 6½ per cent on the next Rs. 10 lakhs or fraction thereof, 6 per cent on the next Rs. 10 lakhs or fraction thereof, 5½ per cent on the next Rs. 10 lakhs or fraction thereof, 4½ per cent on the next Rs. 10 lakhs or fraction thereof, 4⅛ per cent on the next 25 lakhs or fraction thereof, 3¾ per cent on the next Rs. 25 lakhs or fraction thereof and 3 per cent on any sum over one crore of rupees.

The Government have also decided, on the advice of the Commission, that the term of office should ordinarily be 10 years when a company appoints Managing Agents or Secretaries and Treasurers for the first time and five years on reappointment or successive appointments.

These decisions have since been enforced and the Department of Company Law Administration have already decided as many as 70 applications on this basis.

Appointment Of Managing Directors And Agents

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on October 25, companies under the Companies Act, seeking Government approval to the appointment or re-appointment of managing directors, managing agents and secretaries and treasurers, have to furnish particulars as prescribed in the Company (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms. The Government of India have now revised the form of application to be filled by companies for such approval and asked them to furnish additional information in certain respects to provide the Government with complete particulars of the persons or bodies proposed for appointment as managing director, managing agents, etc.

Under the revised procedure, companies have to furnish details regarding the nature of services, managerial or otherwise, rendered or proposed to be rendered by the managing agents and others who are sought to be appointed. Details of any loans advanced by the managing agents to the company and the interest charged on them are also *inter alia* to be furnished.

Companies, the Press Note adds, are also required to send to the Registrar of Companies copies of the notice published by them in the newspapers regarding their applications along with all the material particulars. Such notices when concerning changes in the constitution of the managing agents or of the secretaries and treasurers, if issued to members of the agency companies, have to be addressed to the members of the managed companies as well. Persons having any objection to the company's proposal may communicate the same in writing to the Central Government within 30 days of the publication of the notice.

Companies are also required to forward to Government seven copies of their applications and of all the documents accompanying it.

SEMINAR ON MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANCY

Inaugurating a seminar on Management Accountancy under the auspices of the Indian Institute of Chartered Accountants in New Delhi on October 17, the Minister for Commerce, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, said that complex problems which management had to face in an advanced industrial society could no longer be solved by intuitive or trial and error methods. He stressed the need for getting maximum result on minimum outlay and observed that management accounting which was part of scientific management should be adopted for this purpose.

Registration Of New Companies

During the period April-June this year, 334 new companies with total authorised capital of Rs. 34.08 crores were registered, according to an announcement of October 18. Of this, 320 were private companies and 14 public companies with authorised capital of 31.36 crores and 2.72 crores respectively.

The figure for the corresponding period in the preceding two years were 253 in 1957 and 245 in 1958. In January-March 1959, new registrations had totalled 306.

A region-wise break-up of new registrations shows that 58 new companies whose total authorised capital amounted to Rs. 2.77 crores were formed in the Northern Region. Seventy companies with authorised capital of 19.63 crores were registered in the Western Region. Of this, Bombay accounted for 65 companies (Rs. 19.23 crores authorised capital) and Madhya Pradesh for the rest. In the Southern Region, new registrations totalled 85 with authorised capital of Rs. 2.13 crores. Of this, as many as 68 registrations were in Madras State. One hundered and twenty one companies with authorised capital of Rs. 9.55 crores were registered in the Eastern Region.

The registrations during this period included 3 Giant companies i.e. companies with authorised capital of Rs. 1 crore and above. Of these, 2 were Government companies with total authorised capital of Rs. 17 crores.

Communications

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING AND HIGHWAY SAFETY SEMINAR

The Governor of Bombay, Shri Sri Prakasa, inaugurated the traffic Engineering and Highway Safety Study Week Seminar, organised by the Government of India under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and Far East and in co-operation with non-official organisations interested in road transport and highway safety, in Bombay on October 24. Shri Raj Bahadur, Minister of State in the Union Ministry of Transport and Communications, presided.

The seminar was held from October 24 to October 31 in which nearly 150 highway experts from India and foreign countries participated.

In his presidential address Shri Raj Bahadur said that the need for better control over traffic on highways has become extremely urgent with the increase in the number of mechanically propelled vehicles. In the ultimate analysis it was clear that the danger on our highways was the result of the enormous increase in traffic generated by a rapidly developing economy.

Welcoming the participation of non-official organisations in the Study Week Seminar, who had, in fact, been playing a significant part, the Minister hoped that a powerful non-official body would emerge in the country for making roads safe for the common man.

He assured the non-officials that if they decided to set up an all-India organisation of this nature they would receive the fullest co-operation from Government. In fact, Government would even be prepared to take the necessary initiative. He also appealed to delegates from other countries of the ECAFE region to persuade their respective governments to help in organising public bodies for tackling the problems of road safety.

Emphasising the need for a scientific approach in tackling the problems of highway traffic and reducing accidents, Shri Raj Bahadur pointed out that there were three main factors which came into play in traffic accidents — the road, the vehicle and the road-user. All these factors must be studied thoroughly and efforts should be made to create ideal conditions which would reduce the incidence of accidents to the minimum. A scientific approach to the subject required first of all the removal of defects in existing roads and construction of future roads with meticulous care. The vehicles permitted to operate on particular roads should be of the correct type besides being mechanically sound. Education of the drivers of the vehicles was no less important.

He pointed out that India presently had 0.45 million motor vehicles, 4.50 million cycles and about 9.8 million bullock carts. This congolomeration of traffic both fast and slow, created a bottleneck on the busy roads. To this was added the problem of stray animals and the pedestrians jamming the narrow roads and the streets of the cities and villages. The conditions in other eastern countries were more or less similar. With technological development, the roads of yesterday were fast becoming narrow lanes, he added.

Concluding Shri Raj Bahadur reminded the Seminar that not only the difficulties of today had to be overcome but there should be careful planning for the future so that the coming generations were faced with less road hazards than what had been our lot. Though road accidents could not be completely eliminated even by concerted efforts by the experts, yet they could certainly be reduced considerably and every small reduction would mean a good many lives saved, the Minister added.

Regulating Movement Of Vehicles

The seminar divided itself into two sections — one dealing with the traffic aspect of safety and the other with its engineering aspect.

In the traffic section, the most important problems which faced the experts at the seminar were scientific methods of regulation of movement of vehicles and systems of speed limits and speed zoning in urban as well as rural areas. The question of collecting and analysing proper statistics of accidents essential for finding out the conditions that ought to be remedied was also gone into. This study covered among other things, the study of traffic accidents classified according to the type of collision, the type of vehicle, the type of road, the age group of the driver and the type of violation of established traffic rules. In this connection the seminar discussed the methods and the lines on which such studies should be undertaken and also the methods of reporting of accidents to be adopted by traffic control organisations. With an unprecedentedly rapid growth of road transport which has led to an increasing number of vehicles plying on the roads, the question of general behaviour of road users also assumed considerable importance and the seminar discussed methods for the improvement of road manners.

On the engineering side, the conference dealt with the effects of the geometrics of roads on traffic flow and accidents. It reviewed the methods of traffic prediction for planning urban and rural roads and undertook studies of road capacities in mixed traffic conditions in urban and rural areas, such as prevail in many Asian countries.

An exhibition on traffic and engineering aspects of highway safety was held during the Week.

In 1957, ECAFE organised a Seminar on Traffic and Engineering aspects of Highway Safety in Japan. One of the recommendations made at that Seminar was that Study Weeks on highway safety should be organised by member-countries at important centres in Asia. It was pointed out that such Study Weeks had already been held in Europe and had proved useful in reducing road accidents.

The problem of highway safety has assumed special importance following the rapid growth of road transport as a result of increasing economic activity. This increase in traffic has made it necessary to review the methods of traffic control as well as to undertake scientific studies of the engineering of roads from the point of view of ensuring safer traffic.

New Delhi-Moscow Radio Teleprinter Service

Agreement was reached in New Delhi on October 26 in talks between the representatives of the Government of India and of the Government of the U.S.S.R. for the operation of a round-the-clock radio teleprinter service between New Delhi and Moscow for the exchange of meteorological data.

As a result of the establishment of this link, India will be participating in a global arrangement under which New Delhi is one of the five centres selected by the World Meteorological Organisation in the Northern hemisphere as exchange centres for the rapid collection and exchange of meteorological data in the world.

These centres are to be located at New Delhi, Frankfurt, Moscow, New York and Tokyo. Each centre will be responsible for collecting meteorological data over a large geographical area and for transmitting it to the other centres by radio-teletype and for disseminating this data as well as those obtained from other Northern Hemisphere Exchange Centres to other countries in its area of responsibility.

Surface meteorological observations are taken at intervals of 3 to 6 hours every day and upper air observations at intervals of 6 to 12 hours. The latest information from all over the Northern hemisphere would be available at the New Delhi collecting centre within a few hours of the hour of observation.

When this data is plotted and analysed, it will provide valuable aid not only for forecasting for the Indian area and neighbourhood but also for giving forecasts for long-distance flights (extending two thousand miles and over) which would be particularly useful for jet air services.

The first stage in the implementation of this programme so far as India is concerned has been reached with the agreement arrived at in the discussions between Soviet and Indian experts on the details for the establishment of radio-teletype link between Delhi and Moscow.

Negotiations between the experts were begun at New Delhi on October 19. The minutes of discussion were signed in New Delhi on October 26 by Mr. K.T. Logvinov, Assistant Chief of Administration of Hydrometeorological Service of the U.S.S.R. and Mr. E.E. Dobrovolsky, Deputy Chief of Administration of the Ministry of Inter-Communications of the U.S.S.R. from the Soviet side, and by Shri S. Basu, Director General of Observatories, India; Shri P.R. Krishna Rao Director General of Observatories (Officiating), Indian Meteorological Department and Shri P.J. Rodgers, Director General, Overseas Communications Service, from the Indian side. Among those present at the time of the signing were the Union Minister of Transport and Communications, Dr. P. Subbarayan, the Ambassador of the U.S.S.R., His Excellency Mr. I.A. Benediktov and Shri D.C. Das, Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Incentive Scheme In Railway Workshops

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways on October 27 says that at a meeting held in New Delhi on October 26 between the Railway Board and the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen proposals for introducing an incentive scheme to increase productivity in railway workshops and allied railway organisations were discussed in detail and the principles underlying the scheme were agreed to. According to the scheme, it was agreed that when it would be introduced, no worker would be retrenched as a result of the working of the scheme; an equitable share of gains resulting from higher production would be received by the workers as incentive bonus and care would be taken to see that workers do not overstrain themselves in order to get increased earnings.

A similar scheme is successfully workng at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, where workers have for sometime past been earning bonus over their basic emoluments for raising productivity higher. A delegation of the Federation will visit the Chittaranjan Works to see the working of the scheme. The Federation's delegation to the meeting was led by its President Shri S.R. Vasavada.

REPORT ON ACCIDENT TO AII'S RANI OF AGRA

The report of the Chief Inspector of Accidents, Civil Aviation Department, on the accident to Air-India International's Super-Constellation aircraft, VT-DIN (Rani of Agra), at Santa Cruz Airport, Bombay, on July 19, 1959, has been examined by Government, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Transport and Communications on October 30.

It will be recalled that the aircraft which was operating the Calcutta-Bombay sector of Air-India International's scheduled passenger service from Tokyo to Bombay crashed when landing at Santa Cruz Airport. None of the passengers or crew was injured. The aircraft was destroyed by fire.

The Chief Inspector of Accidents has attributed the accident to delayed overshoot action by the Commander when landing in conditions of poor visibility due to rain. He considers that the delay in taking overshoot action might have been due to the misleading height indicated by the Commander's altimeter due to incorrect setting of the altimeter. The fire-fighting action after the crash was rendered ineffective principally because the aircraft came to rest on soft ground outside the effective range of the fire tenders.

The report has been accepted by Government. Appropriate steps to prevent recurrence of similar accidents are being taken.

FOREIGN VISITORS TO INDIA

An announcement dated October 21 says on an average, about 4,000 foreigners have been coming to India every month since October 1, 1958, when the procedure of registering foreigners was simplified.

Till the end of August 1959, 46,760 foreigners had disembarked in India. This figure does not include Commonwealth and British Protectorate citizens.

The maximum number—17,829—came from America. Next was Germany with 4,327 persons. From Russia came 3,201 and from Burma 2,870.

Since October 1, 1958, foreigners coming to India are required to fill only one form, the Disembarkation Card, which is in use in other countries. These cards are completed by all passengers before they land and are presented to the registration staff at ports along with the passports.

No Registration For 30 Day Stay

There is no registration of foreigners coming for a stay of 30 days or less. Those holding visas, valid for stay for more than 30 days but less than 90 days, are required to register themselves at the registration office of the place where they happen to be resident. All others register themselves at their destination in India within a period of one week of their arrival.

Passports are suitably stamped to indicate how the foreigners should get themselves registered and obtain residential permits. Special registration offices have been set up in the cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi.

Food & Agriculture

INTENSIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN SELECTED AREAS

At a meeting of the Directors of Agriculture of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar in New Delhi on October 27, the Central Food and Agriculture Ministry's proposed "package programme" for intensified agricultural production in selected areas in those States was discussed. Shri K.R. Damle, Union Agriculture Secretary presided.

Shri Damle said that the pilot project aimed at increasing the income of the cultivator and his family so that they could share in the rising standard of living as the nation moved to higher levels of productivity and income. It would also help to improve the economic base of the village, allowing it further to develop the facilities and resources of the community.

