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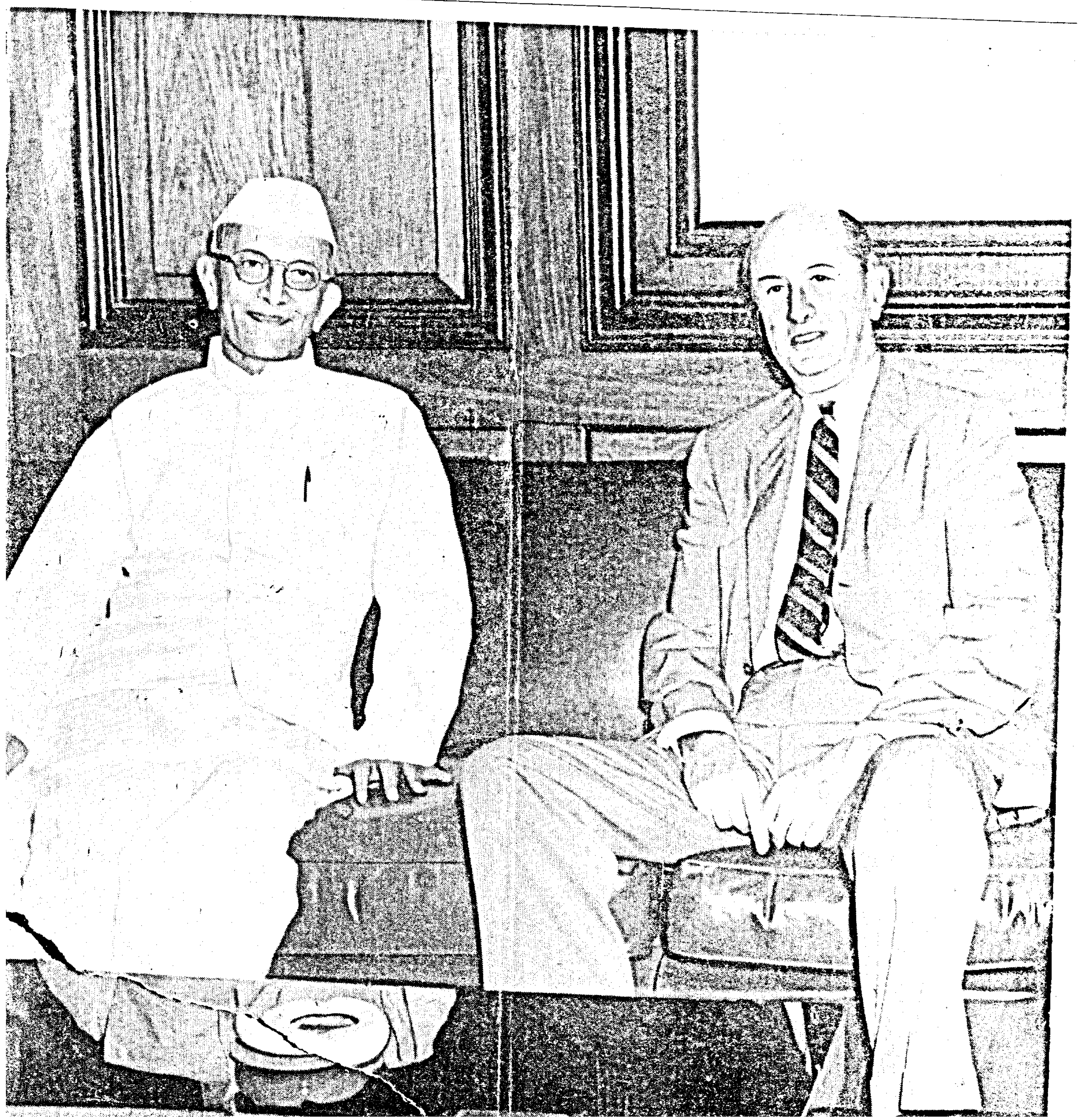

The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, being shown round the Occupational Therapy Home for Children in New Delhi on May 7

The Vice-President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, with some of the artistes who took part in "Malti Madhav", presented in Hindi by the Song and Drama Division of All India Radio in New Delhi on May 11

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COVER: The Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, with Mr. Eugene Black, President of the World Bank, when the latter called on him in New Delhi on May 14.

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

Political & General

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER FOR LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

The first report of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities, Shri B. Malik, was submitted to the Parliament on May 8.

The 47-page report which deals with matters relating to safeguards for linguistic minorities provided under the Constitution and elaborated in the Memorandum on Safeguards for Linguistic Minorities, covers the period July 30, 1957 to July 31, 1958.

EIGHTH SCHEDULE

Referring to representations received for inclusion of certain languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, the Commissioner says that there seems to be a popular impression that the 14 languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule are the only languages that are recognised as spoken in India. This appears to be an "erroneous impression". In the provisions relating to safeguards for linguistic minorities no mention is made of the Eighth Schedule and "there is no reason to believe that the safeguards apply only to the 14 linguistic minorities."

The Commissioner says that Article 350-A provides for adequate facilities for instruction in the "mother-tongue" at the primary stage. Articles 345 and 348 (2) mention "any other language used" in the State and Article 347 refers to any other language spoken by a substantial portion of the population. Articles 29, 30 and 350 do not refer to the 14 languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule and "cannot be so interpreted as to restrict them" only to these 14 languages.

Minority Communities' Mother-Tongue

The Commissioner says that the division of the States on linguistic basis has given rise to the inevitable result that the regional language should gain prominence and should, in course of time, become the official language of the State. The other languages which are the mother-tongue of the minority communities living in the State, naturally do not get equal prominence or status. The result is that those whose mother-tongue is the minority language have not only a sentimental grievance but certain practical difficulties and inconveniences from which they suffer.

"It is, therefore, very necessary that the State Governments should be vigilant, and look into the complaints received sympathetically and promptly, call upon its officers also to do so and to take an objective and impartial view in all such cases," says the Commissioner. "Special care may be taken that there are no grounds for the feeling that there is discrimination in matters of admission to schools, colleges, technical institutions and the Services."

Teaching In Minority Languages

To make separate provision for teaching in the minority languages, the report says that extra expenditure has to be incurred and since there is hardly any school which is financially well off, it is natural that there is some reluctance to admit the requisite number and provide separate teachers or make separate arrangements for teaching in the mother tongue. It may be that if the schools are required to maintain a book in which applications for admission are registered six months in advance, when the school re-opens the school authorities will be able to know whether requisite number in a particular minority language are available for admission.

Another general complaint urged before the Commissioner in several States, says the report, was that documents presented for registration are insisted upon to be in the official language. Here again there are certain practical difficulties, adds the report. The Government will have to provide registration clerks who know the minority language also and are able to copy out the documents in the registers but the difficulty should not be insurmountable as clerks knowing the minority languages would only be required in border areas or other places where the linguistic minorities are in sufficient numbers.

Common Loyalty And Friendliness

"India, except on rare occasions, has suffered due to internal dissensions, jealousies, bitterness and lack of a sense of common loyalty for the well being of the country as a whole," says the report. "It is necessary that every attempt should be made, and if necessary a little extra expenditure incurred, to create a feeling of unity, common loyalty and friendliness among the people and avoid all sources of friction, discontent and jealousy."

The Commissioner says that while it is the duty of the State Governments to create confidence in the minds of the linguistic minorities that they shall get a fair deal in matters of education, employment, trade and business, and that their language and culture shall not be adversely affected as a result of the establishment of linguistic States, it is very necessary that nothing should be done which might impede the free play of forces leading to social and cultural synthesis or process of natural assimilation.

Love of one's own language, says the Commissioner, may be commendable but excess of it may be dangerous for the future unity and well-being of the country.

The report goes on to discuss the action taken by the States on various safeguards for linguistic minorities mentioned in the Memorandum prepared by the Government for implementing the safeguards proposed for the linguistic minorities in the Report of the States Reorganisation Commisson.

Education

With the exception of Punjab and some parts of Madhya Pradesh, the States from whom the replies have been received have intimated that primary education is imparted in the mother-tongue, in case 10 students in a class or 40 students in a school have as their mother-tongue a language other than the regional language.

In the Punjab area of that State the linguistic minorities can opt for a medium of instruction of their choice and are not confined merely to Hindi and Punjabi. But the same is not the case in the Government institutions in the PEPSU area where Hindi is the medium of instruction in the Hindi Zone and Punjabi in the Punjabi Zone.

In those parts of Madhya Pradesh which were previously in Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh and Bhopal, "the position is not very clear." But in the rest of the State, primary education is imparted in the mother-tongue if there are 10 students in a class or 40 in a school whose mother tongue is other than the regional language.

From the replies received it appears that the States are adhering to the principles laid down by the State Education Ministers' Conference held in August 1949 and the facilities contemplated are being provided.

The Education Ministers' Conference recommended that (a) if the number of pupils whose mother-tongue is a language other than the regional or State language justifies a separate school, the medium of instruction in such a school may be the mother-tongue of pupils; such schools will be recognised for purposes of similar facilities in all Government, and District Board Schools, where one-third of the total number of pupils of the school desire to be instructed

in their mother-tongue. (c) Government will also require aided schools to arrange for such instruction if this is desired by one-third of the pupils, provided that there are no adequate facilities for instruction in that particular language in the area and (d) the regional language will be a compulsory subject throughout the secondary stage.

Language Formula

Majority of the States have accepted what is known as the Second Language formula evolved by the Education Ministry, in consultation with the State Governments. The formula says that students will study (a) mother-tongue or regional language or a composite course of mother-tongue and classical language or a composite course of regional language and classical language; (b) English or a modern European language; (c) Hindi (for non-Hindi-speaking areas) or another modern Indian language (for Hindi-speaking areas).

Kerala has accepted the second formula as (a) regional language or any language other than English or Hindi, regional language (compulsory) Malayalam/Tamil; (b) English; (c) Hindi.

Madras has adopted: (1) regional language; (2) Hindi or any other Indian language not included in part (1); (3) English or any other non-Indian language.

Affiliation Of Schools

Generally speaking, the report says, the States have agreed to allow the linguistic minorities the privilege of getting their institutions affiliated to universities outside their own boundaries.

Andhra Pradesh has expressed disagreement to the proposal "for fear of creating strained relations between the universities in the adjoining States." The view of the Kerala Government is that the Kerala University Act of 1957 does not allow any educational institution within the State, save with the sanction of the Chancellor, to seek or continue affiliation in any other university.

West Bengal, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are still considering the matter. In Bombay, secondary schools having media of instruction other than those accepted by the Bombay S.S.C. Examination Board have been permitted to seek affiliation to appropriate bodies outside the State.

Official Language

The Legislatures of the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have adopted Hindi as the official language. In Madras, Tamil has been recognised as the official language.

In Andhra Pradesh, English continues to be the official language, but the State is considering the question of declaring the regional language (Telugu) as the official language of the State. Orissa has adopted Oriya as the official language of the State. In Punjab, the Sachar and PEPSU Formulae provide for the use of Hindi and Punjabi as regional languages in different regions of the State.

The States that have linguistic minorities concentrated to the extent of 15 to 20 per cent in some of their areas have accepted the principle of publishing important Government notices, rules, etc., in the language of the minority group.

Recognition Of Minority Languages

The State Government of Kerala, Orissa, Mysore and Uttar Pradesh have reported that as the minorities do not form more than 15% of the population, the question of recognition of minority languages as medium of examination for recruitment to services does not arise. The West Bengal and Assam Governments have not yet taken any decision.

Madhya Pradesh Government has reported that recruitment to services in the State is not made through competitive examinations but the State has noted the recommendation made by the Government of India in this behalf. The State Governments of Delhi, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have reported that no restrictions in respect of trade, commerce, intercourse and the right of equality and opportunity have been imposed.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh and Mysore have also accepted the recommendation made by the Government of India. In Assam the concessions granted by the State Government to certain backward classes of people in the matter of allotment of fisheries, contracts, etc. still continue; otherwise, it is said, there is no discrimination.

The report then goes on to discuss the representations received from linguistic minorities of the various States.

Andhra Pradesh

Telugu is the principal language in the State. Recognition has been given to Urdu as a regional language in all the districts of Telangana. Similarly, Marathi has been recognised as a regional language in Adilabad district. In the erstwhile Hyderabad High Court English was made the official language and English continues to be recognised as the official language in the High Court and subordinate courts. For State services English is the general medium of examinations held for recruitment by the State Public Service Commission. The Commissioner says that "a genuine effort has been made to meet the needs of each linguistic group". With the limited resources at the disposal of the State it might be difficult for them to fully satisfy the ever-increasing demands of the people whether they belong to the majority or the minority linguistic group.

