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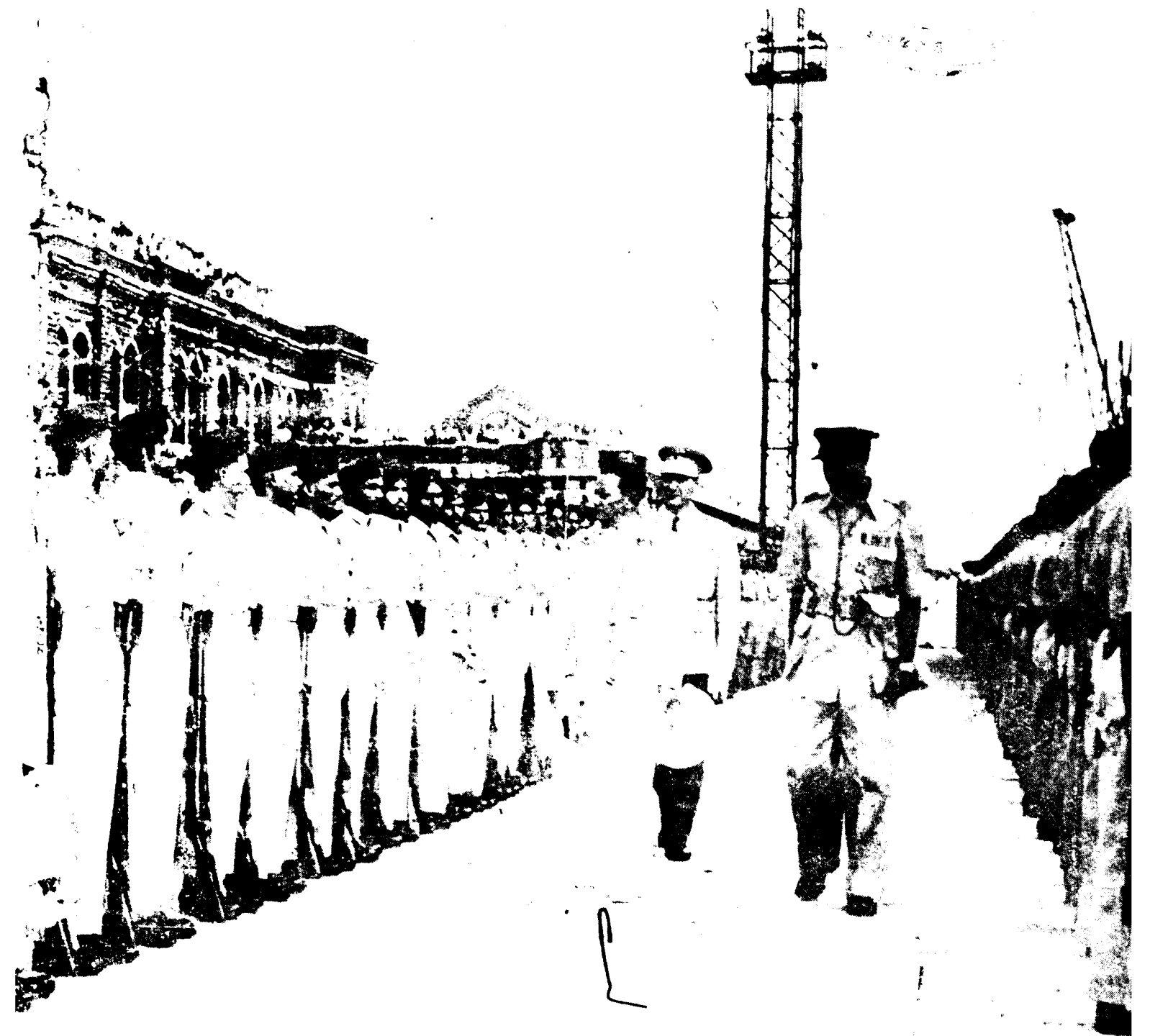
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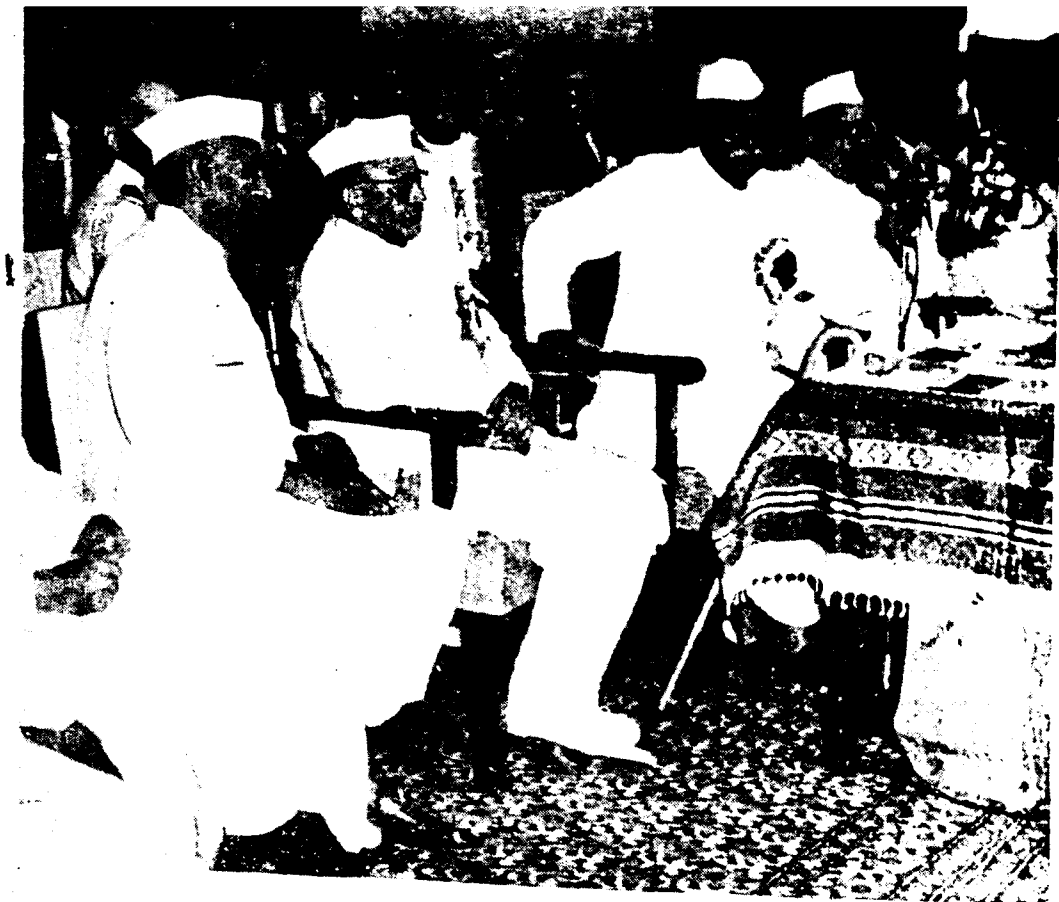
Journal of the

Vol. 2

February 1, 1959 (Magha 12, 1880)



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The President inaugurating the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Hallkine Institute at Bombay



Members of the National Committee on Women's Education signing the final report of the Committee in New Delhi



Union Home Minister, Shri G.B. Pant, inaugurating the Conference on "Morale in the Public Services" in New Delhi

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COVER: President Tito of Yugoslavia inspecting a Guard of Honour on arrival at Madras Port on a week's State Visit to India.

(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

TALKS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTERS OF GHANA AND INDIA

An announcement made in New Delhi on January 3 says that the Honourable Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of Ghana, had many informal and friendly talks with the Prime Minister of India on current international problems and other matters of mutual interest. In particular, the two Prime Ministers discussed recent developments on the African continent and welcomed the awakening amongst the people of Africa and their great desire for freedom and independence. They expressed

the hope that the countries of Africa, which are not free at present, will gain their independence through constructive and peaceful methods. They welcomed the closer association of Ghana and Guinea, and hoped that other countries in Africa would also develop closer co-operation for their mutual benefit and in the cause of world peace.

The two Prime Ministers deplored the policies of racial discrimination and the denial of

fundamental human rights in some parts of Africa, which were opposed to the basic conceptions of the Charter of the United Nations as well as friendly relations between nations.

The two Prime Ministers agreed that, in the present context, international problems cannot be solved by war, and it was only through peaceful methods and mutual tolerance and understanding that satisfactory settlements could be arrived at.

The two Prime Ministers agreed that their respective

governments should make efforts towards lessening of international tensions, removal of colonial domination and the promotion of understanding among nations.

The most urgent tasks for both their countries, as well as for other countries in Asia and Africa, were to give economic and social content to political freedom, thus ensuring a fuller and richer life for their peoples. Advances in science and technology had opened out wonderful opportunities for the betterment of mankind. It was a tragedy that these scientific and technological advances were being largely used for increasing armaments and, in particular, for the manufacture of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons. Effective steps towards disarmament were therefore essential in order to reduce the tensions that affected the world. An immediate step should be the stoppage of all nuclear tests.

The two Prime Ministers were happy at the friendly relations existing between their two countries, which had been further strengthened by the visit of the Prime Minister of Ghana to India.

Rewards To Policemen For Meritorious Service

More than 1,100 Central policemen were rewarded for meritorious services rendered by them during the six months ending June last year, it was announced on January 2.

However, during the same period, there was a solitary case of conviction out of the two persons arrested on the charge of corruption.

In 1957, 29 commendation certificates were issued and about Rs. 2,200 sanctioned by the Inspector-General of the Special Police Establishment as rewards to officers and men engaged in combating corruption among the Government servants. The staff working in the branch offices of the S.P.E. were granted 288 commendation certificates and about Rs. 3,000 by the officers-in-charge.

Gallantry Award To M.P. Police Officer

The President has been pleased to award the Police Medal for gallantry to Shri Rajinder Singh, Platoon Commander, 5th Batta-

lion, Special Armed Force, Madhya Pradesh, for exhibiting courage and devotion to duty of a high order in an encounter with a gang of convicts who had escaped from prison, says an announcement of January 10.

Planning & Finance

ASSAM PLAN FOR 1959-60

The total Plan outlay of the Assam Government for the next year (1959-60) will be of the order of Rs. 12.25 crores as against an expenditure of Rs. 11.24 crores during the year 1958-59, says an announcement of January 3.

The allotment for Agriculture and Community Development is Rs. 3.24 crores. Among the programmes included for the next year are mechanized cultivation, seed multiplication farms, rehabilitation of landless agricultural labour and expansion of Assam Veterinary College. There is also a provision for the Assam Agricultural College.

The provision for Irrigation and Power is Rs. 1.32 crores. Included in the programme under this head are electrification of 16 small towns, and the extension of the Umtru Hydro-Electric lines to north bank of Brahmaputra.

Industry and Mining get an allocation of Rs. 0.98 crores while the provision for Transport and Communications is Rs. 1.35 crores. Provision has been made for a cotton mill, a spun silk mill and a co-operative sugar mill.

Social Services get an allocation of Rs. 5.06 crores. Included in the programmes are training of teachers for the junior basic schools, improvement of pay scales of junior and senior basic teachers as well as of secondary school teachers and the establishment of the Assam Engineering College at Gauhati.

PLAN FOR ANDAMANS & NICOBAR, 1959-60

A Plan outlay of the order of Rs. 127.05 lakhs was decided upon for Andamans and Nicobar Islands for the year 1959-60 during recent discussions between the Chief Commissioner, Andamans and Nicobar, and representatives of the Planning Commission and the Central Ministries. The estimated expenditure for the current year is Rs. 103.71 lakhs.

Agricultural programmes get an allocation of Rs. 61.68 lakhs and Community Development Rs. 4.00 lakhs. Included in the next year's programme are schemes for coconut plantation, development of coffee and rubber, seed multiplication, intensive cultivation, Mitchakeri Minor Irrigation Scheme, land colonization, the key village scheme for animal husbandry, forestry and fisheries.

Power projects have been allotted Rs. 5.00 lakhs. The augmentation of the generating capacity of Port Blair and the electrification of Lamba Shipighet areas are contemplated.

Industry and Roads have been allotted Rs. 3.55 lakhs and Rs. 22.82 lakhs, respectively. There is a provision for the expansion of village and small-scale industries. Social Services claim Rs. 27.96 lakhs. Included in the programme are schemes for the reorganization of primary education in Port Blair, extension of Basic education in rural areas, extension of the Port Blair

Hospital, the Car Nicobar Hospital, the Mayabunder Hospital and the T.B. Hospital and T.B. Clinic. There is a provision of Rs. 2.04 lakhs for miscellaneous schemes outside the Plan.

COMMUTATION OF PENSIONS

Replying to a question, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shri B.R. Bhagat said in the Rajya Sabha on December 17, that the commutation value of pensions for Government servants had

been decreased with effect from February 1, 1957.

Shri Bhagat said that the commutation value of pension was regulated by the commutation tables which were dependent on two factors: the mortality experience of pensioners and the average yield on long term rupee loans or, in other words, on the rate of interest payable on loans raised by Governments. These tables were usually revised as and when there was any appreciable variation in either of the above factors, he added.

Commerce & Industry

TARIFF COMMISSION'S ROLE IN PROMOTING INDUSTRIALIZATION

Moving a Bill in the Lok Sabha on December 17 further to amend the First Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, in order to give effect to Government's decisions on certain recommendations of the Tariff Commission, the Minister of Industry, Shri Manubhai Shah said that the Bill sought to continue protection beyond December 31, 1958, in the case of soda ash, calcium carbide, caustic soda, sericulture, aluminium, antimony, engineers' steel files and electrical motor industries, and to discontinue protection with effect from January 1, 1959, in the case of cocoa powder and chocolate, bichromates, bleaching paste and bleaching powder and artificial silk fabrics and cotton and artificial silk mixed fabrics as also steel rasps.

In this connection, the Minister reviewed the work of the Tariff Commission and said:

As early as 1940, Government announced that industries promoted with their encouragement during war-time might feel assured that if they were conducted on sound business lines, they would, by such

measures as Government might devise, be protected against unfair competition from outside. On the basis of this assurance, 43 industries were established during the war, and they applied for protection towards the end of the war.

The Government, therefore, decided to constitute an interim tariff board to examine the claims of these industries for protection, pending the formulation of a long-term policy. An interim board was, therefore, constituted for a period not exceeding two years, by a resolution in November, 1945. Government subsequently reconstituted the interim tariff board for a further period of three years, from November 3, 1947. The term of office of the interim tariff board was further extended up to the date of setting up of a permanent Tariff Commission as recommended by the Fiscal Commission.

Industrial Policy

By the time the Tariff Commission was constituted in 1952, the First Five Year Plan had already been launched, giving a direction and purpose to industrial development in the country. By and large, the industrial policy of Government is

governed by the policy statement of 1948 and the subsequent statement of 1956.

Another significant development that has to be taken note of is the adverse balance of payments position in recent years and the consequent need to regulate imports through quantitative restrictions. These restrictions have resulted in giving domestic industries effective protection by way of sheltered markets, and, therefore, protection through tariff assumed a somewhat lesser significance in these days.

As long as the primary use of quantitative restrictions is limited to correct adverse balance of payments, domestic industries are likely to remain under constant threat of insecurity unless adequately safeguarded through protective duties also.

There are of course, certain categories of industries which can be developed during the early stages of their establishment only through the balanced mechanism of import control, and the GATT organization has accepted this in principle in regard to the under-developed countries. The recent resolution of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs is also proof of this. However, it is generally recognized that regulation through import quotas cannot be a desirable form of protection as a long-term policy and is not in the long-term interests of any national economy. Therefore, all these measures have to be subject to periodical review by the Tariff Commission.

Role Of Tariff Commission

The imposition of quantitative restrictions in favour of several indigenous industries have been justified by the fact that the Tariff Commission gives careful thought and sympathetic scrutiny to this aspect of protection and studies the effect of import control on the behaviour of industries as well as on the welfare of the consumers.

Reports of the Tariff Commission have brought to light all cases of irregular and insufficient nature of imports and their adverse effect on domestic production, quality and prices. The assistance rendered by the Commission in providing an objective analysis of the effects of

import control administration in the cases of protected industries, therefore, cannot be over-emphasized, especially for the reason that import control is in the hands of the administrative wing of Government. A periodical review by an independent body like the Tariff Commission is always desirable and necessary.

The Commission has reviewed the cases of 43 industries enjoying protection since the Commission was constituted in 1952, and protection of 23 industries has been discontinued on its recommendations.

While protection to 23 industries has been discontinued on the recommendation of the Tariff Commission, protection to 17 new industries has been granted since 1952. In the case of six new industries which were referred to the Tariff Commission, no recommendation for their protection has been made by it. Unless the Commission is satisfied that protection is necessary, no protection is recommended by the Commission.

Protected Industries

There are at present 37 industries enjoying protection, of which artificial silk fabrics, bichromates, and cocoa powder and chocolate are sought to be de-protected from January 1, 1959 as indicated in the statement of Objects and Reasons. That brings the number of protected industries to 34, of which protection to the match industry is only of academic interest. The match industry has been subject to excise duty like other well-established industries, and for the past several years, no imports of matches have taken place.

The important industries enjoying protection at present are aluminium, caustic soda, soda ash, dye-stuffs, grinding wheels, machine screws, ball bearings, copper and aluminium conductors, ACSR conductors, bicycles, cotton textile machinery, power and distribution transformers, calcium carbide, electric motors, automobiles and plywood and tea-chest industries. All these industries have shown varying degrees of progress during the period 1952-1953.

On the whole, all the protected industries have shown considerable progress as far as production, quality and prices are concerned. The pro-

gress in the case of some of the industries has been really remarkable.

Bicycles

The number of units for the manufacture of bicycles in the organized sector was six in 1952 with a total production of 1,97,000 cycles only. At present, there are more than 19 units in the organized sector and 45 in the small scale sector producing nearly 1½ million bicycles. The cycle industry is now well established in the country and is gradually developing an export market.

Another industry which has shown striking progress is the grinding wheel industry. In 1952, there was only one unit producing 336 tons. This has increased to 5 units with 1500 tons production in 1958. The ball bearing industry is another industry which has been able to increase its production from 6.48 lakh numbers in 1952 to 23.7 lakh numbers in 1958. There is only one unit in this industry.

Chemical Industries

Among the chemical industries, the production of soda ash has increased from 43,372 tons in 1952 to 73,000 tons during 1958. There are at present two units producing soda ash in the country. Plans for expansion of these two units are well in hand and two more units are to be established shortly, raising the total capacity of soda ash production to 2,30,000 tons per annum. The country is expected to be more or less self-sufficient in this industry.

While all this is highly gratifying, the progress in regard to a few industries is not sufficiently satisfactory. Dyestuffs industry is an instance of this kind.

Government's plan for the manufacture of intermediates has not progressed as desired. Till the manufacture of intermediates is established on a large scale, it is also difficult to achieve satisfactory progress in the manufacture of dyestuffs. Now the production of intermediates has been almost finalized and the full range of the entire 86 intermediates in the country is being covered within the next three years or so, with German collaboration. The industry will be well-establish-

ed as far as intermediates production is concerned.

Automobiles

Another industry where the progress appears to be slow is the automobile industry. Though assembly of motor vehicles to a very limited extent has been started even before the war, specific phased programmes were actually approved only in 1954-55. Therefore, while judging the progress of this industry, it has to be borne in mind that prior to 1954-55, the industry was doing more or less pure assembly work, and it was only then that the Government insisted on a phased programme to enhance the indigenous content as far as possible. If this factor is taken into account, it will be seen that the progress is not so unsatisfactory as it appeared.

All the producers of automobiles, who have now been rationalized to only 6, have established capacities for machining components, while castings and forgings also are now made in the country by some of the other manufacturers. Partly Government have also to share the blame for this delay in increasing the indigenous content, which has taken place largely due to difficulties resulting from scarcity of foreign exchange. Till recently the foreign exchange needed for import of tools, jigs and machinery had not been released to enable the manufacturers to increase the indigenous content. But now practically all their needs of foreign exchange for machinery, tools, and jigs have been granted, and by the end of 1959, in the case of two commercial vehicles and the Hindustan car, about 70 to 75 per cent of the components would be indigenously manufactured.

By 1960-61, all the vehicles in the country will have reached 80 per cent indigenous content, that is, practically all the vehicles, commercial vehicles, jeeps and cars.

Costs And Prices

Protected industries are expected to charge prices in fair relationship to costs. It has been found that protected industries are not taking undue advantage of protection to increase the prices of these goods.

The Commission has also stressed in its reports that while prices invariably tend to increase under conditions of scarcity of supply, the trouble does not always start at the

level of the producer but at the level of the intermediate distributor, and is aggravated to an increasing extent at the levels of the retail sellers. All these ultimately point to the fact that it is impossible to keep prices at fair levels unless Government create a vast force of enforcement officials with police powers. This is neither good nor desirable.

The important point is that under existing conditions of general short supply of most commodities, when competitive economic forces are not fully in operation, it will not be proper to lay the entire blame for high prices always at the doors of the producers.

At present, there are four consumer goods industries in the protected group, namely, the sage, buttons (studs and cuff links made of plastics), calcium lactates and bicycles. In the case of bicycles, there is keen internal competition and cycles of different makes are available at reasonable prices to the consumer. In the case of one popular brand, the price has come down from Rs. 161.50 in 1954 to Rs. 148.50 in 1958.

In the case of calcium lactate, the manufacturer has reduced the price from Rs. 3.25 per lb. in 1952 to Rs. 1.80 per lb. in 1958 — a very considerable reduction.

Need For Increased Production

In regard to other industries, the complaints are mostly from buyers in small lots in the market. Large-scale consumers have always been able to obtain their requirements from indigenous sources at fair prices.

In cases where domestic production falls short of demand, market prices have tended to go up only because of irregular and insufficient imports. Even so, those consumers who have been regularly obtaining their requirements from indigenous sources have not found difficulty in buying the products at reasonable prices. This has been revealed at the time of the Commission's public inquiries, particularly in the case of soda ash and caustic soda.

Naturally, malpractices do take place at different stages in the industry and in the trade and it will be difficult to stop such practices completely as long as shortages

continue to last. Therefore, the positive answer is increased production.

There are instances where manufacturers jointly and in collusion have attempted to exploit the situation. The Commission and Government have also been laying emphasis on remedying the evils arising from faulty distribution organizations existing in certain industries.

Price Line

In response to complaints received from consuming industries, the Commission also undertook at the instance of Government, an investigation of the distribution system employed by the ball bearing industry which has just been completed. Gradual reductions in the wholesale prices of certain protected commodities have also been noticed.

All these different measures have led considerably to holding up of the price line in several sectors, the important ones being sheet glass, engineers' steel files, caustic soda and soda ash.

The prices of engineering goods such as electric motors, machine screws, cotton textile machinery, piston assembly etc. which were gradually going down have lately shown some increase mainly as a result of rise in the prices of steel and other basic raw materials. Legal action and Governmental control and action alone cannot produce the desired results in holding the price line, though Government have taken several measures to that end, particularly in regard to manufactured articles and consumer goods with much success. The rise in the wholesale price index of manufactured articles has not been more than 108.9 points in 1958 from 1952-53 as a base year 100. The index was:

in 1953	98.6
1954	100.4
1955	94.4
1956	104.9
1957	107.9

in spite of the world rise in prices and scarcity of foreign exchange.

This shows that the general overall efforts of the Government, the industry, trade and the consuming public have been meeting with success.

Quality Of Products

The Commission has in all its investigations, laid considerable

emphasis on the maintenance of quality in the products of indigenous industries, and has supported the efforts of the Indian Standards Institution to finalize standard specifications wherever possible. In all appropriate cases the Commission has recommended the adoption by industries of the certification scheme approved by the I.S.I.

While it is sometimes true that the balance-sheets of a few of the companies show relatively larger profits, the few companies where sometimes larger profits are shown are generally engaged in activities other than the production of the protected commodities.

There are a number of other composite industries, as, for instance, the Delhi Cloth and General Mills, Alkali and Chemicals and Rohtas Ltd., who have made good profits through their operations in a number of industries for which separate profits cannot be estimated. Nor is it true that protected industries are earning excessive profits; profit rates have varied sharply within industries as between different units, depending on the efficiency of the unit.

If uniformity is enforced in all industries there will be no incentive to develop efficiency through internal competition which alone can largely help to bring down cost prices. In every industry and particularly in industries where there are a larger number of units, the objective of Government has been to ensure that the general level of profits is not at all high.

When we want massive industrial development at an accelerated pace for our economy, it will be necessary to create confidence in the industry that its legitimate interests will be adequately safeguarded. The confidence can be created only if an impartial body like the Tariff Commission examines its case for assistance.

Industrial Development

The advantage of protection granted to an industry on the recommendation of the Tariff Commission enhances its position in foreign countries especially when it finds it applies for foreign technical and financial collaboration. The development of industries like bicycles, grinding wheels, A.C.S.R. conductors, electrical motors, trans-

formers, dyestuffs, aluminium and a score of other industries would not have been possible had it not been for the protection and developmental assistance granted to all these industries.

When the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was first negotiated, industries which were protected or were likely to be protected were kept out of the articles for which concessions were negotiated.

At that time, however, it was not possible for Government to envisage the entire range of developments that were likely to take place after independence, with the result that various tariff concessions were granted under the impression that the manufacture of the articles concerned would not be developed in the country for some considerable time.

GATT

It is now being realised that in the interest of national economy, releases have to be obtained from obligations to GATT in the case of quite a few commodities. In such cases, an examination by the Tariff Commission strengthens the Government's hands to get early releases from such obligations.

On the recommendation of the Commission, releases have been already obtained in the case of adaptor bearings and dyestuffs. The Commission is now examining the claim of the zinc and lead industry to protection which are also at present allowed free of duty and are bound under the GATT.

Another aspect that requires special mention is the problem of newly established industries. In most cases when a new industry is under establishment, it will not be able to cater to the entire domestic demand. At times it starts with very low levels of output which may not meet even 20 per cent of the domestic demand. In such cases, unless a fair relationship is established between domestic prices and imported prices, consumers will be put to great hardship.

Internal Prices

When balancing the several considerations in this regard, tariffs can play a significant role in cases like caustic soda, soda ash, titanium dioxide, calcium carbide, etc. where the Tariff Commission's determi-

nation of fair selling prices and the protective duties recommended by it have helped generally to stabilize the internal prices of these products, which is so essential to the national economy.

Industries To Be De-protected

Some industries are proposed to be de-protected from January 1, 1958. The artificial silk fabrics and cotton and artificial silk mixed fabrics industry was granted protection for the first time in 1934 as part of the scheme of protection to the artificial silk fabrics industry. It is now sought to be de-protected, in spite of several protests. In 1947, there were only 1500 power looms registered with the Textile Commissioner for the manufacture of art silk fabrics. At present there are about 44,500 power looms.

Thus within a decade this industry has grown from 1500 to 45,000 power looms. The volume of indigenous production has increased from 174.14 million yards in 1947 to 279 million yards in 1957. The industry is making every effort to improve the quality of art silk fabrics and increase the range of production.

Since January 1, 1957, the imports of artificial fabrics have been banned but special imports are allowed to exporters of fabrics under the export promotion scheme. Such imports also enable the industry to know the trend of production, designs and styles in vogue in other countries.