Referring to certain pilot projects undertaken in recent years for increasing production, he added that their progress indicated the possibility of stepping up the rate of food production and provided valuable experience on which the present "package programme" could be built. This programme would be implemented in 7 districts (one district in each of 7 States) for a period of 5 years from the next *Kharif* season.

Shri J.V.A. Nehemiah, Extension Commissioner, stated that the scheme involved an integrated approach to intensified agricultural production. This should provide for adequate and timely credit to all farmers, both credit and non-credit worthy, based on production plans; adequate and timely supply of the means of production such as improved seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and farm implements, and these should be made available from within bullock-cart distance. There was need for intensified education of farmers in improved methods and practices with the guarantee, where necessary, that any losses suffered in the adoption of measures recommended by the scientists should be made good. Assurances to farmers of reasonable price, development of proper marketing facilities including storage godowns within bullock-cart distance, were essential to the success of the scheme. There would have to be adequate extension and other staff which should have proper authority and freedom of action delegated to them and continue in the project for a certain number of years, he said.

The representatives of the seven States supported the scheme and said that they would take effective steps for its implementation.

Training In Agricultural Statistics

The Government of India have re-designated the Statistical

Wing of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research as the Institute of Agricultural Research Statistics to co-ordinate its training programme with those of the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, according to an announcement of October 20.

A joint selection board has been set up for admission to the professional statistician courses of the I.S.I. and I.A.R.S. Under this arrangement, students successfully completing the one-year professional statistician course at the I.S.I. and desirous of specializing in agricultural statistics will be given first preference for admission to the diploma course of the I.A.R.S. The successful trainees at the end of the first year will be awarded Professional Statistician Certificate (Agriculture). It will be on par with the certificate given by I.S.I. at the end of the second year of their statistician course.

Those showing special aptitude for research will be allowed to continue for the second year for the award of diploma in agricultural statistics as at present. The existing certificate courses for agricultural research workers and other special refresher courses will continue to be given by the I.A.R.S.

The Statistical Wing of the I.C.A.R. has been doing pioneering work for the introduction of modern statistical methods in agricultural and animal husbandry research during the past 25 years. Besides making substantial contributions in fundamental and applied research in statistics it has played an important role in the improvement of official agricultural statistics of the country. The scientific methods of crop-cutting surveys which form the basis of food statistics were developed by this Organization.

The post-graduate and inservice training courses offered by the Organization have been utilized by various State Governments, research institutions, foreign countries and the F.A.O.

Indo-American Team On Agricultural Research

The inaugural meeting of the second joint Indo-American Team set up by the Government of India to evaluate the progress of work in agricultural education, research and extension and to submit supplementary recommendations on these for inclusion in the Third Five Year Plan, was held in New Delhi on October 19.

Dr. M.S. Randhawa, Vice-President, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Chairman of the Team reviewed the progress of research in the country and said that the ICAR, the premier research organisation in the country, was promoting practical and fundamental research through various research institutions and commodity committees. Regional stations had been set up to carry out research on the basis of local agro-climatic considerations. The State Governments had also set up agricultural research stations.

Dr. Randhawa said there was urgent need to devise measures for the development of "certain problem areas" which were deficient in agricultural production. The Team should also consider the question of setting up of agricultural universities in India on the model of the land grant colleges of the U.S.A.

He said the provision of adequate funds for research and well-trained staff and library services for agricultural colleges were very important. The improvement in service conditions of agricultural personnel and recognition of their role in the economic development of the society was necessary, he said.

The programme of the Team includes visits to agricultural and veterinary colleges, Pusa Institute, Central Veterinary Research Institute, Izzatnagar, Agricultural University, Rudrapur, a rural institute, a "manjri type" of vocational agricultural school, Central Institutes, a regional research station, a home science college and a rural extension training centre. The team is likely to finalize its report by December this year.

Further, the terms of reference of the Team include an assessment of the "sisterhood" arrangements concluded in 1955 with five land grant universities of the U.S.A. to find out the extent to which they have helped in the development of agricultural education, research and extension programmes in the country.

The first joint-American Team was set up by the Government of India in 1954. This team submitted its report in September 1955; most of the recommendations were accepted by the Government and steps have been taken to implement them.

Research On Wheat Maize And Fruit

In a meeting of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research held recently in New Delhi, the Botany Committee of the Council recommended intensification of research for improving the yield and quality of wheat in the country. Though considerable progress was made in the breeding of disease resistant wheat varieties, yet, the Committee pointed out, there was need to enlarge the scope of research to cover more adequately the various wheat growing regions in the country.

In regard to maize, the development of hybrid varieties was of great importance for increasing the yield substantially, but this has raised new problems for the agricultural scientists. The Committee recommended that special, cultural and manurial schedules should be worked out for achieving maximum yields and intensive research should be carried out to combat the pests and diseases threatening this crop.

Another recommendation was that research should be initiated for evolving high yielding and more nutritive varieties of pulses which are the principal suppliers of protein in the vegetarian diet.

Radio Isotopes

The Radio-active Isotopes Committee recommended that wide publicity should be given to the results obtained from experiments with radio isotopes. The I.C.A.R. should offer scholarships to encourage training of agricultural research workers in the use and handling of radiation in radio isotopes. Such training is available in the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

Research On Fruit

Another I.C.A.R. Sub-Committee—the Fruit Committee— recommended launching of ten new schemes and continuance of 21 existing schemes for research on fruit, spices and different types of perennial crops. Breeding of warm weather resistant apples for cultivation in the tropical regions of South India, prevention of soil washing and rejuvenation of declining orange orchards in Tripura, and further research on mango to correct erratic bearing tendencies of this fruit were some of the important schemes recommended by the Fruit Committee.

Incentive To Sugarcane Growers And Factories

The Government of India, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture on October 24, have considered the sugar position, and, in order to maximise production, have decided to give incentive both to the cane-growers and the sugar factories.

With effect from October 25, 1959, the minimum sugarcane price has been raised from Rs. 1.44 to Rs. 1.62 per maund for delivery at the gate of the factory and from Rs. 1.31 to Rs. 1.50 per maund for delivery at purchasing centres connected by rail, for the 1959-60 season's crop.

The Government have also decided to grant factories a rebate of 50% in the basic excise duty, which at present is Rs. 11.25 per cwt., on all sugar produced during 1959-60 season in excess of their average production of the two seasons 1957-58 and 1958-59. In case of factories which went into production only in 1957-58 season, or thereafter, or other factories which, for special reasons, did not function during 1957-58, and/or 1958-59, the basis on which such rebate will be allowed, will be considered on merits.

As a consequence of the increase in sugarcane price, the Government have decided to raise the ex-factory controlled price of sugar produced by vacuum pan factories in Uttar Pradesh and North Bihar from Rs. 36.00 to Rs. 37.85 per maund and in Punjab from Rs. 36.50 to Rs. 38.35 per maund for D-29 grade sugar, with the prescribed price differentials for other grades. The revised prices will come into effect from Ocober 25, 1959 and will apply to all sugar which may be produced by them on or after that date. The fixed f.o.r. destination prices in respect of allotments made to Kanpur and Calcutta will be Rs. 38.60 and Rs. 39.85 per maund respectively for sugar of ISS D-29 grade.

The revised prices will also apply to all sugar allotted by the Government before October 25, 1959, but despatched on or after that date.

As the new prices should apply to sugar manufactured from cane bought at the new prices and not to stocks of sugar already in hand with the factories, Government have decided to impose a special excise duty of Rs. 2.52 per cwt., on all opening stocks of sugar held by factories on October 25. 1959.

Production And Export Of Tobacco

According to "Tobacco in India", a publication recently issued by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture about 100 million pounds of unmanufactured and manufactured tobacco valued at Rs. 14 crores was exported from India during 1956-57.

The contribution of this cash crop to the National Exchequer by way of excise duty was about Rs. 37.46 crores. Additionally, an income of Rs. 9 lakhs was derived through agricultural cess levied on the export of unmanufactured tobacco at ½ per cent *ad valorem*.

The publication puts the acreage and production at 10.22 lakh acres and 3.06 lakh tons (or 685 million lbs.) during 1956-57. Andhra Pradesh, the leading tobacco producing State in the country, accounted for about 38 per cent of area and 43 per cent of production of the All-India crop; next in order were Bombay, Madras, Mysore, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar.

Among the measures takn by the Government of India for developing export of tobacco, the most important were the fixation of Agmark grade standards, appointment of Tobacco Sales Officers at London, Hong Kong and Antwerp, inclusion of tobacco among the items of exports in the trade agreements entered into with foreign countries and the creation of an Export Promotion Council for tobacco.

For improving the quality of tobacco, the Indian Central Tobacco Committee has been conducting research through its Central Tobacco Research Institute at Rajahmundry and five other research stations. Several improved varieties of seed have been evolved and they are being multiplied. For training the tobacco growers in the proper methods of cultivation, curing and handling, a Tobacco Extension Service is functioning in Guntur District (Andhra Pradesh).

Import Of Seed Potatoes From Burma

The Government of India have decided to permit import of a limited quantity of seed potatoes from Burma on rupee payment during the half year October, 1959 — March, 1960, says an announcement dated October 19.

The imports will be canalised through the State Trading Corporation, which will work through the established importers and established co-operative societies.

The share of each individual importer in the business will be determined on the basis of past imports of seed potatoes made by them during any one of the three financial years ending 1956-57.

River Projects & Power

PROGRESS OF RAJASTHAN CANAL PROJECT

More than a third of the total excavation and compaction work for the 133-mile long Rajasthan Feeder — a part of the Rajasthan Canal Project — in the Punjab and Rajasthan territories was completed by the end of September 1959, says an announcement of October 28.

In addition, about 10 lakh cubic feet of earthwork has been completed for the Rajasthan Main Canal. The surveys and alignments for the first stage of the Rajasthan Canal up to mile 72, direct distributaries and the Suratgarh branch of the canals, have also been carried out.

Further, preliminary schemes, forming a part of the master plan for development of the Rajasthan Canal area, for inclusion in the Third Plan are under preparation. The Rajasthan Canal Project envisages development ultimately of about 8,000 square miles of arid and sparsely populated regions of Rajasthan and raising food production by about 5.7 lakh tons per year.

The Government of India have so far sanctioned a loan of Rs. 3.75 crores to the Rajasthan Government for this project Rs. 150 lakhs being the loan for 1959-60.

Excavation And Compaction Work

According to latest figures available here, 309 lakh cubic feet of excavation and 155 lakh cubic feet of compaction work were completed for the Rajasthan Feeder in September 1959.

The total figures for excavation and compaction work in the two States were 4475 and 1228 lakh cubic feet respectively.

Tiles and bricks are being manufactured, and lining of the Rajasthan Feeder in the Punjab territory is expected to start from October, 1959.

Work is also being carried out in the head reach of the Rajasthan Canal below the Rajasthan Feeder for a length of over 13 miles up to the point of off-take of the Suratgarh Branch.

Cost Control Unit In C.W.P.C.

For evolving a uniform system of cost classification and cost accounting, applicable to the river valley projects, the Government of India have set up a cost control unit in the Central Water and Power Commission, according to an announcement dated October 22.

The States and project authorities have also been asked to organise cost cells at the projects, which will work in co-operation with the central unit.

These steps have been taken in accordance with the recommendations made by two Committees — one for Construction Plan and Machinery and the other for Rates and Costs — set up by the Government of India in 1953 and 1954 respectively.

Construction work at some of the major river valley projects is heavily mechanised, involving huge expenditures on plant and equipment, workshops, other utilities and skilled labour.

Rigid control and proper accounting procedures are, therefore, essential so as to be able to allocate expenditures correctly and determine individual functional costs and item rates, which form the basis for choosing progressively better designs, construction procedures and equipment.

Both the Committees have recommended the adoption of suitable modifications in the existing P.W.D. system of cost accounting to meet the requirements of present-day mechanised and high speed construction works.

The attempt now is to introduce a uniform procedure and accounting forms in all projects and promoting quick comparison of item rates and maximum economy.

Under the modified system the central costing cell will receive progressive cost reports from all projects for compilation and scrutiny in the Central Water and Power Commission.

LOSSES DUE TO FLOODS IN 1959

An announcement dated October 23 says, the Union Home Ministry has asked the State Governments to collect data regarding losses due to natural calamities, such as floods, epidemics and earthquakes in the current year.

The purpose is to estimate the loss as soon as possible so that the Central grant or loan is available just after the financial year ends. The expenditure on all relief measures is borne initially by the State Governments. They are, however, eligible for a Central grant of half the total expenditure incurred by them on specific items of gratuitous relief up to Rs. 2 crores and three-fourth of the expenditure in excess thereof.

Figures available for 1958-59 show that the Government of India gave

Rs. 2.73 crores as grants and about Rs. 3.5 crores as loans. In addition, the Union Minister of Food and Agriculture donated Rs. 54,000 from People's Famine Trust Fund.

The contribution of the Union Health Ministry was about 17 lakh lbs. skim milk powder and one lakh tablets of chloroquinine.

The Ministry of Defence also provided prompt and effective services to the affected areas by air-dropping food supplies, by distributing blankets, garments and medicines and by rescuing stranded people.

J. & K. FLOOD CONTROL BOARD

At a meeting between Hafiz Mohd. Ibrahim, Union Minister for Irrigation and Power, and Bakshi Ghulam Mohd., Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, in New Delhi on October 24, it has been decided that to ensure speedy implementation of flood control schemes in Jammu and Kashmir State a Jammu and Kashmir Flood Control Board will be set up at Srinagar shortly. A notification to this effect will be issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Government.