As regards the posting of officers, the Commissioner was told that it was not always possible to confine an officer to a particular region and some difficulty may from time to time be felt when an officer is posted to a district with the language of which he was not familiar, but generally such postings were avoided.

MADRAS

Madras Government, says the Commissioner, is reconsidering the question whether adequate knowledge of Tamil should be required before selection and appointment or whether the candidate should be required to pass a language test in Tamil within the time prescribed.

There were various representations from the various minority groups, says the Linguistic Commissioner, but these matters would be disposed off by the Madras Government in accordance with the policy agreed upon by the States of Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Kerala, which were still considering the common policy.

KERALA

The Kerala Government has informed the Commissioner that facilities for instruction through Urdu have been provided whenever and wherever there is a demand for it. Urdu has been accepted as one of the languages through which instruction can be imparted in schools. The question of conducting advance courses in Urdu is under the consideration of the University.

PUNJAB

An assurance was given that the State Government had no intention to ignore the claims of Urdu, whatever they be, but that it would complicate matters if any change was made in the language formulas without consulting all the parties concerned. It was, further pointed out that out of nearly a lakh of candidates who appeared in the middle school examination in 1958, hardly 25 students took up Urdu as a second language. All others took up Hindi or Punjabi.

UTTAR PRADESH

There is a great deal in common between spoken Hindi and spoken Urdu, but it is generally difficult to classify the spoken language. The script is no doubt entirely different, otherwise the spoken language has a common structure, grammar and syntax, the main difference being in the content of vocabulary at the margin. In one case it is largely drawn from Persian while in the other from Sanskrit.

The Unversity of Jammu and Kashmir has organised a joint Department for Hindi and Urdu on the ground that there are distinct advantages in having one Department because "philalogically the language is one and it has two forms written in two different scripts."

The Government of India considered the representations made by Anjamun-e-Taraqqui-e-Urdu-Hindi and issued a Statement on Language. The Uttar Pradesh Government accepted it fully.

S.R.C. Recommendations On Linguistic Minorities

The following statement was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on September 3, 1956 and is given here as background to the above report.

The safeguards proposed for the linguistic minorities vide Part IV of the States Reorganisation Commission's report, have been examined carefully in consultation with the Chief Ministers of the States and it is the Government of India's intention to accept most of the Commission's recommendations. The action which has been or is proposed to be taken is indicated in the paragraphs which follow.

Primary education: Attention is invited to clause 20 of the Constitution (Ninth Amendment) Bill, providing for the addition of a new Article namely, 350A to the Constitution regarding facilities for instruction in the mother-tongue at the primary stage of education. The directions which may be issued by the President under Article 350A of the Constitution, as it is proposed to be enacted into law, are likely to be based on the resolution accepted by the Provincial Education Ministers' Conference in August, 1949. The intention is that the arrangements which were generally accepted at this Conference should be brought into force in States and areas where they have not been adopted so far.

Secondary education: The Commission has recommended that the Government of India should, in consultation with the State Governments, lay down a clear policy in regard to education in the mother-tongue at the secondary stage and take effective steps to implement it. The Commission has expressed the view that so far as secondary education is concerned, it will have to be treated differently from education at the primary stage, and has, therefore, not recommended constitutional recognition of the right to have instruction in the mother-tongue at the secondary school stage.

The resolution adopted by the Provincial Education Ministers' Conference in August 1949 contemplated the following arrangements in regard to secondary education:

(a) If the number of pupils whose mother-tongue is a language other than the regional or State language, is sufficient to justify a separate school in an

area, the medium of instruction in such a school may be the mother-tongue of the pupils. Such schools organised or established by private agencies will be recognised for the purposes of grants-in-aid from Government according to prescribed rules.

(b) Government will also provide similar facilities in all Government and district board schools, where one-third of the total number of pupils of the school desire to be instructed in their mother tongue.

(c) Government will also require aided schools to arrange for such instruction, if this is desired by one-third of the pupils, provided that there are no adequate facilities for instruction in that particular language in the area.

(d) The regional language will be a compulsory subject throughout the secondary stage.

The Central Advisory Board of Education, after taking into consideration the report of the Secondary Commission and the resolution on the subject passed by the All-India Council of Secondary Education, has assigned to the mother-tongue an important position in the curriculum at the secondary stage, so that pupils belonging to linguistic minorities may be enabled to study their mother-tongue optionally as one of the three languages which are proposed to be taught at the secondary school stage. The Government of India, as recommended by the Commission, propose to lay down a clear policy in regard to the use and place of the mother-tongue at the secondary stage of education in consultation with the State Governments and to take effective steps to implement it.

Affiliation of schools and colleges using minority languages: Connected with the proposals contained in the preceding paragraphs is the question of the affiliation of educational institutions located in the new or reorganised States to appropriate Universities or Boards of Education. It is of course desirable that every effort should be made to evolve arrangements whereby educational institutions like schools and colleges can be affiliated, in respect of courses of study in the mother-tongue, to Universities and other authorities which are situated in the same State. However it may not always be possible to make such arrangements; and having regard to the number of institutions of this kind, it may sometimes be convenient, both from the point of view of the Universities or the educational authorities concerned, and from the point of view of the institutions themselves, that they should be permitted to seek affiliation to appropriate bodies located outside the State. This may be regarded in fact as a necessary corollary to the provisions contained in Article 30 of the Constitution, which gives to the minorities the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

It is, therefore, proposed to advise the State Governments that in all such cases, affiliation to outside bodies should be permitted without difficulty. It is also necessary that any institution which is thus affiliated should not suffer from any disabilities in regard to grant-in-aid and other facilities, merely because it cannot, from an academic point of view, be fitted into the framework of educational administration within the State. It is, therefore, proposed that irrespective of affiliation to bodies situated within or without the State, all institutions should continue to be supported by the States in which they are located. Legislation regarding Universities or Boards of Education may, where necessary, be reconsidered from this point of view.

Issue of directions by the President under Article 347 regarding the recognition of minority languages as official languages. Attention is invited to Article 347 of the Constitution, which prescribes that on a demand being made in that behalf, the President may, if he is satisfied that a substantial proportion of the population of a State desire the use of any language to be recognised by that State, direct that such language shall be officially recognised in a portion or the whole of the State. The Commission has recommended that the Government of India should adopt, in consultation with the State Governments, a clear code to govern the use of different languages at different levels of State administrations and take steps under Article 347 to ensure that this code is followed.

The Commission has proposed that a State should be recognised as unilingual, only where one language group constitutes about 70 per cent or more of its entire population, and that where there is a substantial minority constituting 30 per cent or more of the population, the State should be recognised as bilingual for administrative purposes. The Commission has further suggested that the same principle might hold good at the district level; that is to say, if 70 per cent or more of the total population of a district consists of a group which is a minority in the State as a whole, the language of the minority group and not the State language should be the official language in that district.

The Government of India are in agreement with these proposals and propose to advise the State Governments to adopt them.

The arrangements to be made for the purpose of recognising two or more official languages in a State or district which is treated as bilingual will be without prejudice to the right, which may be exercised under Article 350 of the Constitution by any one resident in the State, to submit a representation for the redress of any grievance in any of the languages used in the Union or the State.

The Commission has further suggested that in districts or smaller areas like municipalities and tehsils, where a linguistic minority constitutes 15 to 20 per cent of the population of that area, it may be an advantage to get important government notices and rules published in the language of the minority, in addition to any other language or languages in which such documents may otherwise be published in the usual course.

The Government of India propose to suggest that State Governments should adopt the procedure suggested, as a matter of administrative convenience.

Recognition of minority languages as the media for examinations conducted for recruitment to State

Services: Attention is invited to the Commission's recommendation that candidates should have the option to elect as the media of examination, in any examination conducted for recruitment to the State Services (not including subordinate services), English or Hindi, or the language of a minority constituting about 15 to 20 per cent or more of the population of a State; a test of proficiency in the State language may in that event be held after selection and before the end of probation. The Government of India propose to advise State Governments that these suggestions should as far as possible be adopted. It is also proposed to recommend to the State Governments that where any cadre included in a subordinate service is treated as a cadre for a district, any language which has been recognised as an official language in the district should also be recognised as a medium for the purpose of competitive examinations in the districts. The last-mentioned suggestion would follow as a necessary corollary to the acceptance of the Commission's recommendations referred to in paragraph 8 of this note.

Review of residence rules and requirements: The Commission has emphasised that the domicile tests in force in certain States operate to the disadvantage of minority groups and has recommended that the Government of India should undertake legislation under Article 16(3) of the Constitution in order to liberalise the requirements as to residence. The Government of India have carefully examined various suggestions which have been made from time to time with reference to the form which legislation intended to be enacted by Parliament under Article 16(3) may take. They have reached the conclusion that it is, on the whole, neither necessary nor desirable to impose at the present time any restrictions, with reference to residence, in any branch or cadre of the State services.

Certain exceptions may have to be made to the general rule of non-discrimination in the Telangana area, and the question of making special provision in regard to employment opportunities in certain backward areas may also have to be considered. It is expected, however, that these interim arrangements will not be continued beyond a transitional period.

The Government of India propose to undertake legislation as soon as possible in order to clarify the position on the lines indicated. In the meantime, State Governments will be asked to review the rules relating to recruitment to State Services in the light of the position stated in paragraph 14.

Restriction of private rights in respect of contracts, fisheries etc: The attention of the State Government is being drawn to the relevant provisions in the Constitution regarding freedom of trade, commerce and intercourse and the right to equality of opportunity, and it is being suggested that the existing restrictions should be reviewed from this point of view.

Recruitment of at least fifty per cent of the new entrants to All-India Services from outside a State: The question has been discussed informally with the Chief Ministers of States. No rigid rules are considered to be necessary, but the recommendations made by the Commission will be kept in view in making future allotments to the All-India Services.

Recruitment of one-third of the number of Judges from outside a State: The Commission's recommendations are being brought to the notice of the Chief Justice of India. There may be difficulties in some cases in implementing these recommendations, but it is intended that, to the extent possible, they should be borne in mind in making future appointments.

Constitution of Public Service Commissions for two or more States: The proposal that the Chairman and members of the Public Service Commissions in the States should be appointed by the President, has not been welcomed by the State Governments and it is not, therefore, being pursued. There is provision in the Constitution already for the constitution of Public Service Commissions for two or more States, vide Article 315. The procedure laid down in this Article may be followed at a later stage, in case it becomes necessary or desirable to constitute Public Service Commissions for two or more States.

Agency for enforcing safeguards: The States Reorganisation Commission had recommended that the services of the State Governors should be utilised for enforcing the safeguards for linguistic minorities. The Commission had not contemplated the vesting of any discretionary functions in the Governors, and they recommended what was regarded as a simple procedure which could be adopted within the framework of the present constitutional arrangements. In the light, however, of the views expressed in the Joint Select Committee and in Parliament, on the States Reorganisation Bill and the Constitution (Ninth Amendment) Bill, the Government of India now propose to provide for the appointment of a Minorities Commissioner at the Centre on the pattern of the office of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The officer will submit a report to the President on the working of safeguards for minor language groups at such intervals as the President may direct, and his report will be laid before each House of Parliament.

Before concluding, the Government of India would like to endorse the observations of the State Reorganisation Commission in the following passage of its report:

"We wish to emphasise that no guarantees can secure a minority against every kind of discriminatory policy of a State Government. Governmental activity at State level affects virtually every sphere of a person's life and a democratic government must reflect the moral and political standards of the people. Therefore, if the dominant group is hostile to the minorities, the lot of minorities is bound to become unenviable. There can be no substitute for a sense of fairplay on the part of the majority and a corresponding obligation on the part of the minorities to fit themselves in as elements vital to the integrated and ordered progress of the State."

Hindi Grammar In Japanese

According to a New Delhi announcement dated May 2, the Government of India have sanctioned an *ad hoc* grant of Rs. 5,291 through the Indian Embassy in Japan to Professor E. Sawa of Osaka University for publication of a Hindi Grammar in Japanese.

Another grant of Rs. 4,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Indian Embassy in France for payment to the publishers for the re-publication of the Sanskrit dictionary compiled by Professor Louis Renouan, an eminent Indologist in Europe.

Separating Judiciary From Executive

Nine States in India have separated fully or partially the judiciary from the executive.

While in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Madras, the separation is complete, in the States of Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Mysore and Uttar Pradesh the introduction of the scheme is partial.

Orissa is also ready to initiate separation and in West Bengal a scheme to this effect has been in operation in all the districts of the State since last year.