Our exports have been steady in the neighbourhood of 3.5 million yards. Government have taken steps to promote exports of art silk fabrics by grant of drawback of duty on imported yarn, refund of excise duty and grant of import licences for yarn against corresponding exports.

The industries which are sought to be de-protected have been carefully considered. The Tariff Commission has asked for protection of certain industries and the Government have accepted them.

Cement Advisors' Work

According to a Press Note issued by the State Trading Corporation of India on December 27, it was decided that from January 1, 1959, the work till then done by

the Regional Honorary Cement Advisors to the Government of India would be taken over by officers of the State Trading Corporation of India.

The existing regions were re-constituted into four regions: Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and New Delhi, with a Regional Cement Officer in charge of each.

The Bombay region would cover the State of Bombay and Madhya Pradesh. The Regional Cement Officer would have his office at the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Ltd., 159, Churchgate Reclamation, Bombay-1.

The Madras region would comprise the States of Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Kerala; Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Regional Cement Officer for Madras would have his office at the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Ltd., 119/120, Armenian Street, Madras-1.

The States of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam, and Manipur, Tripura and NEFA were included in the Calcutta region. The address of the Regional Cement Officer's office was given as the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Ltd., 32, Dalhousie Square, South Calcutta-1.

The New Delhi region would consist of the States of Punjab, U.P. and Rajasthan, and Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. The office of the Regional Cement Officer would be at the State Trading Corporation of India (Private) Ltd., 169, Golf Links, New Delhi.

All communications addressed till then to the Regional Honorary Cement Advisors should, with effect from January 1, 1959, be addressed to the Regional Cement Officer concerned.

INDIANIZATION OF DRILLING STAFF

The Government of India have decided to gradually replace foreign drilling personnel by Indians in the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, says a New

Delhi announcement of January 2.

At present there are 98 foreigners helping in drilling and survey operations all over India.

A departmental technical school has already been opened at Jwalamukhi to impart theoretical and practical training in drilling engineering. At present 21 Assistant Drillers and Drill Assistants are attending theoretical classes regularly and receiving practical training in deep drilling. Duration of the course is six months after which other batches of the technicians from other fields will be sent for training.

Eight trainees were sent recently to the USSR and one to France for further training in deep drilling. At present 50 Indians are also being trained by the foreign drilling engineers working in India.

Some employees of the Commission were sent to Assam and West Bengal for training in drilling with the Assam Oil Company and the Standard Vacuum Oil Company.

PURCHASES OF NEW TEXTILE MACHINERY

According to a Press Note issued by the State Trading Corporation of India on January 10, the Corporation has entered into special agreements with the manufacturers of textile machinery in Japan, the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia for the purchase of various types of textile machinery by deferred payments over a period of four to five years.

The machinery and equipment covered by these agreements include weaving machinery, finishing machinery, blow room equipment, carding engines, drawing frames, combing sets, speed frames, ring frames, complete cotton waste spinning plant, winding and warping machines, sizing machines, automatic looms, etc.

The import of this machinery will be subject to the Import Trade Control Regulations current from time to time. The supplies available from these countries through the agreements

may cover bulk of the requirements of the textile mills which may require modernization and rehabilitation in pursuance of the public notices issued by the Government of India on October 31, 1958 and November 5, 1958.

Production Of Coal In July 1958

The output of coal in India increased from 3,553,581 tons in June 1958 to 3,740,127 tons in July 1958.

Despatches of coal amounted to 3,358,401 tons in July 1958 as against 3,106,483 tons in the preceding month.

Coal stocks at pitheads amounted to 3,372,278 tons at the close of the month, as against 3,449,381 tons at the beginning of the month.

During the month under review, 840 collieries were reported to be working with an average daily employment of 352,777 workers.

Output per man-shift was estimated at 1.12 tons for miners and loaders, 0.58 tons for all workers underground and in open-workings and 0.39 tons for all persons employed including surface workers.

The percentage of absenteeism was of the order of 12.97.

Nine coke plants at collieries and elsewhere produced 431,683 tons of hard, soft and other kinds of coke during the month and despatched 237,993 tons.

Industrial Estates For Bombay & Rajasthan

Six more industrial estates are to be established in Bombay and Rajasthan to provide factory buildings and other facilities for small industries, says an announcement of January 2. Sanction for these schemes has been given by the Government of India.

The three new industrial estates to be established in Bombay will be at Karad, Nagpur and Nanded. The eight industrial estates already sanctioned for Bombay State are those at Rajkot, Surat, Bombay, Poona, Kolhapur, Baroda, Bhavnagar and Gandhidham.

In the Rajkot estate, 92 sheds have been constructed of which 80 have been occupied. Sixteen more sheds are under construction. The other estates are under various stages of construction.

In Rajasthan the three new industrial estates will be at Sriganganagar, Kotah and Jodhpur. The three other industrial estates, which were sanctioned earlier, are under different stages of construction at Jaipur, Makhapura and Bhilwara. About 45 sheds are to be constructed in these estates.

The Second Plan allocation for industrial estate schemes in the two States will remain unaffected by these additional schemes.

With these schemes the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has so far sanctioned the setting up of 78 industrial estates in different parts of the country. Of the schemes sanctioned so far, 16 industrial estates have been completed and occupied while others are under construction.

These industrial estates provide better accommodation for small industries with facilities of power, water, etc. They bring industries together and facilitate the establishment of common servicing centres, introduction of modern techniques, collective purchase of raw materials and sale of finished products. They stimulate the co-operative spirit among them.

All the estates except the two at Okhla and Allahabad are being built by the respective State Governments. The State Governments acquire and develop land, construct roads, put up factory buildings, arrange for supply of water and electricity and also set up common service workshops. The factory buildings in the States are then let out at concessional rates or sold on hire-purchase basis to small entrepreneurs.

The Government of India advance to the States the entire cost of the estates as loans. Grants are also given for specific purposes such as planning and designing of these estates.

Credit Facilities For Small Industries

The scheme initiated by the State Bank of India to provide credit facilities to small-scale industries which was so far in operation in selected centres only, has now been extended to all the branches of the Bank throughout the country, says a New Delhi announcement of January 12.

Under the scheme the Bank extends credit facilities to small-scale industries for working capital against the pledge of raw materials and/or finished or semifinished goods.

The scheme was put into operation in April 1956 by the State Bank of India in collaboration with other credit giving agencies such as State financial corporations and cooperative banks and the Central and State Governments.

The scheme, which was first implemented in nine selected centres in the country, was gradually expanded to cover 52 towns.

By the end of November 1958 the State Bank had sanctioned advances of over Rs. 2.25 crores to small industries. Of this amount, the advances outstanding were Rs. 78.35 lakhs.

Of the total advances sanctioned, the Bengal circle with five pilot centres accounted for Rs. 26.75 lakhs and the Bombay circle with 12 pilot centres for Rs. 49.56 lakhs. The 26 pilot centres in the Madras circle accounted for Rs. 63.26 lakhs and the nine pilot centres in the Delhi circle for Rs. 75.99 lakhs.

The Bank is also taking steps to enlarge the list of commodities which could be accepted as security for advances to small industries. Efforts are also being made by the Bank to evolve financial and administrative co-ordination including grant of advances on common security among different financing and technical agencies.

CODE OF DISCIPLINE IN INDUSTRY

In 1958, at the Indian Labour Conference at Nainital, the Code of Discipline in Industry was given final shape. It was ratified on the employers' side by Employers' Federation of India, All-India Organization of Industrial Employers and All-India Manufacturers' Organization, and by the Indian National Trade Union Congress, All India Trade Union Congress, Hind Mazdoor Sabha and United Trade Unions Congress on the workers' side.

In the main, the Code lays down that there should be no strike or lock-out without notice; no unilateral action should be taken in connection with any industrial matter; there should be no recourse to go-slow tactics; no deliberate damage should be caused to plant or property; acts of violence, intimidation, coercion or instigation should not be resorted to; the existing machinery for the settlement of disputes should be utilised; awards and agreements should be speedily implemented; and any action which disturbs cordial industrial relations should be avoided. One of the clauses in the Code pertains to the model procedure for redress of grievances which was evolved and accepted by both parties.

The Code also provides for sanctions against breaches of the Code. These sanctions will be enforced by the Central organisations of employers and workers on their constituent units. First, a defaulting unit will be asked

by the central organisation to which it is affiliated to explain the infringement of the Code and will be given notice to set it right within a specified period. In case the infringement is of a serious nature, the unit concerned will be warned and censured. The Central organization may impose any other penalty it thinks fit, and if there is persistent violation of the Code by the unit, even its membership may be cancelled.

Besides these, at the Centre, there is the Evaluation and Implementation Committee, a tripartite body, which reviews the progress made in the implementation of the Code and suggests measures to be taken in regard to cases of breaches referred to it. On the official side, there is the Implementation and Evaluation Division set up in the Labour Ministry, which collects information and assesses the non-implementation of awards and agreements which has a bearing on the Code of Discipline. Similarly, in a number of States tripartite committees and Implementation and evaluation cells have been set up.

Study Of Strikes

Already some of the recent major strikes have been taken up for investigation as case studies in the context of the Code of Discipline. The intention is that at appropriate levels, every case of violation of the norms of conduct laid down in the Code should be examined and appropriate action taken so that there is no recurrence of such incidents.

India-made Sugar Plants For Co-operatives

At a three-day meeting which concluded in New Delhi on January 8, decisions were reached on the supply of twelve complete sugar plants for setting up new sugar factories, of which all excepting one are to come under the co-operatives. The plants will be manufactured by Indian manufacturers.

Representatives of the six sugar machinery manufacturers, the twelve sugar factories (eleven of these are co-operatives), the State Governments concerned, the Union Ministries of Food and Agriculture, the Union Ministries of Community Development and Co-operation and Commerce and Industry, attended the meeting.

It was decided that four complete sugar plants would be delivered to four of the co-operative sugar factories during the crushing season of 1960-61 and the eight remaining plants during the following season, 1961-62.

These twelve plants will be manufactured by the two sugar consortiums — the first consisting of M/s. Walchandnagar Industries, TEXMACO and India Sugar and General Engineering Corporation, and the second consisting of M/s. K.C.P. Limited, Binny and Co., and New India Development Corporation.

Each of the sugar plants will have a daily crushing capacity of about 1,000 tons to 1,200 tons with a provision for expansion up to 1500 tons, except the one unit of M/s. Bist Industrial Corporation which will have a daily crushing capacity of 2,000 tons.

The terms of the draft supply agreement, payment, delivery and performance guarantees were finalised between the co-operatives and the sugar machinery manufacturers.

These decisions constitute a major step forward in the direction of manufacture of heavy machinery in the country. The total value of the order for these machinery will be about Rs. 11 crores and the indigenous con-

tent of the total machinery of each unit will be more than 75 per cent.

This will also enable the country for the first time to manufacture eight to twelve complete sugar plants every year after the first order of twelve sugar factories is completed within the next two years. This will make India more or less self-sufficient in the field of sugar machinery manufacture.

The first four co-operatives, sugar factories, which are being set up with complete machinery and equipment to be delivered by the indigenous manufacturers, will start production during the crushing season 1960-61. The remaining seven co-operative sugar factories and the plant of Bist Corporation will go into production during the crushing season of 1961-62. The production of these twelve units would bring in an additional 1.6 lakh tons of sugar per year.

As regards finance for the co-operative factories, each co-operative society has agreed to raise the funds up to Rs. 20 lakhs from the agriculturist shareholders, as a mark of their greater contribution to co-operative effort. The balance of the amount will be raised by the co-operative sugar factories as loans from the industrial Finance Corporation, the State Apex Co-operative Banks and by the share capital participation by State Governments.

As a measure for promoting the growth of co-operatives, the Central Government have decided to assist these co-operative sugar factories, even in the present difficult foreign exchange situation, by a phased release of about Rs. 3 to 3.5 crores of foreign exchange during the next four years. This amount is for the import of essential raw materials for fabricating the plants and for equipment like turbo-generators which are not yet manufactured in the country.

Of the eleven co-operative sugar factories, four are being located in Andhra, two each in the Punjab and Bombay and one each in Mysore, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh.

COMMODITY PRICES FOR NOVEMBER 1958

According to a Press Note issued on December 27, by the Office of the Economic Advisor to the Government of India, wholesale prices as measured by the official index (with the year ended March 1953 as 100) recorded a fall of 1.9 per cent to 114.0 during the month of November 1958 as compared with 116.2 (revised) for October 1958. The index was, however, higher by 4.3 per cent when compared with 109.3 for November 1957. During the month under review, 'Food Articles' went down by 2.6 per cent to 118.0, 'Fuel, Power Light and Lubricants' by 0.4 per cent to 115.0 and 'Industrial Raw Materials' by 3.2 per cent to 113.2 while 'Tobacco' advanced by 3.4 per cent to 94.4. The index for 'Manufactures' stood unchanged at 108.7.

Food Articles

Lower prices of rice, Jowar and ragi brought down the index for 'Cereals' by 2.7 per cent to 110.5 notwithstanding a rise in the prices of wheat, barley and maize. An increase in the prices of gram, arhar and mung pushed up the sub-group index for 'Pulses' by 2.8 per cent to 112.3 despite a decline in the prices of masur and urad. A fall of 5.5 per cent to 117.0 in the index for 'Fruits and Vegetables' was caused by a decline in the prices of potatoes, oranges, bananas and cashewnuts although in the prices of onions there was an increase. The index for 'Milk and Ghee' went down by 3.2 per cent to 106.2 owing to a fall in the prices of both milk and ghee. Prices of all the edible oils, except coconut oil which showed an increase, were marked down and the index for this sub-group dropped by 5.7 per cent to 123.8. The sub-group index for 'Fish, Eggs and Meat' fell by 0.8 per cent to 108.7 due to decreases in the prices of fish and meat; the price of eggs was, however, quoted higher. A fall of 6.0 per cent to 127.3 in the sub-group index for 'Sugar and Gur' was brought about by a decline in the price

of *gur*. Higher prices of coffee, chillies, cloves, cummin (*jira*) and salt were responsible for an advance of 0.5 per cent to 159.8 in the index for 'Other Food Articles' despite a fall in the prices of tea, pepper black, cardamoms and betelnuts.

Tobacco

Higher prices of raw tobacco raised the index for 'Tobacco' by 3.4 per cent to 94.4.

Fuel, Power, Light And Lubricants

A decline in the prices of coal with effect from the 17th of the previous month resulted in a lower average for coal during November 1958. Prices of castor oil were also marked down and in consequence the index for this group receded by 0.4 per cent to 115.0 during the month under review.

The index for 'Fibres' went down by 1.8 per cent to 102.7 owing to a fall in the prices of raw cotton, raw jute and raw silk although the price of raw wool showed an advance. Groundnuts, linseed, castorseed, gingellyseed and rapeseed exhibited declines while cottonseed and copra went up and the index for 'Oilseeds' registered a fall of 6.3 per cent to 126.8. A rise of 1.2 per cent to 106.5 in the index for 'Minerals' was brought about by an increase in the price of manganese ore. Higher prices of raw hides, raw skins, lac and bamboos raised the sub-group index for 'Other Industrial Raw Materials' by 1.0 per cent to 108.0 despite a slight fall in the prices of tanning materials.

Intermediate Products

Prices of linseed oil, cotton yarn, rayon yarn and German silver witnessed declines while those of coir yarn, aluminium, zinc, brass, tin and lead were marked up and in the result the index for 'Intermediate Products' fell by 0.6 per cent to 109.5 during the month under review.

Finished Products

A fall in the prices of cotton manufactures (-0.3 per cent to 111.2) and silk and rayon manu-

factures (-3.5 per cent to 92.2) was responsible for a decline of 0.4 per cent to 103.2 in the index for 'Textiles' although the prices of jute manufactures (+0.6 per cent to 88.0) showed a rise. Woollen manufactures remained stationary at 105.9. The sub-group index for 'Metal Products' stood unchanged at its last month's level of 143.1. The index for the sub-group 'Chemicals' rose by 2.6 per cent to 110.5 owing to an increase in the prices of general chemicals, dyeing materials, drugs and medicines. 'Oil-cakes' went up by 1.1 per cent to 143.2. Prices of machinery, bobbins and cycles moved up and in the result the index for 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' advanced by 0.6 per cent to 104.1. A decline of 0.1 per cent to 113.8 in the index for 'Other Finished Products' was caused by a fall in the prices of bricks and tiles and glass although prices of pottery goods exhibited a rise during the month under review.

FOREIGN TRADE OF INDIA

According to a Press Note issued on December 26 by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and statistics, the provisional figures of foreign trade of India by all routes (i.e.) sea, air and land, on private and Government accounts during October 1958 according to data so far available in the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, are as follows:

Merchandise, excluding transit trade of Pakistan and other overland foreign countries viz. Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan: Exports Rs. 55.76 crores, re-exports Rs. 0.34 lakhs, imports Rs. 56.99 crores. Total trade Rs. 113.09 crores.

Treasure: Exports (including re-exports) of currency notes Rs. 32 lakhs, gold nil, current coins (excluding gold coins) negligible. Imports of currency notes Rs. 4.18 crores, gold Rs. 4 lakhs, current coins (excluding gold coins) Rs. 2 lakhs.

Balance of Trade: The merchandise import figures are ex-

clusive of the value of certain consignments of Government stores awaiting adjustment. Subject to this deficiency in import figures, the total value of exports (including re-exports) of merchandise and gold fell short of imports by Rs. 98 lakhs.

INDO-INDONESIAN TRADE ACCORD

According to an announcement made on January 10, letters were exchanged in Jakarta between the Ambassador of India to Indonesia and the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, extending upto June 30, 1959, the validity of the Trade Agreement between the two countries, together with the schedules attached to it.

The principal commodities listed for export from India to Indonesia under the Agreement are: cotton textiles and yarn, jute goods, tobacco, linseed oil, hardware, pharmaceutical products and chemical preparations, tea chests, sports goods, rubber tyres and tubes, porcelainware, paper and boards, machinery including agricultural implements, diesel sugarcane crushers, textile machinery, electrical equipments including motors and batteries, sewing machines, hurricane lanterns and household utensils.

Among the items listed for exports from Indonesia to India are copra and coconut oil, palm kernels and oil, essential oils, spices including betel nuts, timber, tin, rubber, hides and skins, canes and rattans, gums and resins, tanning materials, sisal fibre and tobacco wrappers.

Trade Between India And Mongolia

Letters were exchanged in New Delhi on January 14 between India and Mongolia for the purpose of promoting trade between the two countries.

It was affirmed by both parties that all commercial and non-commercial payments between them would be effected in non-transferable Indian rupees. The sale and purchase of goods between the two countries would be by means of contracts entered

into by the foreign trade organizations of the Mongolian People's Republic on the one hand and the State Trading Corporation of India as well as private parties in India on the other.

Lists of goods available for export from either country were exchanged. Goods available for export from India include such traditional items as jute goods, tea, coffee, mica, shellac, manganese ore, coir and coir manufactures, tobacco, carpets and also such comparatively new items as leather manufactures, handloom products, light engineering goods and electrical appliances. The main items available for export from Mongolia are wool, hides and skins, furs, meat and butter, live animals and minerals.

Concession For Imports

The Government of India have decided to extend for a further period of three months the concession under which certain goods can be imported from specified countries by sailing vessels without a licence, says an announcement of December 29.

Under an announcement made on November 7, 1958, the concession was valid for goods arriving at Indian ports upto December 31, 1958. It has now been decided that this concession will be extended up to March 31, 1959. It means that goods which arrive at Indian ports up to March 31, 1959, will be allowed clearance without a licence.

IMPORT OF STAINLESS STEEL

An announcement dated December 2 says, the Government of India have decided, under the export promotion scheme, to permit import of stainless steel sheets, rods, strips and wires against the export of utensils, watch straps and other manufactures predominantly made of stainless steel. Import licences under the scheme will be issued to the manufacturers duly registered with the port import licensing authorities subject to certain conditions.

One of the conditions is that the registered manufacturer-

cum-exporter should undertake to export, within six months of the importation of the licensed articles, finished goods and bring foreign exchange to the extent of not less than 133-1/3 per cent of the value of raw material or half the value of the finished goods which can be made from

the imported material, whichever is higher.

The licences will be issued by the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, on the recommendations of the port import licensing authorities and the Development Wing of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Communications

WORK OF BOMBAY PORT IN 1957-58

The tonnage handled at Bombay port during 1957-58 was 13,110,000, which sets a new record in the history of the port.

The total tonnage of imports handled at the Docks and Bunders during the year was 9,302,000. Exports amounted to 3,808,000 tons. The corresponding import and export figures for the previous year were 8,239,000 and 3,740,000 tons, respectively.

The total revenue of the Port Trust during the year under review (excluding Special Receipts) was Rs. 1,232.51 lakhs as against Rs. 1,127.21 lakhs in the year 1956-57. The net expenditure (excluding Special Expenditure) was Rs. 910.28 lakhs as against Rs. 887.33 lakhs in the previous year. The balances in the various Reserve Funds of the Port at the end of the year were satisfactory.

The number of vessels which entered the port during 1957-58 was 2,340 as against 2,640 in 1956-57. The number of sailing vessels which used the port during the year under review was 38,174 as against 27,740 during 1956-57.

As on December 31, 1957, the Bombay Port Trust provided houses for 3,913 employees, i.e., 17.10 per cent of its total staff (excluding docks, casual mazdoors).

Nine Welfare Centres were conducted by the Labour Department at Port Trust residential settlements for workmen. Indoor

and outdoor games and matches were organized at these centres. Open-air cinema shows, dramas, variety programmes, socials, excursions, celebrations, talks, and demonstrations were arranged and co-operation was extended to local groups for recreational activities.

Health and cleanliness propaganda work was periodically undertaken at the three large labour settlements. Three Scout Troops and two Girl Guide Companies were run for the benefit of the children of Port Trust mazdoors.

Reading rooms were provided at seven places, where popular dailies, weeklies and a few magazines were made available. With the joint efforts of the Welfare Centres, a hand-written magazine was brought out twice during the year. Clinics for women and children were conducted at Antop Village and Wadala, special emphasis being laid on ante-natal and post-natal care, child welfare and education of the mother.

The expenditure out of the Employees Welfare Fund to which an annual contribution of Rs. 30,000 is made from Revenue, aggregated to Rs. 62,554 during the year under report as against Rs. 55,068 in the previous year.

WORK ON GANGA BRIDGE

The fourteenth, and the last, main span of the Ganga Bridge Project, near Mokameh, in Bihar,

has been erected, says an announcement of January 3.

When the bridge is opened, traffic will flow freely across the river Ganga to North Bihar, West Bengal and Assam and quota restrictions on account of transshipment at the ghats will disappear.

With the opening of the Ganga Bridge, a 50-year old dream will come true. The construction of a large bridge across the Ganga has been under consideration since 1907. Actual field work, however, commenced only in October 1955. Within three years, the Project Administration has been able to complete not only the river training works and well foundations, but also the erection of all the 14 main spans of 400 feet each.

Each of the 14 main spans weighs nearly 950 tons. Economy in weight has been achieved by the use of high tensile steel for main members and welded fabrication for floor system. The girders have been erected by the cantilever method, used for the first time in a railway bridge of this size in India.

Approach lines, nearly 18 miles in length, are ready and the construction of a broad gauge-metre gauge marshalling and transshipment yard including loco sheds and other ancillary works are going ahead with speed. More than 1,000 staff quarters are nearing completion with amenities like electricity, filtered water supply and lavatories.

Survey For Rail Line To Dandakaranya

The Railway Board has approved the preliminary engineering, final location and traffic surveys of a new 250-mile rail between Bailadilla-Kottavalasa on the South Eastern Railway.

The survey which is a part of the Dandakaranya scheme for the resettlement of displaced persons from East Pakistan, will be carried out by the South Eastern Railway.

The survey is estimated to cost about Rs. 20 lakhs.

NEW RAIL LINE FOR IRON ORE PROJECT

According to an announcement made on January 13, the Railway Board has sanctioned the preliminary engineering, final location

INNOVATIONS IN BROADCASTING IN INDIA

The chief innovations in broadcasting in India after Independence are: organization of Radio Rural Forums; Radio Newsreels; National Programmes; Documentary Features; and the setting up of the *Vadya Vrinda*.

The purpose of Radio Rural Forums is to get the villagers interested in development work by organizing intelligent listening and discussion groups amongst themselves and broadcasting programmes which will be of practical use to them. A pilot scheme was successfully launched in some selected villages in Bombay State and now it is intended to expand this scheme with the close cooperation of the Community Development personnel.

Radio newsreels are broadcast thrice weekly, and are meant mainly for urban listeners. These programmes present a chronicle of important events, enlivened with on-the-spot recordings. In the Documentary Features graphic account of important national undertakings are provided with sound effects and interviews conducted

with those actually engaged in the work. At present one such feature is broadcast every quarter.

There are National Programmes of Talks, Music, Plays, Operas and Documentary features. In each, the aim is to broadcast programmes of importance and interest to listeners all over the country. In the National Programme of plays and operas for example, the best dramatic creations in each Indian language are translated into all the other regional languages and the translations are simultaneously broadcast from all stations of AIR.

The *Vadya Vrinda* is an Indian orchestra formed with Indian instruments. The nucleus of this A.I.R. orchestra was formed in 1949 and two years later the Karnataka Wing was added. It has presented great poems like *Sakuntala* and *Meghdoot* in orchestral form.

Viridh Bharati was introduced one and a half years back, and its aim is to provide light music of good quality. Over 2,000 hours of light music was broadcast through *Viridh Bharati* till October 1958.

Rail Line To Korea Coalfields

The Railway Board has approved the survey of a new branch line taking off from Bijuri-Karonji railway line, on the South Eastern Railway, to serve the Korea coalfields.

The survey will be undertaken by the South Eastern Railway.

RADIO TELEPHONE TO GHANA

According to a notification issued by the Director General, Overseas Communications Service, Bombay, on December 31 radio telephone service via London to Ghana is available to public with immediate effect.

Food & Agriculture

REPORT OF WORK OF I.C.A.R. IN 1957-58

The Annual Report of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the year 1957-58 was adopted at the Council's Annual General Meeting held on December 31. According to the Report, fifty-two research schemes designed to improve agricultural production through the development of high-yielding and disease-resistant crop, promotion of animal husbandry and extension of training facilities, involving an expenditure of Rs. 27.87 lakhs, were sanctioned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during 1957-58. The Council also sanctioned the continuance of 89 current schemes at a cost of Rs. 41.20 lakhs. Thirty-two research schemes launched earlier reached a stage of fruitful conclusion.

Detailing activities of the ICAR in the field of agricultural research, the Report points out that extensive and intensive research was conducted in green manuring of rice, wheat and other crops. Results proved that in paddy green manure gives the highest yield (31.77 mds. per acre) as against fertilizers which give only 27.21 mds. per acre. Research in the control of weeds made it possible to prepare a co-ordinated scheme on a model pattern which has been put in operation in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Bombay, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

For determining the average response to fertilizers in a given tract, co-ordinated agronomic experiments were carried out in cultivators' own fields. The scheme has been put through in 150 districts so far.

Several schemes designed to improve the nutrient status of soil, the Report adds, were also undertaken by the ICAR during the period under review. These include soil tests with a view to

reclamation of waste land, research on humification of organic matter in relation to physico-chemical properties of soils and a scheme for the standardization of methods of soil analysis.