The Chairman of the Control Board will be the Jammu and Kashmir Premier, and Vice Chairman, Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation and Power. Other members will be Secretary, Kashmir Affairs, Government of India; Chairman, Central Water and Power Commission; Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance; Secretary, State Finance, Jammu and Kashmir; Adviser, Irrigation and Power, Planning Commission; Chief Engineer, Floods (Planning and Designs), Central Water and Power Commission; and Chief Engineers of Irrigation, Jammu and Kashmir Government.

The Board will deal with all matters, including fixation of target dates and finances for various works, regarding flood control measures in Jammu and Kashmir.

SURVEY IN KERALA FOR HYDRO-POWER

A scheme has been sanctioned by the Government of India for carrying out surveys and investigations of hydro-electric schemes on Preriyar and Cheruthoni rivers near Iddiki in Kerala State, according to an announcement of october 19.

An engineering division, headed by an executive engineer, has been created for expeditious completion of the work.

The estimate for surveys and investigations is Rs. 16.42 lakhs, and it is expected that these would be completed by March 1960.

It is envisaged that a power house could be constructed at Iddiki with an installed capacity of about 4,20,000 kw.

Education & Culture

MEETING OF NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN'S EDUCATION

Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh, Chairman of the National Council for Women's Education, in her presidential address on October 16 at the first meeting of the Council called for a bold and new approach, free from orthodox and traditional methods, to spread education among girls of school-going age and in educating the public on women's education.

Shrimati Deshmukh emphasised the special significance of educative processes in the attainment of a socialistic pattern of society by democratic means. She said it would be necessary for the Central Government, at least initially during the Third Five Year Plan, to assume direct responsibility for guiding the work of women's education in all its aspects.

Adult Education

Shrimati Deshmukh said the education of adult women was not merely a matter of the constitutional guarantee of equality between the sexes. Several other related considerations pointed to the need. Many women had to earn a livelihood late in life as a result of family and other circumstances. For this unless they had the means of equipping themselves for an independent life they were likely to be exploited or ill-treated.

Literacy Statistics

Statistics of literacy showed that 12 per cent of the women were literate as against 35.2 per cent of the men, said Shrimati Deshmukh. One of the major obstacle to the expansion of female education was a dearth of women teachers. Similarly there was a great shortage of doctors, nurses, midwives, welfare officers, craft instructors and other personnel.

The Planning Commission had estimated that about 8½ lakh women workers would be required by the end of the Third Five Year Plan for plan schemes. If all primary school teachers were to be women and if the requirements of pre-primary education were also added the figure would be nearer 15 lakhs, said Shrimati Deshmukh.

Disparity Between Boys And Girls

Referring to the constantly widening disparity between the rates of progress of boys' and girls' education, the Chairman of the Council said even the targets in the first two Plans tended to increase this disparity. The First Plan sought to raise the number of pupils, between 6 and 11 from 42 per cent in 1950-51 to 51 per cent in 1955-56, the percentage raise of boys was 10 and of girls 8 per cent. At the end of the Second Plan the target was to raise the enrolment of boys by 17 per cent and of girls by 7 per cent only.

Similarly, in the age group 11 to 14 at the end of the First Plan the enrolment of boys went up by 8 per cent and of girls by only 3 per cent. At the end of the First Plan the enrolment of boys went up by 8 per cent and of girls by only 3 per cent. At the end of the Second Five Year Plan, said Shrimati Deshmukh, the enrolment of boys would go up by 6 per cent and of girls by only 2 per cent.

SPECIAL MEASURES

Towards the end of 1957, stated Shrimati Deshmukh, the Union Ministry of Education had suggested special schemes for the development of girls and women's education and provided Rs. 2.5 crores for the purpose. The Educational Panel of the Planning Commission also set up a sub-committee to consider the problems of women's education. In turn the sub-committee recommended the setting up of a committee to examine the questions in detail. It was thus that a special committee came to be appointed for the first time to study the problem of education of women and girls.

At the present rate it would require a century and a half for girls' education to reach parity with boys' education, for the gap is being filled at the rate of 5 per cent in 10 years. Special measures, would, therefore, have to be adopted.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION

Shrimati Deshmukh said that the bulk of education work in the country had been done by voluntary organisations since the beginnings of formal education in India. Now more than ever, particularly in the field of girls and women's education, the active co-operation of voluntary agencies was indispensable.

In enlisting this co-operation, Shrimati Deshmukh said, the State was not doing a favour to those organisations, but was seeking their participation in completing an important programme in a joint effort. To insist on too much matching contribution from them would not be appropriate because for years together they had been putting out their best effort.

The immediate task in the Third Five Year Plan, said Shrimati Deshmukh, was also entirely one of enrolment of girls in primary schools to be set up in rural areas. In addition to incentive for students by way of scholarships, attendance prize, allowances for books and clothing, mid-day meals, transport facilities, etc., conditions in schools had to be improved to render them acceptable to parents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The National Council for Women's Education which concluded its first meeting in New Delhi on October 18, has recommended a Third Plan allocation of Rs. 100 crores for undertaking a special programme for the development of girls' and women's education.

The Council also recommended that about Rs. 10 crores be earmarked during the remaining years of the Second Five Year Plan to train teachers for the Third Plan educational programmes and for starting girls schools.

The National Council suggested that Advisory Councils be established at State level for effective implementation of programmes for girls' and women's education.

The National Council adopted resolutions on the scope and extent of Central responsibility; the targets, policies and special programmes for primary education of girls; special educational facilities for adult women; pre-primary education; utilisation of voluntary effort, and the launching of experimental pilot projects.

SPECIAL MACHINERY

According to the Council an officer of the rank of Joint Educational Adviser should be appointed at the Centre to supervise such educational programmes and a separate unit created in the Union Ministry of Education to deal with the subject. At the State level, besides the Advisory Councils, there should be a Joint Director in charge of education of girls and women.

Regarding the scope and extent of Central responsibility for the education of girls and women, the Council endorsed the recommendations of the National Committee on Women's Education that it should be the responsibility of the Centre to achieve parity between the education of boys and girls, as early as possible, and to prepare comprehensive development plans for the education of girls and women and to provide financial assistance to States in implementing the approved plans.

In this connection, the Council made the following recommendations to the Government which it considered as feasible targets for the Third Plan:

(a) The education of girls should be as fully developed as that of boys in the age-group of 6-11 by the end of the Third Five Year Plan;

(b) The number of girls enrolled in schools in the age-group of 11-14 should be at least half of that of boys in the same age-group by the end of the Third Five Year Plan;

(c) The number of girls enrolled in schools of the age-group 14-17 in the Secondary stage should be at least one-third of that of boys in the same age-group by the end of the Third Five Year Plan.

(d) The education of girls at the University stage should be expanded as largely as possible during the Third Five Year Plan.

(e) Special educational facilities in the form of Condensed Courses to prepare adult women for mainly Middle Pass or Matriculation examination should be so organised as to ensure two such courses in every block of 100 villages.

The Council also referred to the introduction of universal primary education for the age-group of 6-11 years for boys and girls.

PROGRESS OF WOMEN'S EDUCATION

Women's education in pre-independence India was confined largely to non-governmental efforts in urban areas. According to the census of 1941 the percentage of literacy for women was as low as 6.0 as against 22.6 for men.

The total number of girls under instruction at the end of March 1947, was 42,97,785. Of these, 34,75,165 girls were at the primary, 6,02,280 at the secondary and 23,207 at the collegiate stage and 56,000 were in special schools which opened out varied careers for women. Out of the total number of 2,18,165 educational institutions at the time, 28,196 were specially meant for girls.

In 1949-50 there were 66 colleges of General Education with an enrolment of 36,313 girls; their number increased to 113 and 78,780 respectively in 1956-57. In 1949-50 there were 17 colleges of professional and technical education with an enrolment of 3,606 girls. In 1956-57 their number rose to 710 and 56,376 respectively.

During the same period the number of women teachers rose from 1,16,602 to 2,02,972. Out of this increased number of women teachers, 1,21,265 were in primary schools, 31,080 in middle schools, 39,133 in secondary schools, 4608 in universities and colleges and the remaining in other types of schools.

The Planning Commission set up an Educational Panel which recommended in July 1957 that a committee should be appointed to study the education systems available for girls at the elementary, secondary and adult stages.

The National Committee on Women's Education was set up by the Government in May 1958. The Committee went into the question of women's education in its totality and *inter alia* recommended in January 1959 that (a) the education of women must be treated as a special problem for some years to come; (b) a special machinery should be created for dealing with the complicated and immense problems in this field; and (c) special funds should be allocated both in the Second and in the Third Plans for this purpose.

In view of the present wide disparity between education of boys and girls, the Council recommended that every effort to reach as high a target of enrolment as possible be made and that it should not be less than 50 per cent in any part of any State. Moreover, the Council also recommended that the shortfall in expenditure which may be caused on this account, should be allocated to the same State for expenditure in connection with training of teachers and other special programmes for the development of education of girls.

UTILISATION OF VOLUNTARY EFFORT

On the question of enlisting the co-operation of voluntary agencies working in the field of women's education the Council felt that voluntary organisations have a very important role. Endorsing the recommendations of the National Committee on Women's Education, the Council recommended the appointment of a sub-committee to go into the whole question of utilising private effort in this field, especially in rural areas.

The Council, in this connection, pointed out the numerous difficulties experienced by voluntary organisatons at present in receiving financial assistance and recommended that the Ministry of Education should appoint a suitable high-powered committee to examine the problem and to simplify the existing procedure for payment of grants-in-aid and other allied matters.

The Council appointed a sub-committee to work out details regarding target, policy and spcial programmes for the education of girls and women at primary, middle, secondary and adult stages and to make suitable recommendations for pre-primary and university stages of education.

Draft Legislation For Compulsory Education

The All India Council for Elementary Education concluded its meeting in New Delhi on October 26. It approved draft model legislation for providing compulsory education by the end of the Third Plan to children between 6 and 11.

The draft legislation empowers State Governments to declare primary education compulsory in specified areas making it incumbent on children to attend approved schools. Penalties are provided for parents and guardians for failure to send children employing them otherwise.

The Council also recommended that active steps be taken to reorient all elementary schools towards the basic pattern. A minimum reorientation programme for each school was envisaged by the Council as suggested by the Seminar on Reorientation of Elementary Schools held at Allahabad this year. The programme would consist of activities leading to citizenship training, social living, training in simple crafts and social service activities linking schools with the home and community.

The Council agreed that the income accruing from sale of handicrafts articles produced in basic schools and training institutions should be utilised for providing mid-day meals, uniform allowance and other facilities to children and teachers.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

The Council reaffirmed its earlier view that all Third Plan primary schools should be opened in the first year of the next Plan so as to make facilities available for free and compulsory education to all children between 6 and 11 by the end of 1965-66.

To ensure uniformity of designation, the Council recommended that education for the age group 6-11 should be termed "primary" education. Designation of education for this age group varied from State to State. In Madras it is called "elementary" education and in Bombay "lower primary."

Tribal Children

In the light of the Third Plan objectives members of the Council felt that problems relating to the education of tribal children, such as trained teachers, suitable text books and appropriate crafts, should be dealt with by the State Governments in consultation with the special departments and other authorities in the States.

The Council recommended that scientific studies should be undertaken to find a solution to the problem of wastage and premature withdrawals in primary schools and teachers' training institutions.

INDIAN TEACHERS' PARTY FROM NATAL

A party of 30 Indian teachers, including 12 women, from Natal, South Africa, has reached Bombay on October 26, 1959, on a five-month tour of India, Pakistan and Ceylon.

The tour has been planned to coincide with the centenary of the emigration of Indians to Natal. The party consists mostly of Principals, Vice-Principals and teachers from various educational institutions in Natal.

The itinerary of the party includes visits, among other places, to Delhi, Surat, Baroda, Ahmedabad, Udaipur, Jaipur, Srinagar, Chandigarh, Mussoorie, Nainital, Agra, Varanasi, Patna, Tata Nagar, Madras, Trivandrum, Ooty, Bangalore and Wardha.

YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs on October 24, 1959, two candidates have been awarded scholarships offered by the Government of Yugoslavia for study or research in Textile design and Painting in Yugoslavia during 1959-60. These scholarships are administered by the above Ministry.

Loans To Indian Students Abroad

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on October 22 says that the Partial Financial Assistance (Loan) Scheme of the Government of India relating to the grant of loans to private Indian students already abroad or who are proceeding abroad for studies; which used to be administered by the Ministry of Education has now been bifurcated between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

Each Ministry will henceforth give loans in respect of the subjects and fields within its own jurisdiction: Scientific, Technological, Medical subjects and the Fine Arts are the concern of the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs. Humanities, i.e., History, Philosophy, Pure Mathematics, etc., are the concern of the Ministry of Education.

All aplications for loans should henceforth be addressed to the Ministry concerned. Enquiries relating to applications already submitted for the purpose may likewise be addressed to the Ministry concerned.

Recognition Of Diplomae And Certificates

According to a New Delhi announcement of October 25 the Government of India have, on the recommendation of the Board of Assessment for Technical and Professional Qualifications, decided to recognise the following diplomae and certicates, for purpose of recruitment to the appropriate subordinate posts and services under the Union Government:

1. Diplomae in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering awarded by the State Boards Councils of Technical Education, Assam, Bihar and Punjab.

2. Diplomae of Licentiate in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering and Diploma in Mining Engineering awarded by the Board of Engineering Education, Orissa.