The Rajasthan Government has taken a step towards this direction by setting up 36 courts of Munsif Magistrates. A committee has been appointed to suggest a workable scheme.

The separation of judiciary from the executive has been prescribed as a Directive Principle. The Article 50 says: "The State shall take steps to separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State."

The Law Ministers' Conference in 1957 recommended that the States should aim at separating the judiciary completely from the executive. The Conference added that "a uniform system of separation of the judiciary from the executive throughout the States need not be insisted on but some system suitable to the conditions of the State may be adopted in each State after considering the system prevailing in other States."

Apart from its inherent virtues, the reform, the Conference felt, appeared to be a necessary step in the present context of the enormous developmental activities of the State which required the whole-time attention of the officers of the executive.

The Law Commission of India in its 14th Report made the following recommendations.

"(1) Separation has worked satisfactorily where it has been introduced and its introduction has not led to any difficulties in the executive officers being able to maintain law and order. There is, therefore, no reason why the scheme should not be put into operation in the remaining States.

(2) The additional expense of administration due to the introduction of separation will not be great as is known by the experience of the States which have introduced it. Such additional expenditure as may be involved is essential for the proper administration of justice.

(3) The lack of adequate personnel may create difficulties in its immediate introduction all over the State. These difficulties can be met by following the Madras method of introducing separation in groups of districts year by year so that the scheme is introduced throughout the State within a period of three to five years.

(4) The system of separation should be a real one and not merely one in form as in Uttar Pradesh and in the Punjab.

(5) Under the scheme of separation, it would be desirable to appoint a District Magistrate (Judicial) for the purpose of exercising effective supervision and control over the subordinate magistrates, as the District and Sessions Judge will not be able to find the time for the performance of those duties.

(6) Legislation for bringing about separation should be enacted by Parliament on the model of the Bombay Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions Act (XXIII of 1951). But pending the passing of such legislation, the States which have not so far introduced separation should introduce it forthwith by executive action as in Madras."

Applications In Supreme Court Under Art. 136

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 7, Shri B.N. Datar, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, said that in 1958, 1544, applications under Article 136 of the Constitution of India were filed in the Supreme Court and 1,528 were disposed of till the end of April, 1959. Only 16 remained pending.

Earlier, in 1957, out of 1234 applications filed, 1225 were disposed of till the end of April, 1959. Only nine were pending.

In 1958, the number of applications dismissed was 1003 as against 718 in 1957.

Article 136 of the Constitution reads:

(1) Notwithstanding anything in this Chapter, the Supreme Court may, in its discretion, grant special leave to appeal from any judgment, decree, determination, sentence or order in any cause or matter passed or made by any court or tribunal in the territory of India.

(2) Nothing in clause (1) shall apply to any judgment, determination, sentence or order passed or made by any court or tribunal constituted by or under any law relating to the Armed Forces.

DISPOSAL OF ELECTION PETITIONS

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 7, Shri R.M. Hajarnavis, Deputy Union Minister of Law said that as on May 1, 1959, 423 election petitions, 53 in respect of Lok Sabha and 370 relating to Legislative Assemblies, had been disposed of by election tribunals.

In all 52 elections had been declared void including four to the Lok Sabha and 48 to the State Legislative Assemblies.

The total number of election petitions still pending with election tribunals, High Courts or Supreme Court was 55. Of these 10 were petitions relating to Lok Sabha and the rest respecting Legislative Assembly elections.

Identity Cards For Voters

Identity cards are to be issued to voters in such constituencies in municipal areas as may be specified by the Election Commission in the official gazette of a State, says an announcement made on May 12.

The necessary amendment, effected in the Representation of the People (Preparation of Electoral Rolls) Rules, 1956, is meant to prevent impersonation of voters and to facilitate their identification at the time of poll.

Identity Card

The identity card will be prepared in duplicate and will contain the name, age, residence and such other particulars of a voter. It will bear a facsimile signature of the Electoral Registration Officer.

The card will have affixed to it a photograph of the voter which will be taken at the expense of the Government. If the voter "refuses or evades" to have his photograph taken, no such identity card will be prepared and a note of such refusal or evasion will be made in the copy of the electoral roll maintained by the Electoral Registration Officer.

One copy of the identity card will be retained by the Electoral Registration Officer and the other by the voter for production at the time of poll.

Sometime ago the Government of West Bengal made this suggestion and the Election Commissioner said in his report on the second General Elections in India "that this scheme would be tried in the first instance on an experimental basis only in two assembly constituencies in the city of Calcutta so that the practicability of the scheme and the cost of implementing it may be ascertained accurately."

Secretariat Training School

The Central Secretariat Training School in New Delhi has now been expanded to admit 200 trainees as against 100 last year, says an announcement dated May 15.

The 11-year-old School offers courses to familiarize the direct recruits, Assistant Superintendents and Assistants, with Government work and routine.

There are facilities to impart training in typing to the Ministerial staff of the Union Government Secretariat and its Attached Offices. Tests are also conducted in typewriting and stenography for candidates seeking registration at the Delhi Employment Exchange for posts of typists and stenographers.

Number Of Trainees

Almost 230 officials, 47 Assistant Superintendents and 182 Assistants, passed out of the School in 1958. Also, 412 Assistants and clerks deputed by various Ministries and Attached Offices received training in typewriting. In addition, 8,680 candidates were tested in typing and 775 in stenography.

The School also conducted the selection of Reporters and typists for employment in connection with the UNESCO's Regional Seminar on Education Reforms in South-east Asia and the Fund-Bank Conference, respectively.

APPOINTMENTS UNDER MANAGEMENT POOL

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on May 5, Shri B.N. Datar, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, said that offers of appointment in the Industrial Management Pool would now be issued to 127 persons whose services had been asked for by the various Ministries. So far, no person had been actually appointed.

The Government had earlier circulated to the Ministries a list of 212 names recommended by the Union Public Service Commission for appointment to the Industrial Management Pool and had invited their requisitions.

The Minister added that selections had been made of persons with aptitude for, and experience in, managerial posts of a non-technical nature relating to general management, finance and accounts, sales, purchases, stores, transportation personnel management and welfare and town administration.

Appointments, the Minister said, would be made of persons with the qualifications and experience necessary for the posts for which the undertaking concerned required officers from the Pool.

In reply to another question by the same Member, the Minister added that only seven out of the 102 candidates recommended for appointment to the I.A.S. under the Special Recruitment Scheme remained to be absorbed.

RETIREMENT OF ENGINEERS

In the next three years, 614 engineers are due to retire from Government service, says a New Delhi announcement dated May 1.

Yearwise the figures are: 194 in 1959; 174 in 1960 and 246 in 1961.

The age of superannuation is 55 years. But the services of scientific and technical personnel are availed of even beyond the age of superannuation. Re-employment or extension is generally granted for two years in the first instance and continued for another year if the public interest so requires.

In the second half of last year, 107 retired engineers were in service. Of these 61 were in employment for periods ranging from 12 to 24 months, 27 in service for two or three years and the rest for periods exceeding three years.

Qualifications Of Class IV Employees

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 7, Shri B.N. Datar, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs said that with effect from November 16, 1951, middle school standard has been prescribed as the minimum educational qualification for direct recruits to the grades of Peon, Jamadar, Daftry and Record Sorter, in the Ministries as well as the attached and subordinate offices of the Government of India.

The Minister added that persons who had been appointed to these grades after this crucial date and who did not possess the prescribed educational qualifications, were not eligible for conferment of quasi-permanent status, unless they belonged to the excepted categories namely, retrenched, permanent displaced Government servants, persons demobilised from the Army with three years' service, etc.

Allegations Against Govt. Servants

An announcement dated May 11 says that the Central Government has decided that when allegations are made in the press or by individuals against a Government servant regarding his conduct while discharging his "public functions," a preliminary confidential enquiry by a senior officer should be ordered.

The order has been issued following a suggestion contained in the First Five Year Plan that when specific allegations are made in the press against individual public officers, they should be asked to clear their names in courts.

Legal Action

If the confidential enquiry, says the order, leads to the conclusion that the allegations are based "on ignorance, insufficient information or even malice," it should be further considered whether any legal action is necessary to vindicate the conduct of the Government servant concerned. In some cases, mere publication of the results of the enquiry "may not always carry conviction with the public."

However, if some legal action is decided upon, it should also be considered whether the Government should itself initiate proceedings in a court of law against the party which made the allegations or whether the employee should be required to initiate such proceedings.

Enquiry By S.P.E.

On the other hand, if after the enquiry, conclusive or otherwise, it is considered that there are "reasonable grounds to doubt the propriety and correctness of the conduct of the Government servant, the case may be entrusted to the Special Police Establishment for investigation. Alternatively, Government might order a full departmental enquiry under the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, or require the officer to vindicate his conduct by resorting to a court of law.

In cases where the Government decides to initiate criminal proceedings, the provisions of Section 198(3) of the Criminal Procedure Code should be exercised. That is, the complaint can be filed within six months of the date of alleged offence by the Public Prosecutor directly in a Court of Sessions with the previous sanction of the Government and the case will thereafter be pursued by the Government.

Where the Government decides to institute civil proceedings, the usual procedure for institution of civil proceedings by Government may be followed.

VIGILANCE DIVISION'S REPORT

The 1958 Report of the Administrative Vigilance Division, was presented to Parliament on May 8.

According to the Report, one of the measures decided upon by Government to prevent corruption and other malpractices in the various Ministries is to have periodical meetings with the Secretary of each Ministry or Department as the Chairman to "review, scrutinise and sort out difficulties" experienced in taking action against a Government employee.

The Report, covering the period from April 1, 1958 to December 31, 1958, says the Administrative Vigilance Division is continuously pressing for the quick disposal of vigilance cases. To speed up disposals, two whole-time Commissioners for departmental enquiries functioned during the most part of the year 1958. Besides, each Ministry was advised to appoint a wholetime officer for dealing with departmental cases.

There had been several improvements effected in the legal framework. For example, offering of illegal gratification was a substantive offence, and the bribe-giver giving evidence against bribetaker was protected against prosecution in respect of the act of giving bribe.

Retired Officers

The definition of "public servant" now included, by virtue of the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1958, employees of the public corporations and other autonomous bodies sponsored by the Government. A retired officer belonging to Class I or the All India Services could not take up any commercial employment within two years of retirement without the previous permission of the Government.

In proved cases of corruption or misconduct within the meaning of the Prevention of Corruption Act, it was now compulsory to impose a sentence of imprisonment for at least one year except that a lesser period of imprisonment might be awarded for reasons to be recorded in writing. Fine that might be imposed on conviction for a charge of criminal misconduct had to be commensurate with the size of the proved illegal gain.

Intimation Of Transaction

A Government servant was required to report any transaction in respect of movable property of value of more than Rs. 1,000/- whether the transaction was effected through an authorised dealer or not. Also, Government servants purchasing or disposing of any immovable property worth more than Rs. 1,000/- other than through an authorised dealer must obtain prior permission of the Government.

The Service Rules had been amended to make it possible to take disciplinary action even against retired Government servants in respect of any misconduct committed by them during their service within a period of four years from the date of commission of the offence.

EMPLOYMENT OF RELATIVES

It had been decided that whenever the sons, daughters or dependents of Class I officers of the Government of India wished to accept employment with private firms with which the officers had official dealings or with other important firms having official dealing with the Government of India, the fact should be reported to Government by the officers concerned and Government permission should be obtained to such employment.

Of the total number of complaints disposed of during the period under report, 69.09 per cent of the complaints were against gazetted officers and 58.74 per cent had to be dropped without enquiry or after enquiry as the allegations were either vague or found to have no substance.

Out of 8,313 cases, 6,220 were disposed of from April to December 1958. In 1957, the total number of cases was 8,549 and of these 2,077 were pending at the end of the year.

S.P.E. WORK

The Special Police Establishment registered 443 preliminary enquiries and 367 regular cases during the period under report. Taking into account 226 preliminary enquiries and 406 regular cases pending on March 31, 1958, 669 preliminary enquiries and 773 regular cases were dealt with during the period under review.

Out of these, 820 cases were disposed of during the period under report. Prosecution was launched in 227 cases and 209 cases were decided by courts. Out of these 209 cases, 162 resulted in conviction giving a percentage of 77.5 successful cases. The persons convicted included three gazetted officers and 67 other Government servants and 97 private individuals. Fines totalling Rs. 1,17,800/- were also imposed by the Courts in the above cases.