Plant Diseases

Plant diseases continued to engage the attention of the Council. To fight them effectively, co-ordinated schemes were evolved for investigating the efficacy of different formulations of insecticides against important pests under local conditions. Under the plant virus research scheme at Kalimpong (West Bengal) survey of cardamom mosaic disease (*Fikri*) was carried out in 73 orchards, nurseries and gardens.

Vegetables And Fruits

For all-round improvement in vegetables, extensive research was conducted in various directions such as hybridization, agronomic practices and resistance to disease and pests in the Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi. The vegetables covered were brinjal, tomato, cabbage, cauliflower, bhindi, peas, beans, turnip, gourds and leafy vegetables. Varietal trials were conducted on tuber crops.

Investigation on fruits, says the Report, aimed at improving the variety and cultivation practices, eradicating pest and diseases and evolving efficacious methods of preservation and storage. The fruits covered were mango, banana, citrus, guava, papaya, lichi, *laxi*, pomegranate, date-palm, apple, plums and other temperate fruits. In the scheme for investigation of chemical composition and nutritive value of Indian fruits, nine varieties of fruits were analyzed at the Nutrition Research Laboratory, Coonoor. In all 40 fruits have been analyzed so far. Progress

was also made in the research for the improvement of cashewnut in the States of Bombay, Kerala, Mysore and Assam.

Research On Spices

Problems connected with the development of condiments and spices were examined and efficacious methods of improvement evolved. Schemes for the improvement of cardamom in Mysore and pepper in Kerala and Assam are making headway.

Studies on various methods of cultivation of medical plants, including essential oil-bearing plants, used in Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicines are progressing well in the States of Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal and at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.

Jute & Cotton

According to the Report, research in the cultivation of jute has made satisfactory progress. A sum of Rs. 14.49 lakhs has been sanctioned as grant to the jute growing areas for achieving the production target of 43.83 lakh bales fixed for 1957-58. Besides, a sum of Rs. 86,818 was sanctioned to Orissa for setting up jute seed multiplication farms.

For achieving the target of 50.05 lakh bales of cotton fixed for 1957-58, a sum of Rs. 11.50 lakhs was sanctioned for cotton extension schemes in Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. A provision of Rs. 25 lakhs has also been made for advancing loans to the State Governments for the purchase of improved seeds.

Under the tobacco extension scheme no quantitative target of production has been fixed. The scheme has been put in operation in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. A sum of Rs. 74 lakhs was provided for the development of oil-seeds and varying amounts of funds to be given as financial assistance and grants to the States for the development of lac, coconut and arecanut, were approved.

A scheme for the survey of indigenous agricultural imple-

ments, which have not been covered by earlier surveys, was sanctioned for one year. Under this, information will be coordinated regarding items such as water lifts, chaff cutters ground-nut decorticators, rice processing equipment, threshing devices and bullock-carts.

Animal Husbandry

Animal husbandry received due importance in the research programmes of ICAR. A co-ordinated research scheme was initiated in Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal to assess the relative value of selective breeding of indigenous cattle vis-a-vis their upgrading with improved breeds. Research in artificial insemination conducted at the Central Artificial Insemination Centre, Bangalore, further helped in improving breeds of cattle.

Extensive research was conducted for evolving superior woolled sheep in the temperate Himalayan region, the dry northern region and the southern region. Based on the results of work in these regions, the Council has now launched a co-ordinated scheme for evolving superior breeding stock and improving sheep products. The scheme envisages the establishment of 396 sheep and wool extension centres, 3 sheep breeding farms and 3 wool utilization centres during the Second Plan. Already 128 centres have been set up in different States. Concerted efforts were also made to improve goats and poultry in various parts of the country.

The Report says that schemes for investigation of diseases of cattle and buffaloes, sheep, goats and poultry as well as a number of schemes on specific disease problems, continued to function in the States and at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izzatnagar. A total of 127 bulletins on animal health were issued by the Council.

Dairy Problems

The research in dairy problems included measures for improving storage of milk and milk products, utilization of by-products

in the ghee and butter industries and marketing of milk. Regional animal nutrition stations were established to study problems of animal nutrition, and the scheme for research in cattle sterility was further extended.

The Statistical Branch of the Council continued its work relating to the design of agricultural and animal husbandry experiments and examination of technical programmes. To encourage extensive use of commercial fertilizers by the cultivators, the Branch collected data pertaining to about 7,000 demonstrations carried out in kharif 1956-57 and statistically analyzed them. Data in respect of jowar, bajra, and cotton were also collected. Under the Coordinated Agronomic Experiments Scheme, complex factorial experiments relating to use of fertilizers were conducted at 18 selected centres and on cultivators' fields in 22 Community Project areas. The Branch conducted model agronomic experiments in 30 centres and organized 35 seminars on subjects of statistical interest. A pilot sample survey of fertilizer practices was launched in Barabanki (U.P.) in 1957.

Training

To meet the shortage of trained veterinary personnel required for various development schemes during the Second Plan period, financial assistance was provided to States for running a short two year course in veterinary science. A total of 2,000 trainees will be covered under this. Financial assistance was also provided for starting post-graduate courses in various agricultural and veterinary colleges. The Council conducted two seminars on teaching methods and a refresher course for veterinary teachers. A short period training programme for the benefit of Agricultural Marketing Officers was organized by the Council in January, 1958.

RECORD OUTPUT OF JUTE

Production of jute in India this year was the highest since Partition. It was expected to be about 5.2 million bales — specta-

cular increase over last year's production of 4.1 million bales.

The Second Plan target is 5.5 million bales, only about 3 lakh bales above this year's record output.

Training For Teachers In Agricultural Colleges

The Government of India has decided to organize a refresher course in agricultural engineering in May 1959, says a New Delhi announcement of January 14.

Designed to improve the standard of education in agricultural and veterinary colleges, the training will be given at the Allahabad Agricultural Institute and will include theoretical and practical lessons in the latest developments in agricultural engineering such as farm machinery and power, dairy and irrigation machines, farm buildings, simple surveys and soil conservation.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Education at its Second Session held at Lucknow had recommended that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research should take initiative for in-service training of teachers by arranging refresher courses and seminars.

The State Governments have been asked to depute officers for the refresher course which will start from May 4, 1959.

M.P. RICE CONTROL ORDER

The Government of India have issued amendments to the Rice (Madhya Pradesh) Second Price Control Order, dated January 7, 1959, revising the maximum prices at which rice of coarse, medium II, medium I, fine III, fine II and fine I grades, may be sold in wholesale quantities at rail-head markets and at non-rail head markets in the districts of Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, Raigarh, Shahdol, Surguja and Balaghat, says a New Delhi announcement of January 9. The provisions of the Order have now been

extended to the district of Bastor also.

The Order, issued under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, defines "sales in wholesale quantities" as sales exceeding 10 maunds in any transaction.

W. GERMAN AGRICULTURAL DELEGATION IN INDIA

In a written reply to a question on December 16, in the Rajya Sabha, the Minister of Food and

Agriculture stated that a West German Agricultural Delegation visited India during September-November, 1958 to examine the possibilities of closer Indo-German co-operation in the field of Agriculture with a view to assisting this country in its development programmes. The visit of the delegation was a part of the technical assistance offered by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The delegation consisted of five senior experts of that country in different agricultural fields.

construction of Bhakra dam, which will be borne by Punjab and Rajasthan in the proportion of 84.78% and 15.22% respectively. The last appendix shows that Rs. 68.31 crores is the total cost of the Bhakra dam, including cost of works for left and right power houses.

Thermal Power Station For Neyveli

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 23, Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel, said that the Soviet Government had submitted a report with regard to the setting up of a thermal power station at Neyveli.

The Thermal Power Station is designed for an installed capacity of 250 M.W. and will consist of five condensing turbines rated at 50 M.W. each and operating at steam conditions of 90 atmospheres absolute and 535 C. The specifications of the plant, machinery and equipment will generally follow the norms and standards prevailing in the U.S.S.R., with suitable modifications where necessary, so as to bring them into conformity with Indian conditions and regulations. Negotiations with the Soviet suppliers, he said, were in progress with a view to drawing up contracts for the supply of working drawings and of plant, machinery and equipment based on those drawings.

ELECTRICITY OUTPUT IN SEPTEMBER

The total electricity produced by public utility power stations in India amounted to 1,050.9 million kWh. in September, 1958. Of this, 843.1 million kWh. were sold to ultimate consumers.

The corresponding figures for September 1957 were 922.6 million kWh. and 739.3 million kWh. respectively and those for September 1956 were 209.1 million kWh. and 175.9 million kWh. respectively.

River Projects & Power

PUNJAB-RAJASTHAN AGREEMENT ON BHAKRA NANGAL PROJECT

A comprehensive agreement between Punjab and Rajasthan regarding the Bhakra Nangal project was signed in the presence of Shri T. Sivasankar, Secretary, Union Ministry of Irrigation and Power, in New Delhi on January 13.

The preamble to the agreement, consisting of 51 articles, states that Punjab and Rajasthan agree to collaborate in the construction of a dam across the river Sutlej at Bhakra and other ancillary works included under Bhakra-Nangal project for extension and improvement of irrigation and generation of hydro electric power.

The two States will also share the benefits derived from the Bhakra Nangal project as well as the finances for administration of works included in it.

One of the articles of the agreement lays down that all disputes between Punjab and Rajasthan on the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the common work of the Bhakra Nangal project will be settled by mutual discussion between the chief engineers for irrigation and power in the States.

The contracting States further agree that any unresolved dispute should be referred to a Standing Committee, consisting of the chief engineers of Punjab and Rajasthan, with a representative of the Central Water and Power Commission as chairman.

Another article stipulates that a difference of opinion between the States in any matter arising out of the present agreement should be referred to a person mutually agreed upon by both parties. Failing an agreement on this, a person may be nominated by the President of India.

The decision of this person will be final and binding on the two States.

Of the four appendices to the agreement, the first gives the constitution and functions of the Bhakra Control Board and Bhakra Advisory Board, set up by the Government of India in September 1950.

The shares of the two States for the supplies of the river Sutlej, including those for the existing areas under the Sirhind canal, are dealt with in the second appendix.

The third appendix gives details of the share of cost of

Community Development

C.D. MINISTRY TAKES OVER CO-OPERATION

A Press Communique issued by the Cabinet Secretariat on December 31 says that the President has issued an order renaming the Ministry of Community Development as the 'Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation' and re-allocating the business of Government between the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Another Press Communique issued on the same day says that Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, Minister of Cooperation in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, would thereafter be designated as 'Minister of Agriculture' in that Ministry and Shri Surendra Kumar Dey, Minister of Community Development as 'Minister of Community Development and Co-operation.'

The Community Development programme has been laying stress on the strengthening and expansion of representative institutions at the village level, such as the Panchayat, the co-operative and the village school.

The C.O.P.P. Team which went into the working of the Community Development programme in all its details pointed out in its report that co-operation and rural self-governing institutions, being closely connected with the programme of Community Development, it would be useful to bring them under the Ministry of Community Development which co-ordinates all rural development activities. Accordingly, the Panchayats were already transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Community Development in March, 1958.

Co-operative Movement

The co-operative movement in India is a little more than 50 years old, the first Co-operative Credit

Societies' Act having been passed in 1904. In 1951, while about 3 per cent of the total amount borrowed by cultivators was met by co-operatives, a like proportion by the Government and about one per cent by the commercial banks, 93 per cent of the total borrowings was provided by private credit agencies, for the most part by the individual moneylender, who charged a high rate of interest, ranging from 25 per cent to 70 per cent.

The movement's primary objective, therefore, was the organisation of co-operative credit societies in urban and rural areas to relieve indebtedness and promote thrift. Credit societies formed nearly 85 per cent of the agricultural societies. Large sections of the rural population, however, remained outside their membership. These societies could not meet the bulk of the credit requirements of even its members and they had to seek other sources. The movement had its limitations; it could not effectively meet the challenge of indebtedness in rural areas. Its inspiration was official and it evoked limited response from the people.

Article 43 of the Constitution lays down as a Directive Principle of State Policy that, among other things, "the State shall endeavour to promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operative basis in rural areas."

The importance of the co-operative method for the implementation of developmental schemes was emphasized by the Planning Commission in the First Plan, especially in cultivation, marketing and cottage and village industries. The second Plan has set even higher targets for the co-operative movement.

In 1951, the All-India Rural Credit Survey Committee undertook a comprehensive survey, at the instance of the Reserve Bank of India, of the credit position and the

co-operative movement in rural areas. Its report, published in 1954, made recommendations regarding:

- (i) State participation in the share capital of co-operatives and the nationalization of the Imperial Bank;
- (ii) strengthening of the co-operative credit structure at all levels;
- (iii) linking up of credit with marketing;
- (iv) development of processing on cooperative lines;
- (v) promotion of storage and warehousing; and
- (vi) improvement of training facilities and the strengthening of the supervisory and administrative machinery.

The Government of India broadly accepted the recommendations of the Rural Credit Survey Committee, and a comprehensive programme for the development of cooperative agricultural credit, marketing, processing, storage, warehousing and staff training was drawn up.

The National Development Council, in its Resolution on Cooperative Policy on November 9, 1958, declared that for the development of co-operation as a people's movement, it was essential that co-operatives should be organized on the basis of the village community as the primary unit and that responsibility and initiative for social and economic development at the village level should be placed fully on the village co-operative and the village panchayat. As a rule, the cooperative and the panchayat should serve identical areas. Where villages were too small, with the consent of the communities concerned, they should be formed into larger groups serving a population of about 1000.

The Council asked all States to take steps to review their present programmes of cooperative development and formulate fresh programmes to be implemented during the next two years, and also to change co-operative laws and rules which impeded the development of co-operation as a popular movement. It recommended that by making taccavi loans and other facilities available to individuals through co-operatives, conditions should be created in which every peasant and rural worker would find it to his

advantage to join the village co-operative.

The National Development Council also declared that the co-operative movement should be developed so as to bring within its fold all rural families before the end of the Third Five Year Plan.

For the remaining period of the Second Plan, it was suggested that existing agricultural cooperative societies should be revitalized so as to increase their membership from the present level of 9 to 10 million to about 15 million by the end of the Second Plan. Under the Community Development programme, as a matter of first priority, cooperative societies should be established in those villages which did not have them at present. State Governments should ensure that before the first stage of the Community Development programme was completed in any block, all villages had the necessary cooperative and village institutions. The new societies organized should bring in another 5 million members so that the total membership of the agricultural co-operatives may reach 20 million by the end of the current Plan. In the provision of credit, special attention was to be given to facilities for the grant of crop loans and for assistance to those who could not hitherto obtain credit under the ordinary banking principles.

The National Development Council also emphasized that the programme for setting up 1,900 primary marketing societies serving mandi areas should be completed during the present Plan. Marketing societies should be linked with village co-operatives which should serve as agencies for collection and sale at assured prices at the village level. This would make it possible not only to get larger supplies of foodgrains for meeting the needs of urban areas but also to expand the credit facilities for rural areas. The Council also called for an expansion in the programme of cooperative processing, especially in relation to the processing of food crops.

Existing cooperative departments in the States, the Council pointed out, were not adequately equipped in field personnel and at the higher levels for organizing a large programme of cooperative development.

These departments should be strengthened and a large number of competent and experienced officials brought into the field of cooperation. States should make it a point to draw an increasing number of non-official workers for honorary service so that cooperatives retained their dynamism. Emphasizing the importance of training, the Council called upon State Governments to organize training programme for village leaders who work on village pan-

chayats and cooperatives and for young men in rural areas who could serve as honorary secretaries of village institutions.

Finally, the Council expressed the belief that through the development of cooperatives based on the values of freedom and community responsibility and organized as a national movement, the creative energies of the people would be released for the tasks of national reconstruction.

Education & Culture

REPORT OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S EDUCATION

The National Committee on Women's Education appointed in May 1958 under the chairmanship of Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh, submitted its Report to the Government of India on January 5, 1959.

The Committee's recommendations have been classified under three main categories, viz., Special Recommendations, which need immediate consideration by the Government, other Special Recommendations and General Recommendations.

Among the recommendations which need top priority and implementation by the Government, the Committee has suggested the following:

(1) The education of women should be regarded as a major special problem in Education for a good many years to come and a bold and determined effort should be made to face its difficulties and magnitudes and to close the existing gap between the education of men and women in as short a time as possible.

(2) The highest priority should be given to schemes prepared from this point of view and the funds required for the purpose should be considered to be the first charge on the sums set aside

for the development of education.

(3) Adequate steps should be taken, without any delay, to create a special machinery to deal with the problem of education of girls and women and to assign adequate special fund for the purpose.

(4) Steps should be taken to constitute as early as possible, a National Council for the Education of Girls and Women.

(5) The problem of the education of women is so vital and of such great national significance that it is absolutely necessary for the Centre to assume responsibility for its rapid development. This responsibility will be shown in three ways:

(a) It would be a responsibility of the Centre to see that a parity between the education of boys and girls is reached as early as possible, and also to see that the education of women is developed equally in all parts of the country; (b) the Centre will prescribe targets to be attained and also guide the States in preparing comprehensive development plans for the education of girls and women in their areas; and (c) The Centre will assist

the States financially in implementing the approved plans.

Machinery At The Centre

(6) There should be a senior officer of the rank of Joint Educational Adviser at the Centre to look after the education of women.

(7) It would also be necessary to create a separate unit in the Ministry of Education to deal with the problems of the education of women. This unit would naturally be under the control of the Joint Educational Adviser, who should be the ex-officio Member-Secretary of the National Council for the Education of Girls and Women.

(8) The State Governments should establish State Councils for the education of girls and women. A woman should be appointed as Joint Director and placed in charge of the education of girls and women. She should be responsible for the planning, organizing and execution of all the programmes pertaining to the education of women.

(9) It is also necessary to enlist the cooperation of all semi-official organizations, local bodies, voluntary organizations, teachers' organizations and the members of the public to assist in the promotion of education of women.

(10) To the extent that private effort is not forthcoming, direct action should be taken by the State to develop the education of women and to establish special institutions for the purpose, under its immediate control.

Funds Required

(11) An amount, not less than Rs. 10 crores in addition to provisions that already exist, should be earmarked for the education of women during the remaining period of the Second Plan.

(12) Every State should be required to prepare a comprehensive development plan for the education of women in its area. For this purpose, two plans should be prepared: one for the remaining period of the Second Five-Year Plan and another for the period of the Third Five-Year Plan.

(13) The system of matching grants should be done away with in so far as the development of the education of women is concerned and the entire responsibility for this programme should be taken by the Government of India.

(14) During the Third Five-Year Plan, there should be a special programme for the development of the education of women which is not covered by any of the general programmes and that a sum of not less than Rs. 100 crores should be allocated for it.

(15) The University Grants Commission which is a statutory autonomous body empowered to deal with colleges and universities, should set apart a special fund of not less than Rs. 1 crore for the remaining period of the Second Five-Year Plan for giving necessary grants to colleges including, training colleges, for the construction of hostels for girls. While sanctioning these grants, preference should be given to colleges in rural areas and to semi-urban institutions. The funds should be utilized either for purposes of grant-in-aid or for loans. When grants are given, they should cover 75% of the total expenditure and, in case of rural colleges grants on a 100% basis may be given. The loans should cover the entire cost of the Projects and should preferably be interest-free. Their repayment should be spread over a fairly long time.

(16) The Planning Commission should set up a permanent machinery to estimate, as accurately as possible, the requirements of women's services for the Plans from time to time and make the results of its studies available to the Government and the public.

(17) Government should set up, as early as possible, a high-power Committee to examine the so-called wastage in the medical and professional education of women.

Literacy Among Women

The Committee in its Report has also reviewed the growth

and expansion of education of women from 1800 to 1947 when the British Power was withdrawn from India. Although the position of the education of women had improved considerably as compared to the conditions obtaining in 1800, the overall picture of the education of women was far from satisfactory even in 1947. The percentage of literacy for women was as low as 6.0% in 1941 and even in 1951 it had increased to only 9.3%. The total number of girls enrolled at all levels was only 41,56,742 which was about 1.3 per cent of the estimated population for 1946-47. Moreover, there was a wide disparity in the education of boys and girls because only 30 girls were under instruction for every 100 boys at school and, even in this land of villages, a disproportionately large part of the education of girls at the primary stage was confined to urban areas which also had most of the facilities of secondary and higher education.

In 1956-57, the total number of girls enrolled in the primary classes was about 80 lakhs and the average increase in the number of girls enrolled in primary classes between 1949-50 and 1956-57 has been about 4.5 lakhs. However, the Report thinks, it shall be required to raise the enrolment of girls from 80 lakhs in 1956-57 to 269 lakhs in 1965-66, which implies an annual increase of about 21 lakhs.

In view of the revised target to provide universal, free and compulsory education to the age group 6-11 by the end of the Third Five-Year Plan, the urgent need to bridge this gap was recognized by the Committee. For this the Committee have suggested both special and general measures.

In regard to the education of girls of age group 11-14, the Committee has recommended that efforts should be made to increase their enrolment to one-half of that of boys of the same age group by the end of the Third Five-Year Plan. It has

further recommended that the gap between the education of boys and girls at this stage should be eliminated altogether by the end of the Fourth Five-Year Plan.

So far as the education of girls in the age group 14-17 is concerned, the Committee felt that it was not possible to prescribe any definite target.

Development At Secondary Stage

For the development of education of girls at the middle and secondary stages, the Committee has recommended several measures including education at the middle stage, grant of liberal exemptions, free tuition and other fees at the secondary stage, provision of suitable hostel facilities to all poor and deserving girls, non-matching building grants for the construction of hostels, provision of transport facilities, free or subsidised, provision of necessary special facilities required by girls in all co-educational schools, grant of books, stationery, other educational equipment and clothes to all girls whose parents have an income below a specified level, grant of financial assistance to needy girls at the secondary stage, a fair provision of merit scholarships for deserving girls at the middle and secondary schools and the provision of guidance services in schools at this stage.

Shortage Of Teachers

Referring to problems of shortage, training and employment of women teachers, the Report mentions that women teachers formed only 16.8% of the total number of teachers at the primary stage, 17.7% at the middle and 19.0% at the secondary stages.

To remedy this and to attract better qualified persons to the teaching profession, the Committee has recommended the increase of the remuneration of teachers and the institution of a scheme of old-age pension for them.

In order to overcome the existing shortage of women teachers in rural areas, the Com-

mittee has recommended two programmes. Under the first, educated women from urban areas should be induced to go to villages by providing them amenities, such as staff quarters or grant of village allowance. Where both husband and wife are qualified as teachers, they should both be posted at the same place. Inducement should also be given to wives of school masters to qualify themselves as teachers or as school-mothers.

It has also recommended that the existing method of selecting teachers should be improved. Several measures for improvement in the existing training institutions for women teachers have also been recommended by the Committee.

Another measure recommended by the Committee is the provision of part-time teachers to enable women to manage their responsibilities at home as well as to do some teaching work.

The Committee has also made detailed recommendations in regard to the vocational education and training facilities for employment, special education facilities for adult women, and need for change in the present curriculum and syllabi.

The Committee has suggested the appointment of a special committee to examine the problem of pre-primary education in all its aspects and to suggest measures to develop pre-primary education in the country more rapidly than in the past.

Voluntary Organizations

The Committee has made far-reaching recommendations with regard to the role of voluntary organizations in the implementation of various development programmes in the field of education. While reviewing the contributions made by the voluntary organizations and governmental attitude to private effort in retrospect, the Committee observed that the difficulties which the organizations are facing even today are too many: (i) Grants-in-aid are not sufficiently liberal, (ii) there is too much of departmental control, and (iii) the procedures of

release of grants are unduly complicated. The Committee, therefore, made the following recommendation:

The private educational institutions must be regarded as full and equal partners of Government institutions in all matters regarding States' privileges and financial assistance. In recognition of this principle it would involve several changes in the grants-in-aid rules and manuals so that all clauses which discriminate between Government and non-Government schools could be eliminated.

The Report of the Committee will be discussed by the Central Advisory Board of Education at its next meeting.

WORK ON FUEL RESEARCH

Research workers at the Central Fuel Research Institute have succeeded in developing a simple process for the production of soft-coke for domestic use. This domestic fuel, which is obtained by low-temperature carbonization of non-coking coal and washery middlings, also happens to be smokeless. A wider utilization of this fuel should help to eliminate smoke nuisance in big cities and coal fields, and save cow-dung and fire-wood for the benefit of agriculture.

The development and proper utilization of the country's fuel resources, of which coal constitutes a major portion, is fundamental to industrial progress.

India's resources of coal, particularly of good quality coal, are not commensurate with her requirements. Under the circumstances, investigations of coal resources will have to be intensified and ways found for a more economic and efficient utilization of the available resources.

Fuel research, chiefly coal research, is necessary from another point of view as well. Fuel leaves a variety of by-products valuable for the chemical industry. From coal are derived such important products as dyes, drugs, disinfectants, industrial explosives and

fertilizers. Research enables us to extract these and other useful commodities from coal.

It was these and similar other considerations that led to the formation of a Fuel Research Committee in 1940. The Committee's chief recommendation was the formation of a well-equipped institute for fuel research. In 1946, the foundation of the Fuel Research Institute was laid at Digwadih, about nine miles from Dhanbad, situated in the heart of the Central Indian coal fields area. In April 1950, the Institute was formally declared open.

Coal Survey

During the eight years that have followed its establishment, the Fuel Research Institute in Dhanbad has made significant contribution to our knowledge of Indian coals. Prior to the physical and chemical survey of Indian coals carried out by the Institute's Coal Survey Organization, only the most sketchy knowledge existed of the quality of coals in the various coal producing areas in the country. The availability of this type of data is naturally of great importance in plans for raising the production of coal in India to 300 million tons per year by 1975. This figure is ten times the annual production for 1946, the year in which the Institute's foundation was laid.

The Coal Survey Organisation of the Central Fuel Research Institute consists of six regional Coal Survey Stations situated in the important coal producing areas of the country. These Stations have been collecting data which give a complete quality picture of the coals in each particular area, and from this emerges an overall national picture. This picture is not very satisfactory owing to the fact that most of the Indian coal reserves are not of the best quality and are also non-coking in nature. These very facts, however, constitute a challenge to the scientists engaged in fuel research. Hence the importance of the work being done at the Institute on upgrading and cleaning of coals, is very great.

Upgrading Of Coal

Work done at the Institute and at the Coal Blending and Coking Research Organization at Jamshedpur has shown that it is possible to

obtain good metallurgical coke to meet the requirements of the iron and steel industry which needs coal of superior quality. Special processes have been developed at the Institute for converting ordinary coal into high quality coal. Apart from this, there are extensive fundamental studies in progress at the Dhanbad Institute to obtain a better picture of the nature of coal and what constitutes the essential difference between coking and non-coking coals. Attempts are also being made to devise suitable methods for pre-treating non-coking coals so that they yield metallurgy-grade coke on carbonization.

The Central Fuel Research Institute has been a pioneer in the field of coal cleaning in India. It was in recognition of this pioneering work that the Government of India entrusted the Institute with the task of drawing up the specifications for new washeries in the public sector. These washeries are to be located at Kargali, Dugda, Bhojudih, Patherdin and Korba. In addition, the Institute will shortly take up investigations and planning for at least three more Central washeries for the Indian Railways. The work so far done at the Institute has dispelled the long prevailing notion that Indian coals are not amenable to cleaning.