3. Licentiate in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering awarded by the State Council for Engineering and Technical Education, West Bengal.

4. Diplomae in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electrical Communication Engineering, Metallurgy, Automobile Engineering, Internal Combustion Engineering, Textile Manufacture, Textile Chemistry, Oil, Soap and Paint Technology, Radio Engineering, Advance Leather Manufacture (Tanning) and Advance Leather Goods and Foot Wear Manufacture awarded by the Department of Technical Education, Government of Bombay.

5. Diplomae in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Textile Technology, awarded by the Board of Technical Examinations, Madhya Pradesh from 1957-58 and Madhya Pradesh Board of Technical Education, Bhopal, from 1959.

6. Diplomae of Licentiate in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Automobile Engineering and Fisheries Technology and Navigation awarded by the State Board of Technical Education and Training, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

7. Diplomae in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Automobile Engineering, Food Technology, Fisheries Technology, Textile Technology and Chemical Technology, awarded by the State Board of Technical Education, Kerala, from 1959 onwards.

8. Licentiate in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Radio Engineering, Sound Engineering, Mining Engineering, Cinematography, Ceramics Technology, Printing Technology and Textile Technology, awarded by the Board of Technical Examinations, Bangalore, Mysore.

9. Licentiate in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Sanitary Engineering, Automobile Engineering, Telecommunication Engineering, Cinematography and Sound Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Leather Technology, Textile Manufacture, Food Technology, Leather Goods Manufacture, Printing Technology and Fisheries Technology and Navigation, awarded by the Technological Diploma Examination Board, Madras.

DELHI POLYTECHNIC ARCHITECTURE CLASSES

It has been announced on October 29 that on the recommendation of the Implementation Committee appointed by the Central Government in February 1958, to suggest the manner of implementation of the development plan of Delhi Polytechnic, the Government of India have transferred the Architecture and Country Planning, Delhi, with effect from October 16.

The main recommendations of the Committee were: (a) a separate College of Engineering should be established at Delhi as soon as possible and the Polytechnic developed for Diploma and Certificate Courses in a wide range of subjects; (b) admissions to B. Com. Degree Courses should be discontinued with effect from 1959-60; (c) the existing Technical Higher School should be converted into a Junior Technical School, and (d) the Architecture Courses should be transferred to the School of Town and Country Planning, Delhi.

The Committee, which was headed by Prof. M.S. Thacker, Secretary, Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, and Director-General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, consisted of Shri N.N. Wanchoo, Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University, and Dr. K.L. Rao, Member, Central Water and Power Commission.

Another reason for this transfer is that the subjects of Architecture and Town Planning are very much related and in various countries these courses are conducted in the same institution.

EDUCATION IN INDIA

In the Second Plan Rs. 275 crores have been provided for education — Rs. 68 crores at the Centre and Rs. 207 crores in the States — as against Rs. 169 crores (Rs. 44 crores at the Centre and Rs. 125 crores in the States) in the First Plan. Numerically the outlay on education has increased in the Second Plan, but its percentage to the total outlay of the Plans records a decline from 7 in the First to 6 in the Second.

For every 100 rupees of the Central provision for 1958-59, 26 were for technical education, 21 for primary education, 18 for secondary education, 12 for university education, nine for miscellaneous items and seven each for scholarships and social welfare.

Of the States and Union Territories, three set apart more than 25 per cent of their budget for education for 1958-59, nine between 20 and 25 per cent, six between 10 and 20 per cent, while the remaining two less than 10 per cent. Bombay earmarked the largest amount for education in 1958-59, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Madras and West Bengal among the States, whereas Delhi, Tripura and Himachal Pradesh occupied corresponding positions among the Union Territories.

Taking all types of educational institutions in the country for every 1,300 persons in 1949-50 there was one institution as against 1,000 in 1956-57. Bombay had the largest number of educational institutions in 1956-57 (66,279) as against Uttar Pradesh, a more thickly populated State, which had 40,718. On an average, for every 500 people there was one educational institution in Manipur and Tripura, one for every 700 in Assam and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and one for every 800 in Bombay, Mysore, Orissa and West Bengal. Of the remaining units, ten fell in the range 1,000-1,500 three between 1,500-2,000, while in N.E.F.A. one institution catered for about 4,500 people.

In 1956-57, 11 out of every 13 educational institutions were situated in rural areas. Eight universities and colleges, 68 secondary schools, 88 primary and pre-primary schools and 77 vocational and special schools, out of every 100 in each category, are located in rural areas.

The average expenditure on education per head of population depicts a progressive rise from Rs. 3.2 in 1950-51 to Rs. 5.2 in 1956-57, representing an increase of about 63 per cent.

Out of one lakh population of each of the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes, the number of persons educated beyond the matriculation stage was approximately 33, 15 and 53 respectively in 1955-56. (The figure for the total population of the country was 158). In 1957-58 as many as 44,415 such students were in receipt of scholarships as against 655 in 1947-48. The progressive rise in expenditure on scholarships awarded to such persons for post-matriculation studies has gone up about 40 times since the country attained independence.

Meeting of C.S.I.R. Governing Body

The Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research at its meeting held in New Delhi on October 17, has approved the setting up of a Central Scientific Instruments Organisation and an Institute of

Petroleum. The Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, presided.

The function of the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation will be the promotion and development of indigenous manufacture of scientific instruments of all categories needed for teaching, research and industry.

The Institute of Petroleum will be located at Dehra Dun. Its functions will include training, research and documentation in petroleum and natural gas.

The Governing Body also sanctioned 38 Research Schemes in various fields and six seminars and symposia. Some new research schemes sanctioned include a scheme on the D.C. — Induction Machines, a study of contact pressure distributions under footings founded on soils that swell shrink, economics design of large span roofs, biochemical studies on the mode of action of different antibiotics, underground corrosion of metals and alloys under Indian conditions, an investigation of soft woods (light woods) of Kerala State, development of investment precision casting techniques, a systematic study, both fundamental and applied, of the clays and clay minerals of Madhya Pradesh, with special reference to their economic suitability, and a fundamental study of clay minerals associated with ore bodies.

The proposals for holding the following seminars and symposia were approved:

(1) Seminar on Electro-Chemistry at the Central Electro-Chemical Research Institute, Karaikudi.

(2) Symposia on "High Polymers" to be held under the auspices of the Chemical Research Committee.

(3) Symposia on 'Pilot Plants in Metallurgical Research and Development' to be held at the National Metallurgical Laboratory during February, 1960.

(4) Symposium on "Laboratory Animals" to be held at the Indian Institute of Biochemistry and Experimental Medicine, Calcutta, in February, 1960.

(5) Seminar on Castor Oil at the Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad, to be held in December, 1959.

(6) Seminar on "Problems of high speed flight and allied Topics", to be held at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, in the second week of December, 1959.

STUDY OF FOSSILS NEAR CHANDIGARH

Geological studies of the Upper Siwalik ranges have revealed the probable presence of Early Man in India, says an announcement dated October 22.

The rocks of Upper Siwaliks, found around Chandigarh, are of the Lower Pleistocene category which is roughly one million years old.

One of the Stages of the Upper Siwaliks, the Pinjor Stage has been named after the village Pinjaur which is 5 miles north of Chandigarh.

The Pinjor Stage rocks are known to occur in Moginand, Nadah and Nagal within ten miles south of Chandigarh and also in Chandigarh.

The rocks of this Stage have yielded a rich fauna comprising Primates Rodentia, Carnivora, Proboscidea, Equidae, Rhinocerotidae, Suidae, Hippopotamidae Cervidae, Giraffidae and Bovidae. The fauna of the Pinjor Stage is believed to have extended upto South East Asia.

Scientific And Technical Books In Hindi

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on October 29 says that to encourage production of literature in Hindi on scientific and technical subjects, the said Ministry have decided to award 20 prizes of Rs. 1,500 each on unpublished advanced books in Hindi. These prizes will be open to any living author for original books as well as translations of standard books from other languages.

The prizes will be divided into the following three categories:

Category I: Six prizes of Rs. 1,500; one each for the following Physical or Natural Science *viz.*, Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Geology. Books under this Category may either be general books or may deal with any one branch of any of the subjects mentioned above. The standard must not be lower than that of B.Sc. of Indian Universities.

Category II: Six prizes of Rs. 1,500 one on each of the following subjects, *viz.*, Agriculture, Medicine, Meteorology, Civil Engineering, Metallurgy and Architecture. The standard here again should not be lower than that of graduate standard of Engineering and Technological Institutes.

Category III: Eight prizes of Rs. 1,500, one each for the following social sciences, *viz.*, Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, International Law, Psychiatry, Experimental Psychology and Education. The standard of books submitted under this category should not be lower than that of the post-graduate standard of the Indian Universities.

The prize-winning authors will be free to get their books published and the Government will guarantee purchases of at least 500 copies each of the books, subject to the condition that the books are published according to the pattern set by the Government of India. The Government will not, however, bear any share of the cost of publication of the books.

A Committee of three competent persons will be set up to examine entries for each subject. Their assessment will be submitted to the Ministry within a month of the receipt of entries by them and the Ministry's decision in all cases will be final.

The prize money will be paid to the authors of prize-winning books in the form of National Saving Certificates; but payment can also be arranged in cash if it is so desired by the prize winners.

The awards will be subject to the condition that the books are adjudged to be of a sufficiently high standard and conform generally to the conception of Hindi as outlined under Article 351 of the Constitution of India.

Competing authors will be required to submit five copies each of their manuscripts along with a brief biographical note giving their academic qualifications, experience, etc.

Central Assistance For Museum Development

Grants totalling about Rs. 10 lakhs have been made available so far in the current year, to 10 State Governments and private organisations for reorganising and developing museums on modern scientific lines, reads an announcement of October 26. Matching contributions either by the State Governments or private bodies have not been insisted upon.

These grants, the Centre's first substantial allocation includes a sum of Rs. 1 lakh to Vishva Bharati University for constructing an Art Gallery in connection with the Poet Tagore Centenary Celebrations in 1961.

Grants totalling about Rs. 5,20,000 have been made available to the Government of Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Allocations totalling Rs. 3,70,200 have been sanctioned to the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, Gandhi Smriti, Bhavnagar; Bharat Itihas Samsodahak, Mandala, Poona; Bharat Kala Bhavan, Banaras Hindu University; Allahabad Municipal Museum, Allahabad; Gurukula Museum, Hardwar; Bundelkhand Chhatrashal Museum, Banda; Bengal Natural History Society, Darjeeling and Asutosh Museum of Indian Art, Calcutta University, Calcutta.

The Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs has also recommended financial assistance exceeding Rs. 3 lakhs to the Indian Museum, Calcutta; Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta and the Mysore State Museum at Bangalore.

In view of the neglected condition of existing museums in India, a scheme for reorganisation and development on scientific lines was included in the Second Five Year Plan. The scheme envisaged Central Government assistance by way of In-Service Training Courses, Scholarships for training abroad and publications, among other things. Financial assistance to State Government and private museums was also provided for as an integral part of the Scheme.

DHARARA MOSQUE AT VARANASI

In view of the deteriorating condition of the Dharara Mosque at Varanasi, the Central Government has decided to carry out certain measures to preserve the famous national monument, which has been a protected monument since 1920, reads an announcement dated October 28.

It had two lofty minars, one of which collapsed on October 30, 1949 causing loss of life and property. The Department of Archaeology took immediate steps to preserve the surviving minar.

Later, the local Municipal Committee and the State Government also drew the attention of the Department of Archaeology, Government of India, to the dangerous condition of the monument and requested that necessary steps should be taken to prevent recurrence of such accidents in future.

The Government have had the matter examined by two expert committees and decided to keep the first storey of the existing minar of the Mosque intact, but to pull down its upper two storeys so as to reduce the weight on the essential part of the monument. It was further proposed to reconstruct the fallen minar on the opposite side to the same height as 1/3rd of the existing minar to restore the symmetry of the facade.

SIXTH RADIO SANGEET SAMMELAN

The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, inaugurated the sixth Radio Sangeet Sammelan at the Broadcasting House in New Delhi on October 24.

At the inaugural function Shri J.C. Mathur, Director-General of All India Radio, said: "Music constitutes the bulk of All India Radio programme i.e. over 50 per cent of nearly one lakh hours of broadcasting in the course of the year. There are nearly 10,000 musicians all over the country who have been participating in the A.I.R. programmes from one station or the other. We have, therefore, an important task in trying to maintain and improve the standards of our musical programmes.

"Last year, an important decision was taken to confine solo recitals to only artists who have been graded 'B' and above, and to offer to lower grade artists only programmes of participation in what are known as *Sangeet Goshthies*. This has enabled us this year to offer musical fare of better quality to our listeners and also to give opportunities to promising artists in the *Goshthies*."

NATIONAL PROGRAMME

Continuing Shri Mathur said that it had been decided that the National Programme of Music, which was broadcast every Saturday from 9-30 p.m. to 11 p.m. would be enriched by playing-back selected pre-recorded programmes from some top artists, both living and dead, the recording being, as far as possible, exclusive to A.I.R. These special programmes would in the future account for 50 per cent of the National Programmes, the remaining 50 per cent continuing to be "live" programmes as hitherto. Selected recordings of the annual Tyagaraja and Tansen festivals would henceforward form part of the National Programme. To those lovers of classical music who wished to hear additional recitals from National Programme artists, choice programmes from these artists would be offered on the last Sunday of every month from 10.00 to 11.00 in the morning.