Travelling And Daily Allowances

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on May 5, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said that a scheme to rationalise the existing scales of travelling and daily allowances of Government servants was considered towards the end of 1958. The proposals involved, among others, a reduction in the incidental expenses for air travel and an increase in the rates of daily allowances. So far as the incidentals for air journeys on tour were concerned, orders had recently been issued subjecting the one-fifth of air-fare given as incidental to a ceiling of Rs. 30/- in respect of each single journey by air but consideration of the other proposals had been deferred pending the recommendations of the Pay Commission. The Finance Minister also said that calculations of the financial effect of any scheme of revision of travelling and daily allowances would involve a considerable amount of time and labour but the imposition of ceiling of Rs. 30/- would lead to some saving, the extent of which could not be estimated without the collection of elaborate data from all the departments and their attached and subordinate offices.

Defects In Public Works

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on May 6, Shri K.C. Reddy, Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, said that the Chief Technical Examiner's Cell had detected during 1957-58 defects in 351 works and during 1958-59 in 652 constructions.

The Minister, added that the defects pointed out were either rectified or re-done according to specifications in 315 cases in 1957-58 and 491 cases in 1958-59.

Cases in which damages had been accepted by the Department and intimation sent to the A.G.C.R. to watch recovery, were 36 in 1957-58 and 161 in 1958-59.

Planning & Finance

PAKISTAN'S PARTITION DEBT TO INDIA

The Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, made the following statement in the Lok Sabha today in response to a notice, calling attention to the reported claim by a spokesman of the Pakistan Finance Ministry that India owes Pakistan Rs. 180 crores on account of partition debt.

"With your permission, Sir, I propose to make a short statement on the partition debt of Pakistan to India, about which I answered a question in this House on the 21st of last month and in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th, with reference to certain comments which have appeared in the Press as from a spokesman of the Pakistan Government and which give a misleading impression.

"The House will remember that on the 5th September, 1957, Shri T.T. Krishnamachari made a statement on behalf of Government on the financial issues between the two countries and dealt at some length with the various outstanding items. Nothing has since happened necessitating a change in any of the facts or figures given by him.

"In regard to the partition debt, it has been suggested that there is no basis for the figure of Rs. 300 crores mentioned by us and that the question of payment arose only after the debt had been determined. In regard to the size of the debt, there is nothing new about the figure of Rs. 300 crores. It was an estimate made as far back as 1948 and has been repeated as such many times. As pointed out by Shri Krishnamachari in his statement, it gave only the order of the sum involved. In our view, it may be actually somewhat higher. But I was surprised to see the statement from the Pakistan Government that this figure of Rs. 300 crores had no basis. I understand that, as far back as 1952, broad details of a balance sheet, which gave a higher figure of the debt, were supplied to the officers of the Pakistan Government by our officers. There was some correspondence about some of the figures furnished by us but, eventually, this correspondence, like correspondence on many other matters, petered out. In view of this, it is hardly correct to say that there was no basis for this figure.

"It is difficult to understand the argument that payments fell due only after the debt is determined. On this pretext, no payment need ever be made simply by refusing to accept any figure as the correct figure of the debt. While the final figure would take some time to work out, the broad dimension of the sum involved is, in our view, quite clear and could easily be settled. We have already seven annual instalments overdue under the partition arrangements and the eighth instalment will fall due next August. When claims are made for other payments as due here and now, the fact that India has already overdue to her a large sum on account of the partition debt cannot be brushed aside on the specious ground that the debt has not been worked out.

"I was equally surprised to see the statement that a sum of Rs. 180 crores was due to be paid to Pakistan. We do not have any details of this claim. So far as we know, the highest figure mentioned so far has been about Rs. 100 crores. This was a figure which was communicated to us in a letter from the late Mr. Ghulam Mohammed in 1950. This included the sum of Rs. 49 crores on account of currency assets which was specifically mentioned in Shri Krishnamachari's statement also. The balance related to a number of miscellaneous items the exact figure in regard to which still remains to be determined. A figure of Rs. 100 crores was also mentioned in the Pakistan National Assembly by the Pakistan Finance Minister on the 28th August, 1957. The figure now put out is much higher but, I said, we have no details.

"I have mentioned certain figures on both sides. But it is obvious that they only give the broad dimensions of the picture and that the various claims and counter-claims will have to be discussed and accepted before a settlement is reached. For some years, we have tried to work out the figures and reach a settlement at official level but, in view of the large sums involved and the peculiar problems which some of the issues pose, it has not been possible to do so. The major issues have, therefore, to be settled at Government level. My predecessor had invited the Finance Minister of Pakistan for a discussion, but for a variety of reasons, it has not been possible to hold a meeting. It is my intention to renew the invitation and I hope it will be possible to hold an early meeting, discuss all the outstanding items and claims on both sides and reach a solution fair to both the countries. Meanwhile, I venture to suggest that there is no reason to get unduly concerned by the mention of an odd figure or an individual claim, whether in the Press or elsewhere."

Foreign Exchange For Delegations

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 4, Shri Morarji Desai, Minister of Finance, said that two hundred and fifteen delegations were sent abroad during 1958-59 and approximately Rs. 47 lakhs worth of foreign exchange was spent on them.

In reply to another question, Shri Morarji Desai said that a sum of $3,458,672.87 was paid through foreign banks by the Indian Embassy in U.S.A. during 1958. The reason was that there were no Indian banks in that country.

Foreign Exchange For Ex-Rulers

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 4, Shri G.B. Pant, Union Home Minister, said that nearly £18,000 and $1,500 were made available as foreign exchange to ex-rulers during 1957 and 1958.

During the same period, as many as 16 ex-rulers went outside India.

Chinese Dollars

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on May 5, the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai said that according to information available, the Chinese Government had lifted the ban on the bringing of Chinese dollars into India from Tibet with effect from April 17, 1959. Shri Desai added that the official rate of exchange of Chinese dollar in Tibet was said to be Rs. 3/- but the market rate fluctuated upto Rs. 3.37. As these coins, when brought into India, were bought and sold in the Indian market for their bullion value, he said, their price in the Indian market varied according to the ruling price of silver.

SMUGGLING OF FOREIGN CURRENCY

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 4, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Shri B.R. Bhagat, laid a statement on the Table of the House. According to the statement, in March and April, 1959, 27 cases in which attempts were made to smuggle foreign currency out of India were detected by the Customs authorities. The persons involved were of Indian, Pakistani, Burmese, Iranian, Syrian, Japanese and American nationalities.

BILL FOR TAKING OVER SUBSIDIARY BANKS

The Minister for Revenue and Civil Expenditure, Dr. B. Gopala Reddi, while moving in the Lok Sabha on April 29, that the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Bill, 1959, be referred to a Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament, said that in April, 1954, the Committee of Direction of the All India Rural Credit Survey had recommended the creation of one strong, integrated, state-sponsored, state-partnered commercial banking institution, with an effective machinery of branches spread over the whole country. This institution was intended to take over cash work from the non-banking treasuries and sub-treasuries to provide extended remittance facilities for cooperative and other banks, and generally to follow a policy which would be in effective consonance with the objectives laid down by the Central Government and the Reserve Bank.

This decision, Shri Reddi continued, was accepted in principle, and an announcement to that effect was made by the Finance Minister, on 20th December, 1954. As the first step in implementing the decision, the State Bank of India came into being with effect from the 1st July, 1955. Subsequently, on the 10th February, 1958, the President announced in the course of his address to both the Houses of Parliament, that certain State-associated banks of intermediate size would be taken over and managed as subsidiaries of the State Bank. The present bill sought to give effect to this decision.

The need for the reconstitution of these banks Shri Reddi said had arisen, because of certain anomalies and difficulties, which could not be removed, except by undertaking legislation on the lines proposed. The banks which were covered in the bill came into being on various dates between the years 1913 and 1950. They were, and to some extent continued to be, directly or indirectly helped by the State. The extent of state-association had, of course, varied from bank to bank, but it had in no case been so remote or negligible.

Only two of the eight banks which were proposed to be reconstituted, Shri Reddi added, namely, the State Bank of Hyderabad and the Bank of Mysore, performed agency functions at certain treasuries as the regularly-appointed agents of the Reserve Bank of India. At all other places in the areas covered by respective banks, the treasury business of the Central and State Governments was either carried on departmentally, or had been temporarily entrusted to them and to some other institutions as a purely transitional arrangement.

"These temporary arrangements", Shri Reddi continued, "are obviously unsatisfactory. They have led in effect to a policy of inactivity in the former Part B state areas in the country. In these areas we have been unable, in consequence, to establish an adequate number of banking treasuries, small coin depots or currency chests, or to provide cheap remittance facilities, or even to open an adequate number of ordinary banking offices. The problem has become even more complicated and difficult since the establishment of the State Bank as the State Bank of India has been unable to expand in these areas, pending the taking over and reconstitution of the banks, while the banks themselves have not had the incentives, or the financial assistance and backing, which may be necessary for discharging effectively their role as regularly-constituted State Banks".

The Chairman of the State Bank of India was, Shri Reddi said, authorised to indicate, for the information of the banks concerned, the salient features of the legislation which had been embodied in the present bill, and also to elucidate the points, if any, in respect of which information was desired. Only one bank, the Bank of Rajasthan, had found itself unable, or unwilling, to accept the terms and conditions which were envisaged by Government for the reconstitution of these institutions. All the other banks had, at the general meetings of their shareholders or in some other appropriate manner, expressed themselves as being in favour of the scheme of reconstitution proposed in the Bill. In the course of his speech Shri Reddi made the following statement regarding the scope and working of these subsidiary banks.

"I would now like to say a few words about the scheme of reconstitution. Of the eight banks which are to be taken over, five, which are incorporated under the Companies Act, and one, namely, the Bank of Patiala, which is at present functioning as a department of the State Government, will be re-established as statutory corporations under the present bill, and, in that capacity, they will replace and take over the business of the existing institutions. The remaining two banks, namely, the State Bank of Hyderabad and the State Bank of Saurashtra are already incorporated under special laws. Appropriate changes are being made in the relevant Acts governing these banks, in order to ensure that the pattern of organisation and management in these two cases will, in future, be the same as in the case of the other six banks.

"The six new institutions will be incorporated, and the two existing institutions will be transformed, on such dates as may be notified by the Central Government. Different dates may be fixed in relation to different banks, a provision which we have found it necessary to make by way of abundant caution, as the problem relating to these banks may be various. It will be our endeavour, of course, to ensure that the process of taking over all the banks is completed as soon as possible.

"The ownership of all the eight banks will vest in, or be transferred to, the State Bank on this appointed date for reconstitution. Compensation, will then become payable by the State Bank of India, in consideration of the transfer of ownership to it. The detailed formula for arriving at the amount of this compensation has been set out in the First Schedule and provision also exists in the bill for the reference of this question to an impartial Tribunal, in respect of one or more banks, if a substantial number of shareholders feel that the principles set out in the Schedule have not been followed or have been unfairly applied.

"The compensation is technically and notionally payable in cash. But individual shareholders in the existing institutions, who are entitled to it, will be able to obtain such compensation optionally in the form of shares in the new institutions up to a maximum of 45 per cent of the shareholding.

"The actual day to day administration of the reconstituted institutions will be entrusted to management boards consisting of nine members in each case, representing the State Bank of India as the major owner, the other shareholders as the minority owners, and the Reserve Bank of India.

"The boards will be non-official in character. The minority shareholders will be entitled to be represented directly by two members, and there is also a specific provision for the election of these two members, if the minority share-holding, in point of fact is not less than five percent of the total shareholding.

"The business which the reconstituted banks as subsidiaries of the State Bank of India will be entitled to transact will be substantially the same as in the case of the other banks, but there will be some important additions. The work or progress of the reconstituted banks will not be judged in future with reference to the profits which they may be making, or the dividends which they may declare, but with reference to their ability to provide the basic services and facilities, which it is the function of a State Bank to provide, and which may not always be remunerative from a narrowly commercial point of view.

It may be useful if I indicate very briefly "the additional work which we expect the reconstituted banks to undertake from this point of view. Clause 36 of the bill provides that all the reconstituted subsidiaries can be appointed as the agents of the State Bank of India for carrying on the work which may be entrusted to the State Bank by the Reserve Bank of India. The banks will draw up, and try to implement without avoidable delay, a vigorous branch expansion programme. We contemplate that at all their branches, the reconstituted institutions will undertake a variety of new services, such as the provision of strong room and other safe deposit facilities, the collection and remittance of funds both under the Reserve Bank's scheme for remittance facilities and on their own initiative, the granting of loans to the co-operative movement and to small-scale industrial units, and the performance of such other functions, including agency functions for other institutions, as may be necessary in the public interest.