Fuel research does not, however, end with the survey and selection of coals for different industrial or domestic uses. It also extends to such needs as utilization of tars and to uses for other by-products obtained from coal. Among the important by-products of coal obtained at the Institute are chemicals used in water softening and for the manufacture of glucose from starch; ashless carbon for the manufacture of electrode carbon and other moulded products; certain types of resins from Indian coal tars for paint, varnish, rubber and paper industry, floor coverings, printing inks and adhesives; montan wax from South Arcot lignite and pyrites from the washery rejects from coal. The great value of these products to Indian economy can be judged from the fact that large quantities of some of these materials were until recently imported from foreign countries.

HAFFKINE INSTITUTE DIAMOND JUBILEE

The President Dr. Rajendra Prasad inaugurated the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Haffkine Institute on January 10.

The Haffkine Institute began its life as a literally one-man mission exactly sixty years ago, when in a small hut in the compound of the J.J. Group of hospitals in Bombay, Dr. W.M.W. Haffkine set to work to find prophylactic vaccine for plague. In 1899, the year of the great plague in Bombay, the former Government House at Parel was converted into an emergency hospital. Dr. Haffkine shifted there and his small Plague Research Laboratory was renamed as the Bombay Bacteriological Laboratory. Dr. Haffkine guided the destiny of this institution till 1905. Twenty years after his retirement, which was in the year 1925, the Laboratory was named after him and re-organised as the Haffkine Institute.

Today, the interest and activities of the Haffkine Institute embrace a wide field of medical research and humanitarian work.

The Institute not only undertakes large-scale manufacture of vaccines, serums and other biological products but also functions as the chief centre in India for investigations connected with prevention and treatment of plague. It also conducts medical research on problems connected with nutrition, malaria and other virus diseases.

The Vaccine Department of the Institute, apart from preparing vaccines for various diseases, tests vaccines produced at other institutions. Its department of Clinical Pathology carries out valuable work in diagnosis of doubtful and difficult cases. The Institute also collaborates with the Indian Council of Medical Research and the World Health Organisation in the implementation of their research programmes.

INDIA'S ROLE IN I.G.Y. PROGRAMME

The 18-month International Geophysical Year programme came formally to an end on the last day of the year 1958.

The programme extended over 13 major fields, ranging from subjects of general interest like meteorology, cosmic rays, seismology, ionosphere, and latitude and longitude determinations, to more specialised fields like glaciology, oceanography, rockets and satellites. India participated in every one of these fields, and made important contributions. The geomagnetic equator passes through the southern part of India. Therefore the observations made in Indian observatories proved particularly valuable.

India's major contribution has been in the study of sun-spot activity. The present sun-spot cycle is the largest on record and the attendant activity was studied by the observatories at Hyderabad and Kodaikanal. Daily reports received from Kodaikanal observatory were broadcast to other IGY stations in the world by All India Radio, which also made daily broadcasts of important notices and signals received from the Meteorological Department of India and other sources.

Another important IGY observation post in India was situated at Naini Tal, where a high-precision Markowitz camera was installed to make precise optical tracking of the satellites.

The Survey of India and the National Physical Laboratory at New Delhi cooperated in the programme of latitude and longitude measurements.

India also made significant observations in the field of oceanography and seismography. Survey of tidal streams is still being carried out at more than thirty sites in the gulf of Cambay. Seismograph observations have been made at a number of stations and a long period electromagnetic seismograph, loaned by the University of Columbia,

was installed at Agra for the duration of the IGY observations.

The Geophysical Survey of India brought to light valuable data concerning the growth and behaviour of major central Himalayan glaciers. Two significant findings of the surveys were that the majority of the glaciers are now in a retreating phase and also, there has been a considerable reduction in the volumes of glaciers.

HIGH ALTITUDE RESEARCH

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on December 23, the Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Dr. M.M. Das said that the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research at its meeting held on 15th October, 1958, decided to take over the Gulmarg Research Observatory. The matter was being pursued with the Universities of Aligarh and Jammu and Kashmir under which it functions at present.

A Committee consisting of Prof. S.N. Bose, Dr. H.J. Bhabha, Dr. K.S. Krishnan, Dr. D.S. Kothari, Prof. P.S. Gill and Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research had been constituted, added the Minister, to consider its present lines of work and pattern of future development and management.

Audio-Visual Education Board Meeting

The third meeting of the National Board for Audio-Visual Education was held in New Delhi on January 5. Shri R.P. Naik, I.C.S., presided. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Naik underlined the importance of visual aid to education, and called for judicious use of audio-visual techniques. These aids, Shri Naik said, could not supplant education; they could only supplement it.

Recommendations

In its concluding session on January 6, the National Board of Audio-Visual Education approved

ed the scheme for the establishment of the National Institute for Audio-Visual Education.

The Board has also suggested several important measures to popularise and encourage the use of audio-visual aids to education in the country.

The proposed Institute will provide regular training facilities to teachers in the field of Audio-Visual Education. It will be a part of the educational development programme of the Ministry of Education under the Second Five-Year Plan and would help to raise a corps of trained personnel in the production and use of audio-visual aids.

The Institute will further carry out evaluation and research in the effectiveness of the audio-visual aids as applied in the educational institutions. It was, however, emphasised that research in the evaluation of films and other visual aids in education should also be taken up by the Institute in co-operation with some select institutions.

It was emphasised that encouragement should be given to the production and use of cheap non-projected aids by using stamps, coins, standard pictures, picture-postcards, etc.

The Board recommended that students of Teachers Training Colleges should be encouraged to conduct research in 'films and filmstrips'. It was decided to prepare a list of persons who have done or are doing research in the field of Audio-Visual Education as also to collect all other relevant data in this behalf.

The importance and utility of filmstrips vis-a-vis films for a country like India was accepted and it was reiterated that the use of the filmstrips should be integrated into the educational system as far as possible.

The Board considered the reports of the State Governments and felt that more ground has to be covered in the matter of application of audio-visual aids in teaching and the training of the necessary personnel. Those State Governments who have not yet established the State

Audio-Visual Boards should try to do so as early as possible.

The report on the progress of the Audio-Visual Unit of the Ministry of Education was also considered. Various suggestions to resolve the obstacles in the production, exchange and dubbing of films were discussed.

It was decided to set up an advisory standing committee of the National Board for Audio-Visual Education consisting of seven members. The Committee would meet once in three months.

India-U.A.R. Cultural Agreement

The Instruments of Ratification of the Cultural Agreement between the Governments of India and the United Arab Republic were exchanged in New Delhi on January 13.

The Cultural Agreement between India and the U.A.R., which consists of twelve articles, declares that the two Governments desire to establish and strengthen the bonds of friendship, promote cultural relations and develop mutual cooperation in scientific, educational and cultural fields between the two countries.

Under the Agreement, the two Governments desire to exchange teachers at appropriate levels and members of scientific and cultural institutions of the two countries, grant scholarships to enable students to pursue higher study in the scientific and technical fields etc., mutual recognition of the degrees and diplomas awarded by universities and educational authorities in the two countries.

The two Governments shall also consider the question of establishing cultural institutes in their countries.

The two countries, according to the Agreement, will also promote exchange in the field of sports and scout organizations.

The Agreement further contemplates training of employees or other nationals of one Government in scientific, technical and industrial institutions maintained by the other Government.

It also envisages the setting up

of a Committee consisting of representatives of the two Governments which will meet in New Delhi and Cairo alternatively for watching the working of the Agreement in either country.

The Agreement will remain in force for a period of ten years and will come into force 15 days after the exchange of Instruments of Ratification.

Chinese Artists Visit India

A four-member delegation of Chinese artists arrived in Calcutta on January 10, on a six-week visit to India at the invitation of the Government of India. Headed by Mr. Liu Tun-chen, Professor of the Nanking Industrial College and member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the delegation includes Mr. Chang Shu-hung, head of the Research Institute of the Tun Huang Mural Paintings and Mr. Su Hui, a sculptor.

Books For New-Reading Public

To encourage the production of high class and standard literature for the new-reading public, the UNESCO in co-operation with the Government of India, have decided to hold a competition and award 10 prizes of \$ 480 (Rs. 2,280 approximately) each to Indian authors of best books for the new reading public published during the period January 1, 1957, to December 31, 1958, says an announcement of December 31.

Of the 10 prizes, four will be awarded or distributed for Hindi books, three for Tamil, two for Bengali and one for Urdu.

The books should relate to any one of the subjects of international understanding, simple science, economic and social development, or translations of simple classics, written on any of these subjects. They could also be translations from foreign books.

Health

MEETING OF CENTRAL COUNCIL OF HEALTH

The 7th meeting of the Central Council of Health was held in New Delhi on January 15. Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Union Minister of Health, presided.

Surveying the utilization of funds, Shri Karmarkar said that against the total Plan allocation for each State, one State would have used over 50 per cent by the end of this financial year, four over 40 per cent, five between 30 and 40 per cent and the rest, less than 30 per cent. The overall average of utilization of provision made in the Central Plan for assistance to the States for various schemes was 49 per cent, ranging from 4.5 per cent to 74 per cent.

Only in respect of schemes of (i) Isolation of advanced T.B. cases (74 per cent), (ii) National Malaria Control Programme (67

per cent), (iii) National Filariasis Control Programme (48 per cent), (iv) Indigenous systems of medicine (47 per cent), and (v) the National Water-supply & Sanitation Programme (46 per cent), could the offtake be considered to be reasonably in proportion to the total anticipated Plan outlay. He regretted that so far only 7 per cent of the allocation had been utilized for family planning despite the importance attached to it.

This position was undoubtedly partly due to the fact that the annual financial allocation made for many schemes during the first three years of the Plan was below the proportionate Plan ceiling. If the targets were to be achieved the tempo of activity in the next two years would have to be of a much higher

order. Shortfalls due to lack of trained personnel, administrative or procedural delays, had to be deprecated and guarded against. If any projects for training facilities were held up for want of personnel, it followed that timely action had not been taken.

The Minister said that the recent trends towards higher incidence of smallpox and cholera had exercised the mind of the Government of India. It was indeed unfortunate that epidemics of diseases which were amenable to control should still continue to plague the country. Of late there had been certificates issued to Haj pilgrims which not only caused them hardships but also brought disgrace to the country. The Government of India took a serious view of such irregularities. He urged the States to look into this matter and ensure strict adherence to the rules.

T.B. Control Programme

We were unfortunately lagging behind in the implementation of the T.B. Control Programme, the Minister said. He appealed to the members to pay greater attention to this programme of national importance and make special efforts to cut short delays in the formulation of concrete schemes so that the funds provided in the Second Five Year Plan could be fully utilized.

Maternity And Child Welfare

Health services for mothers and children were an important activity of India's health Programmes, the Minister said, and it was encouraging to note that in recognition of this each State had appointed an Assistant Director of Health Service (Maternity & Child Welfare) to direct these services. In order to successfully implement the health programmes for mothers and children as an integral part of the Primary Health Centres, it was essential that the Maternity & Child Welfare Officers were associated in the planning and administration of hospital and field services and provide

technical assistance to District Health Officers in establishing and in maintaining a high standard of service. Their services should be utilized to supervise the work of the women staff and offer technical guidance to the staff at district and local levels. They should also be closely associated with schemes for the training of doctors, public health nurses, health visitors, midwives and dais required to man these services.

Malaria Eradication

The Malaria Eradication Programme, the Minister said, had made good progress and the prospect of malaria being brought to heel within the next three or four years was heartening. The campaign against filariasis was gaining momentum. The battle against leprosy and V.D. should be intensified and made more broadbased. The T.B. Control Programme was lagging behind and the States should make special efforts to expedite formulation of schemes so that funds provided could be fruitfully utilized.

Referring to the primary health centres as the cornerstone of health-care activity for the rural population, the Minister said that while they must aim

at providing as close a network as possible, they should also safeguard against the risk of these centres becoming merely glorified dispensaries. The recent re-phasing of the set-up and revision of allocations should go a long way in enlarging their potentialities. The size of the programme might be restricted in the interest of better functional efficiency, if necessary. The centres must have as their motive preventive work, as they could tackle health problems within a reasonable time, particularly in the rural areas, through timely prevention alone. They were still far from reaching the stage of optimum integration of curative and preventive activities in the health centres.

Family Planning

Family Planning Programme, Shri Karmarkar observed, was gaining strength, but much remained to be done to make it a mass movement. The association of people through voluntary and unofficial organizations was necessary for its success. It was necessary, the Minister said, that 80 per cent of the population in rural areas should be speedily covered. Otherwise, much of the country's planning would not be likely to achieve the results in view.

Labour & Employment

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS DURING 1953-57

A study of trends in the number and types of employment-seekers during the period 1953-57 has shown that jobs provided by the Five-Year Plans have helped to reduce unemployment. Although the number of applicants on the Live Registers of Employment Exchanges had been increasing steadily throughout this period, the rate of increase went down from 8,344 per month in 1955 to 6,012 in 1957.

The findings of the study, however, indicate that the rate of

increase in the number of jobs is not keeping pace with the growing unemployment in the country. Though the number of vacancies increased, the number of applicants available per 100 vacancies was, throughout the period, higher than 2,000.

The study was carried out by the National Employment Service of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

For the purpose of the study, applicants on the Live Register were classified broadly into 7 occupational groups: industrial supervisory, skilled and semi-skilled, educational, clerical,

February 1, 1959

domestic service, unskilled and others.

As regards the industrial supervisory group, the study showed that applicants belonging to this group were absorbed in employment fairly readily. It also brought out the fact that the number of applicants in this group was limited. During 1957, the percentage of vacancies cancelled due to lack of suitable applicants in this category was as high as 40%.

The Live Register in respect of skilled and semi-skilled personnel increased, but the rate of increase slowed down after 1955 until 1957. This indicated a comparatively high rate of absorption of technical personnel entering the labour market. There was a pronounced shortage in respect of this category of applicants, the percentage of vacancies cancelled due to shortage being 19 during 1957. The bulk of the registrants in this group were semi-skilled and often did not answer to the specifications laid down by employers.

Teaching Profession

The number of persons desirous of taking up teaching and other allied occupations showed a rapid rise during the period under study. The increase was particularly marked during 1957. This rapid growth could be partially attributed to the continuous increase in the number of persons coming out of various institutions imparting training to teachers. In fact, the rate of increase in respect of trained teachers was much greater than in the case of untrained personnel.

A more fundamental reason for the rapid increase in the number of persons wanting to take up teaching seemed to be that the profession was becoming more popular among applicants of the 'white-collar' group. The swelling Live Register in respect of educational personnel does not, however, indicate that unemployment among these applicants was necessarily on the increase.

Next to the unskilled group, the clerical group formed the

largest component of the Live Register. The size of the clerical group increased steadily except for a short period in the middle of 1956. The study showed that this rate of growth would not change so long as young persons preferred 'white-collar' jobs or until alternative occupations were open to them.

As regards the domestic service group, the Live Register showed a steady upward trend during the period. The intention of applicants registered for domestic service, however, was to take up work in establishments under public ownership and not under private individuals.

Unskilled Category

The unskilled category constituted the largest single group on the Live Register and as such the trend of the total Live Register was largely governed by variations in the size of this group. The unskilled group constituted about 50% of the total Live Register.

An interesting finding was that the Live Register exhibited seasonal fluctuations, January and August being the peak months and April and November the troughs.

During the period under study, the rate of increase in placements was greatest in regard to the educational group, followed by the clerical group. There was practically no increase in the level of placements of skilled and semi-skilled personnel through the employment service. In regard to unskilled persons, there was a slight fall in the number of persons placed every month.

Employment Situation In November 1958

Employment Exchanges secured 18,911 placements during November 1958, recording a decrease of 1,332 as compared with the figure for the previous month. A comparatively large decrease in placements was recorded in Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Madras. On the other hand, there was an

increase in placements in Andhra, Bombay and Kerala.

Of the total placements secured, 4,386 were under the Central Government, 9,725 under State Governments, 2,568 under quasi-Government and local bodies and the rest under other employers.

The number of registrations effected by Employment Exchanges during November was 1,68,080 as compared with 1,92,365 in the preceding month.

During the month, 6351 employers utilised the services of Employment Exchanges as against 6531 in the previous month. In all 29,027 vacancies were notified by these employers as compared with 31,113 during October.

The Live Register figure which had been steadily increasing since April 1958 showed a decline during November. It decreased from 11,64,369 at the end of October to 11,59,031 at the close of November.

Employment Of D.P.s

According to an announcement made on January 7, out of 3,347 displaced persons who had registered with Employment Exchanges during October 1958, 486 secured placements. The figures for the previous month were 4,031 registrations and 512 placements. Of those placed during October, 310 were migrants from East Pakistan and 176 from West Pakistan.

At the end of October, 45,069 displaced persons were on the Live Register of Exchanges as compared with 44,560 at the end of the previous month.

Consumer Index For November 1958

The Consumer Price Index Numbers for Working Class (base shifted to 1949=100 except where otherwise indicated) increased at 7 centres, declined at 6 and remained stationary at 2 during November 1958.

According to the Labour Bureau, Government of India, the maximum rise of 5 points was recorded by the index number for Mercara (base 1953=

100), which stood at 133. The index number for Bhopal (base 1951=100) appreciated by 2 points to 120; and for Delhi, Ajmer, Berhampur, Silcher and Beawar (base August 1951 to July 1952=100) by one point each to 120, 114, 120, 113, and 109 respectively.

In this group of centres, the food group index numbers appreciated at all the centres, the fuel and lighting group index numbers at 2 centres and the clothing and the miscellaneous group

index numbers each at one centre.

The index number for Mong-hur declined by 8 points to 99, for Tinsukia by 5 points to 8, for Dehri-on-Sone by 4 points to 108 and for Cuttack, Gauhati and Satna (base 1953=100) by 2 points each to 116, 103 and 115 respectively.

In this group of centres, the food group index numbers declined at all the 6 centres, the clothing group index number at 3 centres and the miscellaneous

group index number at one centre.

The index numbers for Akola and Jabalpur showed only fractional variations and stood at 106 and 113 respectively.

The provisional index number for Jharia, Ludhiana and Kharagpur stood at 114, 99 and 120 respectively.

The provisional all-India Index Number receded by one point to 122 during November, 1958. The final all-India Index for October 1958 was 123.

staple cotton in the territory. The average yield per acre in Manipur is 300 lbs. to 400 lbs. as compared to 250 lbs. to 300 lbs. elsewhere in India.

The Chief Commissioner of Manipur would take up with the Territorial Council the question of building a road-cum-embankment on the Moirang river.

ACQUISITION OF LAND IN DELHI

Replying to a question in the

Lok Sabha on December 19, the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, Shri K.C. Reddy stated that since 1948 the Government had acquired land in Delhi for various purposes totalling 5096.30 acres. The compensation paid to the parties concerned, the amount deposited in the Treasury as revenue deposit in instances where the parties did not turn up, and the amount deposited with the district courts in disputed cases, came to a total of Rs. 2,67,17,278.53 nP.

The States

MANIPUR ADVISORY BODY'S DECISIONS

Education from the first to sixth class will be free in Manipur, according to a decision made by the territory's Advisory Committee, which met in Delhi on December 19, under the chairmanship of Shri Govind Ballabh Pant, Union Home Minister.

A preliminary survey of the Imphal Valley in Manipur would be conducted shortly to determine the possibility of utilizing the waters of the rivers, such as the Imphal, Iril and Kongba for irrigation purposes. As regards the construction of a weir at Kakching to regulate the flow of the Sekmai, the Committee was informed, the work would be started as soon as the final survey of the site had been completed.

The Committee took note of the progress made in Manipur about small-scale industries for which an allocation of Rs. 5.85 lakhs has been proposed for the next year. It was also decided that the possibilities of starting suitable industries during the Third Plan period might be explored through some kind of survey of the area.

Cotton Plantation

The Manipur Administration would prepare a scheme to open demonstration farms and to distribute seeds for growing long-

India & The World

ANTI-LOCUST MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA

An Anti-Locust Mission, consisting of 23 technical personnel from the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture, will shortly leave for Saudi Arabia, it was announced on January 11.

The Mission is being sent at the invitation of FAO and will undertake locust control operations mainly in the Hasa Province of Saudi Arabia.

Since 1955, when India joined the FAO scheme for organized and coordinated control of locusts, teams of technical personnel and machinery have been sent to various countries to undertake locust control opera-

tions. Through control measures in Saudi Arabia, which is a potential breeding ground for locusts, the menace is sought to be eliminated from a number of countries including India.

The Mission will leave in two batches.

INDIA'S CONSUL-GENERAL TO BELGIAN CONGO

According to a Press Note issued on 15th December, Shri I. J. Bahadur Singh, Commissioner-designate of India in British East Africa, has been concurrently accredited as Consul-General of India in Belgian Congo and Ruanda Urundi.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

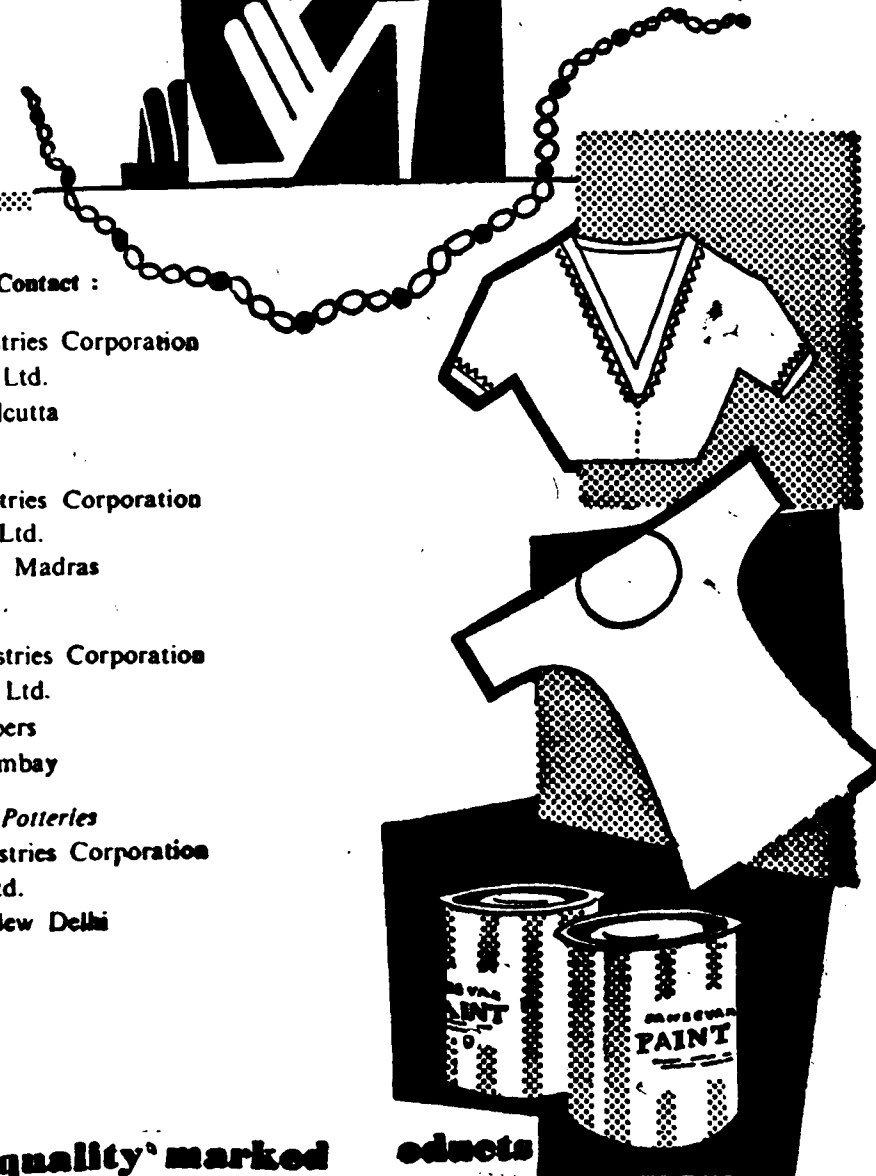
JANUARY 1 TO 15

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| <p>January 1 — All India Writers' Conference, organized by P.E.N., opens at Bhubaneswar</p> <p>3 — The Prime Ministers of India and Ghana issue a joint statement</p> <p>5 — The second International Congress of Jurists begins its six-day session in New Delhi</p> <p>— A new ten-kilowatt short-wave transmitter of All India Radio is inaugurated at Bhopal</p> <p>— The National Committee on Women's Education submits its report to the Government</p> <p>8 — The six-member official U.S. Trade Mission to Northern India, which studied India's plans for small and medium scale industries, submits its report to the Government</p> <p>— Ustad Rajab Ali Khan, an eminent musician, passes away.</p> | <p>10 — Diamond jubilee celebration of the Haffkine Institute is inaugurated by the President in Bombay</p> <p>— Trade Agreement between India and Indonesia is extended</p> <p>12 — The fifth All-India Tribal Welfare Conference is inaugurated by the President at Bardi, Bombay</p> <p>— The East German Prime Minister, Mr. Grotewohl, arrives in New Delhi</p> <p>13 — President Tito of Yugoslavia arrives in Madras</p> <p>— India and the United Arab Republic exchange Instruments of Ratification of the Cultural Agreement between the two countries</p> <p>15 — The 26th meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education begins in Madras</p> |
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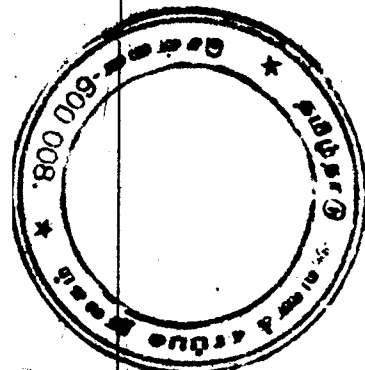
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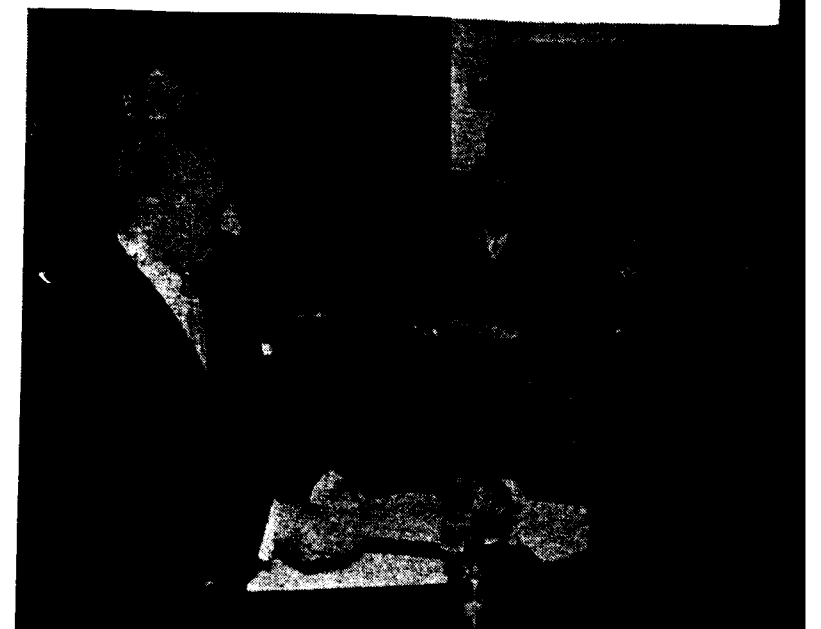
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Agreement between Punjab and
Rajasthan on the Bhakra Nangal
Project being signed in New Delhi