Vadya Vrinda And Vrinda Gaan

"All India Radio," the Director General added, "is in the process of evolving and developing orchestral and choral music, i.e. *Vadya Vrinda* and *Vrinda Gaan*, in a manner consistent with the traditions of Indian music but at the same time expressive of the urge of the democratic age. The *Vadya Vrinda* and *Vrinda Gaan* along with *Subaddha Sangeet*, which includes specially prepared classical pieces of short durations of three to four minutes only, are attempts of All India Radio to popularise classical music. It is through such attempts that we can expect to promote among the average run of listeners some real love for high class music. Likewise, operas and musical plays of which there has been a living tradition in India in the form of folk entertainment like *Nautanki*, *Yakshagan*, *Yatra*, *etc.*, now figure in A.I.R's programmes more frequently and prominently than before. In fact, every radio station has been asked to try and put up four well-prepared operas or musical plays in the regional style and thus not only to give fillip to certain popular forms of musical expression which were on the point of extinction but also to lend variety and colour to music programmes. Once in every two months, a National Programme of Opera is also broadcast."

Vividh Bharati

Shri Mathur said that the popularity of *Vividh Bharati*, which entered the third year of its existence in October this year, had been phenomenal. Broadcasting for eight hours on every week day and ten hours and fifteen minutes on Sundays and holidays, *Vividh Bharati* offered the most sumptuous and varied collection of light and film music and could now be heard even on the medium-wave from some stations. The *Vividh Bharati* was the largest undertaking of what might be called 'Library Broadcasting'; tape-recordings flow into the *Vividh Bharati* Unit from all over the country day after day; they were heard and transferred to other tapes and the final copy was sent out in duplicate to Bombay and Madras. Thirty thousand letters came from listeners every month and the number of *Vividh Bharati* fans was ever on the increase.

The A.I.R., through the annual music competition, looked out for new and promising talent. The competition was keen and the standards were very high. Thus out of 872 candidates for this year's Hindustani music competition, only 13 had won the prizes though the total number of prizes offered was 19. Likewise, out of 257 candidates for karnatak music competition, only six had won the prizes, though the total number of prizes offered was 14.

This year the A.I.R. held for the first time a special competition for *Vrinda Gaan* or choral music. Sixteen *Vrinda Gaan* groups competed this time out of whom four had been selected for prizes for *Vrinda Gaan* in the Karnatak style while the judges did not declare any party suitable for the awards in the Hindustani style. From the next year it was proposed to playback to the competing groups some model choral songs which would give them an idea of the lines on which choral music should be developed and similar models were proposed to be given to candidates for light music or *Sugam Sangeet*.

Dealing with the problems confronting the growth of the Indian music today, Shri Mathur observed that one serious problem was the deterioration in the standard of recitals by young artists and the paucity of high class talent coming up among the novitiates. It was hardly possible for A.I.R. to do much in the field of training except through its occasional music lessons, as such the serious attention of the Education Departments of the State Governments towards the standards of teaching music in the schools had been solicited. Another problem was the growing tendency among the young people for a hybrid kind of music which did not seem to have any roots in India and which seemed to ignore the beautiful melodies of our folk songs and other forms of light music. All India Radio, through *Vividh Bharati* and other programmes of light music, was trying to offer to teenagers some of the best in Indian film and light songs but unless schools and parents became aware of the need for good Indian light music, it might later on be difficult to recapture the beauty of our folk and light music of which we could justly be proud, he added.

Hindustani & Karnatac Music Competition

At the inaugural function of the sixth Radio Sangeet Sammelan held at the Broadcasting House in New Delhi on October 24, the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, gave away prizes to the winners in various categories in the Hindustani Music Competition organised by All India Radio. The competition was judged by a group of 13 eminent musicians during October 21 to 23 in New Delhi.

The first prize in violin was won by Shri Anil J. Mohile of Bombay and that in Sarod by Shri Kawal Mullick from Calcutta. In Tabla, Shri Ranendra Nath Ghosh from Calcutta and Lallan Persad Mishra from Patna won the first and second prizes respectively.

Smt. Vimla G. Deshpande of Poona won the first prize in the Classical Vocal (girls) and Smt. Pratibha Uddav Kulkarni from Bombay won the second prize while Smt. Minati Chakravarty from Calcutta was the lone recipient of the second prize in the Light Classical Vocal (girls) as no first prize was awarded in this category. In the Light Vocal (girls), Smt. Daya Modak from Poona was adjudged the best while Smt. Prabha Rani Dayal from Delhi qualified for the second place.

In the Classical Vocal contest for the boys, Shri Shashikant Tembe from Indore and Shri Vimal Kumar Srivastava from Lucknow won the first and second prizes respectively while Shri Chabar Singh Khangway from Delhi won the first prize and Shri Ashok Kumar Mishra from Cuttack the second prize in the Light Vocal (boys).

Karnatac Music Competition

In the Karnatak Music Competition, held earlier at Madras, the first prize in Classical Vocal and the second in Light Vocal were won by Jayamani P. Chari from Bombay. The second prize in Classical Vocal went to D. Shanta from Madras. No first prize was awarded in Light Vocal.

In the instrumental music competition, M. Seetha Devi from Trivandrum won the first prize in Veena, R. Kannan from Tiruchirapalli, won the first prize in Mridangam and T.H. Vinayakram of Madras was awarded the second prize in Ghatam.

Queen Mary's College, Madras, and the Swati Tirunal Music Academy of Trivandrum were adjudged the best groups in the Choral music based on Karnatak ragas and folk songs of the South, respectively, while the second prizes in both the categories were won by the Women's College, Trivandrum.

The finalists were selected out of over 1100 candidates who participated in the preliminary contests, both in the Hindustani and the Karnatak music, held earlier, at all A.I.R. stations.

Reduction In Radio Licence Fee

An announcement of October 29 says that the Posts and Telegraphs Department have decided that more than one broadcast receiver set will be allowed to be held in the same premises on a single licence and that the licence fee for every second and subsequent radio set in the same premises held by the same licencee for domestic use will be Rs. 3 per set per year. These decisions will apply to the licences to be issued for 1960 onwards.

At present, a fee of Rs. 15 has to be paid for every domestic licence and a separate licence is required for each set even if it is held in the same premises by the same person.

The concessional fee of Rs. 3 for each additional set will apply also to community and rural domestic licences.

The fee for additional sets in shops and business establishments will be Rs. 5 for each such set. The fee for the first set in such cases will continue to be Rs. 50.

There will be no change in the fee for additional crystal sets and for additional sets in school and public libraries as the fee in these cases is already Rs. 3 per set.

For hospitals and sanatoria, there will be no fee whatsoever for additional sets. One licence with a fee of Rs. 15 will cover all sets in a hospital or sanatoria. This concession will not be allowed to private nursing homes or hospitals or sanatoria which give treatment only on payment. It will also not apply to radio sets in the private quarters of doctors or other staff.

In all cases it will be necessary for the additional set to be entered on the licence. When two licences in the same premises are held by two different persons belonging to the same family and they want to avail themselves of the concession for additional sets, all the licences should first be got transferred to one person.

GRANT TO CHANNEL SWIMMER

The Union Mninister of Education, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 5,000 out of Minister's Discretionary Fund to Kumari Arati Saha to enable her to meet a part of the expenditure incurred by her in her attempt to swim the English Channel this season, says an announcement of Ocober 20.

Pre-Everest Training Expedition

The Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs has sanctioned about Rs. 46,000 in connection with the pre-Everest Training Expedition proposed to be taken out in November this year, reads an announcement of October 30. The preliminary Expedition is being made with a view to sending an Indian Expedition to Mount Everest in 1960.

Health

ERADICATION OF SMALLPOX AND CHOLERA

The Central Expert Committee on Smallpox and Cholera appointed last year by the Union Ministry of Health has recommended the launching with the least possible delay of a national smallpox eradication programme, says an announcement of October 18.

The committee has suggested that the objective of the programme should be vaccination of the entire population as far as possible. The work should be completed within a period of three years. A Central Infectious Diseases Control Act should be promulgated, more or less on the lines of the Central Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, to ensure uniform procedures all over the country. An act making registration of vital events compulsory, providing for appropriate facilities for registration, setting up of easily accessible registering offices and awarding of punishment for lapses in registration has also been proposed.

Epidemiological Units

The committee has urged the formation of district anti-epidemic committees to help in the implementation of the programme, and epidemiological units in each State for continuous study of the disease. To estimate manpower and financial rquirements of the programme, each State, the committee suggests, should institute a pilot project in areas with a population of not less than 60,000. Suitable administrative machinery at district and State levels as well as in the Central Ministry of Health, with adequate powers to deal with day-to-day administrative problems to ensure success of the campaign, should be set up. The Central organisation should be named the Central Smallpox and Cholera Control Commission.

The committee has reecommended that a provision of Rs. 7.5 crores for smallpox eradication campaign should be made. The entire programme, in the opinion of the committee, should be divided into two phases, the first relating to the period of planning and the second to execution, and completed in three years' time.

Registration Of Births And Deaths

Referring to registration of births and deaths, the committee says that the Secretary of the Gram Panchayat should be appointed Registrar for his area. The committee has also prescribed his duties.

It has further suggested that before a child is admitted to a primary school even in villages, the parents should be required to produce a certificate of his/her year of birth because this will compel them to have the births registered. The power to prosecute for lapses in reporting should vest in district health officers instead of tehsildars as at present. An authority in each State should be entrusted with the task of enforcement of legal provisions of the proposed Central Infectious Diseases Control Act. The Act should make both primary vaccination and re-vaccination compulsory.

As to notification of cases, the committee is of the view that it should be the responsibility of the panchayats because the chowkidar or the gram sevak or the village headman will presumably be under the panchayat's control.

After laying down the procedures to ensure purity and potency of vaccine lymph, the committee has detailed methods of utilisation of lymph in the field. The committee says that the practice of giving primary vaccination within the age period 4 to 6 months should be continued. It, however, sees no scientific reason for not vaccinating a child earlier if it is necessary because of prevalence of smallpox in the area.

Periodic Revaccination

Since immunity gradually diminishes, it is necessary to boost it up with periodic revaccinations. The first revaccination should be done at the age of 5 and the subsequent ones every five yars till the age of 15. As a practical measure, arrangements should be made to vaccinate all children at the time of their entering school, again at the age of 10, and then when they leave school. The question of revaccination after 15 has still to be considered in the light of results obtained under the programme.

The committee has also given its opinion on the technique of vaccination and the number of insertions in primary vaccination. It has also made recommendations regarding augmentation of vaccine lymph supplies and has suggested that the States which do not have lymph producing facilities should take necessary steps to set up manufacturing centres. Recommendations have also been made on the use of freeze-dried vaccine and storage and distribution of vaccine lymph. The committee feels that the control and ultimate eradication of smallpox need not depend on the availability of freeze-dried vaccine and that liquid vaccine which is more easily prepared can serve the purpose equally well when kept and transported under suitable conditions.

Technical Personnel

Regarding the technical personnel needed for the programme, the committee says that about 20,000 vaccinators should be recruited within th estipulated period. They should belong to the district and given training at the district headquarters. Education up to the middle vernacular or seventh standard should be accepted as sufficient for training. The period of the training should be one month during which essential knowledge of health education technique should also be imparted.

The committee further says that the number of vaccinators required should be recruited one month prior to the inauguration of the campaign so that, after training, their services can be utilised for mass vaccination work. Advance measures for securing vehicles for the use of the field staff as well as refrigerators, generators etc. have been suggested by the committee.

Results Of Studies

Studies carried out by the committee reveal that smallpox showed a definite seasonal prevalence and that the incidence reached epidemic proportions during the first six months of the year. Another interesting feature noticed by the committee was that smallpox generally showed periodicity, the incidence being significantly high every five or six years. This has been attributed by public health authorities to the accumulation

of susceptibles as a result of faulty registration of births leading to non-vaccination of unregistered infants, indifferent techniques of vaccination, waning immunity after primary vaccination and absence of a definite programme of revaccination.

From the figures of primary vaccinations and revaccinations, the committee comes to the conclusion that it appears that a very big effort is made in each State every year. While this can be assumed to be the cause of a general lowering of the magnitude of the epidemic of smallpox during recent years, the total gain is not commensurate with the vaccinations performed. This state of affairs justifies the belief that there are lacunae in the present vaccination programme.

Programme For Cholera

With regard to cholera the committee has suggested that the eradication programme should, in the first instance, be implemented in West Bengal and Orissa.

In West Bengal, the area selected should be about 500 sq. miles, extending 10 miles south and 40 miles north of Calcutta. The city, in the opinion of the committee, forms the major forms of infection and its problem is specific and should be tackled on a high priority basis.

In Orissa, the eradication programme should be carried out in the area round Puri and Cuttack.

The committee says that there is reason to believe that the total picture of cholera in the rest of the country will be materially altered for the better if measures are taken in these two key areas.

The committee has also recommended the strengthening of public health engineering organisations in States and establishing of a machinery to bring about close co-operation between these organisations and the State Health Directorates.

Isolation And Treatment

Regarding isolation and treatment of cases, the commitee has suggested that mobile hospitals with adequate personnel and equipment should be set up in each State in rural areas. Special isolation wards should be opened in district and taluq hospitals to serve the needs of the urban areas. Labour employed in industrial establishments, both in the public and private sector, as well as immigrant labour working in agricultural and other operations, the committee feels should be inoculated under a special programme. Inoculation of workers should be repeated once every six months.

The committee has made recommendations similar to those for smallpox on the establishment of epidemic units, anti-epidemic committees at district levels. health education, pilot projects, research and Central Smallpox and Cholera Control Commission.