"This is genuine development work. The House may be interested to know if the subsidiary banks will be able to bear the extra burden of carrying out this work and to perform adequately all the tasks which we expect them to undertake. There is an answer to this question in the bill itself.

"Clause 48 of the bill contemplates that subsidies will be paid by the State Bank of India to the new units after reconstitution, in order to facilitate the smooth and unhampered implementation of this development programme. The State Bank of India's resources are comparatively larger than are those of its subsidiaries; and the State Bank is also able to draw upon its Integration and Development Fund, which is intended specifically to finance additional and unremunerative expenditure of this kind. These resources of the State Bank, and the profits which it makes on its own shareholding in the subsidiary banks, will be available for the purpose of financing the subsidiaries, if necessary."

Loans By Refinance Corporation

In reply to a question the Finance Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said in the Lok Sabha on May 4 that eight loans for a total sum of Rs. 243 lakhs were sanctioned by the Refinance Corporation for Industry up to the end of March 1959. Of these, 6 loans for a total of Rs. 178 lakhs were sanctioned up to the end of December, 1958. Two further loans amounting to Rs. 65 lakhs were sanctioned between January and March this year. No amount was disbursed upto the end of December, 1958, but a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs was drawn between January and March this year.

Excise Revenue From Khandsari

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 4, Shri Morarji Desai, Union Finance Minister said that the total collection of Central Excise Duty on khandsari sugar in March 1959 amounted to approximately Rs. 70,000/-. He explained that hardly more than a month and a half had elapsed since the Central Excise Duty at the enhanced rates was imposed. The production season had now almost come to an end. The revenue from khandsari sugar was expected mainly from the production next season, the stock lying in the factories on the last day of February 1959 not being liable to duty. In the circumstances, he said the question of short-fall did not arise.

Advisory Council For Customs & Excise

According to an announcement dated May 9, the Government of India have constituted a Customs and Central Excise Advisory Council at the Centre to discuss general problems of procedure relating to the clearance of goods and passengers in so far as they concern the Customs and Central Excise laws, tariffs and rules. The Council has been constituted as an experimental measure for a period of one year.

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure will be the Chairman and the Deputy Minister of Finance the Vice-Chairman of the Council.

The official members will be the Chairman, Central Board of Revenue, Member, Central Excise, Central Board of Revenue and Member, Customs, Central Board of Revenue.

The President and Vice-President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the President of All India Manufacturers Organisation, the President All India Importers Association, and the President All India Exporters Association will be ex-officio members of the Council.

There will in addition be five non-official members of the Council to be nominated by the Government of India.

The Council will meet once or twice a year, or even oftener depending upon the number of points that may come up for discussion.

EXCISE PROCEDURE FOR SMALL OIL PRODUCERS

Consequent upon the withdrawal of the concession under which all manufacturers producing vegetable non-essential oils with the aid of power were exempt from payment of duty on 75 tons of oil cleared in a financial year, a simplified procedure has been introduced with effect from March 19, 1959, for petty manufacturers in order to save them from the rigours of normal Central Excise Control, says an announcement dated April 26.

Under the new procedure, manufacturers employing one expeller, or two rotaries, or two kolhus, or any other equipment operated by power, the production capacity of which is not more than 75 tons per year, are required to maintain, a simple register showing daily production, issues and closing balance, and, to furnish at the end of the month, a simple return showing only the production clearance during the month, and the closing balance.

The aim of the scheme is to reduce to the barest minimum the processes relating to supervising and accounting prescribed for the administration of factory excises. Under this system, the liability to duty of a manufacturer will be deemed to be settled on his paying a sum calculated at the rates fixed for different types of equipment in his unit.

Commerce & Industry

ANNUAL REPORT OF STATE TRADING CORPORATION

The Second Annual Report of the State Trading Corporation, was adopted by the Board of Directors in New Delhi on April 29. A copy of the Report was placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha the same day by the Minister for Commerce, Shri Nityanand Kanungo.

According to the Report the turnover in commodities directly traded in by the State Trading Corporation of India Limited rose to Rs. 28.57 crores for the year ending June 30, 1958, from about Rs. 10 crores in the previous year. The commodities included, among others, mineral ores, heavy chemicals, fertilisers, non-ferrous metals, raw silk, jute bags, woollen textiles, shoes and handicrafts.

The Report says that the gross receipts of the Corporation aggregated to Rs. 2.86 crores. The Board has declared a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent on the paid-up share capital, as compared with 6 per cent in the previous year.

Out of the net profits, the Board proposes to set up a Trade Development Fund for providing essential facilities in mining areas and promotional expenses in exploring new markets and developing preference for Indian industrial products abroad. A sum of Rs. 15 lakhs is being appropriated for this purpose. Also a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs has been set apart for creating a Price Fluctuation Fund so as to provide against seasonal fluctuations in prices. A sum of Rs. 15 lakhs is being added to the Insurance Fund started in the previous year to finance a scheme for self-insurance.

Trade With Eastern Europe

During the year under review, the report says, the Corporation provided service facilities for business contacts for private exporters with countries with controlled economies. The endeavour of the Corporation in this regard was to secure balanced trade with the East European countries. The Corporation provided special rupee payment arrangements and over-draft facilities to enable a smooth flow of Indian goods.

During the year, the Corporation entered into such special arrangements with trading and manufacturing organisations in Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, German Democratic Republic, China and the Democratic Republic of Korea. Indian exporters and importers freely made use of these arrangements. This helped the Corporation to service imports required for public projects and for industrial units, and to promote overseas sales of Indian exportable surpluses.

The total value of contracts registered under these arrangements aggregated to Rs. 19.48 crores. Exports covered by those contracts included edible oils, spices, crushed bones, hides and skins, mica, tea, coffee and some light engineering goods.

The Corporation commenced link business, known technically as 'compensation' transactions, for example, import of rice from North Vietnam was compensated by export of gunnies, sugar, hemp and cotton waste.

Bulk Contracting In Mineral Ores

The report says that the advantages of bulk contracting and bulk handling were notable in mineral ores particularly iron ore. The Corporation is the sole exporter of iron ore with effect from July 1, 1957. Firm contracts were entered into for the sale of 2.2 million tons during the year of which 1.9 million tons were exported. Bulk contracting enabled the Corporation not only to enlarge the volume of exports, but to stimulate production in new areas and to rationalise movements from the mining fields to the ports.

The facilities in the major ports were fully utilised and for the first time exports of iron ore were organised through the port of Cochin and minor ports at Karwar, Mangalore and Belikere. Since then exports have also been made from Cuddalore and Paradip on the East Coast. Bulk handling at the ports made it possible for the Corporation to achieve economy in transportation and loading.

The Regional Office in Madras set up a world record loading of 5,800 tons a day without the help of mechanical facilities at the quay side, a record which has since been raised to over 7,000 tons.

The success of the Corporation in handling iron ore has induced the Japanese steel industry to turn to India as a dependable supplier for their growing requirements. An agreement for the supply of 2 million tons from Rourkela commencing from 1964 was concluded between India and Japan in March 1958. The export of ores under this agreement will be handled by the Corporation.

The market for Indian ores in European countries is also being developed and extended. Sales to Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia and Hungary have been stepped up, while exports to Italy have been maintained.

Manganese Ore

In regard to manganese ore, similar success could not be achieved by the Corporation on account of the steep fall in the world production of steel, and the emergence of new sources of supply nearer to consuming centres.

The Corporation helped to preserve contacts with the traditional buyers by means of joint sales programmes with the principal producers of manganese ore. The total quantity marketed by the Corporation during the year under report was 4.41 lakh tons, out of a total exports by India of 13.10 lakh tons.

The programme of cultivating and developing overseas markets for Indian manufactures produced significant results. Woollen fabrics were marketed for the first time; the sale of handicrafts to new markets registered a 50 per cent increase; over 5 lakh pairs of shoes were delivered as compared with about 3 lakh pairs in the previous year.

Imports

On the imports side, the Corporation secured economy and diversified the sources of supply in caustic soda and soda-ash. Bulk shipments of ammonium sulphate and nitrate of soda were arranged under agreements with manufacturing organisations in the German Democratic Republic and Chile respectively.

The Corporation also serviced imports of essential requirements in some vital sectors of the country's economy. This included import of X-ray films for hospitals, raw films for the cinema industry, tractors for cultivators, printing machinery for printing presses, newsprint for newspapers and machine tools for both small-scale and large-scale industries. The total value of import contracts thus serviced by the Corporation was of the order of Rs. 10 crores.

The Corporation endeavoured to regulate distribution of some scarce imported commodities in the interests of the consumer, established trading channels were used to the maximum practicable and the distributors or stockists enjoined to sell at prices prescribed by the Corporation.

Cement

The increase in domestic production, enabled the Corporation to stop imports of cement, re-distribute marketing zones and to maintain a fixed uniform destinational price. During the year under report the Corporation made a beginning with exporting 17,000 tons. Since then, against a target of 2 lakh tons for the year ending June 1959, export commitments have been entered into for over 1,50,000 tons.

The report says that during 1957-58 recessionary conditions prevailed all over the world and the Corporation had to face heavy odds. The principal endeavour of the Corporation was, while sustaining traditional trade, aimed at building up exports to new markets to pay for essential imports.

The wide variety of lines handled by the Corporation provides significant opportunities for the private manufacturers and traders to participate in the Corporation's business. Over 500 firms and manufacturing concerns were associated with the corporation during the year under review.

Import Licences For Textile Chemicals

The Government of India have decided to grant licences, with effect from the quarter, January-March, 1959, to exporters for the import of coal-tar dyes, textile chemicals and gums against exports of processed yarn, handloom fabrics and hand-printed cotton cloth, says an announcement dated may 3.

Exporters of processed yarn will be granted licences for the import of coal-tar dyes, textile chemicals and gums up to two per cent of the f.o.b. value of the exports. The processed yarn exported should not be hand-spun yarn.

Exporters of handloom cloth, organized in co-operative societies or otherwise will be issued licences for import of coal-tar dyes, textile chemicals and/or cotton yarn of the counts and description permissible for import from time to time under the normal import policy.

Exporters of hand-printed cloth, inclusive of cloth produced on the handlooms, will be granted licences for import of coal-tar dyes, textile chemicals and gums and/ or any special kind of paper which is not indigenously available and which is specifically needed for the packing of the hand-printed cloth for export.

Exporters of handloom fabrics and hand-printed cloth will be given import licences at the rate of Rs. 10 for every 100 yards or Rs. 7.50 on every 25 lbs. of such cloth exported.

Licences for imports as mentioned above will be granted by the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Bombay, only once in a quarter on the basis of exports effected in the preceding quarter on certification by the Textile Commissioner.

PRICE CEILING ON INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL

The Government of India, says a New Delhi announcement dated May 2, have accepted the recommendation made by the Alcohol Committee that in order to encourage the use of alcohol as a raw material for industries, a ceiling should be imposed on the basic ex-distillery price of power and industrial alcohol.

Since molasses would continue to be the principal raw material for production of alcohol, the Committee recommended that control over its price and distribution should be exercised by the Centre. The Committee felt that an ex-sugar factory price of four annas per maund for molasses containing not less than 50 per cent total sugars would be reasonable. For molasses of lower sugar content, correspondingly lower prices might be charged. The Government, while accepting the recommendation in principle, have stated that the mechanism of control already existing in some of the States should be left undisturbed. As far as other States are concerned, necessary notification could be issued in consultation with the State Governments.

The Committee whose chairman was Dr. A. Nagaraja Rao, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, was asked to study the present state of alcohol industry and recommend measures for its development. The Government had accepted some of the recommendations of the Committee in March last.

The recommendations earlier accepted by the Government related to: (1) development of alcohol-based industries like synthetic rubber, D.D.T., pharmaceutical products and acetate rayon on a priority basis; (2) continued use of power alcohol petrol blend as motor-fuel; and (3) setting up of a Development Council for fermentation industry. The Government had also agreed that there should be a distillery capacity of 52 million gallons per annum in order to attain a productive capacity of 46.8 million gallons per annum. Steps are being taken to implement these decisions. A Development Council for alcohol and fermentation industries has already been set up.

The other recommendations of the Committee were under examination and the Government's decisions have been announced now. The Committee has recommended that in order to encourage the use of alcohol as raw material the basic ex-distillery price should be subjected to a ceiling. The Committee has suggested that the ceiling should be 80 N.P. per gallon for alcohol of strength 99.5 per cent by volume and 78 N.P. per gallon for alcohol of strength 96 per cent by volume and an additional charge of 37 N.P. per gallon in both cases on account of average actual transport charges incurred on molasses.