Exchange of the Instruments of the Trade Agreement
between India and Iraq in Baghdad



Exchange of the Instruments of Ratification of a ten-year
Cultural Agreement between India and the U.A.R. in New Delhi

Meeting of the National Board for Audio-visual Education in New Delhi

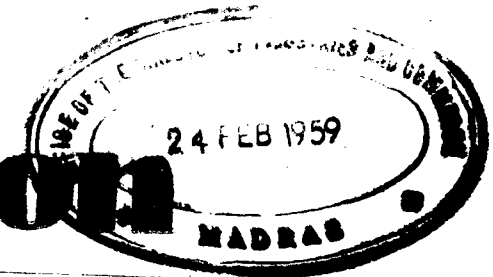


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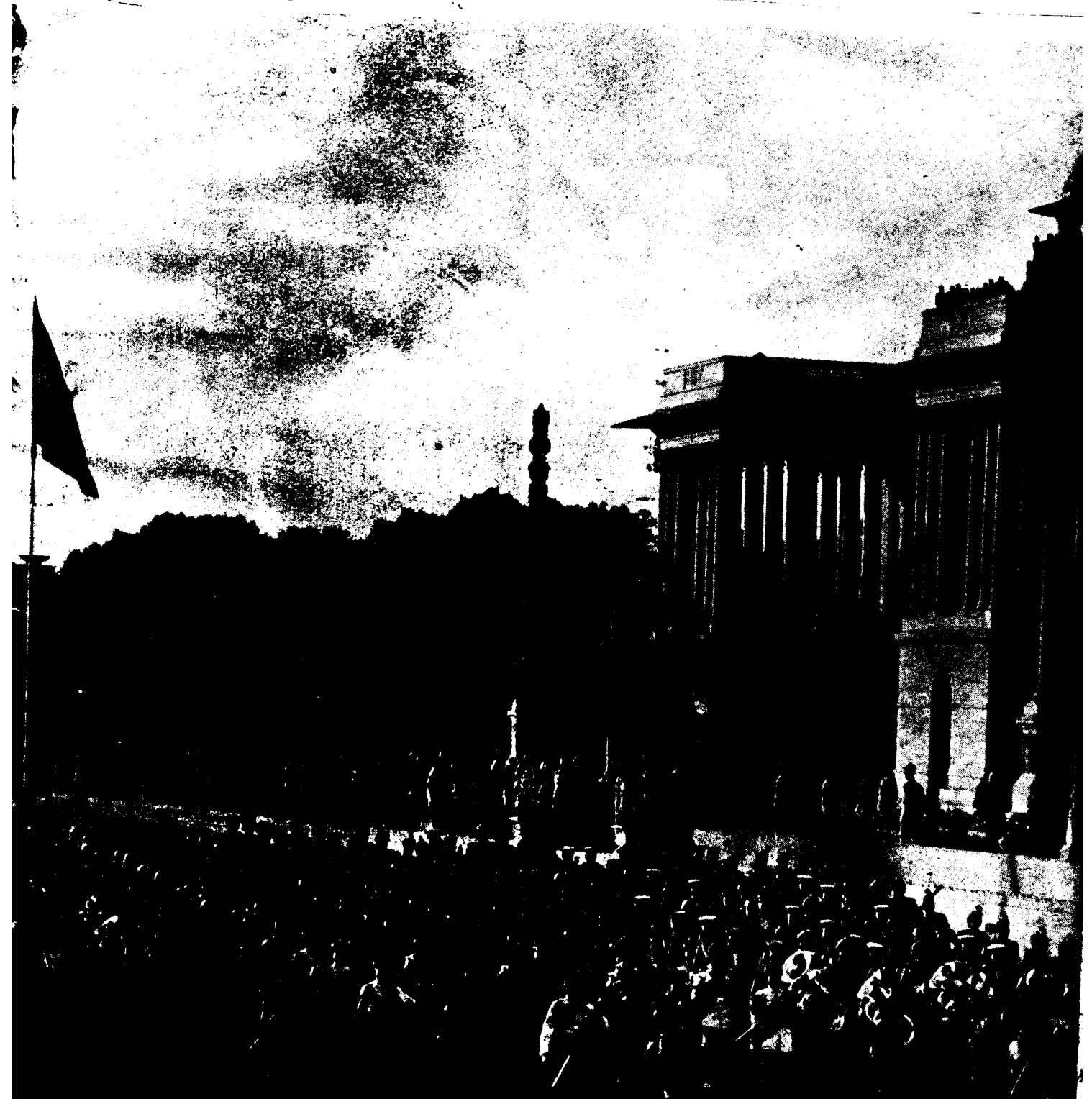
Indian Information



Vol. 2

February 15, 1959 (Magha 26, 1880)

No. 2





The President waving the green flag to inaugurate the new 37-mile rail link between Berhan and Etah on the Northern Railway



The Duke of Edinburgh admiring a richly caparisoned elephant during his visit to Jaipur on January 23

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DHANBAD CONFERENCE ON SAFETY IN MINES 50

COVER : Massed bands of the three armed forces participating in "Beating Retreat" at the end of the Republic Day Celebrations in New Delhi

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

Political & General

PRESIDENT'S REPUBLIC DAY BROADCAST TO THE NATION

Broadcasting to the nation on the eve of Republic Day on January 25, the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, said:

"I take this opportunity once again to talk to my countrymen, to greet them and offer them my best wishes on the eve of our Republic Day. It is the ninth Republic Day that we are celebrating and it is well to remember that our Republic is still young, but it is growing at a pace which fills our hearts with pride

and gives not only to us, but to our friends outside as well, a sense of satisfaction.

"In these recent years we have seen the spectacle of a gigantic effort to mobilise the whole nation to develop its resources and to reconstruct its economic life. Despite handicaps and numerous difficulties, which planning in such a vast country as India of necessity involves, we have gone on and intend to go on from plan to plan till we have made sure that every citizen of

the Indian Republic can have a reasonable standard of living and enjoys a measure of social security. On the progress that we have made in this direction so far, we have been the recipients of compliments from many a foreign visitor and impartial critic. While this naturally makes us happy, we are only too conscious of the difficulties we have to contend against and the shortcomings we have to get over. Whenever, therefore, we allow our minds to wander and bring the affairs of the State

within the purview of thought, both the sides of the picture emerge to view. Let us see how the situation stands.

"During the year that is ending today I have had occasion to visit a few foreign countries. It pleases me a great deal to see that India is held in high esteem by the peoples and leaders of those countries. There is admiration for the manner in which we have conducted ourselves since the dawn of freedom. There may be several factors like our ancient heritage and our tremendous efforts in tackling the problems of economic reconstruction and industrialisation that have helped others to formulate their views about India, but I have no doubt in my mind that the biggest single factor that has been responsible for eliciting this appreciation abroad is our foreign policy. By many India is looked upon as a bulwark of peace and as a nation which stands for the progress and freedom of all nations, which recognises diversity in the pattern of ideologies and administrations and which at the same time believes that given mutual goodwill and tolerance, all these diverse patterns can co-exist. The fact that we are trying to solve our problems by well recognised democratic methods adds to that appreciation.

"I feel happy to say that this policy has won us friends and well-wishers in foreign lands. But at the same time it casts a heavy responsibility on all Indians at home and on those of our nationals living in foreign lands. We must see that in our thinking and our day-to-day behaviour we refrain from doing anything which may not conform to this policy of tolerance and co-existence. A nation's ideology and policies are often judged from the behaviour of its nationals.

"Coming to things nearer home, it is well known and easily understandable that planned economy imposes great stresses and strains on the people. A nation in this respect is

not far different from a family unit. In order to plan a better future and to build up a happier life, both have to make sacrifices, undergo some strain and possibly some suffering. It may well mean dislocations and deprivations, but the idea of ultimate achievement sustains them, helping them to endure those sufferings willingly. If, therefore, our planning has imposed any such hardships on certain sections of our people, it is expected that in the larger interest of the nation and a brighter and happier future, these will be faced without demur.

"What is of utmost importance is the spirit of sacrifice, the willingness to give voluntarily in the present in order to have more in the future through our own efforts. It would be wrong to imagine that austerity as a virtue belonged only to the past or that the spirit of sacrifice is not needed to build up a free nation. If anything, there is greater need for this spirit today than it was before when we were engaged in the struggle for freedom. It is my earnest request to all my countrymen, to all my brothers and sisters wherever they live, whether in towns or in the countryside, to ponder over the situation and ask themselves whether they have made or are willing to make their share of the sacrifice for the building of the India of our dreams.

"The problem of food is a basic problem for all and especially for us. With our great traditions of agriculture going back to centuries and the capacity for work and shrewdness and intelligence of our people it is really a matter of shame and humiliation that we should have to look to other countries for food and spend hundreds of crores of rupees on importing it. Let every agriculturist realise that in increasing production and enhancing the yield per acre of land he is not only doing a great national service but also improving his own standard and thus combining and identifying national interest with his own. Once this realisation comes it should

not be difficult by intensive cultivation and the use of improved methods to raise the yield twofold and solve this difficult problem and become free from the ever present ghost of hunger.

"Brothers and sisters, I would ask you to pause and think of the great opportunity that has come your way and the responsibility that has devolved upon you. The task of raising a new edifice has been entrusted by Fate to you, for you are the builders of a new India. Can any sacrifice be too great to see that you have done your duty and helped your nation, that has tasted the fruit of freedom after a long spell of foreign domination, to reach its destiny?

"In the midst of national rejoicings, I have perhaps struck a different note, but truly speaking, the two are not at variance with each other. Rejoicings which flow from a sense of responsibility are truly rich and abiding. I wish you all the best of luck and prosperity in the coming year."

Republic Day Celebrations

The ninth anniversary of the proclamation of the Indian Republic was celebrated all over the country. The highlight of the national festivities was the armed forces parade in Delhi with the President Dr. Rajendra Prasad taking the salute. The celebrations came to a formal end in the evening of January 29 with "Beating Retreat."

REPUBLIC DAY AWARDS

A Gazette notification issued on January 26 by the Office of the Secretary to the President says the President is pleased to make the following awards:

Padma Vibhushan

Dr. John Matthai.
Dr. Radha Binode Pal.
Shri Gaganvihari Lallubhai Mehta.

Padma Bhushan

Shri Ali Yavar Jung, Ambassador of India, Belgrade.

Shri Bhargavram Vithal Warerkar, Author and Playwright in Marathi, Bombay.

Shri Bhaurao Payagounda Patil, Educationist and Social Worker, Bombay.

Shrimati Dhanvanthi Rama Rau, Social Worker Bombay.

Shri Ghulam Yazdani, Archaeologist, Hyderabad.

Shrimati Hansa Manubhai Mehta Social Worker, formerly Vice-Chancellor, Baroda University.

Dr. Jai Cawasha Paymaster, Chief Surgeon and Superintendent, Tata Cancer Institute, Bombay.

Shri Kankanhalli Vasudeva-charya, Musician and Composer of Karnatic Music, Madras.

Shri Nirmal Kumar Sidhanta, Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University.

Shri Pammal Sambanda Mudaliar, Playwright in Tamil, Madras.

Shri Ramdhari Sinha Dinkar, Hindi Poet and Author, Monghyr, Bihar.

Shri Sisir Kumar Bhaduri, Stage Director and Artiste, Calcutta.

Shri Tenzing Norkey, Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling.

Shri Tiruppattur Ramaseshaiyar Venkatachala Murthi, Professor of Indian Civilization and Culture, Banaras Hindu University.

Padma Shri

Dr. Atma Ram, Director Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Jadavpur, Calcutta.

Dr. Badri Nath Uppal, Agricultural Commissioner, Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Shri Balwant Singh Nag, Chief Natural Resources Division, Planning Commission.

Shri Ganesh Govind Karkhanis, Vice-President, Harijan Sewak Sangh, Mysore.

Shri Homi Nusserwanji Sethna, Chief Chemical Engineer, Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay.

Shri Komaravolu Chandrasekharan, Professor, School of Mathematics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay.

Shri Lakshman Singh Jangpangi, Indian Trade Agent in Western Tibet.

Shri Manohar Balwant Diwan, Dattapur, Kushta Dham Wardha.

Shri Mathew Kandakhil Mathulla, Managing Director, Hindustan Machine Tools, Bangalore.

Shri Mihir Sen, Channel Swimmer, Barrister-at-Law, Calcutta.

Jemadar Milkha Singh, Athlete, Southern Command, Secunderabad.

Shri Om Parkash Mathur, Executive Engineer, Central Public Works Department, Gangtok, Sikkim.

Shri Onkar Srinivasa Murthy, Director (Planning), Railway Board.

Shri Parameshwari Kuttappa Panikkar, Director of Exhibitions, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Shri Parixitlal Majumdar, President, Gujarat Harijan Sewak Sangh, Ahmedabad.

Shri Prataprai Girdharlal Mehta, Chairman, Lalitkala Academy, Jaipur.

Shrimati Ratnamma Issac, Social Worker, Bangalore.

Shrimati Shailabala Das, Social Worker, Cuttack.

Dr. Shivajirao Patwardhan, Leprosy Worker, Bombay.

Shri Surendra Nath Kar, formerly Principal, Kala Bhaxan, Shantiniketan.

Awards Of Vir Chakra And Ashoka Chakra

Investitures for the presentation of gallantry decorations of Vir Chakra and Ashoka Chakra III to the awardees or to the next of kin of the posthumous awardees was held in three State Capitals — Patna, Jammu and Chandigarh — on the Republic Day, January 26, 1959. The awardees of Nepalese domicile received their decorations at Patna.

Following is the list of recipients:

Bihar

Vir Chakra

1. 8605 Naik Balbahadur Mall, 3/9 GR (Posth.)

2. 62917 L/Nk Dharamsing Thapa, 1/5 GR

3. 10-47757 Sub. Sanbahadur Gurung 2/8 GR

4. 9518 L/Nk Jasbahadur Thapa, 2/8 GR

Ashoka Chakra Class III

5. 8362 Hav. Tekbahadur Gurung, 2/4 GR

6. 45420 Rfn. Tilbahadur Gurung, Assam Rifles (Posth.)

Jammu And Kashmir

Vir Chakra

7. No. 2430581 Naik Waryam Singh 1(Para) Bn., Punjab Regiment.

Punjab

Vir Chakra

8. 10-45986 Jam. Janak Singh, C.I. Horse.

9. 23717 Sep. Harpal Singh, 2Bn. Rajput Regt. (Posth.)

10. 3729236 Sep. Ran Singh, 2 Bn. Jat Regt.

11. 1EC-3037 Maj. P.S. Gahoon, 7 Bn. Punjab Regt.

POLICE AWARDS FOR RAJASTHAN OFFICERS

Eight officers of the Rajasthan Police have been decorated by the President, for gallantry in an encounter with a gang of notorious dacoits. Among the officers, four have received the President's Police and Fire Services Medal and four the Police Medal.

The recipients of the President's Police and Fire Services Medal for gallantry are: Shri Guman Singh, I.P.S., Assistant Inspector-General of Police, Anti-Dacoity Force, Jodhpur; Shri Tara Chand, I.P.S., Superintendent of Police, Jodhpur (deceased); Shri Deendayal, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Headquarters, Jodhpur and Shri Padam Singh, Constable, Jodhpur.

The recipients of the Police Medal for gallantry are: Shri Khuman Singh, Constable, R.A. C. II Bn., Jodhpur (deceased) Shri Kundan Lal, R.P.S., Additional Superintendent of Police, Jodhpur; Shri Aturam, Constable, Jodhpur and Shri Raipal Singh, Constable, R.A.C. Ist Bn., Jodhpur.

NEHRU TITO TALKS IN DELHI

During President Josip Broz Tito's brief visit to Delhi, opportunity was taken by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to have discussions with him on a number of subjects of mutual interest, says a Press Communique issued in New Delhi on January 16.

Talks were held between the two leaders on three different occasions and lasted several hours. The discussion covered current international problems in Europe and Asia. President Tito gave a brief account and impression of his recent visit to several countries.

The exchanges were conducted in an atmosphere of complete frankness and intimate cordiality. Both the leaders expressed their determination to continue to do their utmost for the preservation of peace and the solution of international problems by peaceful methods and negotiations in accordance with the principles of co-existence and the policy of non-alignment to any blocks.

Both the President and the Prime Minister expressed the hope that the present negotiations at Geneva for the cessation of nuclear tests would meet with success at an early date.

The President and the Prime Minister noted with satisfaction that the relations between India and Yugoslavia continued to grow in all spheres and were confident that this trend would be maintained and further strengthened.

Prime Minister Nehru expressed his gratitude and satisfaction for President Tito's visit to India and President Tito conveyed to the Government and people of India his sincere thanks for the cordial welcome given to him.

NEW ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

A New Delhi announcement of January 17 says that consequent to the introduction of new civil and military awards, in superses-

sion of two earlier notifications in respect of military and police awards issued in 1952, the President has approved of the new order as follows:

1. Bharat Ratna
2. Param Vir Chakra
3. Ashoka Chakra, Class I
4. Padma Vibhushan
5. Padam Bhushan
6. Maha Vir Chakra
7. Ashoka Chakra, Class II
8. Padma Shri
9. Vir Chakra
10. Ashoka Chakra, Class III
11. President's Police and Fire Services Medal (for Gallantry)
12. Police Medal (for Gallantry)
13. General Services Medal, 1947
14. President's Police and Fire Services Medal (for Distinguished Service)
15. Meritorious Service Medal
16. Long Service and Good Conduct Medal
17. Police Medal (for Meritorious Service)
18. Territorial Army Decoration
19. Territorial Army Medal
20. Indian Independence Medal, 1947
21. Independence Medal, 1950
22. Commonwealth Awards
23. Others Awards.

Ban On Part-Time Jobs For Govt. Servants

Government employees will not be ordinarily allowed to undertake work of a casual or

occasional character even though such employment is after office hours, says an announcement made on January 24.

The ban applicable to 17 lakh employees has been imposed with a view to preventing any kind of deterioration in efficiency. Such employment is contrary to the principle embodied in Rule 12 of the Central Services (Conduct) Rules, 1955, which prohibits engagement in any trade or undertaking of any employment by a Government servant, other than his public duties.

Moreover, part-time employment by a Government servant leads generally to depriving unemployed people of work which they would otherwise have got.

However, in rare cases, permission may be given to accept part-time employment for which prior sanction of Government will be necessary.

RESIGNATION OF SHRI M.O. MATHAI

According to a Press Note issued from the Prime Minister's Secretariat on January 19, Shri M.O. Mathai has tendered his resignation of the post of Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, and the Prime Minister has accepted it with regret. Shri Mathai will be on leave for two months with effect from February 1, 1959 and his resignation will take effect on the expiry of this leave.

Planning & Finance

ANNUAL PLANS FOR STATES Bihar

During recent discussions between the representatives of the Bihar Government and the Planning Commission and the Central Ministries, it was agreed that the Plan outlay of Bihar for the next year (1959-60) should be of the order of Rs. 41.22 crores as

against an estimated expenditure of Rs. 31.31 crores during 1958-59.

Agriculture and Community Development get an allotment of Rs. 13.39 crores. Included in the programmes for the next year are establishment of agricultural schools, construction of tubewells and improvement of roads in the sugar factory areas,

afforestation of waste lands in south and north Bihar, reclamation of waste lands by tractors, the All-India Key Village Scheme, the establishment of a milk powder factory and the Goshala Development Scheme.

The allocation for Irrigation and Power is Rs. 11.57 crores. Provisions have been made for further expenditure on Kosi, Kohira Reservoir, Badua Reservoir, Sone Barrage and the Gandok Project. Included in the power schemes are the establishment of a steam station in north Bihar, the utilization of D.V.C. power in Shahabad and Gaya districts, rural electrification and extension from Maithon to Jamelpur, Monghir, Bhagalpur, Sahebganj etc.

Industry and Mining get an allocation of Rs. 1.80 crores. It includes provisions for the establishment of a high tension insulator factory and the expansion of Bihar Superphosphate Factory. Social Services get an allotment of Rs. 11.31 crores. The Darbhanga Medical College Hospital will be improved and expanded. Provision has been made for the malaria and filaria control programmes. Under Education, opening of new primary and middle schools and the improvement in the salary scales of teachers have been envisaged. There is a provision of Rs. 0.19 crores for miscellaneous programmes.

Kerala

During recent discussions between the representatives of the Kerala Government and of the Central Ministries and the Planning Commission, it was agreed that the Plan outlay of the Kerala Government for the next year (1959-60) should be of the order of Rs. 18.55 crores as against an expenditure of Rs. 17.29 crores during the current year, says a New Delhi announcement dated January 31.

Irrigation and Power get the highest allocation, Rs. 6.20 crores. Under Irrigation, allocations have been made for Neyyar Stage I and II, Chalakudi Stage

I and II, Peechi, Vazhani, Mangalam, Malampuzha, Periyar, Meenkara and Pothundi projects. Under Power, provisions have been made for the Pooringalkuttu Stage I and II and the Nariamangalam projects and the Panniar, Sholayar and Pamba Hydro-electric Projects.

Social Services get an allocation of Rs. 5.46 crores. Provisions have been made for the revision of salary of primary school teachers, for mid-day meals, multi-purpose schools, facilities for teaching science, establishment of a new Polytechnic in Cannanore and of a new Engineering College at Trichur. Under Health, provisions have been made for the expansion of the Medical Colleges at Trivandrum and Kozhikode and the Palghat Water Supply Scheme. Improvement of hospital facilities, T.B. hospitals, maternity homes and maternity and child welfare centres is also contemplated.

Agriculture and allied subjects get an allocation of Rs. 2.86 crores and Community Development Rs. 0.88 crores. Provisions have been made for the establishment of seed farms, arecanut research and development, distribution of fertilizers, comprehensive spraying scheme for the control of coconut diseases, reorganization of the Department of Agriculture, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Key Farms and artificial insemination centres.

Industry and Mining get an allocation of Rs. 1.53 crores and Transport and Communications Rs. 1.04 crores. There is a provision of Rs. 0.58 crores for miscellaneous programmes.

Orissa

During recent discussions of the representatives of the Orissa Government with representatives of the Central Ministries and the Planning Commission, it was agreed that the Plan outlay of the Orissa Government for the next year (1959-60) should be of the order of Rs. 19.32 crores as

against an expenditure of Rs. 16.31 crores during the current year.

Irrigation and Power get the highest allocation: Rs. 8.20 crores. Among the schemes for which provision has been made are Hirakud Stage 1 and 2, Delta Irrigation Project, Salandi Project, Salki Project, Machkund Hydro-electric Project, Duduma Transmission Scheme, Hirakud Power Utilisation Scheme and the Small Town and Rural Electrification Scheme.

Agriculture and Community Development have been allotted Rs. 4.93 crores. Schemes envisaged are the establishment of experimental seed farm, construction of seed godowns, development of the Agricultural College and opening of new veterinary dispensaries.

Social Services get allocation of Rs. 3.99 crores. Included in the next year's schemes are the expansion of elementary education, improvement in the pay scales of primary school teachers, grant to the Utkal University for building, improvement of S.C.B. Medical College and attached hospital, housing and welfare of backward of classes etc.

Industry and Mining have been allotted Rs. 0.89 crores. Provision has been made for starting co-operative sugar factories, industrial estates and pilot projects for small-scale industries. Transport and communications get Rs. 0.74 crores and there is a provision of Rs. 0.57 crores for miscellaneous programmes.

N.E.F.A.

The Plan outlay of the N.E.F.A. Administration for 1959-60 will be of the order of Rs. 122.99 lakhs as against an expenditure of Rs. 204.13 lakhs during the current year, says an announcement of January 28. An outlay of this dimension was decided upon in recent discussions between the Planning Commission and representatives of the concerned Central Ministries and those of the N.E.F.A. Administration.

Agriculture and allied subjects

et an allocation of Rs. 18.71 lakhs. Provision has been made for various schemes for supply of improved seeds and improved tools and agricultural education. Tubewells, poultry development and rinderpest eradication have also been provided for. Under Forestry, there is a programme for the development of Silviculture.

Community Development gets an allocation of Rs. 12.10 lakhs. Power gets Rs. 9.50 lakhs. Village and small industries Rs. 2.70 lakhs and Roads and Communications Rs. 36.11 lakhs. The allocation for Education, Health and Housing is Rs. 40.35 lakhs. The expansion of primary and secondary education is contemplated. There is also provision for increasing facilities at the Central T.B. Hospital, General Hospital and Pathological Laboratory and for creating new Health Units. Miscellaneous programmes have been allotted Rs. 3.52 lakhs.

Rajasthan

A Plan outlay of the order of Rs. 24.06 crores for Rajasthan for 1959-60 was decided upon during recent discussions between representatives of the Rajasthan Government and the Planning Commission and the Central Ministries. The estimated expenditure during the current year is Rs. 22.79 crores.

Agriculture and Community Development receive an allocation of Rs. 5.60 crores. Included in the programmes are construction of wells, development of village tanks, multiplication and distribution of seed farms, expansion of the Agricultural College and the Veterinary College and a sheep and wool development scheme.

Irrigation and Power get an allocation of Rs. 8.90 crores. Provisions have been made for the Chambal, Parbati, Mahi and Ahuni Projects, Namoral Canal Scheme, Chambal Hydel Scheme, development of a Thermal Power Station and the urban and rural electrification scheme.

WORK OF LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION

Since September 1, 1956, when the Life Insurance Corporation was established, life insurance business is being transacted in India by the Corporation and in a restricted sphere by the Post and Telegraph Department of the Government of India and by certain State Governments. At the time of its establishment, Life Insurance Corporation took over the business of 243 units including both insurance companies and provident societies.

The total assets of these units on August 31, 1956 was about Rs. 411 crore and the total number of policies in force was over 50 lakhs, assuring a sum of more than Rs. 1,250 crore. The total number of salaried employees was nearly 27,000.

In 1957 the total number of new policies was 7,88,133,

assuring a sum of Rs. 276 crore in India, while the number of new policies outside India during the same period was 5,035, assuring a sum of Rs. 5 crore. The new business of Rs. 281 crore in 1957 shows an increase of Rs. 23 crore over the business before nationalisation during the peak year 1955. In 1958, business amounting to Rs. 227 crore was completed up to December 22 against Rs. 215 crore in 1957 on the same date. Business by the end of 1958 has been estimated at Rs. 310 crore.

The Janata Insurance Scheme for the agricultural and industrial workers and low-income groups was launched first in Bombay in May, 1957. During the next six months period Janata Policies worth Rs. 79 lakh were issued. This scheme has now been introduced in 13 centres.

Industry and Mining get an allocation of Rs. 0.82 crores, Transport and Communications Rs. 2.04 crores, Social Services Rs. 6.33 crores and miscellaneous programmes Rs. 0.37 crores.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SECOND PLAN

In addition to the contributions made by people all over India, in terms of money and service, for implementing specific Plan projects, voluntary contributions in cash continue to be received in the Planning Commission.