To deal with control measures in epidemic areas, the committee has made suggestions regarding legal provisions to ensure prompt action in fighting epidemics, early detection and notification of cases, use of sulphaguanidine in preventing spread of infection, technical aspects of cholera vaccine prophylaxis, supply, storage and distribution of vaccine, cost and dosage of vaccine, and disinfection procedure.

Incidence Of Cholera

The committee has found that the incidence of cholera in the country in the period 1948 to 1958 shows that case mortality rate was approximately the same in all the States, about 40 per cent. This high mortality was probably the result of inadequate facilities for early treatment.

The incidence of cholera is of a considerable magnitude in the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bombay, Madras and Mysore. At present the incidence is low in the Punjab, Assam and Kerala and is not a major public health problem in Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir. The incidence is more marked in most States in the second half of the year in contrast to smallpox which is prevalent in the first half of the year.

During the current decade there have been two major outbreaks of cholera in some States, one in 1952-53 and the other in 1957-58. Broadly speaking the committee feels there is exacerbation of the disease every five years or so. However the figures of the previous decades indicate that the disease is diminishing in intensity in most parts of the country probably as a result of adoption of proper public health measures. It remains to be seen whether this trend will continue.

The committee was appointed by the Union Ministry of Health when it noticed that there had been a rise in incidence of smallpox in the early part of 1958. At the same time the Union Ministry also found that the outbreak of cholera in sporadic form had occurred in certain States.

Advice To States

Judging from past experience the Ministry aprehended large-scale epidemics of these liseases during 1958 if adequate preventive measures were not taken to ward off such an eventuality. The Ministry addressed all State Governments apprising them of the prevailing position of smallpox and cholera and suggesting adoption of timely preventive measures.

Another suggestion made to the State Governments was to consider the desirability of forming expert committees to examine in detail all the aspects of smallpox and cholera, recommend measures for combating them, and indicate ways and means for their ultimate eradication.

At the same time the Ministry asked the Indian Council of Medical Research to form a Central Expert Committee to collaborate with the State Expert Committees in a concerted action against the two diseases. The Central Expert Committee, of which Dr. C.G. Pandit, Director, Indian Council of Medical Research, was chairman, met representatives of the States Expert Committees in February this year. This committee has reviewed the whole position and has now made recommendations in regard to the control and eradication of smallpox and cholera.

AYURVEDIC INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA

There are at present 76 Government and private training institutions in Ayurveda. Of these, 49 follow the integrated type of course where principles of modern medicine are also taught and 27 Shudha (purely Ayurvedic) type. There are also six Sanskrit colleges imparting training in Ayurveda. The integrated colleges, having a total student strength of 7,000, turn out about 1,100 graduates, while the Shudha Ayurvedic institutions, having a total strength of 1,500, turn out about 300 title-holders per year.

There are about 1,15,000 registered Ayurvedic practitioners and another 30,000 unregistered practitioners in the country. Of these, about 25,000 or 22 per cent of the total number are institutionally qualified. The rest are traditionally trained Vaidyas.

There is roughly one Vaidya for every 2,500 people to one modern physician for every 5,000 people. Among the States, Punjab has the maximum number of registered Ayurvedic practitioners with about one Vaidya for every 644 people. Next comes Kerala with one Ayurvedic practitioner for 1,334 people. Assam stands lowest with one practitioner for 10,911 people.

There are at present about 42 pharmacies preparing Ayurvedic medicines. The oldest among them was started in 1872 at Panvel in Bombay State. It is estimated that annually eight million lbs of Ayurvedic medicines costing about Rs. 6 crores are consumed in the country. Out of 14 States and four Union Territories, 10 States and one Union Territory have established Boards of Indian Medicine for the control and practice of indigenous systems of medicine.

In all there are about 100 Ayurvedic hospitals and 5,372 Ayurvedic dispensaries in the country. Kerala, with one dispensary per 100 square miles, stands first in the proportion of dispensaries to area in the States, while Rajasthan, with one dispensary per 25,759, scores over other States in the proportion of such dispensaries to population.

The Government of India have constituted a Central Council of Ayurvedic Research to advise them in the formulation and execution of a co-ordinated policy for promotion and stimulation of Ayurvedic research as well as in the grant of Central assistance to institutions carrying out research under the Central Government schemes.

Several Committees (Chopra Committee 1946, Pandit Committee 1949 etc.) were appointed by the Central Government for the purpose of devising ways and means of improving the Ayurvedic system as a whole, including its research aspect. In the light of the suggestions made by these committees the Government of India established the Central Institute of Research in Indigenous Systems of Medicine at Jamnagar in 1953. A Post-Graduate Training Centre in Ayurveda was also started at Jamnagar in 1956.

The school of Tropical Medicine at Calcutta has made a scientific study of these drugs. The Indian Research Fund Association also conducted extensive research on drugs and the Indian Council of Medical Research set apart a large sum of money for indigenous research. The Pharmacological Departments of various medical colleges have done appreciable work in indigenous drug analysis on the Pharmacognosical and Pharmacological aspects.

The total amount of money spent so far by the Central Government for the development of indigenous systems of medicine during the Second Plan was Rs. 6,79,827 in 1956-57; Rs. 13,72,550 in 1957-58 and Rs. 6,06,300 in 1958-59.

Council Of Ayurvedic Research

The Government of India have constituted a Central Council of Ayurvedic Research under the Ministry of Health says an announcement dated October 17. This decision has been taken in pursuance of the recommendation of the committee recently set up by the Ministry of Health to assess and evaluate the present status of Ayurveda in the country. The chairman of the committee was Dr. K.N. Udupa.

The Council will advise the Government of India on the co-ordinated policy for promotion and stimulation of Ayurvedic research under the Central Government scheme.

With the setting up of this Council, the existing Advisory Committee on Ayurveda attached to the Ministry of Health will cease to function.

Health Conditions In September 1959

According to available data, births and deaths registered in towns with a population of 30,000 and over during August, 1959, were 31 and 13 per thousand of the population respectively as against 25 and 11 during July, 1959, says an announcement of October 28. The country remained free from plague, Cholera and smallpox, however, continued to be reported from some parts.

Preliminary reports for the week ended September 26, 1959, show that the situation regarding cholera and smallpox was as follows:

Cholera: Mild incidence was reported from the districts of Srikakulam and West Godavari in Andhra Pradesh; Gohilwad district in Bombay State; Lucknow district in Uttar Pradesh; the districts of Bankura Howrah and the Calcutta city in West Bengal; and Gaya, Monghyr and Hazaribagh districts in Bihar.

Smallpox: Heavy incidence was reported from Madras city.

Mild incidence was reported from Madurai, Tanjore, Salem and Coimbatore districts of the State; Srikalam, Anantapur, Chittoor, West Godavari and Guntur districts in Andhra Pradesh; Mandya, Bellary, Bijapur, Dharwar and Belgaum districts in Mysore State and Pondicherry; Ahmednagar, Greater Bombay and Sholapur districts in Bombay State; the district of Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh; Sundergarh and Baudh in Orissa; Ambala district in Punjab State; and Burdwan district in West Bengal.

Kyasanur Forest Disease: During the fortnight ended September 12, 1959, six attacks were reported from Shimoga district in Mysore State as against five cases during the previous fortnight.

Gastro-enteritis: Forty-six cases and eight deaths were reported from Uttar Pradesh during the week ended September 19, 1959, as against 91 cases and 29 deaths during the week ended September 12, 1959, and 57 cases and 13 deaths during the week ended September 5, 1959.

Influenza: During the month, influenza epidemic was reported from South Wyanaad (Kerala). Two hundred and forty cases and eight deaths were recorded. Treatment centres are being established in the area.

Note:—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 any number less than 30 cases per week per million of population.

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

In his presidential address to the fifth meeting of the Central Council of Local Self-Government on October 22 Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Union Minister of Health, said in Hyderabad that ways and means should be devised for stepping up the finances of local bodies. This was a matter of utmost importance and urgency if local self-Government in India was to be developed on right lines. The solution did not lie in the Centre and the State Governments giving grants-in-aid for all the projects of municipal bodies.

There were some schemes, like water supply, drainage, sewerage, roads, mid-day meals in primary schools, preparation of master plans over-bridges, which it was obligatory on corporation and municipalities to undertake, and it would not be practical or conducive to efficiency to give grants for them.

Taxation Body's Recommendations

The Minister said that the recommendations made by the Taxation Enquiry Commission and the Local Finance Enquiry Commitee had been considered by the Council time and again and every effort should now be made to ensure that the resolutions passed by the Council in this regard were implemented without any avoidable delay. He commended to Council for consideration the note prepared by Shri Barfivala on the strengthening of finances of local bodies. Shri Barfivala had urged that local bodies should also function as entities for economic uplift of the citizens in their respective jurisdictions, and should take up such collective economic activities as would divert private profits into municipal coffers.

Referring to water supply in urban and rural areas, Shri Karmarkar said that the magnitude of this problem could be gauged from the fact that only a little over 6 per cent of the population was served by protected water supplies and roughly 3 per cent enjoyed the amenity of sewerage schemes. The estimated expenditure on providing protected water supply and sewage disposal facility to the entire population of the country worked out to Rs. 1,500 crores. This was obviously beyond the financial resources of the Central and State Governments in the foreseeable future. To achieve this objective, the financing of schemes should be on a more realistic basis than that of grants-in-aid and subsidy by the Central Government for which there was constant demand. The suggestions that the local bodies might be empowered to raise loans in the market or Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Boards might be established State-wise or region-wise with statutory powers to raise loans and distribute them to local bodies for water supply and sewage disposal schemes merited consideration.

Sewerage Works

The Minister added that scanty attention was being paid to sewerage works. The expenditure during the First and Second Plan periods so far had been mostly on urban water supply schemes and that too on improvements to existing schemes. Urban sewerage schemes were but few. The installation of a water supply scheme in an urban area made a sewerage scheme for the area unavoidable. The progress in this direction had been poor because the local bodies were hesitant to promote sewerage schemes which were not self-supporting in the sense in which water supply schemes were. The provision of a sewerage system conferred only indirect and invisible benefits which should be assessed in terms of money values in order to equate the advantages. It was important that water supply and sewerage schemes were properly co-ordinated and undertaken side by side with water supply projects.

Town Planning

Emphasising the need for town planning, Shri Karmarkar stated that urbanisation had been taking place at a rapid pace all over the country, and if they did not prepare to meet it by making proper regional and town plans, they would be somewhat overwhelmed by problems of housing, water supply, transport facilities etc. The consequence would be aggravation of slum conditions. They should give serious consideration to this problem and ensure that suitable steps were taken from now onwards to find solutions to the various problems which urbanisation was creating.

Recalling his remarks at the last meeting of the Council about the creation of a Central, Regional and Urban Planning Organisation to help State Governments and local bodies etc. in the preparation of regional and master plans, the Minister said that as this subject was somewhat new and there was a dearth of senior technical personnel, the Central Organisation would be able to render assistance to those States and local bodies which might seek it. This guidance would be in the shape of indicating the lines on which surveys and studies should be continued, the processing and utilisation of data, and indicating general lines of approach to the problems. The question whether financial assistance should also be provided by the Centre for the preparation of master plans in respect of various towns was under consideration in connection with the Third Five-Year Plan.

On the finalisation of the model legislation on town and country planning, the Minister observed that the Central Planning Organisation was now examining the comments received from the State Governments on the draft Town Planning Bill and would send its recommendations to the Central Government. The final bill would be circulated to the Governments for adoption with modifications to suit local conditions.

Address By Minister For Community Development

Addressing State Ministers for Panchayats at the opening session of the Central Council of local Self-Government, Shri S.K. Dey, Union Minister for Community Development and Co-operation, observed that panchayats, block Samitis and Zila parishads could each in their turn function as agents of the State Government at village, block and district levels. Panchayats should, in due course, be unit of Government of people at village level and should be an institution exercising statutory authority on behalf of the people. This, the Minister felt, might even entail, at a later date, suitable amendment of the Constitution.

Democratic Decentralisation

Referring to the process of democratic decentralisation which had recently been set in motion he said that the State Governments, had some exclusive spheres of activities specified in the Constitution. There were also some other responsibilities placed on concurrent list to be either discharged by the Centre itself or by the States as an agent of the Union Government. He saw no reason why this devolution of authority could not travel further down the line.

The Minister was happy that the recommendations of Balvantray Mehta Committee had been enthusiastically accepted by the States. Eight out of 14 States had already either enacted legislation or were in process of doing so for introduction of the democratic decentralisation. Referring to the pioneering role of Andhra Pradesh in this connection, the Minister observed that it was the first State to be reorganised after Independence and was also the first State to take up twenty Block Samitis on *ad hoc* basis to try the scheme of democratic decentralisation. Andhra again happened to lead other States in holding the first study camp of M.P.s and M.L.A.s at Patencheru for "self and mutual training" in community development. Rajasthan had recently effected democratic decentralisation on a statewide basis at the district block and village level. Andhra would do likewise in the course of next few days.

Local Finance

The Council discussed the measures for augmenting financial resources of the local bodies. It was recognised that most of the local bodies were at present greatly handicapped due to lack of adequate finances. In this connection the Council considered a note prepared by Shri C.D. Barfivala, Director General, All India Institute of Local Self Government. The note suggested some collective economic activities such as insurance of buildings, insurance against accident to vehicles, manufacture and distribution of articles of common requirements which could be taken up by local bodies. The Council generally approved the suggestions and recommended them for careful and detailed consideration by State Governments. It urged for early implementation of the recommendations made by the Local Finance Enquiry Committee and the Taxation Enquiry Commission.