The Government, while accepting this recommendation have expressed the view that the price range to be specified for alcohol of different strengths might be re-examined to see whether any revision or adjustments were necessary due to lapse of time since the report of the Alcohol Committee was submitted and also on regional considerations.

The Committee has also recommended that in order to encourage the availability of adequate quantities of industrial alcohol for industries deserving encouragement, control over distribution should be exercised by the Central Government. The Government have expressed the view that this should be done by the State Governments. The Government have also stated that the tax on industrial alcohol need not be taken up as a Central item for the present. The system of taxation including the provision for supply of tax-free alcohol for the specified categories of industries would be for the State Governments to adopt and implement under the State Excise Acts.

The Government have also accepted the recommendation that the minimum capacity for a distillery for production of power and industrial alcohol should be one million gallons per year, although units of smaller capacities could be permitted under special circumstances. The recommendation that an adequate number of tank wagons for transport of both molasses as well as alcohol should be made available has also been accepted. The Government have also agreed to the suggestion that a Standing Advisory Committee on denaturants should be entrusted with the task of enlarging or altering the list of special denaturants for alcohol intended for different industrial uses.

Regarding the suggestion of the Committee on freight rates leviable on alcohol, the Government have expressed the view that uniformly reduced freight on power and industrial alcohol should be extended only to 'Ethyl alcohol' meant for large-scale industrial uses and that such concession need not be given to pure forms of 'Ethyl Alcohol' meant primarily for potable purposes.

Purchases From Small Scale Industries

An announcement of May 10, says that the Railway Board has agreed to purchase certain railway stores exclusively from small scale industries.

This follows the successful conclusion of negotiations conducted by the National Small Industries Corporation under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with the Railway Board.

This is in conformity with the Government policy of assisting small-scale industries to participate more fully in Government purchases consistent with the requirements of quality and timely supplies.

The items of railway purchases have been divided into four groups, viz., items which can be purchased only from large scale units; items which can be purchased from large scale units but where it is possible for the large units to sub-contract ancillaries and components to small scale units; items which can be procured from both the large scale and small scale sectors and items which are entirely reserved for procurement from small scale units.

The small scale industries, enlisted for participation in Railway Stores Purchase Programme, will be given a suitable and reasonable price preferential up-to a maximum of 15% over the large scale units if the Purchase Officer is satisfied that over-head of the small scale industries is higher than that of the large units.

RESERVED ITEMS

The items exclusively reserved by the National Small Industries for procurement from small scale units, are brass pad-locks, G.I. pad-locks, brass dampers, boxes made of metal, sign board painted, buttons metal, postal scales, all badges, cloth embroidered and metals, belt leather (apparel), cash bags, dustshield leather, chappals and sandals, leather boxes, (not army type), laces leather, leather bags, boots and shoes of types required by civil indentors, glass ampules, handles wooden and bamboo, soap washing or laundry soap (civil indents only), metal polish, scissors cutting (ordinary) coir fibre, coir yarn, postal lead seals, cotton hosiery and woollen hosiery (against civil indents only), keys wooden and stone curry and stone curry roller.

The Corporation, besides rendering various forms of assistance for the development of small scale units in the country, is also assisting the small scale industries in procuring tenders from the Directorate-General of Supplies and Disposals. Orders worth Rs. 3.24 crores were secured by the small units with the help of the Corporation till the end of March 1959.

TAX RELIEF TO ART SILK INDUSTRY

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, on May 15 says that as a measure of relief to the Art Silk Industry, the compounded rates of excise duty, basis as well as additional, were reduced and 4-powerloom units as well as the first four powerlooms in 9-loom units working not more than one shift were exempted from payment of duty with effect from April 21, 1959. As a measure of further relief to the small scale units and as an incentive to increased production, the Government of India have now decided to exempt from duty all 4-loom unit and also the first four looms in 9-loom units from payment of duty, irrespective of the number of shifts worked and to reduce the compounded rates of duty, both basic as well as additional, in respect of the first 9-loom employed in all units with effect from May 15, 1959.

Similar changes are being made in respect of warp knitting machines employed in the production of Rayon or Art Silk Fabrics.

National Instruments Limited

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 8, the Minister for Commerce & Industry, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, said that the production target for 1958-59 in the National Instruments Ltd. had been very nearly achieved. The target for the year was Rs. 44.67 lakhs in value and the actual production was Rs. 44.12 lakhs.

The Minister said that the small short-fall was mainly due to reduction in prices of some of the instruments in respect of which the value of production fell short of the values set in the target, even though the quantity of produciton was higher than the target.

Manganese Ore Deposits

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 7, Shri K.D. Malaviya, Minister for Mines and Oil, said that the total reserves of manganese ore deposits in the country were estimated at over 100 million tons provisionally.

Gradewise determination of the manganese ore in the country had not been carried out, added the Minister, but the reserves of high grade manganese ore were roughly estimated at 15 million tons.

Foodgrains For Manganese

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on May 6, the Deputy Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Satish Chandra, said that a barter agreement had been entered into with the Government of the United States of America for supply of foodgrains in exchange for manganese and ferro-manganese.

The Deputy Minister said that under the agreement, 1.5 lakh tons of manganese ore (42 per cent); 25,000 tons of manganese ore (46/48 per cent) and about 75,000 tons of ferro-manganese were proposed to be exported to the U.S.A. against the import of 4.5 lakh tons of wheat from that country. He added that prices had yet to be negotiated.

Export Of Iron Ore During 1958

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on May 6, the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, said that during 1958, 20.18 lakh tons of iron ore were exported to various countries from 15 Indian ports.

Shri Shastri added that the countries which imported Indian iron ore included Japan, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia, Italy, East Germany, France, Holland and West Germany.

The Minister said that the iron ore exported was surplus to India's requirements. He added that the annual iron ore requirements for the steel plants in the public and private sectors were 111.6 lakh tons. Of this, the Rourkela plant required 17 lakh tons; the Bhilai and the Durgapur plants 19.4 lakh tons each; Mysore Iron & steel Works 2 lakh tons; Tata Iron & Steel Co. 32 lakh tons and Indian Iron & Steel Co. 21.8 lakh tons.

Designs For Iron And Steel Works

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha on May 7, Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, said that it was the intention of the Government of India that future steel plants should be designed and constructed as far as possible with the talent and experience available within the country.

The Minister added that with a view to be self-reliant in the manufacture of plant and equipment for the iron and steel and certain other industries, it was proposed to put up in Ranchi a Forge Foundry and a Heavy Machinery Plant. With those plants, and the Heavy Electrical Plant in Bhopal and the growing capacity in the country for fabrication of structural steel work, it should be possible to manufacture a considerable part of plant and equipment for the iron and steel works, within the country.

In addition, the Central Designs Organization which was in the Hindustan Steel Limited was being developed with a view to be able to plan and design as much of the future steel plants as possible.

New Coal Seam In Madhya Pradesh

Shri K.D. Malaviya, Union Minister for Mines and Oil, in a statement made in the Lok Sabha on May 6, said that the Geological Survey of India had discovered a new coal seam in Madhya Pradesh the existence of which was not known earlier.

The Minister said that geologists in the Geological Survey of India, in the course of drilling from the top of the plateau in the Singrauli coalfield of Madhya Pradesh, struck a 54-foot coal seam (Turra seam) at a depth of 140 feet some time back. While drilling for proving its extension further north, the geologists had discovered a new seam which has a total thickness of 90 feet with a 15-foot parting in the middle.

The discovery of these new seams opened up the possibility of quarrying along a width of 1 mile. The strike length of 1 mile of two seams mentioned above, which might extend further, said the Minister, "may give us quarriable reserves exceeding 50 million tons. Further drilling, however, is likely to reveal considerably larger reserves. We are, however, unable to increase the tempo of our drilling programme on account of shortage of coal drilling equipment. This quantitative assessment which may have been studied howsoever carefully has to be taken with a note of caution because the figures of these reserves at the present stage are based only on a general assessment of the available data. The precise data relating to these reserves will be known only after drilling programme has been completed.

"This important find is likely to help in considerably stepping up the output of coal particularly from a region which is so centrally situated".

Development Of Oil Industry

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 4, Dr. M.M. Das, Union Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs said that the governing body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research at its meeting held on March 31, 1959 had decided to constitute a Petroleum Council on the analogy of the Coal Council for the rapid development of Petroleum Industry in the country. It was hoped to establish this Council at an early date. As soon as it was established, it would examine the following matters:

(i) Training of personnel, research and investigations, documentation and information, and marketing and economics in the whole field of petroleum and natural gas;

(ii) facilities in the existing and proposed institutions and the potential for expansion of such facilities; and

(iii) what additional facilities including any new institution, should be created.

Hurricane Lantern Industry

At present there are nine hurricane lantern manufacturing units in the country with an installed capacity of 39,67,800 lanterns per annum on a single shift basis. The present regional break-up of the units is as follows: Bombay — 1; Bihar — 1; Delhi — 1; Madhya Pradesh — 1; Uttar Pradesh — 2, and West Bengal — 3. The average daily employment provided by the industry in 1958 was 2,400.

The production of hurricane lanterns in 1948-49 and 1949-50 was only 1.2 million and 1.8 million respectively but it reached 5.49 million in 1955 and 5.18 million in 1956. The industry has virtually exceeded the target of 4.5 million fixed for 1955-56 by the Planning Commission.

To meet domestic requirements, earlier the country had to depend on imports from United States of America, United Kingdom, Australia, China and Hong Kong. The total number of lanterns imported in 1950-51 amounted only 5,00,000 valued at Rs. 27.52 lakhs compared with 1.2 million lanterns valued at Rs. 52.12 lakhs in 1949-50. Later imports were completely banned during the years 1953 and 1954. In 1955 a token quota of 2 per cent of the face value of the licence for metal lamps and parts was permitted for import of hurricane lanterns.

Exports of lanterns were negligible prior to 1950-51 but now with the development of the indigenous industry an export market has developed in Bahrein, British East Africa, Burma, Ceylon, Egypt, Fiji, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nyasaland, Saudi Arabia, Tanganyika etc. In 1957, hurricane lanterns and their parts worth Rs. 1,61,695 were exported to these countries.

Spun Pipe Factory At Durgapur

Replying to a question, Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power, stated in the Rajya Sabha on May 4, that the installed capacity of annual outturn of the Spun Pipe Factory started at Durgapur was Rs. 5 lakhs on the basis of single shift working and Rs. 9 lakhs on double shift working.

Shri Hathi added that the Factory was started in February, 1957, and the capital investment up to the end of March, 1959, was Rs. 2,26,825.

NEYVELI THERMAL POWER STATION

An agreement between Messrs. Technoexport, Moscow and the Neyveli Lignite Corporation was signed in New Delhi on May 6, for the supply of machinery, equipment and the technical services connected with the erection and commissioning of the Neyveli Thermal Power Station.

The cost of the machinery and equipment to be supplied under the agreement will be met out of the 500 million rouble credit afforded by the Government of USSR under the Indo-Soviet Agreement of November, 1957. A contract for the preparation of designs and working drawings was signed in March last.

The deliveries of the machinery and equipment will commence from the second quarter of 1959 and end in last quarter of 1961.

The Thermal Power Station will have an installed continuous rated capacity of 250,000 K.W. and is one of the schemes included in the Integrated Neyveli Lignite Project. The first unit of the power station will be commissioned by April 1961 and the entire power station by about the middle of 1962.

The plant when commissioned will make firm the supply of power available in the Madras Grid. It will not only help the industrialisation of the region but also provide direct employment to many.

Meeting Of Automobile Committee

The Committee recently set up by the Government of India to assess the progress made by the automobile industry and examine the possibility of producing a more economic car for the common man held its first meeting in New Delhi on May 4.

The seven-man Committee agreed upon a questionnaire which was to be addressed to the main automobile manufacturers. The Committee was also anxious to have the views of those interested in the automobile field either as transport operators or as distributors or as manufacturers of anciliary equipment or in any other way.

The Committee, which has been set up in consultation with the Planning Commission and the Tariff Commission with Shri L.K. Jha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as Chairman, will review the progress of the automobile and automobile anciliary industries and recommend measures to increase the indigenous content of different vehicles in the shortest possible time.

The Committee will examine the feasibility of producing a low cost car within the price range of Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 7,000. The Committee will examine schemes previously presented to Government and also other models of cars that have been developed in different countries and suggest ways and means of manufacturing such a car in India.