The total contributions received during the period March 1 to December 31, 1958 amounts to Rs. 2,265.87. Out of this, contributions received in the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund earmarked for the Second Five-Year Plan total Rs. 1,998.30.

The majority of the donors have preferred to remain anonymous.

Indo-Swedish Agreement On Double Taxation

Instruments ratifying the Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation between India and Sweden which had been initiated at the official level during the Indian Tax Delegation's visit to Stockholm in July, 1958, were exchanged in New Delhi on January 23. With the completion of these formalities, the Agreement will come into force in both countries.

The Agreement provides for taxation of industrial and commercial profits, dividends, interest, royalties and pensions only by the country in which the source of the income is located. Relief from double taxation is thus provided for by an *ab initio* segregation of the areas of taxation.

The Agreement will be effective in India for and from the assessment year beginning on April 1, 1959.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND INCOME-TAX ACT

The President has promulgated an Ordinance on January 17, amending the Indian Income-tax Act in order to meet certain difficulties arising from certain judgments of some High Courts and the Supreme Court, says a Press Note issued on the same day.

Section 34 of the Act as it stood prior to 1956 permitted re-assessment of concealed incomes within a period of 8 years from the assessment year to which the concealed income related. This time limit was removed by an amendment in 1956 which empowered the Income-tax Department to re-open assessments in cases of concealment for any back year without limitation of time, with the clause that the Department could not reopen any assessment falling beyond 8 years unless the concealed income was Rs. 1 lakh or more.

However, it has been held by some High Courts that the amended section could not be applied to assessments which had become more than eight years old by 1-4-1956, in the absence of express provision to that effect. This ordinance is intended to make it clear that the provision applies to such cases also. A new provision (Section 49EE) has also been introduced, entitling the Government to retain the moneys already paid by assesseees on concealed incomes disclosed by them voluntarily for adjustment against the liability that may be raised by issuing notices under section 34.

These provisions are necessary in order to deal with cases in which proceedings leading to settlements of tax and penalty on admitted concealed incomes by assesseees whose cases were referred to the Income-tax Investigation Commission were invalidated by a recent judgment of the Supreme Court.

quality goods in large numbers in executing these export orders.

Presenting the annual report on the working of the main Corporation and its subsidiary Corporations at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, Shri Ashfaq Hussain outlined the progress made by the Corporation in the execution of various schemes entrusted to it.

Hire Purchase Scheme

Referring to the Corporation's scheme of supply of machinery to small entrepreneurs on a hire-purchase basis, he said the Corporation received 764 new applications for the supply of 3045 machines valued at about Rs. 2.4 crores. This brought the total number of applications accepted and in force upto the close of the year to 1193 covering 4175 machines valued at over Rs. 3.39 crores. During the year under review, 787 machines valued at about Rs. 64.78 lakhs were delivered against 191 machines valued at about Rs. 11 lakhs which were delivered last year.

Shri Ashfaq Hussain said that the Corporation had also decided to supply ungraded machines provided they were certified by the Small Industries Service Institutes to be of a satisfactory quality and if the machine was wanted specifically by the applicant.

The construction of the first phase of the industrial estates at Okhla (Delhi) and Naina (Allahabad) was completed during the year under report. At Okhla all the thirty-five factories have been occupied and a majority of them have gone into production. At Allahabad, out of 34 factories constructed 21 were allotted upto the end of March 1958. Since then the remaining factories have also been allotted.

The Corporation also took up the work of importing cycle components for supply to the small scale assemblers whose production programme was approved by the Development Commissioner and supplying machines and machine tools required by the State Governments for the implementation of schemes relating to the develop-

Commerce & Industry

WORK OF SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION IN 1957-58

Addressing the third annual general meeting of the Corporation, Shri Ashfaq Hussain, Development Commissioner for Small Industries, said that the programme of securing Government orders for small industries had proceeded very well. Orders secured in the previous year had totalled only Rs. 1.19 lakhs, while the National Small Industries Corporation secured orders worth Rs. 62.15 lakhs during 1957-58.

To extend the benefit of this programme nearly 1740 small units were registered during the year by the Corporation. Since then many more units had been added to the list.

Referring to the distribution of export orders for shoes among small manufacturers by the Corporation, Shri Ashfaq Hussain said that the execution of these orders had helped immensely in establishing foreign markets for shoes made in the small sector, which was considered "incapable of executing large orders for quality goods".

During the year the Corporation secured a repeat order for the export of 65,000 pairs of shoes to the Soviet Union and an order from Poland for supply of 54,000 pairs of shoes. The small manufacturers of shoes in the country, he said, had gained a great deal of confidence in producing

ment of small scale industries.

To meet the small industry requirements of iron and steel the Corporation also set up a raw material depot at Ludhiana. It started functioning from April 1958.

Marketing Assistance

The marketing activities of the wholesale depots set up by the Corporation showed considerable progress. Against a sale of Rs. 1,27,749 during the previous year the total sales during the current year amounted to Rs. 6,74,230.

The progress in regard to development of small units around large industries had not been very encouraging. This was so because confidence between the two sectors was yet to be developed.

Shri Ashfaq Hussain said that during the year the Corporation was entrusted with the additional responsibility of constructing and managing two proto-type production-cum-training centres at Delhi and Rajkot. To be established in collaboration with the West German Government and the Technical Cooperation Mission of the United States of America respectively, these centres would produce proto-type of machines required by the small scale sector for commercial exploitation by competent small scale manufacturers selected by the Corporation besides training skilled personnel of various categories to man the small scale industries in the country.

An agreement was reached by the Government of India with the Technical Cooperation Mission, under which the latter would give aid by way of supplying equipment worth \$ 4,48,400 and also providing the services of six engineers for an initial period of two years. Machines and equipment worth about Rs. 11 lakhs arrived at Rajkot by the end of year under report. The centre will provide training facilities for about 150 technicians annually.

For the development of the centre at Okhla the Government of West Germany would supply

equipment worth about DM 3.5 million besides the services of 23 technicians for an initial period of three years. The centre will impart training to about 500 technicians of different categories every year. The centre will start functioning by January, 1960.

"India 1958" Exhibition Closes

The "India 1958" Exhibition closed on January 31, a few hours after the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, had awarded prizes to selected participants.

Inaugurated by the Prime Minister on October 8, 1958 the Exhibition was open for a total of 115 days. Over 600 organized groups of students from schools, colleges and Universities from all parts of the country, visited the Exhibition. Among them were a large number of students from technical institutes and engineering colleges. About 40 farmers' groups from different States were also among the visitors. The total number of visitors to the exhibition was estimated at three million.

Planned to synchronise with a number of important international conferences and the visit to India of Heads of States or Governments from abroad and other dignitaries, the Exhibition enabled them to get a representative picture of the industrial, technological and scientific advance of India as well as the attainments in the cultural and social fields.

Over an area of 123 acres, the Exhibition had nearly 170 pavilions and stalls put up by Union Ministries and Departments, State Governments, public sector industries, industries in the private sector and business houses. The total number of participants came to nearly 600. The Exhibition was organized sector-wise to enable visitors to have a comprehensive picture of the progress achieved in different industries.

According to the announcement it has been decided to put up a permanent exhibition at the site of "India 1958".

Awards To Stalls At The Exhibition

The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, on January 31, presented awards to participants in the "India 1958" Exhibition, selected for excellence in different aspects of exhibition.

The silver shield for the best visual presentation of the theme was awarded to the "Minerals of India" Pavilion, put up by the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Department of Mines and Fuel). The silver shield for the best artistic display was won by the Handicrafts Pavilion of the All India Handicrafts Board. The shield for the best architectural design went to the Pavilion of the Hindustan Steel Limited.

Besides these, gold and silver medals were also awarded to chosen stalls in 15 different areas in the Exhibition. The Pavilions were selected for the best presentation of the theme in their area. The following were the awards:

Plan Progress Centre:

Gold Medal — Bombay State Pavilion.

Silver Medal — Rajasthan State Pavilion.

Village and Cottage Industries Centre:

Gold Medal — Khadi and Village Industries Pavilion.

Silver Medal — West Bengal Pavilion (in the Trade Centre).

Transport and Communications Centre:

Gold Medal — Railway Pavilion.

Silver Medal — Scindia Pavilion.

Automobile Industries Centre:

Gold Medal — Ashok Leyland Pavilion.

Silver Medal — Mahindra and Mahindra Pavilion.

Heavy Industries Centre:

Gold Medal — Telco Pavilion.

Silver Medal — Hindustan Machine Tools Pavilion.

Light Engineering Industries Centre (Division 'A'):

Gold Medal — Jay Engineering Pavilion.

Silver Medal — K.G. Khosl

and Co. Pavilion.

Light Engineering Industries Centre (Division 'B'):

Gold Medal — Sen Raleigh Pavilion.

Silver Medal — Atlas Cycles Pavilion.

Light Engineering Industries Centre (Division 'C'):

Gold Medal — National Small Industries Corporation Pavilion.

Silver Medal — Godrej Pavilion.

Chemicals Centre:

Gold Medal — I.C.I. Pavilion.

Silver Medal — Sindri Fertilizers Pavilion.

Plantation Centre:

Gold Medal — Rubber Board Pavilion.

Silver Medal — Coir Board Pavilion.

Textiles Centre:

Gold Medal — Indian Jute Mills Association Pavilion.

Silver Medal — Delhi Cloth Mills Pavilion.

Science and Technology (Division 'A'):

Gold Medal — Science Pavilion.

Silver Medal — Atomic Energy Commission Pavilion.

Science and Technology (Division 'B'):

Gold Medal — Defence Pavilion.

Silver Medal — Indian Telephone Industries Pavilion.

Economic Services Centre:

Gold Medal — State Trading Corporation Pavilion.

Silver Medal — Labour and Employment Pavilion.

Ceramics, Pottery and Glass Centre:

Gold Medal — Bengal Potteries Pavilion.

Silver Medal — Bawa Glass Works Pavilion.

Panel For Watch Industry

The Government of India have constituted a panel of experts to recommend the lines on which the manufacture of clocks, time-pieces and watches should be developed in India, according to an announcement of January 19.

The Panel will assess the present and future requirements of different types of clocks, time-

pieces and watches, examine the facilities already existing in the country for their manufacture and recommend measures for future development.

Shri S.D. Joshi, Managing Director, National Instruments Limited, Calcutta (a Government of India concern) will be the Chairman of the Panel which has 21 members.

TUNGSTEN CARBIDE MANUFACTURE

According to an announcement made on January 18, a study made by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the prospects for indigenous manufacture of tungsten carbide indicates that there is good scope for establishing the industry in the country. During the last few years, this material has been increasingly used in the metallurgical engineering and mining industries.

At present almost the entire requirements of tungsten carbide tips and tools are being imported. A factory in Calcutta has started manufacturing — although from imported powder — tungsten carbide tips for rock-drills. It has also plans to manufacture coal cutter picks. Another firm in Bombay proposes to manufacture carbide tips in metal working tools. The combined capacity of these two firms is, however, still below the estimated demand which is expected to rise considerably in the coming years.

A medium-sized plant for an output of 30-40 tons, on two-shift basis when in full production, would have an annual output of about Rs. 1.5 crores. This may go up further when the factory works on three-shift basis. The capital cost of such a project is estimated at Rs. 2 crores, roughly half of this representing the working capital.

A distinct advantage which an Indian entrepreneur will have is that wolframite of about 60 to 65 per cent purity in the concentrated form, is available in India. Titanium, another raw material containing tungsten carbide, is also believed to be available.

NEW COMPANIES IN NORTHERN INDIA

The report on the formation of new companies formed in the Northern Region during October-December 1958, says, in this period 44 companies and an association not for profit, with a total authorized capital of Rs. 16,53,47,000 were registered under the Companies Act, 1956. The Northern Region consists of the Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi.

Of the 44 companies, two were public and 42 private companies.

During the period 32 companies went into liquidation and names of 109 companies were struck off the register under section 560 of the Companies Act.

In Punjab and Himachal Pradesh nine companies, all private limited, with an authorized capital of Rs. 32.87 lakhs, were registered and nine companies with paid up capital of Rs. 13.974 lakhs went into liquidation. Names of 17 companies with paid up capital of Rs. 9.122 lakhs were struck off the register.

Twentyeight fresh prosecutions were launched by the Registrar for defaults of Companies Act, 1956, during the period under review. Of the cases decided during the quarter 27 cases resulted in conviction and a total fine of Rs. 1555 was imposed on the accused.

In Delhi during the quarter under review, one public and 26 private companies with an authorized capital of Rs. 5 lakhs and Rs. 15,95.1 lakhs respectively were registered and six companies with a paid up capital of Rs. 1.450 lakhs went into liquidation. Names of ten companies were struck off the register.

During the period 143 fresh prosecutions were launched by the Registrar of Companies of the State against different companies for non-compliance with the various provisions of the Companies Act. Ten cases resulted in conviction and a total fine of Rs. 1365 was imposed on the accused in these cases.

In Uttar Pradesh five com-

panies, all private limited, with an authorized capital of Rs. 15.5 lakhs and one association not for profit were registered and seven companies with paid up capital of Rs. 5.095 lakhs went into liquidation. Names of 80 companies with a paid up capital of Rs. 12.797 lakhs were struck off the register. During the same period 28 fresh prosecutions were launched by the State Registrar against the companies and their directors or officers for the defaults under various sections of the Companies Act.

Eleven cases resulted in conviction and a total fine of Rs. 300 was imposed on the accused in these cases.

In Rajasthan two private companies, one limited by guarantee and the other with an authorized capital of Rs. 3 lakhs and one public company with an authorized capital of Rs. two lakhs were registered and ten companies with a paid up capital of Rs. 5.855 lakhs went into liquidation. Names of two companies were struck off the register under section 560 of the Companies Act, 1956, during the same period.

Seventy-seven fresh prosecutions were launched by the State Registrar against companies for defaults under various provisions of the Companies Act. A total fine of Rs. 6500 was imposed on the accused in the cases decided during the quarter.

New Trade Promotion Body In W. Germany

An Indian Trade Promotion Organization is to be set up in West Germany to promote the exports of Indian products to that country, according to an announcement made on January 30. The Organization will have its headquarters at Frankfurt and a branch office at Hamburg.

The Organization will study German tastes and preferences in different commodities and undertake market research and surveys to keep Indian exporters informed about the requirements and tastes of the German consumers.

It will establish contacts with

German business houses, import agencies and departmental stores to create awareness among them about Indian products. For this purpose it will also conduct publicity for Indian goods and arrange participation by Indian firms in German fairs and exhibitions.

The Organization will also help to promote and maintain contacts between Indian businessmen and German traders and act as a general service organization for Indian businessmen visiting West Germany.

The creation of an Indian Export Promotion Organization in Germany was recommended by a Trade Delegation which visited Germany in 1957 to study the potentialities of the German market for Indian products. The Delegation in its report had said, that among the main causes preventing a free flow of goods from India to that country were lack of personal contacts and lack of awareness on the part of German importers of goods which India could sell.

The Organization now being set up, it is hoped, will be of great advantage in arresting the increasing gap between Indian imports from West Germany and exports to that country.

The Organization will be headed by a Director, who will be assisted by experts on different commodities. Shri R.N. Philips, Director of Export Promotion in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is leaving early next month for Germany to take charge of the post of Director and to set up the Organization.

Business executives, who are specialists in their lines are being sent by the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Leather and Cashew and Pepper Export Promotion Councils and the Handloom and Handicrafts Boards, to join the Organization. These commodities offer the largest scope for expansion of exports to West Germany. Experts for other commodities may be appointed later.

It is proposed, at a later stage, to expand the activities of the

Organization so as to cover India's exports to the Benelux and Scandinavian countries and eventually to other countries of the Organization for European Cooperation.

The Organization will maintain close liaison with the trading circles in India, particularly the various Export Promotion Councils. The Organization will start functioning shortly.

The Government of the Federal German Republic and trade circles in that country have welcomed the idea of setting up this Organization.

FOREIGN TRADE IN NOVEMBER 1958

According to a Press Note issued by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics on January 16, the provisional figures of foreign trade of India by all routes (i.e. sea, air and land) on private and Government accounts during November 1958, according to data so far available in the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, are as follows:

Merchandise, excluding transit trade of Pakistan and other overland foreign countries viz., Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan: Exports Rs. 49.24 crores, re-exports, Rs. 33 lakhs, imports Rs. 68.65 crores; Total trade Rs. 118.22 crores.

Treasures: Exports (including re-exports) of currency notes Rs. 1.53 crores, gold nil, current coins (excluding gold coins) negligible. Imports of currency notes Rs. 3.61 crores, gold Rs. 4 lakhs, current coins (excluding gold coins) negligible.

Balance of Trade: The merchandise import figures are exclusive of the value of certain consignments of Government stores awaiting adjustment. Subject to this deficiency in import figures, the total value of exports (including re-export of merchandise and gold) fell short of imports by Rs. 19.12 crores.

PROGRESS OF I. S. I. DURING 1957-58

The Certification Marks Scheme of the Indian Standards Institution, which seeks to ensure supply of quality goods to consumers, made appreciable progress during 1957-58, according to the Annual Report of the Institution, released on January 18.

The number of licences granted under the scheme during the year, the third year of its operation, was nearly three times the figure for the previous year.

The Institution has been authorized to issue licences under the I.S.I. Certification Marks Act of 1952 to manufacturers for stamping their products with the I.S.I. Standard Mark. This Mark certifies that the goods conform to the relevant Indian standards and conveys to the consumer a sort of a third party guarantee of the quality of the goods. This, while helpful to the consumer, has also proved its usefulness in promoting export trade.

During the year 75 licences were issued as against 26 in the previous year. The articles covered by the licences included oil of turpentine, gum resin, plywood panel tea chests, rectified spirit grade B, denatured spirit, naphthalene, pruning knives, copper sulphate technical, BHC technical, and three-phase induction motors for industrial use.

Enquiries received by the Institution show that there is a general desire on the part of manufacturers to have control over the quality of the production and that they are anxious to get licences for use of the I.S.I. Certification Mark. In all, 140 firms made enquiries about the Mark and many ultimately sent their applications for the grant of licences.

During the year 171 Indian standards formulated by I.S.I. were formally adopted by different Government purchasing organizations as basis for placing orders. With this, the total number of Indian standards adopted by these organizations

rose to 838, nearly 86 per cent of the total available standards.

The report records the growing appreciation of the role of standards in the development of industry and trade. During the year, 160 new and revised standards were published thus bringing the total number of these standards to 1079. The Institution also received 198 proposals for formulating new standards.

In regard to the introduction of the metric system in the country, the Institution continued to serve as a clearing house for information and published a number of standards for industry and commerce for the smooth change-over to the metric system. The Institution had also chalked out a programme for revising published standards in terms of the metric system and for preparing standards in future on the new basis.

During the year, the third Indian Standards Convention was held in Madras. This Convention dealt with many important subjects particularly those relating to food and agriculture.

Another branch office of the Institution was opened in May 1957 in Madras. This was in addition to the two other offices at Bombay and Calcutta.

The Institution continued its activities during the year in international organizations like the International Organization for Standardization and the International Electro-technical Commission in the formulation of international recommendations, exchange of technical information and advancement of the standards movement.

The membership of the Institution, which consists of Government departments, manufacturing and trading organizations and technologists, expanded considerably during the year. The total membership rose to 1510 from 1347 in the previous year, and the sale of standards brought a record income of Rs. 4.5 lakhs.

APPLICATION OF INDUSTRIES ACT

It was announced on January 11, that the Government of India have decided to bring within the scope of the registration and licensing provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act the following industrial gases:

Hydrogen gas of all varieties; nitrogen gas of all varieties; carbon dioxide gas of all varieties; refrigerant gases of dichlorodifluoro-methane and allied groups; rare gases like helium, argon, neon, krypton, neon etc.; fire extinguishing gases of chlorobromomethane and allied groups; nitrous oxide, propane, cyclopropane and ethylene.

Formerly all industrial gases, except oxygen and dissolved acetylene, were exempted from certain registration and licensing provisions of the Act. By a recent notification this exemption has now been withdrawn. Industrial undertakings engaged in the manufacture of the gases, listed above, should apply before August 19, 1959 for taking out a license or permission under the Industries Act.

Improved Vacuum Tester For Canned Foods

A device on 'Improved Vacuum Tester for Canned Foods' has been developed at the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, says an announcement of January 1. The new device is expected to be of great help to the Indian food preservation industry.

It has several special features:

(1) The instrument records the vacuum existing in any canned food without puncturing or destroying the can. (2) The test is completed within a fraction of a minute. (3) Faulty cans can be easily located from a large stock of canned foods. (4) The instrument is compact and easily portable. The only auxiliary equipment needed is a source of vacuum, usually from a vacuum line in the factory or from a suction pump attached to a water tap or alternately by means of a small vacuum pump which may

be attached to the instrument. The instrument is of potential value to the food manufacturers as a means of greater quality control over their products at less cost.

It can be of great use to the research workers in following up the changes in vacuum existing in individual or particular sets or lots of any canned foods under different storage conditions.

The working principle of the instrument is also very simple.

Board Of Directors For H.E.C. Ltd.

An announcement made on January 28 says, the Government of India have nominated a Board of Directors for the Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. which was constituted recently to administer the heavy Machine Building and Coal Mining Machinery plants.

Government intend to strengthen this Board further by appointment of more directors in due course.

The Heavy Machine Building plant is being set up in collaboration with the Soviet Union and the Foundry-Forge plant with Czech assistance.

Measures To Increase Stocks Of Raw Jute

A number of decisions have been taken in recent discussions between the Government of India and representatives of the Jute Industry, it was announced in New Delhi on January 3.

The Indian Jute Mills Association has agreed to improve their stocks of raw jute, so as to meet the requirements of their member Mills for four months. The Mills will provide information about details of their purchases and stocks and this will make it possible for the authorities to take action against defaulting Mills.

Apart from purchases by Mills, Government also propose to enter the market to buy raw jute from the producer and to stock it for Mill consumption as well as for export. Arrangements have been made by the State Trading Corporation to enter primary markets as substantial buyers.

Purchases wherever possible, will be made through co-operative societies.

The East India Jute and Hessian Exchange has decided upon further measures to regulate the future markets in June.

The announcement adds that Government are keeping a close watch on the situation and will take such further measures as may be found necessary to ensure a fair return for the producer and a smooth flow of goods to foreign markets.

Supply Of Tin & Steel To Exporters

A New Delhi announcement supply of tin plates and steel sheets to exporters of certain commodities exported in containers of steel and tin has been brought into force, according to an announcement of January 22. The scheme, which is devised as an Export Promotion measure, envisages the supply of tin plates and steel sheets both against future and past exports.

The scheme will apply to the exports of the following projects for the purpose of supply of tin plates; vanaspati fruit products, biscuits, confectionary, tinned fish, paints, varnish and enamels, essential oils, drugs and pharmaceuticals including medicinal castor oil and fish oil, toilet articles like face powder, tooth-paste, hair oil, etc., cardamom seeds, curry powder, sweetmeats, roasted and ground coffee and fresh coffee, instant coffee, tinned tea, dyestuffs and allied products, chemicals and chemical products (including boot polish), pearl barley, rolled oats barley and oat products and cashew kernels.

Except for instant coffee the supply will be both in respect of past and future exports.

For supply of steel sheets, the exports of the following commodities will qualify under the scheme: paints, varnish and enamels, chemicals and chemical products, vegetable edible oils, dyestuffs and allied products and medicinal castor oil in drums.

Exporters, who desire to have quotas in advance of exports, will have to give undertakings regarding export and execute bonds for fulfilment of the guaranteed exports.

The scheme was brought into force from January 1, 1959. For quotas against past exports it will be applicable to exports made during the last quarter of 1958 and subsequent quarters. For certain items the quota allotment will be 100 per cent while for others the allotment will be 133-1/3 per cent.

Trainees In Vocational & Technical Institutes

Under the Craftsmen and Displaced Persons Training Scheme, 22,325 persons were undergoing training in various vocational and technical trades at the end of November 1958, as compared with 22,273 at the end of previous month, says an announcement of January 2.

Of the total number of trainees at the end of November, 1,815 were displaced persons and 785 women. Besides, under the Apprenticeship Training Scheme, 467 displaced persons were receiving practical training in production work in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

There were 297 instructor trainees at the Central Training Institutes at Koni-Bilaspur and Aundh, and 31 women instructor trainees at the Industrial Training Institute for Women at Delhi at the end of November.

EXPORT OF GROUNDNUT CAKE

The Government of India have reviewed the position regarding the export of groundnut oil and have, as a promotional measure, decided that established exporters of groundnut oil will also be given export licences for the export of groundnut cake equal in quantity to the groundnut oil they export between now and the end of February, 1959 against their current quotas, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on January 6.

Rebate Of Excise On Cotton Towels

The Government of India have decided that 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 excisable goods, used in their manufacture, should be extended to cotton towels of all sorts as well, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on January 14. It is already applicable to ready-made apparel, tents, sugar products, cotton bags, umbrella cloth, chaddars, pillow cases, table covers, embroideries, laces, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, ground sheets, cotton sola hats, cotton flannel motor car dusters, cotton quilts, cotton scarves, cotton tapes, water-proof canvas, etc.

DUTY REBATE ON EXPORTS OF VEGETABLE OIL

The Government of India have decided that all varieties of vegetable non-essential oils (other than linseed oil, tobaccoseed oil and castorseed oil), exported out of India on or after January 24, 1959, will be granted rebate of excise duty at the rate of Rs. 104 per ton as against Rs. 88 per ton admissible at present, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on January 23. In the case of exports of linseed oil, castorseed oil and tobaccoseed oil, full rebate of excise duty of Rs. 112 per ton is already admissible.

Extension Of O.G.L. For Pakistan

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on December 31 says that the Open General Licence for import of goods from Pakistan has been extended until March 31, 1959. The items listed under the O.G.L. are fish not otherwise specified, fish, salted wet, and raw skins of lizards and reptiles.

Communications

RAILWAY PRIORITY FOR EXPORT GOODS

The Government of India have further relaxed the conditions for movement of goods by rail to the ports for export under higher priority in order to help exporters, says an announcement of January 18.

The movement of all export goods to ports other than the programmed movement of traffic, such as iron ore, manganese ore, etc. has so far been permitted under item 'D' of the Preferential Traffic Schedule, on the consignor supplying to the Station Master of the despatching Station a certificate from the shipping agents that space has been reserved.

Cotton textiles will hereafter be moved under priority 'D' without the production of the shipping agents' certificate if the outer coverings of the bales containing textiles offered for booking bear the mark "For Export Only". This will be subject to certification of particulars to be given at the time of registration with the Station Master concerned for priority movement.

Molasses, power alcohol and raw tobacco will also be moved to ports for export under the higher priority without the production of the shipping agents' certificate, on the basis of quarterly programmes accepted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. (Directorate of Export Promotion), in consultation with the Ministry of Railways.

Planting Of Trees Along Railway Lines

Railway administrations throughout the country have been requested to intensify their efforts to plant more trees along railway lines and in railway colonies on available land which cannot be readily utilised, in connection with the "Grow More

Food" campaign, says a New Delhi announcement of January 28.

Preference in this programme is to be given to the planting of quick-growing fuel and shady trees, so that they increase the country's total fuel production and at the same time provide shade for workmen, along the line.