Training Facilities

The Conference emphasised the need for adequate training for supervisory officers of local bodies. Reiterating its earlier suggestion for the establishment of a Central Institute for this purpose the Council felt that training facilities should be provided for officers already in employment. The duration of the training course should be from six to nine months. Revised syllabus for this course would be forwarded to the State Governments for eliciting their views.

Low Cost Housing

The Council recommended that State Governments might adopt the standard code of building byelaws drawn up by the Indian Standard Institution with necessary modifications to suit local requirements. State Governments should also promote the construction of low cost houses keeping to austere standards and specifications.

"SKELETAL HOUSE" FOR WORKERS AND SLUM DWELLERS

An announcement of October 25, says that the Union Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply has laid down standards for a "skeletal house" for providing accommodation, including basic amenities for industrial workers and slum dwellers. The "skeletal house" is intended to be a unit between a *pucca* house and an open developed plot. It will meet the requirements of the intermediate category of eligible industrial workers and slum dwellers who cannot afford to pay the rent of a *pucca* house, but are willing to pay a rent of Rs. 8 per month and are averse to live in a self-built hut on an open developed plot.

Under the Subsidised Industrial Housing and the Slum Clearance Schemes of the Ministry, housing accommodation is to be arranged for industrial workers and slum dwellers in two ways: (i) Wherever practicable and where the rent-paying capacity of workers and slum dwellers is extremely low, the scheme provides for allotment of developed and demarcated plots with essential services, a *pucca* latrine and a bathing platform in addition to about Rs. 150 worth of building material to enable the allottees to build their own houses on a selfhelp basis under the technical guidance of the State Governments. Under this arrangement, the standard cost per family is Rs. 900 to Rs. 1,250 and the subsidised rent is Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per month.

(ii) The scheme envisages *pucca* houses for those who can afford to pay a higher rent. The minimum cost per family of a small single-storey two-room house is Rs. 3,300 and the subsidised rent ranges from Rs. 12.50 to Rs. 10.50 depending on whether the subsidy is 50 per cent or 62½ per cent respectively.

Communication To States

In their communication to the States commending the construction of skeletal houses, the Ministry says that where single-storey construction is contemplated by any of the approved agencies under the Subsidised Industrial Housing and the Slum Clearance schemes, it would be desirable that in the first instance pilot projects are undertaken to ascertain the utility and acceptability of the houses before undertaking large-scale construction.

Minimum Accommodation

The minimum accommodation in a skeletal house will be 232 sq. ft. enough for a two-room tenement. The construction agency will provide (i) a developed plot with external services such as roads, parks, drainage, water supply, sewerage, street lighting, horticulture etc.; (ii) a *pucca* latrine (with a roof and door shutters) 12 sq. ft.; (iii) a *pucca* bathing and washing platform 16 sq. ft., with a water tap wherever possible and (iv) the foundation, plinth and the roof supported by pillars to form a structurally stable skeleton for a small two-room house with a minimum floor area of 204 sq. ft. for the rooms.

The occupant will be expected to put up pannelling or some kind of filling in the space between the pillars, doors and windows, enclosure to the bathing platform and flooring.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance for the time being will be based on the following overall ceiling costs, including the cost of land and development: (i) in cities other than Bombay and Calcutta — Rs. 2,000; and (ii) in Bombay and Calcutta — Rs. 2,900. The standard rent per month of a skeletal house in cities other than Bombay and Calcutta will be Rs. 7 or 8 and in Bombay and Calcutta Rs. 10 or 12. The specifications take into account local climatic conditions and use of local building materials. The houses are expected to have a life of about 40 years.

LAND ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Government of India have decided to introduce with immediate effect the Land Acquisition and Development Scheme, according to an announcement of October 27.

The scheme is intended to help in tackling the problems of housing and slum clearance by providing finances to State Governments for large-scale acquisition and development of land in selected areas. Availability of developed plots at reasonable rates will, it is hoped, stabilise land prices and arrest the increase in rents. Also construction of housing in adequate measure and the setting up of composite colonies for various groups of population will be possible. The scheme will expedite planned and rational growth of new neighbourhoods either in cities or away from them depending on the capital and operating cost of development. If it can be associated with the acquisition and development of land under this scheme, where possible, a policy of locating new small and medium scale industries in the vicinity, a significant step will have been taken in organising the economy of an entire area.

Financial assistance to State Governments under the scheme will be in the shape of loans at usual rate of interest. The loan will be repayable by the State Governments over a period of ten years.

The scheme will be treated as a Centrally-sponsored one. Assistance to State Governments will, therefore, not be reflected in the State Plans. During the remaining period of the Second Five-Year Plan, commitments throughout the country can be entered into for an amount not exceeding Rs. 15 crores, subject to the condition that actual expenditure during the Period is not more than Rs. 2.9 crores. State-wise allocations are accordingly being worked out. Meanwhile, the State Governments have been asked to determine their requirements of funds for the current financial year as well as for 1960-61 and to intimate them to the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply. Since acquisition proceedings are likely to take some time, funds needed under the scheme during the current year, it is expected will be small.

Owing to limited funds available during this Plan period, attention will, in the first instance, be concentrated on the six major cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Kanpur, Ahmedabad and Delhi though other cities rapidly growing in size and population will not be entirely excluded.

Acquisition And Development

The acquisition and development of land may be undertaken by the State Governments themselves or through local bodies or other semi-Government agencies. Development for the purpose of the scheme will include the provision of water supply, electricity, approach roads, drains and sewers. Where necessary, the State Governments may advance loans to local bodies for these purposes.

All development and housing under the scheme should be related to a sound neighbourhood layout and integrated with the master plan for an entire area. Where master plans are not ready, the projects should conform to the general ideas of development about the area and the possible land use during the next few years.

Where amenities on an adequate scale are not already available within a reasonable distance from the project, a suitable area may be set apart for community facilities like parks, playgrounds, schools, hospitals, welfare and community centres, places of entertainment, shops and light service industries, banks, post offices, police stations, fire stations, cremation and burial grounds, dhobi ghats, etc.

Selection Of Sites

The scheme lays down the considerations for selection of sites. One of them is that the cost of acquisition should be as low as possible so that the price eventually is well within the paying capacity of beneficiaries. Acquisition of land in expensive localities has to be avoided as far as possible. In this connection, the State Governments may consider the desirability of enacting legislation to take advantage of the amended Article 31 of the Constitution.

Allotment Of Plots

House building sites will be allotted to individuals and co-operatives irrespective of whether they want to take financial assistance from Government for with the aim of setting up composite neighbourhoods, provision has been made for allotment of a limited number of plots for commercial purposes as well as to persons not eligible for aid under any Central or State housing scheme.

The size of the plot under the scheme will not ordinarily exceed 500 sq. yds. More than one plot will not be sold to any individual or firm. If an individual owns a house or a developed plot of land in any town of the State, he will not ordinarily be entitled to purchase a plot under the scheme.

When allocating plots, the Governments will give preference to the requirements under the various housing and slum clearance schemes in the following order of priority: (A) (i) Slum Clearance Scheme; (ii) Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme; (iii) Low-Income Group Housing Scheme; (iv) Middle Income Group Housing Scheme; (v) Rental Housing Scheme; (v) Rental Housing Scheme for State Government Employees.

(B) A limited proportion of the plots may be earmarked for sale to persons not covered by any of the above schemes.

(C) The requirements of individuals and co-operatives, particularly, those who are in a position to build their houses without any loan assistance from Government, will receive priority over the requirements of land for public housing, if any, under the relevant housing schemes.

Price Of Land

The price of land will be linked to the use to which it will be put. This will ensure that State Governments or public authorities concerned do not incur loss on the project and use, amongst other things, the profits from sale of land to commercial organisations and to persons in higher income groups, for reducing the cost of land meant for public housing and persons and co-operatives in the lower income groups.

The State Governments are generally to give out land on lease-hold basis. Broad conditions governing the sale/lease of land to various categories of beneficiaries have been laid down in the scheme. The State Governments have been given the discretion to formulate detailed rules/instructions for implementation of the scheme.

Projects can be sanctioned by the State Governments themselves without reference to the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply for technical scrutiny. The State Governments will, however, keep the Ministry informed of the projects sanctioned by them and of the progress from time to time.

Reasons For Introducing Scheme

The scheme has been introduced because high land values and general scarcity of building sites, especially in large and growing towns, have been important factors in retarding the progress of housing schemes. For this reason, the Low-Income Group Housing and the Subsidised Industrial Housing Schemes of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply were amended to enable States Governments to develop lands. Since funds under these Schemes were limited, the modifications proved to be inadequate to meet the situation. On the other hand, availability of loans at cheap rates of interest under the two Schemes increased the demand for building sites and pushed up prices higher. Further, acquisition and development of land separately under various housing schemes has resulted in the construction of separate colonies for various classes of the community. This is an unhealthy development from the social point of view.

Government, therefore, came to the conclusion that it was necessary to draw up a scheme for the acquisition and development of land on a scale much larger than in the past under a single scheme so that composite and self-contained colonies could be established.

Welfare Programmes For Harijans

An announcement of October 26 says that a letter has been addressed by the Union Home Ministry to all the Chairmen of the Working Groups stating that while outlining the general development schemes for the Third Plan, the Working Groups are to ensure that there are welfare programmes specifically meant for Harijans, Tribals and such other persons.

The complaint often voiced against the various States and Union Ministries is that they do not provide from the general budget for the welfare schemes meant for the "Backward Classes". The Union Home Ministry has pointed out that they are "entitled to benefits of the welfare schemes in the general development sector, as much as any other section of the population."

The Union Home Minister has also repeatedly pointed out that the special provisions made for the Harijans, Tribals and others, are in addition to what they were entitled to from the general budgets. Departments are to utilise the resources available to them in such a way that the general and special programmes are operated in a manner complementary to one another.

The schemes classified by the Union Home Ministry for the guidance of the Working Groups are: Education including scholarships, hostels, establishment of *ashram* schools, etc.; Economic Uplift schemes — agriculture, cottage industries, co-operation, forest, veterinary, rehabilitation, etc.; and others — medical and public health, housing, communications, publicity, community centres, aid to voluntary agencies, administration, etc.

The Second Plan allocates a total amount of about Rs. 91 crores for the welfare of backward classes, of which Rs. 47 crores are for Scheduled Castes, about Rs. 4 crores for former criminal tribes, Rs. 9.7 crores for other Backward Classes and Rs. 2.9 crores for administration, etc. These amounts are intended for programmes which are specially designed to assist Backward Classes. They are therefore supplementary to measures of development in each State which are pursued in the interests of the population as a whole.

UTILISATION OF STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNT BY D.Ps.

In a Press Note issued in January 1959, it was announced that where a claimant, to whom a Statement of Account had been issued showing the amount of net compensation admissible to him, failed to utilise this amount within six months from January 15, 1959 or within six months of the date of issue of the Statement of Account, whichever was later, he would be compulsorily allotted, at the discretion of the Regional Settlement Commissioner, a property in the Compensation Pool of approximately the same value as the amount shown on the Statement of Account, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Rehabilitation on October 25.

It is learnt that some persons have interpreted it to mean that six months after their issue, Statements of Account could no longer be used towards the purchase of property or for the adjustment of the public dues of their friends and relatives. This was not the intention of the Government. So long as the Regional Settlement Commissioner does not actually allot a property against a Statement of Account, the holder can use it for the purchase of property either himself or by association or for adjustment of public dues of his friends and relatives.

SUPPRESSION OF IMMORAL TRAFFIC

In about a year's time, about 3,000 persons had been arrested for offences under the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956, which was enforced on May 1, 1958, says an announcement dated October, 20.

Till December 1958, nearly 400 persons were prosecuted for running brothels, seducing or procuring women for immoral purposes and for living on the earnings of prostitution.

Most State Governments have already framed rules and appointed special police officers for enforcing the provisions of the Act. About 70 protective homes, accommodating over 1,000 women and children, had been set up in the country within a year of the Act's operation.

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 Act seeks to prevent immoral traffic within the country.

Labour & Employment

WORKING OF INDIAN DOCK LABOURERS' ACT

There has been a steady improvement in the standard of compliance with the provisions of the Indian Dock Labourers' Act, 1934 and the regulations, according to the Annual Report on the working of the Act during 1958. The Act and the regulations aim at ensuring the safety, health and welfare of dock workers.

The report, says that the decreasing trend in the number of 'reportable' as well as 'non-reportable' accidents during 1958 was encouraging. During the year, the total number of 'reportable' accidents notified in the five ports of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Cochin and Visakhapatnam was 3,789 including 19 fatal accidents as compared with 4,541 including 21 fatal accidents during 1957. This represented a decrease of 16.56 per cent in the accident rate. The number of 'non-reportable accidents during 1958 was 2,385 with 9 fatalities in all the five ports. The corresponding figures for 1957 were 2,985 and 23. This showed a decrease of 600 in the total number of accidents and of 14 in the number of fatalities.

The report, however, says that a large number of the accidents were due to factors which could not possibly be controlled by regulations alone. This emphasized, the report adds, the need for training and education to promote safe work practices and for creating safey consciousness amongst the workers.

A 'reportable' accident is one which either causes loss of life to a worker or disables a worker for more than 48 hours while a 'non-reportable' accident is one in which either the person injured or the lifting machinery involved is not connected with the 'processes' defined in the Indian Dock Labourers Regulations or in which a person injured is incapacitated for a period less than 48 hours.