The targets of production of different types of vehicles in the Third Five Year Plan will also be recommended by the Committee. It will also recommend measures for reducing the cost to the consumers of different vehicles being manufactured by the automobile industry and suggest the most appropriate pattern of organisation for the future expansion of the industry to ensure low cost production.

STEEL AND INDUSTRY MINISTERS FOR U.S.S.R.

Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, Government of India, left New Delhi on May 14 on a goodwill visit to the U.S.S.R. The Minister was accompanied by Shri Manubhai Shah, Union Minister for Industry, Shri S.S. Khera, Secretary, Department of Mines and Fuel, Shri L.K. Jha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Shri K.S. Raghupati, Deputy Secretary, Department of Iron and Steel.

Sardar Swaran Singh was invited by the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Government some time back.

During their two-week stay in Russia the members of the delegation are likely to visit some industrial projects like the fertiliser and power plants, special steel works and heavy machine building plants.

SOVIET MINISTER'S VISIT TO INDIA

Mr. P.Y. Antrapov, Minister for Geology and Mineral Resources, Government of the U.S.S.R., arrived in New Delhi on May 12.

The Minister, who came here at the invitation of the Government of India, stayed for almost a week. Mr. Antrapov was personally invited by the Union Minister for Mines and Oil, Shri K.D. Malaviya, during his visit to Russia in September last.

INDIAN EXHIBITION AT BUENOS AIRES

An exhibition of Indian goods, the first of its kind in Latin America, was opened in Buenos Aires on May 11 by the Argentine Minister of Economy, Dr. Donato Del Carril.

The exhibits covered a wide range of Indian products, such as silk, rayon, cotton textiles, cottage industry products, coir and jute products, brass and copper wares, gold and silver jewellery, ivory and woodcarvings, pottery, leather goods, tea and coffee, hospital equipment, bicycles and sewing machines, carpets, zari work and numerous others.

INDIAN HANDICRAFTS EXHIBITION IN CAIRO

A Cairo announcement made on May 9 says that an exhibition of Indian handicrafts of feminine interest was opened here to-day, at the Indian Trade Centre, by Mrs. Kaisunij, wife of Dr. Abdul Moneim El Kaisunij, Minister of Economy, United Arab Republic.

Technical Books From U.S.S.R.

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on May 5, Dr. M.M. Das, Union Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, said that a recent agreement between India and the U.S.S.R. stipulated the supply of English translations of Russian technical books in order to provide technological institutes of India with up-to-date text books and manuals.

Regarding the terms and conditions of this agreement, Dr. Das said that the Soviet Government would supply in 1959 and 1960 equipment costing 3 million roubles for the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, as a gift to India; train 50 Indian specialists in the Soviet Institutions at their expense; make available the services of Soviet professors and teachers (the number and terms and conditions to be agreed upon); and arrange for translation into English of Soviet text books for higher educational institutions with the object of subsequent publication in India.

As regards the progress made in the implementation of this agreement, the Deputy Minister said that the lists of equipment to be supplied had been drawn up and the Soviet Government was taking steps to effect the supplies. The fields of specialization in which Indians were to be trained in U.S.S.R. had also been intimated to the Soviet auhorities. Arrangements were being made for the selection of trainees.

Commodity Prices For March 1959

A Press Note issued by the Office of the Economic adviser to the Government of India on May 1 says that wholesale prices as measured by the official index (with the year ended March 1953 as 100) moved down by 1.0 per cent to 112.2 during the month of March 1959 as compared with 113.3 (revised) for February 1959. The index was, however, higher by 6.5 per cent when compared with 105.4 for March 1958. During the month under review, the index for 'Food Articles' declined by 1.7 per cent to 113.7, 'Tobacco', by 4.3 per cent to 99.0 and 'Manufactures' by 0.3 per cent to 108.2 while 'Industrial Raw Materials' moved up by 0.6 per cent to 116.2. The index for the 'Fuel, Power, Light and Lugricants' group stood stationary at the last month's revised level of 115.1.

Food Articles

A decline in the prices of Wheat, Jowar, Bajra, Barley and Ragi brought down the index for 'Cereals' by 3.2 per cent to 101.7 although there was a slight rise in the price of maize. A general fall in the prices of pulses brought down the index for this sub-group by 6.3 per cent to 113.4. Prices of oranges, bananas and cashewnuts moved up while potatoes and onions showed decreases and the index for 'Fruits and Vegetables' advanced by 3.0 per cent to 118.4. A rise of 1.6 per cent to 106.9 in the index for 'Milk and Ghee' was brought about by an increase in the prices

of both milk and ghee. Higher prices of groundnut oil, gingelly oil and vanaspati (Dalda) raised the sub-group index for 'Edible Oils' by 1.3 per cent to 123.3, notwithstanding a decline in the prices of mustard oil and coconut oil. Prices of eggs and meat exhibited decline while fish moved up and in consequence the index for 'Fish, Eggs and Meat' went down by 2.1 per cent to 103.5. Higher prices of *Gur* were responsible for an increase of 0.5 per cent to 128.2 in the sub-group index for 'Sugar and *Gur*'. The index for other 'Food Articles' moved down by 4.2 per cent to 150.0 due to a fall in the prices of tea, black pepper, chillies, turmeric, and betelnuts, cardamoms and salt, however, showed an upward trend.

Tobacco

The index for 'Tobacco' fell by 4.3 per cent to 99.0 owing to a steep fall in the prices of raw tobacco although there was an increase in the prices of cigarettes.

Fuel, Power, Light And Lubricants

Despite a decline in the prices of castor oil, the index for this group remained unchanged at the previous month's revised level of 115.1 during the month under review.

Industrial Raw Materials

Higher prices of raw Jute and raw wool pushed up the sub-group index for 'Fibres' by 0.5 per cent to 107.9 although prices of raw cotton receded slightly. The sub-group index for 'Oil seeds' went up by 0.9 per cent to 127.6 as a result of an advance in the prices of groundnuts, castor seed and cotton seed notwithstanding decreases in the prices of linseed, gingellyseed, rapeseed and copra. Lower prices of manganese ore brought down the index for 'Minerals' by 0.2 per cent to 102.9. An increase in the prices of raw hides raw skins and lac was almost neutralised by decreases in the prices of tanning materials and ramboos and the index for 'Other Industrial Raw Materials' stood at 111.2 as compared with 111.1 for the previous month.

Intermediate Products

The index for this group fell by 1.1 per cent to 109.4 due to a fall in the prices of linseed oil, leather, cotton yarn, rayon yarn, coir yarn, zinc and lead.

Finished Products

A rise of 0.4 per cent to 102.1 in the index for 'Textiles' was caused by an increase in the prices of jute and silk and rayon manufactures; cotton manufactures, however, fell slightly. The sub-group index for 'Metal Products' stood stationary at 143.3. Lower prices of general chemicals and drugs and medicines brought down the index for 'chemicals' by 0.2 per cent to 110.4. 'Oil Cakes' declined by 5.0 per cent to 140.1. An increase in the prices of cycles, vehicles and tyres and tubes raised the index for 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' by 0.7 per cent to 106.1. A fall of 0.4 per cent to 113.2 in the sub-group index for 'Other Finished Products' was caused by a decrease in the prices of bricks and tiles; the prices of glass showed an advance. On the whole, the index for 'Manufactures' receded by 0.3 per cent to 108.2 as compared with 108.5 (Revised) for the earlier month.

Communications

CONSULTATIVE BODY FOR S. RAILWAY

A meeting of the Informal Consultative Committee of Parliament members for the Southern Railway was held in New Delhi on May 4. Present, among others, were Shri Shah Nawaz Khan and Shri S.V. Ramaswamy, Deputy Railway Ministers, members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Madras, Mysore and portions of Bombay State served by the Southern Railway, General Manager of the Southern Railway, Shri A.S. Mukerji, Chairman and members of the Railway Board and other Board officials.

The Railway Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram said that a ten-year programme, for the construction of road over-bridges and under bridges at railway crossings in diffierent parts of the country was to be drawn up by the Railway Ministry. As a first step, to assess the dimensions of the problem, the Railway Board had requested all State Governments and Railway Administrations to draw up prioritywise lists of over or under bridges which they would like to be constructed.

The Railway Minister also informed the committee that, to speed up passenger and goods traffic in the region, it was proposed to convert from metre gauge to broad gauge the railway sections from Masulipatam to Gudivada, Gudivada to Bezwada and Gudivada to Bhimavaram. The conversion would be undertaken during the second Plan Period, and the necessary estimates had already been sanctioned.

Fighting Corruption In Railways

The Railway Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, inaugurated in New Delhi on May 12 a conference of Senior Deputy General Managers of zonal railways with the Railway Board.

The conference was convened to discuss, among other things, matters pertaining to the railway statistics and certain matters pertaining to establishment. Present at the meeting were the Deputy Railway Minister, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, members of the Railway Board and other railway officials.

Addressing the conference, Shri Jagjivan Ram said that the prevalence of corruption was an unfortunate legacy of the past inherited from the days when railways in India were company managed. Ceaseless vigilance was necessary to overcome the evil effects of this legacy, and for this maximum co-operation and co-ordination was essential between administrative departments and the vigilance organisations.

The Railway Minister urged the railway administrations to adopt a positive approach in tackling corruption. Emphasis, he said, should be more on the preventive aspect along with the punitive aspect. Investigations into cases of corruption should be conducted with the maximum speed, and where guilt was proved, punishment should be swift. At the same time, he added, it was the duty of the vigilance organisations to offer protection to the honest employee.

Manufacture Of Rail Parts

In reply to a question Shri S.V. Ramaswamy, Deputy Minister of Railways said that a factory was being constructed at Manduadih near Varanasi to meet the shortfall in the manufacture of spares in the railway repair workshops for maintaining the rolling stock. It was also proposed to undertake reconditioning of machine tools in common use on the railways.

Replying to another part of the question, the Deputy Minister said that it was estimated that the project would cost approximately Rs. 4.79 crores. It was, however, difficult to forecast the extent of expenditure during this Plan period as the progress in the construction of this factory was under review due to a difficulty having arisen in the supply of power. The expenditure on the project so far was approximately Rs. 70 lakhs.

New Engines For Sububan Trains

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 1, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, Deputy Minister of Railways, said that Chittaranjan Locomotive Works had started manufacturing a new type of engine for heavy suburban passenger service. Cost of this WT Loco was expected to be about Rs. 4 lakhs. The Deputy Minister added that the performance of this proto-type locomotive would be known after the dynamometer car tests had been conducted and the results were available.

TOURIST RAIL CARS

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 28, the Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, said that steps had been recently taken to provide additional third class tourist cars and tourist special trains. During the period January 1, 1959 to March 15, 1959, 20 tourist special trains had been run,, nine for foreign tourists, eight for kisans, two for pilgrims and one for students. Thirty-six broad gauge and 16 metre gauge third class tourist cars had been ordered for construction during the second Five Year Plan.

Replying to another part of the question, the Deputy Minister said that 36 broad gauge tourist cars were being built by the South Eastern Railway departmentally. As regards metre gauge, 10 had been built by Messrs. Kays Construction Co. (P) Ltd., Calcutta and the balance six by Messrs Noorulla Ghazanffarulla, Allahabad.

World Bank Team Meets Railway Board

The two-member team of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development which arrived in New Delhi on 12th night had a meeting with the Railway Board on 13th morning, for a general discussion preliminary to their study tour of railway centres in India. The members of the team met officials of the Railway Board for more detailed discussions. The members of the Team are Mr. A.F. Geolet, Financial Analyst, and Mr. R.A.D. Loven, Mechanical Engineer.

The team has come to obtain first-hand knowledge of the operation of the Indian railways and to see for itself the progress made in the execution of the railway second Five Year Plan.

The team will spend a fortnight in India, during which it will undertake a 4,500-mile tour of railway centres in India, visiting among other places the Ganga bridge recently opened by the Prime Minister, the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, the Integral Coach Factory, some of the steel works, a few railway workshops and selected places where various railway works are in progress.

Throughout the tour, the team will be accompanied by two Railway Board officers, Shri O.S. Murthy, Director of Planning, and Shri R.S. Krishnan, Joint Director, Mechanical Engineering. It will be met by officers of the Railway Board which it visits. At the headquarters of the zonal railways the team will have meetings with the General Managers and other senior Officers.

Food & Agriculture

DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR FORESTS

The Fifth Meeting of the Central Board of Forestry was held in Panchmarhi on May 14.

Dr. Panjabrao S. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Agriculture, who was presiding over the function declared that nearly 4 million acres of fuel and fodder plantations will be raised in the country annually with the support and cooperation of the people through the Community Development organisation to increase the present forest area and create fuel and fodder reserves. He said that "we have been concerned" with the problem of increasing the present area under forest to 33.3 per cent of the total land area as also to divert the colossal amount of cow-dung now wasted in the hearths to the fields.