Supplementing the trees already standing on the sides of the rail, it is felt, would also improve the aesthetic appearance of the route of the train journey.

The railways participate every year in the Vanmahotsava festival, and the object of the present instructions issued by the Railway Board is to ensure that tree-planting receives better attention throughout the year.

Chairman Of Railway Rates Tribunal

Shri R.K. Choudhry, retired Judge of the Allahabad High Court, has been appointed as Chairman of the Railway Rates Tribunal, says an announcement of January 23.

The other two members of the Tribunal are Shri Gorakhnath Sinha and Shri S.K. Mukerji.

The Tribunal, which formerly consisted entirely of legal men, assisted by panels of assessors drawn from the railways as well as business and agricultural interests, was reconstituted under the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1957.

Under the provisions of the Act, the reconstituted Tribunal has to have a High Court Judge or a retired High Court Judge as chairman. Its two other members are to be persons who have special knowledge of commercial, industrial or economic conditions of the country or of commercial working of the railways.

The Tribunal was reconstituted on the recommendations of the Railway Freight Structure Enquiry Committee, following representations

that it had on overwhelming legal bias and that the system of assessors was not working well.

Conference Of Railway Security Officers

A conference of Chief Security Officers of the Indian Railways was inaugurated in New Delhi on January 11 by the Railway Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram.

Present at the conference were the Deputy Minister for Railways, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Chairman and Members of the Railway Board and other officers.

Conference Of State Transport Bodies

The Seventh Conference of the State Transport Undertakings was held in Indore on January 17. Shri Raj Bahadur, Union Minister for State Transport inaugurated the conference.

The Conference recommended minimum standards to be fixed for the provision of passenger amenities, and noted that facilities now extended were not uniform.

Introduction of the circuit schemes was unanimously approved. Other matters considered included relationship between transport undertakings and postal department about carriage of mails, safety, rate of payment etc.

A Sub-Committee was appointed to recommend the proper basis for charges for services rendered by transport undertakings.

Setting up of a Central Institute for training transport officers of the State Transport Undertakings was recommended at the resumed session of the conference on January 19. Shri D. D. Suri, Deputy Secretary, Union Department of Transport, presided.

The State Transport Undertakings would send newly recruited officers for study courses conducted by the Institute, the cost of running such an Institute being borne on a proportionate basis. To derive the best ad-

vantage, the Undertakings would lay down common standards of qualifications and conditions of service for each of the different categories of officers.

Emphasizing the importance of spare parts, the Conference pleaded for a substantial rise in the import quota for spare parts.

Discussing the incentive schemes for staff, the Conference recommended schemes based on performance-efficiency in preference to bonus schemes. Different schemes now operating would be considered by the Technical Committee, which would draw up a pattern for general adoption.

Expressing concern regarding road accidents, the Conference agreed to enforce rigid driving

tests, penalties for rash driving and better observance of safe driving habits, such as, dipping of lights at night, inspection of vehicles and checking of brakes.

INDIA-U.K. AIR TRANSPORT DISCUSSIONS

The Civil air transport discussions between officials of the Indian and U.K. Governments, which started in Delhi on January 12, concluded on January 29.

The inter-Governmental Air Services Agreement provides for these periodical reviews, of which the most recent was in London in 1956. In the present review the arrangements agreed upon in 1956 were extended with mutually acceptable adjustments.

Food & Agriculture

INDO-U.S. CO-OPERATION IN AGRICULTURE

The Indo-U.S. Technical Co-operation Programme, under which five Land Grant colleges of the U.S.A. are cooperating with Indian institutions engaged in agricultural education and research, is to be extended for a period of two years, — from 1960 to 1962, says an announcement made on January 28.

Also, it is proposed to constitute a new joint Indo-American team to suggest measures for the improvement of facilities in the field of agricultural education and research in India. The first team was constituted in 1954.

The new joint Indo-American team proposed to be constituted by the Government of India will evaluate the progress made in the last five years, make recommendations with special reference to the Third Five Year Plan and measure the extent to which the inter-institutional arrangements have helped in the development of agricultural edu-

cation, research and extension programmes in the country and the need for continuing the arrangement during the Third Five Year Plan.

The agreement concluded with the U.S. Technical Cooperation Mission in March 1955 provided for the deputation of experienced staff members from the American Universities for teaching and research work in India, fellowships for advanced training of Indian staff members in selected subjects in the U.S.A. and supply of laboratory equipment and books not ordinarily available in India. The five U.S. Land Grant Colleges participating in the programme are (1) Illinois University, (2) Ohio University, (3) Missouri University, (4) Kansas State College and (5) Tennessee University.

Under the agreement, 43 American technicians were assigned to various Indian institutions and of these 24 are still working in India. Of the 148

Indian participants to receive advanced training in the U.S.A., 36 have completed their training while 82 are at present undergoing training. The remaining 30 are likely to leave for U.S.A. during the next three months.

The programme, which is at present confined to 40 State agricultural veterinary colleges and two Central research institutes — the Indian Veterinary Research Institute and the National Dairy Research Institute — is to be extended to three more institutions in the country. These are the Veterinary College, Nagpur, the Avinashilingham Home Science College, Coimbatore and Mysore Veterinary College, Bangalore.

The programme was reviewed at a recent meeting in New Delhi of the officials of the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the U.S. Technical Cooperation Mission and American University teachers.

The meeting which was presided over by Shri K.R. Damle, Secretary, Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, also considered suggestions for the development of library services, integration of teaching, research and extension, delegation of greater powers to college principals by the State Governments and the need to replace the existing external examinations by internal examinations.

INDIAN FARM LEADERS TO U.S.A.

A group of 20 farm leaders will be sent to U.S.A. in September 1959 to make a study of community and farm organizations, co-operatives, extension and rural credit, says a New Delhi announcement of January 17.

Arranged under the Indo-American Technical Assistance Programme, the study will extend for a period of three months.

The farm leaders will be selected from amongst the progressive agriculturists, leaders of farm organizations and rural co-operatives.

ADVISORY PANEL FOR FOOD

The Government of India have constituted a standing panel known as the Scientific Food Advisory Panel, says an announcement of January 21. The panel will provide expert technical advice in the various branches of Food Science such as biochemistry, micro-chemistry, micro-biology, food technology.

Professor B. C. Guha, Head of Science and Technology, Calcutta, is the Chairman of the panel.

The functions of the panel will be to suggest ways and means of bringing about a change in the pattern of food consumption in the country with a view to reducing consumption of cereals and achieving a more healthy and balanced diet and to suggest methods of production, storage, utilization, and popularization of non-cereal food products. It will also give advice on the nutritional, hygienic, agricultural, industrial and economic aspects of the various problems referred to it, test the suitability of research findings in the field of food technology and suggest appropriate programmes of application.

RESEARCH APPLIED TO AGRICULTURE

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has approved more than fifty Research Schemes to improve Agricultural production. The schemes cover the development of high-yield crops, promotion of animal husbandry and the extension of training facilities. Their cost is estimated at about 28 lakhs of rupees. The Council has also sanctioned the continuance of nearly 90 current schemes at a cost of more than 41 lakhs.

Paddy Prices In Madras State

Maximum control prices for certain varieties of paddy and rice — raw, boiled as well as fine — in the Madras State have been fixed by the Central Government by an order issued under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act

1955. The order, known as *Rice and Paddy (Madras) Price Control Order, 1959*, extends to the whole of the State of Madras and comes into force at once. The prices referred to relate to the sale of paddy and rice of more than 10 maunds in any one transaction in the State of Madras.

For paddy the prices per maund range from Rs. 9.28 for Red kar or short duration varieties to Rs. 13.79 per maund for finer varieties like *Bangarutheegalu*, *Kamban Samba* and *Jeeraga Samba*. The price for "other fine varieties" of paddy has been fixed at Rs. 10.77 per maund.

For rice the prices per maund range from Rs. 15 for the Red kar or Short duration variety to Rs. 21.50 for the finer varieties, while for "other fine varieties" the price fixed is Rs. 17 per maund.

The prices specified in the Order are for fair average quality, conforming to the specifications prescribed in the Order and shall be for naked grains. For grains packed in sound new gunny of two maund capacity, the maximum prices shall be Re. 0.50 per maund more than the prices specified. For rice or paddy below the fair average quality, the maximum prices shall be determined by reducing the prices specified above by the amounts of cuts indicated in the schedule to the Order applicable to rice or paddy, as the case may be.

PRICES OF HAND-POUNDED RICE IN M.P.

According to a New Delhi announcement made on January 26, the Central Government have amended the Madhya Pradesh Rice Second Price Control Order fixing the maximum prices per maund of hand-pounded parboiled rice as follows: Coarse Rs. 14.50; Medium II Rs. 15.00; Medium I Rs. 15.75.

The prices per maund of all rice other than hand-pounded parboiled have been fixed as follows: Coarse Rs. 15.00; Medium II Rs. 15.75; Medium I Rs. 16.50; Fine III Rs. 20.00; Fine II Rs. 21.25; and Fine I Rs. 22.50.

Control Of Rice Prices In Andhra

The Government of India have fixed maximum prices at which certain varieties of fine and coarse and other varieties of rice and paddy may be sold in 9 districts in Andhra Pradesh, i.e. Krishna, West Godavari, East Godavari, Guntur, Warangal, Nizamabad, Chittoor, Srikakulam and Nellore, says an announcement of January 25.

The Andhra Pradesh Rice and Paddy Price Control Order has been issued for this purpose under Sub-section 2 of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. It supersedes the Order promulgated on December 30, 1957, and comes into force at once.

The varieties of rice and paddy to which the Order applies are the fine varieties of Sanna Kusuma, Delhi Bhogam, Sanna Katurkulu, Kichili Samta, Bangaru Teegalu in all the districts referred to above except Nellore and to specified coarse varieties produced in those districts. The

order applies to the fine variety of Molgolukulu and the coarse variety of Kesari, red and white, produced in the Nellore District.

The control prices for the finer varieties of paddy range from Rs. 11.27 per maund to Rs. 14.29 per maund and of rice from Rs. 17.50 per maund to Rs. 22.00 per maund. The prices for the coarse varieties range from Rs. 9.78 to Rs. 10.77 per maund in respect of paddy and from Rs. 15.50 to Rs. 17.00 per maund in respect of rice. For "other varieties" the price is Rs. 10.11 per maund of paddy and Rs. 16.00 per maund of rice.

The prices specified in the Order are for fair average qualities, conforming to the specifications prescribed, and for grains packed in sound new gunnies of two maunds capacity. For naked grains, the maximum prices shall be Rs. 0.50 per maund less than the specified prices. For rice or paddy, below the fair average quality, the maximum prices shall be determined by reducing the specified prices by the amounts of cuts, also indicated in the Order and applicable to rice or paddy, as the case may be.

Community Development

SELF-HELP IN C.D. PROGRAMME

Allotment of the next series of pre-extension blocks and conversion of the existing pre-extension blocks into Stage I are to be determined by certain tests of self-reliance and self-help shown by the people of a new area, or of an existing block. This follows a recent decision by the Central Committee, says an announcement of January 11.

Simple norms of performance laid down as pre-requisites for launching the Community Development Programme in any new area, or for continuing in an existing block, include: (i) fair evidence of cleanliness and sanitation in a village; (ii) number

of compost pits dug and used; (iii) extent of coverage by panchayats and the amount of responsibility for development shouldered by them; (iv) extent of coverage by cooperatives and the degree to which credit and supplies are channelised through them; and (v) any other criterion to be laid down by the State Government having regard to local conditions. These norms are intended as tests and also to ensure continuous self-help and self-reliance on the part of the people.

The Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation has asked the State Governments to ensure that throughout the period of operation of a block, the amount of self-help by the villagers is kept high. Simi-

larly, the conversion of a pre-extension block into stage I is to depend largely on the performance of the villagers. If a pre-extension block does not satisfy the requirements, it will continue to function only as a pre-extension block.

State Governments have also been informed that the District Collector should, in consultation with the District Development Committee which is the non-official advisory body at the district level, decide whether the area satisfies the test, and if it does not, he may recommend another block area which does.

The 'Local Works' portion of the budget of a Stage I or Stage II block, which will be transferred to panchayats for planning and implementation under the guidance and approval of the Block Development Committee is to be allotted by the Block Development Committee every year only to such panchayats which show a good record in these fields.

Harijan Representation In B.D.C.s

According to an announcement of January 23, the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation has advised the State Governments that, pending constitution of statutory block samitis, wherever there is a significant proportion of scheduled castes and other backward communities in a block area adequate representation for them on the Block Development Committee is to be ensured.

It has been emphasized that the Block Development Committees are to be as representative as possible of all non-official elements in a block area, and that the representation of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes residing in a block area would enable the Block Development Committees to function as effective instruments for the efficient planning and execution of block development programmes.

The C.O.P.P. Team, which had examined the working of the

Community Development programme, had observed that where the population of scheduled castes exceeds five per cent of the total population of the Panchayat Samiti area, one person belonging to the scheduled

castes should be co-opted.

If, however, members of scheduled castes and tribes have been elected to the Panchayat Samiti in prescribed number, the Committee had observed, no co-option would be necessary.

Education & Culture

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Central Advisory Board of Education concluded its two-day deliberations in New Delhi on January 16. Dr. K.L. Shrivastava, Union Minister of Education and Chairman of the Board, presided.

The Board recommended that in the interests of higher academic standards, access to Higher Education has to be regulated by the adjudged capacity of students who are to benefit from higher education, allowances being made at the same time to the needs of backward communities.

At the same time, it also recognized the need for providing additional facilities for higher education by setting up new institutions and departments, specially in fields in which the pressure of admission was acute. For this purpose, it felt, it was necessary to allocate increased resources to university education.

The Board was of the view that the real remedy lay in the speedy reorganization of secondary education, closer relationship between the employment pattern in the country and the output of graduates and possible introduction of compulsory national service for students. It, therefore, recommended that all possible measures should be taken to implement these as early as possible.

Reorganization Of Secondary Education

Some of the measures suggested by the Board for reorganizing secondary education are:

version of high schools into higher secondary schools are: from the year 1960-61, all new secondary schools should be given affiliation only on the new pattern of higher secondary schools, high priority should be given to the conversion of high schools into higher secondary schools; the upgrading of high schools should be regarded as an essential feature of the whole scheme of reorganization of Secondary Education in the States by the end of the Third Plan, and both Humanities and Sciences should be taught at the Higher Secondary stage.

Teacher Training Programme

Regarding Teacher Training Programme, the Board has recommended that all Heads of Departments employed at the higher secondary stage should be M.As. or M.Sc.s. or persons with a Diploma from a University indicating their competence to teach at the higher secondary stage both categories having pedagogic training of the B.T. standard, as required for the higher secondary schools. In this connection it was suggested that a certain number of teachers from different institutions may be deputed for a period of one year to a University for practical training in laboratories or departments approved by a University.

Besides, it has also suggested several other important measures for training an adequate number of teachers for the new

secondary and multi-purpose schools. It has recommended that in order to attract well-qualified persons to the teaching profession, the scales of salary should be made to conform to the minimum scales at least of similarly qualified persons at the universities.

So far as the pattern of higher secondary technical education was concerned, it was felt that while it was essential that at least one member of the team of teachers in any of the technological subjects, who will be the Head of a Department should be a graduate in that subject, he should be assisted by others possessing the National Diploma or its equivalent in that field. In view of the difficulty of finding such graduate teachers for schools on reasonable salaries, the Board felt, the position should be examined by a Committee. It was further emphasized that the pattern of the higher technical institutions had to be standardized.

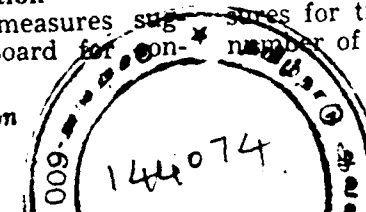
The Board, further recommended that a small Committee should be set up to inspect some of the multi-purpose schools that offer electives in the field of technical science and other practical subjects in the States and to report on their working arrangements and all other relevant matters.

Multi-Purpose School Teachers

Training of teachers of multi-purpose schools must be evolved by experts in the field. These should be persons qualified in particular spheres of technical education and they should work with experts in pedagogies from the training colleges. It has been suggested that the Central Government may constitute small committees for this purpose which should go into the whole question and report on it by October 1959.

Place Of Sanskrit

Regarding the recommendations of the Sanskrit Commission for inclusion of Sanskrit as a language of compulsory study in the curriculum of Secondary schools, the Board said, in a resolution, that it would not be



desirable to include a fourth language as a compulsory subject as this would make the curriculum much too heavy or to substitute it in place of Hindi which is the official language of the Union. The present Three-Language Formula provides for the study of Sanskrit either on an optional basis as a separate subject or as part of a 'composite course'.

Liaison Between School And Industry

The Board agreed with the recommendation made by the Government of Bombay that a liaison should be established between multi-purpose schools and the industries concerned.

The Board recommended that the steps at present being taken in at least 8 States to have Youth Employment Units of national employment service should be extended to all States and eventually to the major-district headquarters.

The Board strongly supported a proposal for additional central assistance to State Governments according to the backwardness of the States, as revealed from the annual number of matriculates in each State in relation to its population.

Other Recommendations

The Board called for a detailed study of the progress of Basic Education in urban areas particularly in relation to the suitable crafts developed therein.

In the field of Social Education, the Board has suggested drawing up of a shared programme which should aim at the total abolition of illiteracy within a stipulated period.

The Board further recommended that the Government of India while framing a plan for compulsory national service for students should regard imparting of literacy and participation in Social Education programmes as a part of the national services.

Another important recommendation of the Board was to expand facilities for Higher Education to suit the needs of rural population.

The Board endorsed the need to make a specific provision for

teaching of moral and spiritual values in educational institutions and suggested that a committee be set-up to make a detailed study of this question with reference to various stages of education.

In regard to the new scheme of primary and secondary Education of Kerala State, the Board was of the opinion that persons who qualify in higher secondary Technical/Technological courses should be eligible for admission to a three-year degree course, the choice of subjects in the three-year degree course being determined by the subjects a student has taken at the higher secondary stage.

Aid For Audio-Visual Education

The Government of India have decided to give financial assistance to voluntary organizations working in the field of audio-visual education for programmes in the period 1958-59.

The amount of the grant will not exceed Rs. 1,000/- or 50 per cent of the entire expenditure of the programme whichever is less.

RECOGNITION FOR L.C.E. DIPLOMA

The Government of India have decided to recognize the L.C.E. Diploma awarded by the College of Engineering, Guindy, Madras on the basis of examinations conducted from 1941 to 1957 and countersigned by the Director of Public Instruction, Government of Madras, for purposes of recruitment and appointment to subordinate posts and services under the Central Government. This is according to an announcement made on January 28.

EXTENSION OF COPYRIGHT ACT

According to a notification published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated January 20, 1959, the Government of India have extended the operation of the Copyright Act, 1957 (14 of 1957) to the works of the Republic of Ireland. This is consequent to the ratification by that country of the Universal Copyright Convention.

According to another noti-

fication published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated January 22, 1959, the Government of India have extended the operation of the Copyright Act, 1957 (14 of 1957) to the works of Liechtenstein. This is consequent to the accession by that country of the Universal Copyright Convention.

Swiss Scholarship For Management Training

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on January 11, says that the Swiss firm Nestle has offered to award a scholarship to Indian nationals for studying at the post-graduate Management training school Lausanne, Switzerland commencing from September 1959.

The course will last for about 8 months. The subjects will include Control, Finance, Marketing Sales Management, International Trade, Production, Human Labour relations, Business policy and General Management.

The candidates should preferably be between 28 and 38 with a university degree if possible. They should be from among executives with a good general culture and business background, holding responsible positions and for whom higher responsibilities are foreseen in a not distant future.

The value of the scholarship is Swiss Francs 5,000, which will cover expenses including fees, books and supplies, the use of library, coffee and tea at the Snack bar and luncheon five days a week in the dining room. Other expenses for travel to and from Switzerland for board and lodging will have to be borne by the candidate himself.

FOREIGN STUDENTS IN DELHI

Five foreign students studying modern Indian languages have arrived in Delhi at the invitation of the Government of India says an announcement dated January 27.

They are: Miss Milena Hub-schmannova (Czechoslovakia), Miss L. Ider (Mongolia), Miss A. K. Kowalska (Poland), Mr. Liu Tao Chen (China) and Mr. Morozov (U.S.S.R.).

During their one-month stay in the country, the students will visit various Indian universities, community development projects and places of historical and cultural interest. Their itinerary includes visits to Bhakra Nangal, Agra, Bombay, Aurangabad, Madras, Calcutta, Patna and Varanasi.

Visit Of Ceylonese Cultural Troupe

A 33-member Cylonese delegation consisting of dancers and singers arrived in New Delhi on January 29. The delegation was led by Mr. M.B. Mediwaka, Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Ceylon.

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF POETS

A National Symposium of Poets met in New Delhi on January 25, and Shri J.C. Mathur, Director General, All India Radio, gave the inaugural address on behalf of the Minister for Information & Broadcasting Dr. Keskar.

ADDITIONAL PRIZES FOR NEO-LITERATES' BOOKS

A New Delhi announcement made on January 26 says, the authors of the following books who have already been awarded a prize of Rs. 500/- each will now receive an additional sum of Rs. 500/- each:—

Bengali: "Hathat Bipade" by Amarnath Roy.

Gujarati: "Bapuna Jeevan Prasango" by Manubahen Gandhi.

Kannada: "Namma Manassu" by K. Varija Udupa.

Tamil: "Anuvini Rahasyam" by P. Gunasekar.

Urdu: "Masnui Chand" by Athar Parvez.

Under the scheme for "Encouragement of Popular Literature", the Union Ministry of Education had announced on October 2, 1958, 37 prizes of Rs. 500/ each on books and manuscripts in various regional languages submitted for consideration of prizes and 3 books had further been approved for purchase only. It was stated at that time that out of these 40 books, another selection of five books would be made for an additional award of Rs. 500/- each.

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS FOR 1958

The Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi which met in New Delhi on January 18 under the chairmanship of the President of the Akademi, Shri

Jawaharlal Nehru, selected the following books for the Sahitya Akademi's annual award of Rs. 5,000 each (for 1958) to the most outstanding book in each of the major Indian languages published during 1955-57.

Bengali	<i>Anandibai Ityadi Galpa</i>	Short stories	Rajasekhara Bose
Gujarati	<i>Darshan ane Chintan</i> (2 volumes)	Philosophical essays	Pandit Shukhlalji
Hindi	<i>Madhya Asia ka Itihas</i> (2 volumes)	History of Central Asia	Pahul Sankritayan
Kannada	<i>Aralu Maralu</i>	Poems	D. R. Bendre
Kashmiri	<i>Sat Sangar</i>	Short stories	Akhtar Mohiuddin
Malayalam	<i>Kazhinja Kalam</i>	Autobiography	K. P. Kesava Menon
Marathi	<i>Bahurupi</i>	Autobiography	Chintaman Rao Kolbatkar
Oriya	<i>Ka</i>	Novel	Kanhucharan Mohanty
Tamil	<i>Chakravarti Tirumagan</i>	Remayana retold in prose	C. Rajagopalachari
Urdu	<i>Atishe Gul</i>	Poems	Jigar Moradabadi

No Award has been given in Assamese, Punjabi, Telugu, Sanskrit, Sindhi and English, as no book published in those languages was considered to be of outstanding literary merit.

Another important decision of the Board was that the Akademi should organize small parties of writers to tour different parts of India to encourage development of national consciousness.

The Executive Board also passed a resolution condoling the demise of Shri Haricharan Bandopadhyaya, the distinguished educationist and lexicographer, whose *Bangiya Sabdakosh* (Bengali-Bengali Dictionary) has been sponsored by Sahitya Akademi for republication.

Geophysical Exploration Committee

According to an announcement made on January 28, pursuant to the recommendation made by the Central Board of Geophysics at

its 17th meeting held on October 29, 1958, the Government of India have appointed a "Committee for Exploration Geophysics" under the Board.

The following are the members of the Committee:

Dr. B. C. Roy, Director, Geological Survey of India — Official Member; Dr. M.S. Krishnan — Non-official Member; Shri M.B. Ramachandra Rao, Director of Geophysics, Oil and Natural Gas Commission — Official Member; Shri L.N. Kailasam, Secretary, Central Board of Geophysics and Chief Geophysicist, Geological Survey of India — Official Member and Convenor.

The Committee for Exploration Geophysics shall advise the Central Board of Geophysics in formulating programmes for research at the Geophysical Research Wing of the Board.

The Committee shall have powers to co-opt additional members as and when necessary.

Information Directors' Conference

According to an announcement made on January 31, the extension of the Radio Rural Forums on the model of the experiment conducted by the Poona Station of All India Radio in 1956 in every State to at least one village in every Community Development Block in the country was agreed upon at a Conference of State Directors of Information, convened to discuss this scheme and the co-ordination of publicity programmes by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Shri R. K. Ramadhyani, Secretary, Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, presided. Besides the State Directors of Information, the Conference was attended by representatives of the Planning Commission and the Ministries of Community Development and Commerce and Industry.

The Forums will be organized through the State Directorates of Publicity under the guidance of Regional Committees consisting of Development Commissioners, State Directors of Information, Regional Officers and Station Directors of All India Radio. At the district level the work will be guided by the District Agricultural Officers, Panchayat Officers and Field Publicity Officers. The Forums will be instrumental in spreading knowledge and application of improved methods of agriculture and animal husbandry and bring about an increase of agricultural production in the areas in which they are organized. It was felt that an Organizer at State level was necessary for proper implementation of the scheme of Rural Forums.

The Conference, the announcement adds, also discussed the holding of drama seminars or training courses in dramatics, preferably at the Social Education Organizers Training Centres, to improve the quality of dramatic shows being put up by different States to popularise the Plan effort. The Conference considered the programmes of publicity

envisaged by the States and the Centre through the various media such as pamphlets, films, songs and drama.

Other subjects discussed related to the effective means of publicising the change over to Metric System, including publication of reckoners, for the guidance of consumers during the interim period. On the question of running the Information Centres at Block headquarters, it was felt that full responsibility for the Centres lay with the State Directorates of Information.

Seismograph Station At Delhi

Equipped with a full quota of automatic instruments, Delhi is to have one of the finest seismological observatories in Asia, says an announcement of January 19.

Construction work of the Seismological Observatory at a site on the ridge, near the University of Delhi, has been started by the Central Public Works

Department. The main vault, which will house the seismographs, it is expected, will be ready for installation of instruments by the middle of this year. The underground vault has been designed specially to provide against the effect of large temperature variation and strong winds.

A large number of seismographs of different characteristics will be installed in this underground room. The instruments, which will be fully automatic, will operate continuously day and night and will be able to record vibrations caused by earthquakes occurring in any part of the world.

Special provision has been made to record local and regional shocks, ranging in intensity from minor unfelt tremors, to strongly felt shocks.

The present site on the ridge, which is away from busy thoroughfares, will provide the instruments with a firm rocky foundation and ensure that the records will be free from vibrations caused by movement of heavy traffic.

Social Welfare

GOVERNMENT DECISIONS ON COMPENSATION TO D.P.s

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Rehabilitation on January 18 says:

Since the Compensation Act and Rules were passed in 1954-55, progressive concessions have been announced both to claimants and to non-claimants in the matter of allotment of houses.