Coal Mines Rescue Stations

According to the annual report of the Coalmines Rescue Stations Committee for 1958-59, the recovery of the Parbelia Colliery in the Raniganj Coalfields, after an interval of three years, is one achievements of the Committee. The report states that the Parbelia mine is capable of producing 50,000 tons of selected grade coal annually for the next 40 years. The recovery operations lasted about three months and were carried out by rescue teams of the Committee under adverse environmental conditions.

The Coalmines Rescue Stations Committee, which was set up by the Government of India for the purpose of rendering assistance in rescue and recovery operations in coalmines, maintains two rescue stations, one at Jharia and the other at Sitarampur.

During 1958-59, rescue teams stationed at Jharia and Sitarampur were called out on 23 occasions for help. Among the important operations undertaken by them were reopening of isolated or collapsed areas of mines, extinguishing of underground and surface fires, exploration of underground workings where fire had occurred and rescuing of persons involved in accidents.

During the year, 70 persons from different collieries completed their course of initial training in rescue and recovery work in mines at the Jharia and Sitarampur Stations, bringing the total number of persons trained at the two stations to 1,403.

PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT

It has been announced on October 31 that the Government of India have decided to extend from November 1, 1959, subsection (4) of Section 8 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in regard to payment of wages to mine workers. Consequently, there will be a limit on the fine that an employer can impose on a worker for such acts and omissions on his part as may be specified by notice.

The Payment of Wages Act seeks to ensure that wages are disbursed to workers within the prescribed time limit and that employees get their full wages without any deductions which are not authorised.

With the exception of sub-section (4) of Section 8, all provisions of regard to payment of wages to the Act were made applicable to mines some time ago. While Section 8 provides for the imposition of fines, sub-section (4) of that Section restricts the limit of fines to an amount not exceeding half anna in a rupee of the wages payable. With the extension of Section 8(4), a limit will be placed on the fines that can be imposed on mine workers.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN AUGUST

According to the Labour Bureau, Government of India, there were 98 fresh industrial disputes in August, 1959, bringing the total number of disputes current at any time during the month to 141 including 25 lockouts. In the previous month, there were 93 fresh disputes out of 139 disputes current. The average duration of disputes current at any time during August was 6.2 days as compared with 12.4 days in July.

During the month under review 115 disputes terminated of which 74 lasted not more than five days each and 19 lasted more than 30 days each. Time-loss of 2,50,047 man-days out of a total of 3,96,789 i.e. 63.0 per cent was accounted for by the 'Manufacturing Industry' group. 'Mining and Quarrying' and 'Electricity, Gas, Water and Sanitary Services' followed next with time-loss of 1,00,950 and 14,862 man-days respectively i.e. 25.4 and 3.7 per cent of the total. Time-loss in other major groups of industries was comparatively low.

West Bengal recorded the highest time-loss (1,12,641), followed by Andhra (93,409), Bombay (78,187), Madras (31,177) and Mysore (24,832. Compared to the previous month, time-loss increased in Rajasthan, Punjab and Assam, and decreased in all other States.

For the Manufacturing industry group, the index of industrial unrest (base 1951=100) for August was 71 (provisional) as compared with 175 (revised) for the preceding month.

INDIAN DELEGATION TO I.T.U. CONFERENCE

India's delegation to the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunications Union, which opened in Geneva on October 14, was led by Shri M.M. Philip, Communications Secretary to the Government of India, it was announced on October 27. Shri M.B. Sarwate, Adviser, Wireless Planning and Co-ordination, was the Alternate Leader.

The States

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BOMBAY BILLS

According to an announcement of October 30, the President has given assent to the Hyderabad Abolition of Inams (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

The Bill seeks to amend the Hyderabad Abolition of Inams Act, 1954, so as to bring it on line with the provisions of the land tenure abolition laws in Bombay State.

The legislation also provides for extending the scope of the Hyderabad Abolition of Inams Act, 1954, to community service inams, cash grants, etc. Provision in regard to the determination of compensation amounts, payments of these amounts, etc., are proposed to be brought on the lines of the corresponding provisions of the land tenure abolition laws in operation in the pre-reorganisation area of the State.

The President, says an announcement of October 24, has given assent to the Bombay Habitual Offenders Bill, which is designed to provide a uniform law for the treatment and training of habitual offenders in Bombay State.

The legislation replaces the existing laws on the subject, now in force, in various parts of the State and also enforces certain restrictions on habitual offenders, when considered necessary. Provision for enhanced punishment in respect of certain schduled offences has also been made in the Bill.

It has been announced on October 28 that the President has given assent to the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition Amendment) Bill, 1959.

The legislation seeks to amend the Bombay Merged Territories and Areas (Jagirs Abolition) Act, 1953, for enabling the tenants to become occupants of the proprietory jagir lands. The implementation of the Act has been considerably delayed as a result of the stay orders issued by the various Civil Courts.

The Bill also empowers the State Government to recover amounts of rent or land revenue, realised by the Jagirdas during the stay periods.

The President has given assent to the Bombay Ferries and Inland Vessels (Unification and Amendment) Bill, 1959, which is designed to unify the existing enactments for administration of ferries and inland vessels in Bombay State, says an announcement dated October 20.

At present the Vidarbha region and the Hyderabad area of the State have different Acts in operation. The State Government has, therefore, considered it necessary to unify these Acts for administration in the entire reorganised State. Accordingly, the present legislation, which seeks to amend the Bombay Ferries and Inland Vessels Act, 1868, has been promoted.

The President has given assent to the Code of Criminal Procedure (Bombay Second Amendment) Bill, 1959, according to an announcement of October 18.

The amending Legislation enable the Executive Magistrate in the Bombay State to recover arrears of taxes and penalties for failure to pay them.

According to provisions of some of the laws in the State, arrears of taxes, duties etc. and penalties for failure to pay them are to be recovered through a Magistrate as if they were fines inflicted by him. After the separation of the judiciary from the executive, the High Court is of the opinion that it is not proper that Judicial Magistrates should be called upon to do this work.

The present bill, therefore, makes a provision in the Criminal Procedure for entrusting such work to the Executive Magistrates.

Assent For Orissa Bill

The President has given assent to the Land Acquisition (Orissa Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1959, which seeks to provide for the acquisition of all types of land by Government of the Orissa State, reads an announcement of October 29.

The Land Acquisition Act, 1894, provides for speedy acquisition of lands which fall in the category of waste or arable land. But there is no provision in the Act under which any other type of land, such as homestead or orchard land, can be acquired.

The present legislation has, therefore, been promoted to amend the Act so as to bring all types of land within its purview. The Bill will also validate certain acquisitions made for some companies and provide for the continuance of the acquisition proceedings under the Central Act.

Assent For Rajasthan Bill

The President has given assent to the Rajasthan Hindu Public Trusts Bill, 1959, which seeks to regulate and improve the administration of Hindu public trusts, both religious and charitable, in Rajasthan, says an announcement of October 27.

Provision has also been made in the legislation for appointing a Devasthan Commissioner, Assistant Devasthan Commissioners and other staff, setting up a statutory Advisory Board and Regional Advisory Committees, registering compulsarily all Hindu public trusts, except dharmada, and auditing of trust accounts.

The Hindu public trust, according to the Bill, means public trusts for Hindus generally, including Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains or for any section thereof.

Defence

I.A.F. EXPEDITION CLIMB CHOWKHAMBA PEAK

An Air Force Mountaineering expedition, led by Air Commodore S.N. Goyal, Vice-Chairman of the IAF Trekking Society and comprising of a number of civilian scientists and Air Force personnel which climbed the 23,420 ft. high Chowkhamba peak on October 17, has also found a possible route to scale the 21,640 ft. high Neelkantha. One party that succeeded in reaching the summit of Chowkhamba I consisted of Flying Officers P.C. Chaturvedi and K.K. Chowdhry, Corporal P.S. Rawat and three sherpas headed by Sardar Pasang Dawa Lama. Two members of the party were severely frost-bitten during the assault.

The leader took another party consisting of Shri V.K. Raina of Geological Survey of India and Shri P.N. Nikore of the Central Water and Power Commission to attempt the Neelkantha peak which is called "Queen of the Garhwal Himalayas." Together with three sherpas headed by Ajeeba, they established camp III on October 17 at the record altitude of 19,000 ft. on this hitherto unclimbed peak. Camp IV was subsequently established at 20,000 feet level, but the party was forced down by a snow storm. This peak has challenged several expeditions before. Avalanches and difficult ice and rock conditions have made this peak famous in the mountain world.

The other members of this mountaineering-cum-survey expedition included Flt. Lt. N.S. Bhagwanani, the team doctor, Dr. M.A. Rao and Shri Vohra of the Botanical Survey of India and Shri Chhabra of the Geodetic and Research Section of the Survey of India, Leading Aircraftman K.M. Raju and Aircraftman Dudpuri. Much valuable information and samples of Botanical, geological and survey interests had been collected by the scientists.

The main party of the IAF expedition left Delhi towards the end of September, 1959.

NEW INDIAN FRIGATE

An announcement dated October 17 says I.N.S. KUTHAR, a new anti-submarine frigate of the latest type recently acquired by the Indian Navy, is now on its way to India to join the Fleet. The KUTHAR is expected to arrive at Bombay in the third week of next month.

INS KUTHAR, which left the U.K. earlier this week will, en route, visit Gibralter, Malta, Alexandria and Massawa. She will be the third of the new frigates to join the Indian Fleet, the other two being I.N.S. BRAHMAPUTRA and KHUKRI which arrived at Bombay in November 1958.

A high speed anti-submarine frigate with a gross tonnage of approximately 1500 tons, 310 ft. length and 33 ft. breadth, the KUTHAR is fitted with the most modern underwater equipment and anti-submarine weapons. Her anti-submarine mortars can be trained over wider areas than those of its previous types.

Decoration For Gallantry

The posthumous award by the President of two Ashoka Chakra decorations, one to a civilian and the other to a Serviceman for gallantry is announced in a *Gazette of India Extraordinary* published on October 24. Shri Makhimong Sangtam, a Dobashi of village Longkhim (Naga Hills) has been awarded Ashoka Chakra Class II (Posthumous) for gallant action in Naga Hills and Jemadar S. Rajamanickam of the 12th LSS Training Team awarded Ashoka Chakra Class III (Posthumous) for his selfless devotion to duty.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER 16 TO 31

er 17 — Prime Minister Nehru inaugurates Delhi Municipal Corporation's Free Milk Supply Scheme for school children

20 — The 'Ground Rules' formulated by the Military Sub-Committee of the Indo-Pakistan Border Conference for observance by the border forces of both the countries on the India-East Pakistan border are announced

— An agreement laying down the conditions under which the United Nations special fund will render technical assistance in respect of projects in India is signed in New Delhi

21 — A serious clash between an Indian police patrol party and a Chinese armed detachment takes place at a place 40 miles inside Indian territory in Southern Ladakh. Nine men of the Indian party died and 10 others were captured by the Chinese

22 — The Indo-Pakistan Ministers' Level Conference on border issues ends in New Delhi

— The fifth meeting of the Northern Zonal Council is held in New Delhi

— Shri Morarjee Desai, Union Finance Minister, arrives in Calcutta after a six-week tour abroad

23 — The Industrial Committee on Plantations begins a two-day session in Calcutta

— The Indian delegation to the GATT Conference to be held in Tokyo, led by Shri Nityananda Kannugo, Union Minister for Commerce, leaves New Delhi for Calcutta on its way to Japan

— The decisions of the Government of India on the term of office and on the remuneration of managing agents, secretaries and treasurers of companies are announced

— The Government of India make a strong protest to the Chinese Government against the intrusion by Chinese troops in southern Ladakh

— Shri K.D. Malaviya, Minister for Mines and Oil, announces in New Delhi an *ad hoc* agreement reached between the Government of India and the foreign oil distributing companies in India providing for a further reduction of about Rs. 5 crores a year in the prices received by those companies for the major petroleum products up to the end of March 1961

24 — The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, inaugurates the sixth Radio Sangeet Sammelan in New Delhi

— A week-long International Conference on Traffic Engineering and Highway Safety begins in Bombay

27 — The two-day annual conference of State Governors opens in New Delhi

— The Government of India announce the decision to introduce a country-wide Land Acquisition and Development Scheme

— The Government of India ask the Chinese Government to arrange for the return of 10 Indian policemen who were captured as well as the bodies of nine Indians who died in the clash with a Chinese armed detachment in southern Ladakh on October 21

29 — An agreement between the Government of India and the Burmah Oil Company is signed in New Delhi for the construction of an oil pipeline from Nahorkatiya in Assam to Barauni in Bihar

31 — A three-member Yugoslav goodwill delegation arrives in New Delhi on a four-week visit to India

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Shri Morarjee Desai, Union Finance Minister, on his return to New Delhi on October 22 after a tour of U.K., U.S.A. and Japan. H.E. the Japanese Ambassador in India and the High Commissioner for U.K. in India are also seen

Sardar Swaran Singh, Union Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel and Leader of the Indian delegation, and Lt. Gen. K.M. Shaikh, Acting Foreign Minister of Pakistan and Leader of the Pakistan delegation, at the Dacca session of the Indo-Pakistan Ministers' Level Conference on border questions on October 18

Figure of Gaja Lakshmi found at Kausambi

A defence built of mud with sloping sides, rivetted externally by a wall of burnt bricks

Kausambi Excavations

Excavations at Kausambi, the ancient capital of the Pandavas situated on the Jamuna 32 miles south-west of Allahabad, have revealed that the people of the Madhyadesha built forts with complex defence system as early as the beginning of the first millennium B.C.