As a result of these concessions more than 80 per cent of properties in the compensation pool have been made allottable and can be transferred to the occupants, whether claimants or non-claimants. Non-claimants are permitted to pay 20 per cent of the price in cash and the balance in seven annual instal-

ments. They have also been allowed to associate claimants towards the payment of instalments. Small claimants whose compensation was not sufficient to cover the price of the houses, were given the concession of associating other claimants and of payment by instalments in seven years. In addition to these concessions, rent has also been remitted in regard to allottable houses occupied by displaced persons with effect from October 1, 1955 and in certain cases even from prior dates.

In spite of these concessions, it has been noticed that particularly in the smaller towns, claimants are reluctant to take properties in their occu-

pation as compensation against their claims. This action is hindering the finalization of compensation cases and is delaying the completion of the compensation scheme.

It may be pointed out that the whole intention of the compensation scheme was to transfer properties which had been abandoned by Muslims in India to displaced persons who had abandoned similar properties in Pakistan. In the case of priority categories, i.e. persons whose need for cash was paramount, the Government has been paying their compensation in cash instead of in the shape of property. Most of the 60,000 and odd persons in this category have already been paid off. Small claimants, i.e. claimants with claims under Rs. 10,000 in value are also paid in cash and a very large proportion of such claimants have received payment. The Government has already paid about Rs. 50 crores in cash as compensation.

In view of the fact that the cash resources of the country and of the pool do not permit the payment to all claimants in cash, it may be emphasized that claimants living in allottable property cannot expect to be compensated otherwise than by the transfer to them of the property in their occupation. Up to now, the refusal to accept such property by claimant has merely resulted in the deferment of compensation. The time has now come, however, when such cases have to be finalized and steps have to be taken to effect the transfer of such properties to their occupants.

In order to make the position clear, the Government have decided that where any person having a verified claim for urban or rural property is in sole occupation of any property which is an allottable property and he refuses to accept the transfer of such property in satisfaction of his claim, his claim shall be paid as follows:—

- If the net compensation due to him covers or exceeds the value of the property, his claim shall be deemed to have been satisfied to the extent of the value of this property.
- If his net compensation does not cover the value of the property but is not less than 20 per cent of it, he shall not be paid compensation in cash, but

will be given a statement of account and the property will be transferred to somebody else.

- If the net compensation due to him is less than 20 per cent of the value of the property, he will be paid cash if he is entitled; otherwise, he will be given a statement of account enabling him to purchase other property in the pool.

The effect of these decisions will be that displaced persons who are in sole occupation of allottable properties will no longer be able to defer the settlement of their claims by refusing to take the property in their occupation. This will have the effect of finalizing a very large number of cases and of enabling the Government to wind up the compensation scheme within the period planned.

FARMING MACHINERY FOR DANDAKARANYA

A new Delhi announcement made on January 25 says that in pursuance of the decision taken by the Government of India to close the camps of displaced persons in West Bengal by the end of July 1959, nearly 35,000 displaced families will be moved to Dandakaranya. Of these 29,000 will be agriculturists.

To provide lands for these persons and also the resident tribals, agricultural land will have to be reclaimed, and that too within about three years. This is proposed to be achieved by three methods, namely, by fully mechanized units, by man-power with the support of machinery and by man-power alone aided by hand tools, such as, chain-saws, pick axes, winches, etc. For this purpose, five fully mechanized units of the Central Tractor Organization have been taken over by the Dandakaranya Administration.

Two more units of the Central Tractor Organization are expected to be transferred to the Administration by June, 1959. Each unit consists of 15 big tractors with special attachments for the many operations involved. The total cost of the machinery

and spare parts taken over from the Central Tractor Organization is nearly Rs. 60 lakhs. It has also been decided to purchase two new fully mechanized units and seven subsidiary units involving a further expenditure of about Rs. 1.5 crores. The entire order for the new machinery has been placed with the Director-General of Ordnance Factories. The Director-General of Ordnance Factories has undertaken to supply the entire requirements of machinery by the end of August, 1959.

By October, 1959, it is expected that about 200 tractors will be operating in the Dandakaranya area. This will represent the largest concentration of reclamation equipment in any single project.

LOK KARYA TRAINING CENTRE

Inaugurating the All-India Lok Karya Training Centre at Ashoka Vihara, Mehrauli, near Delhi on January 19 the Union Minister for Planning, Shri Guizarilal Nanda, said that the emphasis in the programme of the Lok Karya Kshetras (People's Programme areas) was on people; it was in fact a people's programme, to be implemented by them in a manner best suited to their needs. If this scheme was successful, he added, strong foundations for the Bharat Sevak Samaj would have been laid.

The Mehrauli Centre has about 60 trainees from all over the country. The training would last three months.

The Lok Karya Kshetra Scheme of the Bharat Sevak Samaj is primarily aimed at assisting the people in the organization of programmes mainly based on the utilization of voluntary labour and local resources. It is a medium through which the Samaj seeks to initiate a process of transformation whereby developmental work will resolve itself into people's programme with official participation and cooperation, wherever needed. In this task, the Bharat Sevak Samaj proposes to work in full co-operation with the Panchayats. The Scheme has been

sanctioned by the Planning Commission and it is proposed to establish 100 Kshetras in the first instance.

Women's Study Team From Sikkim

A Study Team consisting of three women from Sikkim is touring the country to study the working of Social Welfare Programmes sponsored by the Cen-

tral Social Welfare Board, with a view to setting up similar services in Sikkim.

The members are visiting a number of Welfare Projects and institutions run by the State Social Welfare Advisory Boards in various States.

The team which is on a five-week visit to the country has been sent by the Government of Sikkim at the invitation of the Government of India.

Labour & Employment

DHANBAD CONFERENCE ON SAFETY IN MINES

The conference on safety in mines, which concluded at Dhanbad on January 29, has drawn up a comprehensive set of recommendations aimed at preventing mine accidents. Among the measures suggested are development of safety consciousness among the staff and workers and stabilization of the labour force.

The conference, which was attended by technical experts, representatives of workers, employers and Government, and Members of Parliament, was presided over by Shri Abid Ali, Union Deputy Minister for Labour.

Regarding methods of recruitment, the conference felt that a stable and permanent labour force would go a long way in ensuring safety in mines. For this purpose, the existing methods of recruitment should be improved. A list of workers retrenched or likely to be retrenched should be maintained by the Mines Welfare Organization or any other suitable agency. Workers on this list should have first claim on future vacancies. As far as possible, local labour should be given preference over outside workers.

Causes Of Fatigue

The conference suggested that a body of experts should carry

out a scientific study of causes of fatigue. It should also examine the question of working hours. Since physical fitness of workers helped in reducing accidents, they should be medically examined at the time of first appointment and subsequently every two years. A high priority should be given to the question of housing for mine workers and supply of wholesome drinking water and sanitary arrangements in their colonies.

The conference was of the view that without competent and dependable workmen, operators and officials, no programme of safety in mines could make any headway. It therefore suggested the setting up of a sub-committee to examine the entire question of training schemes and the personnel who would receive this training.

Regarding safety education, the conference felt that schemes to make the mining staff safety-minded should not only give necessary knowledge about safety but also instil in them a sense of discipline and the right attitude towards safety. The chief aim should be to make them want safety.

For the senior managerial staff, a quarterly safety bulletin should be brought out and safety conferences should be held at

least once a year. For other officials and workers, accident prevention courses should be introduced. First aid training amongst mine workers should be intensified and safety weeks should be held frequently. Safety awards should be instituted and officials' safety meetings should be held at the mine-level.

Technical Measures

The conference felt that a committee should conduct investigations with a view to making more specific regulations about the standards of ventilation and lighting. The use of open lights should be prohibited and precautions relating to the use of electricity should be incorporated in the Mines Regulations instead of in the Indian Electricity Rules, as at present.

Regarding the problem of inflammable gas, it was felt that more attention should be paid to analysis of air in the mines and only specially trained persons should be employed on the job. It was suggested that a technical sub-committee be appointed to consider the problems created by coal dust and to suggest measures to deal with them. Where heat and humidity were above a specified level, the duration of shift should be reduced or other suitable procedures adopted to make allowances for those.

The conference agreed that constant efforts should be made to raise the standard of handling and use of explosives. The possibility of using substitutes for breaking coal in gassy mines should be explored. In all the mines above a prescribed size a qualified person should be appointed as safety officer. It was proposed that suitable awards should be introduced for exceptional acts of courage during rescue work. A medical inspectorate should be set up within the Mines Department to undertake regular industrial hygiene surveys in mining areas. Steps should be taken for the manufacture in India of essential safety material.

It was suggested that the definition of Agent in the Mines Act should be amended to include every person, other than a own-

er or agent, who takes part or has any effective say in the technical management of the mine. Regarding periodical re-examination of persons holding gas-testing certificates, it was agreed that every such person should be required to have his certificate renewed at stated intervals.

The conference felt that no safety official should be dismissed on grounds relating to safety unless his case had been discussed in the Pit Safety Committee. It was considered desirable that workmen should have the right to get the mines inspected by their chosen representatives, who should not, however, deal with matters relating to wages, labour disputes, etc. At every large mine, a Safety Committee should be set up to discuss matters relating to safety.

The conference endorsed, with a few changes, the general recommendations made by the Court of Inquiry into the Chinakuri Colliery Accident.

HOUSING SCHEMES FOR WORKERS

During December, 1958, a sum of Rs. 61,12,820 was sanctioned by various State Governments for the construction of 1,206 tenements under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme.

The Rajasthan Government proposes to construct 200 single-room and 50 two-room tenements at Sriganganagar at an estimated cost of Rs. 8,24,500. Fifty per cent of the cost will be in the shape of subsidy and 50 per cent loan.

West Bengal will build 608 single-room and 160 two-room tenements at Khardah (384 one-room and 96 two-room) and at Bellur (224 one-room and 64 two-room). The estimated cost of the project, which is Rs. 46,86,400, will be divided equally as loan and subsidy.

The Rajapalayam Industrial Workers' Co-operative Housing Society has been sanctioned a sum of Rs. 6,01,920 (Rs. 4,34,720 loan and Rs. 1,67,200 subsidy) for constructing 100 one-room and 88 two-room tenements at Rajapalayam.

Indian Information

WELFARE CENTRES FOR COLLIERY WORKERS

Welfare Centres, mainly with the purpose of imparting vocational training to the wives of colliery workers, and elementary education to their children, were started in April 1947, and by the end of 1958, there were fifty-two such Centres.

In these Centres, workers' wives not only get training in crafts like sewing and knitting but are also advised on family planning, civic duties, hygienic and economic methods of food preservation etc. Radios, gramophones and magazines are supplied in these centres for providing recreation to those attending them. Further, 194 women were made literate in these Centres in 1957-58, bringing the total since the scheme in 1955 to 449.

544 children were on the rolls for elementary education on March 31, 1958. Free supply of garments to children twice a year has been sanctioned by the Government, and every working day, fruits and UNICEF milk powder were distributed to the children. Weighing machines, multi-vitamin tablets and health cards were provided at all the centres and arrangements were made for periodical medical check-ups.

Adult Education

There were 53 adult education centres functioning by the end of 1958. In these, the total enrollment was 8,300, and 5,487 persons were made literate by the end of the year. At these centres labourers were given lessons

on labour laws, current affairs, civic duties and elementary principles of hygiene and nutrition. Each of these centres possess small libraries. During the year, 56 lectures were arranged and excursions were arranged to places like the Sindri Fertilizer factory, Maithon dam etc., At these centres, the mobile cinema units gave a total of 627 film shows.

Medical Facilities

In the hospitals more than 3 lakh people were treated in 1957-58 and a sum of Rs. 13,386 was spent for supplying artificial limbs to disabled colliery workers. There is also a scheme by which patients, if they are the sole earning members in their families, are given, for a period not exceeding 6 months, monthly allowance with a maximum of Rs. 50.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are run on the lines advocated by the Indian Red Cross Society. Midwifery service through trained dais is made available for cases registered in the Centres. Free distribution of medicines, milk, fruits, germinated gram, etc. is also made available. Two T.B. Clinics each with 12 beds render useful service to colliery patients suffering from tuberculosis. So far about 387 persons have been treated in the hospitals. Beds have also been reserved in various recognised sanatoria for treatment of colliery patients.

Disputes In Petroleum Industry

There was general agreement between representatives of petroleum companies and workers, who met in New Delhi on January 20 that their differ-

ences should be resolved through negotiation or conciliation.

The meeting was convened by the Union Labour Ministry following the demand of the Petroleum Workers' Federation for reference of its dispute with the companies to a National Tribunal. The Union Labour Minister,

Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda, presided over the meeting, which was attended by the Deputy Minister for Labour, Shri Abid Ali, and the Bombay Minister for Labour, Shri Shanti Lal Shah.

It was agreed that in any region where settlement had not been reached between the employers and the workers in the industry, negotiation should begin immediately to arrive at a settlement.

If the settlement was in respect of a State in a region, it should be made applicable, by agreement, to other States in the region. For instance, in the case of Delhi region which comprises 6 States, any agreement that might be reached in regard to Delhi would apply to other States as well.

It was further agreed that if no mutual settlement was possible through negotiation or conciliation, the dispute would be referred to a tribunal in one of the States of the region, and the award of the tribunal would be made applicable, by agreement, to other States in the region.

In the case of Bombay, it was decided that conciliation proceedings would start immediately in respect of workers who had not been covered by existing arrangements.

An immediate result of the conference was that conciliation proceedings in regard to the dispute in Delhi began yesterday afternoon. A draft agreement embodying the results of conciliation was drawn up and presented to the parties concerned for their signature.

Earlier addressing the meeting Shri Nanda said that it was with a view to lending a helping hand to straighten out things in the industry that the Centre had convened this conference. On the one hand, employers had filed petitions in the Supreme Court and, on the other, workers wanted their demands to be referred to a National Tribunal. Nevertheless, Shri Nanda added that industrial relations in the petroleum industry, on the whole, had been good.

Besides, he said, there had

been in existence, regional settlements reached between the employers and the workers in the industry. This pattern of regional settlement had been growing; it had functioned well enough in some ways and perhaps not so well in other ways. But before breaking away from this tradition of regional settlements, they should see if these settlements could not work better.

Industrial Disputes In November 1958

There were 94 fresh industrial disputes during November, 1958, bringing the total number of disputes current at any time during the month to 128 including 12 lock-outs says an announcement of January 30. In the previous month, there were 92 fresh disputes in 121 disputes current.

During November, time-loss due to industrial disputes decreased by 87,583 man-days. The average duration of disputes current at any time during the month was 5.2 days as against 7.6 days in the preceding month.

One hundred disputes terminated during November. Of these, 66 lasted not more than 5 days each and 10 lasted more than 30 days each.

During the month, time-loss increased in "Agriculture and Allied Activities" to 31,868, in "Construction" to 13,310, in "Electricity, Gas, Water and Sanitary Services" to 11,871 and in "Services" group to 808 man-days.

West Bengal recorded the highest time-loss (54,207), followed by Madras (24,267), Rajasthan (19,934), Assam (16,720) and Kerala (16,317). Compared to the previous month, time-loss increased in Assam, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, and decreased in other States.

For the manufacturing industry group, the index of industrial unrest (base 1951=100) for November was 24 as compared with 44 in the preceding month.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT

A 30-member Central Committee relating to employment, has been constituted to advise the Ministry of Labour and Employment on matters relating to employment, creation of employment opportunities and the working of the national employment service, says an announcement of January 31.

Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda is the Chairman of the Committee which includes representatives of all State Governments and of central trade unions and employers' organizations. Besides, the Committee has a representative each of Small Scale Industries Board and the All India Khadi and Village Industries Commission. The Director General of Resettlement and Employment is the Secretary.

The Committee according to the announcement, will study employment information and assess employment and unemployment trends both in urban and rural areas and suggest measures for expanding employment opportunities. It will advise the Ministry on the development of the national employment service, deployment of personnel retrenched on the completion of development projects and development of youth employment service and employment counselling at Exchanges. It will also consider special programmes relating to educated unemployed. Besides, the Committee will assess the requirements of trained craftsmen and advise the National Council for Training in Vocational Trades on this matter.

JOBS FOUND BY EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

An announcement made on January 31 reveals that the employment Exchanges helped 21,037 persons to secure jobs during December, 1958. This was 2,126 more than the number of placements secured by Exchanges in the previous month.

The increase in placements during December was mainly

reported from West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan, Bombay and Madras. There was decrease in placements in Kerala, Andhra and Delhi.

Of those placed, 5,572 secured jobs under the Central Government, 9,810 under State Governments, 3,323 under quasi-Government establishments and local bodies and the rest under other employers.

The number of employers who made use of Exchanges during the month was 6,638 as compared with 6,351 in November. The number of vacancies notified by them was 30,590, which was 1,563 more than the figure for the previous month.

During the month, 2,12,961 persons registered at the Exchanges as against 1,68,080 in November. The number of persons on the Live Register of Exchanges increased by 24,268 to 11,83,299 at the end of December.

Consumer Index For Delhi In December

The rising tendency noticed in the consumer price index number for working class for Delhi since May, 1958, has reversed. The index number (base shifted to 1949=100) receded by 2 points and stood at 118 during December.

According to the Labour Bureau, Government of India, the food group index number receded by 3 points mainly due to a fall in the prices of rice, dal moong, dal arhar, mustard oil, milk, potatoes and gur. The fuel and lighting group index number declined by one point due to a fall in the prices of mustard oil. The clothing group index number also receded by one point due to lower quotations for markin and khadi. The miscellaneous group index number remained stationary.

On base 1944=100, the consumer price index number for Delhi for December was 155.96 as compared with 158.90 for November.

On base shifted to August 1939=100, the consumer price index number for Delhi for December was 406.74.

The States

PAYMENT OF SALARY TO DELHI TEACHERS

According to a Press Note issued on January 28, by the Ministry of Education the Government of India have taken an important decision to make advance payments of quarterly grant-in-aids to private aided schools in Delhi, so that there should be no trouble in future regarding the disbursement of teachers' salaries at the beginning of every month.

When the Government of India examined the problem of delayed payments, they found that some private school managements found it difficult to make regular disbursement of salaries to teachers due to financial difficulties and the shrinkage of sources of private philanthropy.

The existing practice is to give Government grants to the school managements after the salaries have been disbursed by them. It was found that several private managements did not have adequate funds to meet the salary bill in full from their own resources first and then claim the grant from the Government.

In order to avoid hardship to the teachers and at the same time to render financial relief to the managements, it has now been decided that the school managements would be able to draw the grants-in-aid in quarterly instalments in advance, subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions.

The managements will be required to pay the salaries of the teachers within the first week of every month by crossed cheques except in specific cases, such as rural areas, where the Director of Education could permit an alternative mode of payment. All the Heads of schools will also be required to furnish every month to the Director of Education a certificate or such evidence as may be prescribed by the latter

to the effect that full payment of salaries to the teachers has been made by the school managements.

The Government of India have also directed the Delhi Administration to exercise strict control over the managements of private aided schools and to see that, in future, defaults do not occur in the regular and timely payment of salaries. Institutions indulging in dubious practices will run the risk of their recognition being withdrawn.

To improve the financial position of the teachers in the private schools, the Government of India have further issued orders for raising the employers' rate of provident fund contribution from the existing 6½% to 8½% with effect from the July 1, 1958. The minimum rate of teachers' contribution to the provident fund has also been raised to 8½%.

ASSENT FOR RAJASTHAN BILL

The President has given his assent to the Rajasthan Suits Valuation Bill, 1958, says an announcement of January 19.

The Bill seeks to unify the law relating to valuation of suits for jurisdiction purposes throughout the re-organized State of Rajasthan. It follows closely the provisions of the Suits Valuation Act, 1887, passed by the Centre.

WAREHOUSES FOR RAJASTHAN

The President has given his assent to the Rajasthan Warehouses Bill, 1958.

The legislation has been promoted to increase warehousing facilities in Rajasthan during the Second Five Year Plan period.

Accepting the recommendations of the Rural Credit Survey Committee, the Centre enacted the Agricultural Produce (Development and Warehousing) Corporation Act, 1956, to increase warehousing facilities in the country for agricultural pro-

ducts. The Act empowers State Governments to set up State Warehousing Corporations.

Anti-Profiteering Bill For W. Bengal

The President has given assent to West Bengal Anti-Profiteering Bill, 1958, says an announcement made on January 29.

The Bill, which seeks to replace the Anti-Profiteering Ordinance, empowers the Government to fix the maximum or minimum prices to be paid by the purchaser for certain essential commodities mentioned in the Schedule to the Bill. The

Government is also authorized to take action to check profiteering in the commodities listed in the Schedule.

The Anti-Profiteering Ordinance, 1958, promulgated by the Governor of West Bengal on October 22, 1958, after obtaining the prior instructions of the President, was considered necessary to effect measures for checking the rise in prices and preventing profiteering by dealers in the essential commodities.

ASSENT FOR U.P. ESTATES ABOLITION BILL

The Uttar Pradesh Govern-

ment Estates Thekedari Abolition Bill, 1957, has received President's assent, according to an announcement of January 24.

The Bill abolishes the Thekedari system prevalent in Government estates in nine districts of Uttar Pradesh with a view to bringing the rights of people in these areas in line with rest of the State. The existence of this system had made it difficult for Government to introduce in these areas the scheme of land reforms outlined in the Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950.

Defence

ORDNANCE CORPS OFFICERS' MEET

Lt.-Gen. K. P. Dhargalkar, the new Master-General of Ordnance, Army Headquarters, opened the sixday annual senior Ordnance Corps Officers' conference on January 19. It was attended by Brigadiers Ordnance of Commands and Commandants of Ordnance Depots, installations and training establishments all over the country.

Lt.-Gen. L. P. Sen, who recently relinquished his appointment as Master-General of Ordnance to become Chief of General Staff, Army Headquarters, addressing the conference laid emphasis on the need for greater and greater indigenous production of defence stores and equipment in view of the acute shortage of foreign exchange. He pointed out that they should not only focus more attention in saving foreign exchange, but should also have an eye on effecting maximum possible economy in all aspects of Ordnance functional activities including its huge manpower organisation. While noting the existence of cordiality in labour relations, Lt.-Gen. Sen said that in this respect their attitude should be one of positive approach by

promoting a sense of partnership and co-operation. They should give greater thought to the welfare aspect of labour which, he pointed out, would go a long way towards their contentment thus improving their output and efficiency.

Major-General R. N. Nehra, Commandant of Ordnance Services, Army Headquarters, presided.

BRITISH AIR CHIEF IN DELHI

Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Dermot A. Boyle, Britain's Chief of the Air Staff, arrived in New Delhi on January 15 from Karachi on a one-day visit.

The British Air Chief, who left the United Kingdom on January 10 on a 20,000 mile flight to visit units of the Royal Air Force overseas, left for Bangkok early on January 16.

India & The World

INDIAN ENVOY TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on January 29 says, Shri Bejoy Krishna Acharya, at present Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed Ambassador of India to Czechoslovakia and concurrently accredited as Ambassador of India to Rumania. He will assume charge of his new assignment towards the end of May 1959.

Indian Legation In Vienna

A Press Communique issued on January 29 by the Ministry of External Affairs says that in order further to strengthen their mutual relations of friendship, the Government of India and the

Federal Government of Austria have agreed to raise their respective Legations in Vienna and New Delhi to the rank of Embassies.

Diplomatic Relations With Columbia

The Government of India and Columbia consider it desirable to encourage the knowledge of each other's people and to secure closer contact and co-operation between the two countries, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on January 16.

To this end, the two Governments have decided to establish direct diplomatic relations, through the establishment of permanent Missions, at the level of Embassies, in New Delhi and Bogota.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

JANUARY 16 TO 31

- January 18 — The awards given by the Sahitya Akademi for the most outstanding books in the Indian languages are announced
- 21 — The Duke of Edinburgh arrives in Delhi on a fortnight's visit
- The 46th session of the Indian Science Congress begins in Delhi.
- Dr. J.C. Ghose, eminent scientist and member of the Planning Commission, passes away
- 23 — The 63rd birthday of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose is celebrated all over the country
- Shri Vittal Chandavarkar, educationist and industrialist, passes away
- India recognizes the new Government of Cuba

- 24 — The first blast furnace of the Rourkela plant is commissioned
- Dr B.C. Roy, Chief Minister of West Bengal, lays the foundation stone of the Kangsabati Dam at Gorabari
- The annual meeting of the Association of Scientific Workers is inaugurated by the Prime Minister in New Delhi
- 25 — The National Awards to teachers are given by the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, at a function in New Delhi
- 26 — Republic Day is celebrated
- 30 — Martyrs' Day is observed
- 31 — The "India-1958" Exhibition comes to a close in New Delhi

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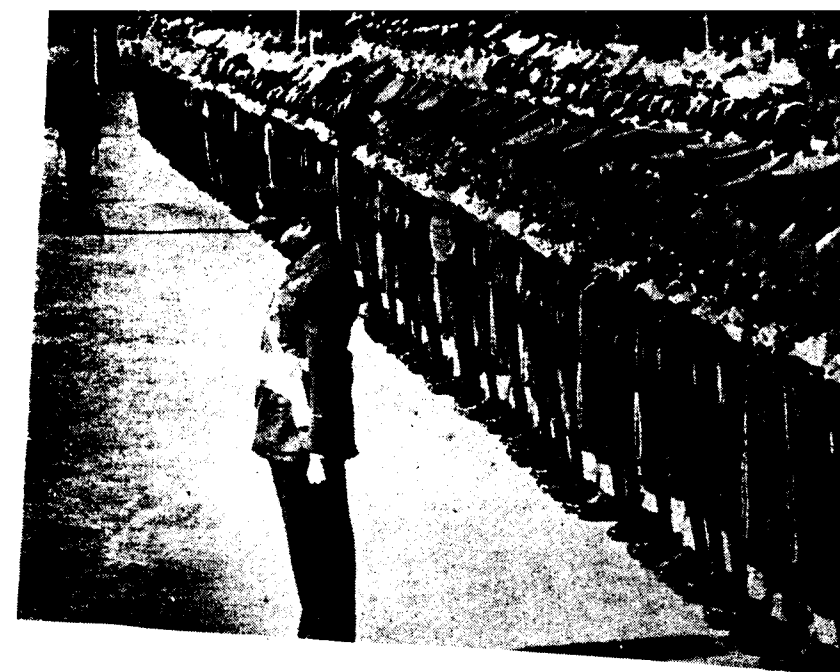


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An Inter-Services Guard of Honour 'resting on their arms reversed' while the Last Post was sounded by the buglers on Martyrs' Day at Mahatma Gandhi Samadhi at Rajghat



Marshal Josip Broz Tito, President of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia and Madame Jovanka Broz with the artistes who staged a dance-drama at Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad, in their honour



The Railway Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, addressing a Conference of Chief Security Officers of Indian Railways in New Delhi





A Folk-Dance Festival was held in New Delhi in connection with the Republic Day celebrations in which 21 troupes of Folk artists from 17 States participated. Picture above shows two of the artistes from Mysore who gave a demonstration of *Yaksha Gana*, an ancient form of Dance-Drama. Picture below shows the troupe of Santhals from Bihar giving a demonstration of their dance. They won the Trophy of Sangeet Natak Akademi this year.