Stating that technical training of forest personnel had always the topmost priority in development plans, Dr. Deshmukh said that at present various colleges are training 80 officers, and 160 rangers annually. If any increase was required in the strength of these institutions it could be done immediately by increasing their capacity.

Along with the training of the forest personnel, the Minister added, research in increasing forest production and maintenance of forest wood utilization was an urgent necessity. The Forest Research Institute has put forward a number of proposals and some States have suggested the creation of a number of regional institutes. The Minister expressed the belief that future activities will be based on well-conducted research.

India's forests cover an area of 2,81 lakh square miles which is about 22.3% of the total area of the country. Of the four forest regions, Madhya Pradesh in the Central region, Assam and Tripura in the Eastern region and Kerala and Mysore in the Southern region are the richest forest-possessing States. In Tripura nearly 60% of the total area is under forests while in Assam more than 44% is forest area.

Compared with countries like the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. with per capita forest area of 3.5 hectares and 1.8 hectares respectively, the per capita area under forests in India is very low, being only 0.2 hectares. Also India's per capita consumption of roundwood is only 0.60 cubic feet as compared with 63.5 cubic feet in the U.S.A. Not only is the forest area proportionately smaller in India but it is also unevenly distributed and the forest yield is substantially low.

Forests play a vital role in the maintenance of soil and soil fertility besides supplying raw materials for local use and industrial development. Forests also help in adopting better agronomical practices in the conservation of soil and regulating water regime.

It is estimated that the consumption of roundwood which stood at 22.5 crore cubic feet in 1955 will go up to 26.4 crore cubic feet in 1960 and 34.3 crore cubic feet in 1975. Similarly the consumption of firewood which was 226.3 crores cubic feet in 1955 will increase to 241.6 crore cubic feet in 1960 and 290.2 crore cubic feet in 1975.

To meet this growing demand the National Forest Policy Resolution of 1952 proposed that the area under forests be steadily increased to a minimum of 33.1/3% of the total land area.

In the Second Five Year Plan Rs. 20 crores were proposed for forestry, with schemes to have forest plantations in 3.1 lakh acres, rehabilitation in 2.5 lakh acres of degraded forests and the plantation of 1.30 lakh acres with species of commercial and industrial value. Another 90,000 acres are to be brought under matchwood plantations at a cost of Rs. 100 lakhs. Nearly Rs. 400 lakhs are to be spent on extension of forestry schemes under which tree planting along roads, canal banks, field hedges and on "village commons" will be carried out. The programme also provides for the adoption of better techniques of timber extraction, establishment of timber treating and seasoning plants and organisation of surveys of forest resources.

During the first two years of the Second Plan 1.33 lakh acres were brought under forest plantations and 55,000 acres of degraded forests were rehabilitated. Also, 4.38 lakh acres of forest area was surveyed and demarcated.

India's forests, rich in timber, roundwood, pulp, matchwood, firewood, and charcoal wood, 50 crore cubic feet of which valued at Rs. 21.67 crore was produced during 1954-55, also provide a variety of major forest products. There are over 3,000 known species of economic plants including medicinal plants which supply essential oils, resins, fatty oils and fats, waxes, starches, gums, mucilages, tans, dyes, bamboos, canes, fibre, flosses and grasses and products like honey, lac, ivory and bees' wax besides materials for packing and wrapping These could, however, be exploited to greater advantage.

Quite a number of these products feed modern industries earning lakhs of rupees annually; and some, like sandalwood, are even valuable items of international trade. In 1954-55 minor forest products worth Rs. 7.73 crore were produced.

Extraction of Andaman timber is now being done on an increasing scale both for meeting home demand and export. During the first nine months of 1957, 21,281 tons of timber and 1,500 tons of match splints were supplied by the islands.

For the forestry schemes of the States and Union Territories a provision of about Rs. 20 crores exists in the Second Five-Year Plan, the share of the Government of India being Rs. 70.80 lakhs for the first year, Rs. 171.26 lakhs for the second year and Rs. 174.96 for the third year. During 1957-58 Rs. 1.5 crores were given to the State Governments by way of loans and subsidies for the various forestry development schemes under the Second Plan.

Further, a provision of Rs. 165 lakh exists in the Second Plan for 4 Central schemes, namely development of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, setting up of various research centres, seasoning and preservation plant and Delhi Zoological Park.

It is recognised that urgent steps must be taken to achieve the objective of 33.1/3% forest spread over the country, planting for firewood supply on a large-scale to relieve pressure on cow-dung consumption and meet the acute shortage of timber. These goals are sought to be achieved by implementing programmes, such as Farm Forests and extension forestry, economic plantations and their profitable exploitation, forest consolidation, forest resources survey, rehabilitation of degraded forests, grazing and pasture improvement, development of minor forests' produce, better timber operations and forest utilization, development of forest communications, research and training of staff.

Eradication Of Rinderpest

The Central Rinderpest Control Committee held its meeting in Bombay on May 4. Dr. M.S. Randhawa, Vice-President of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, who was presiding over the meeting said that the rinderpest eradication scheme which was started as a pilot project in 1954, had made considerable progress.

Dr. Randhawa, revealed that 239.75 lakh animals were vaccinated in 1958-59 as against 134.14 lakh during the preceding year. He added that the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Assam, Punjab and Bihar exceeded the vaccination targets laid down for the year 1958-59. He emphasised the need for compulsory vaccination and branding of cattle and advised the State Directors of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services to get the necessary legislation enacted as early as possible in States where it had not yet been done. Eradication of rinderpest was one of the most gigantic tasks undertaken by the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Departments of different States. Its success would largely depend upon the vigilance and supervision that the State Directors were able to exercise over the field campaign.

Dr. Randhawa also referred to the steps taken to prevent the introduction of the disease from the neighbouring countries and said that it was necessary to establish quarantine stations at the country's frontiers. A survey of most of the border areas, especially those along Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan and Sikkim had already been completed and 31 check-posts were to be established, he stated.

Wheat Prices Fixed In Four States

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabh on May 6, the Minister for Food and Agriculture said that Government had fixed prices for purchase of different varieties of wheat of fair average quality in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

The prices per maund of naked grains were: Madhya Pradesh — (Common red wheat) Rs. 13/-, Pissi (White) Rs. 14/-, Sharbati and Chandausi Rs. 15/-, Malvi, Bansi, Jalalia, Safed Hansia and Kalebal Rs. 16/-; Punjab — Common White Wheat Rs. 14/-, Superior Farm Wheat Rs. 15/-; Rajasthan — Common red wheat Rs. 13/-, Common white wheat Rs. 14/-, Superior Farm Wheat Rs. 15/-; and Uttar Pradesh — Common red wheat Rs. 13/-; Common white wheat Rs. 14/-, Superior Farm Wheat Rs. 15/-.

Prices For Wheat In U. P. Districts

The Central Government have fixed control prices for three varieties of wheat, namely, White, Red and Farm (Superior) varieties in 13 deficit districts in U.P. comprised in the Gorakhpur and Lucknow regions, says an announcement of May 7. An Order, called the Wheat (Uttar Pradesh) Second Price Control order, 1959, has been issued in this connection, which supersedes the Wheat (Uttar Pradesh) Price Control Order 1959 dated May 2, under which control prices were fixed for the three varieties in 34 surplus districts.

The Prices prescribed for the 13 districts range between Rs. 15.50 to 16.00 per maund for White wheat, Rs. 14.50 and Rs. 15 for Red wheat and Rs. 16.50 and Rs. 17.00 for Farm (Superior) variety wheat.

Restrictions On Movement

The Central Government have issued another Order, under which the movement of wheat, including wheat products other than bran, bread, cakes, biscuits and pastries from any place in a block of districts specified in the schedule to the Order, to any place outside the said block on trade account is prohibited, except under a permit issued by the State Government.

Carriage by a *bona fide* traveller of wheat not exceeding 5 seers in aggregate, movement on Government account or movement under and in accordance with Military Credit Notes are exempted from the purview of the Order.

CANADIAN WHEAT GIFT

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on May 7, the Minister of Food and Agriculture said that India had recently accepted a wheat gift from Canada.

The amount of the gift was $ 10 million, which was expected to fetch about 1.5 lakh tons of wheat.

Purchase Of Rice By Government

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 1, the Minister for Food and Agriculture said that about 3.72 lakh tons rice, including paddy in terms of rice, were purchased by the Central and State Governments from November 1, 1958 to February 15, 1959. The Minister added that the purchase of rice by the Government ensured reasonable prices being paid to the producer for his produce, particularly in those highly surplus areas which are now cordoned off, and the stocks built up by such purchases would help the Government in controlling the prices during the lean season.

The Minister placed on the Table of the Sabha a statement showing the present purchase prices for rice and paddy in different States.

State Trading In Foodgrains

In reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on May 4, the Deputy Minister for Food laid a statement on the Table of the Sabha showing the Government purchase prices for rice and paddy in different States. These prices, the Minister said, are paid by the Government to the cultivator also when purchases are made direct from him.

Another statement showing the purchase prices for wheat was also placed on the Table of the Sabha in reply to the same member. The details as to how wheat will be purchased at these prices are being worked out, the Minister said. The purchase prices of different varieties of wheat in four States are as follows:

Punjab, Rajasthan and U.P. (Common white (FAQ) Rs. 14/-; Madhya Pradesh (Pissi—FAQ) Rs. 14/-; Rajasthan, U.P. and Madhya Pradesh (Inferior common varieties or Red—FAQ) Rs. 13/-; Punjab, Rajasthan and U.P. (Superior Farm—FAQ) Rs. 15/-; Madhya Pradesh (Sharbati & Chandausi) Rs. 15/-; Madhya Pradesh (Malvi Bansi, Jalalia, Safed-Hansia & Kalebal) Rs. 16/-.

FOODGRAINS PROCUREMENT

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 6, the Minister for Food and Agriculture said that procurement of foodgrains under a system of compulsory levy on wholesale dealers was at present in force only in the States of Bihar, West Bengal, U.P., Punjab, Madras and Mysore in respect of rice and/or paddy.

The percentge of levy in the various States was as follows: Bihar — 25% of milled rice from millers and dealers; West Bengal — 25% rice from millers; U.P. — 65% rice from millers and dealers; Punjab — 75% rice from millers and dealers; Madras — 50% rice from millers and 25% from dealers, and 50% paddy from dealers, Mysore — 50% rice from millers, dealers and others, and 50% paddy from those persons other than millers and dealers who wish to have their paddy milled into rice.

In Bihar, no area had been excluded from the operation of the levy order.

Sugarcane Prices For 1959-60

According to a Press Note issued by the Directorate of Sugar and Vanaspati on May 12, after a review of the factors relating to fixation of sugarcane prices for 1959-60 season, the Government of India have decided that the price of sugarcane to be crushed by vacuum pan factories during the 1959-60 season should be as follows:

(a) a basic minimum of Rs. 1.44 per maund for delivery at the gate of the factory and Rs. 1.31 per maund for delivery at rail centres; and

(b) a deferred payment of an amount which may be found due under the formula prescribed by the Government of India, or under any alternative scheme applied in a State or region by the State Government concerned, with the previous approval of the Central Government, for linking the price of cane with the price of sugar as realised by the factories concerned.

Release Of Sugar For Sale

A Press Note issued by the Directorate of Sugar and Vanaspati on April 29 says that the Government of India have released a further quantity of 1,40,000 tons sugar for sale by factories. The slight reduction in the quota will not in any way affect the total availability of sugar in the market, as the system of allotment against tenders is being further strengthened.

In the case of factories situated in U.P., North Bihar and Punjab, the sales are to be effected at prices not higher than the ex-factory price fixed in the Government of India Notification dated December 22, 1958.

Final Estimate Of Castorseed 1959-60

The all-India final estimate of castorseed, 1958-59 puts the current year's area and production of the crop at 11,93,000 acres and 1,11,000 tons respectively as against the partially revised estimate of 11,84,000 acres and 89,000 tons for 1957-58, according to the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

The present estimate shows an increase of 9,000 acres or 0.8% in area and 22,000 tons or 24.7% in production, over the last year.

The increase in current year's area is accounted for mainly by Bombay and is reported to be due generally to favourable climatic conditions at the time of sowing.

The substantial increase in current year's production occurred mainly in Andhra Pradesh and Bombay and is attributed partly to increase in area and partly to higher yield per acre as a result of favourable seasonal conditions during the growing period of the crop.

The all-India per acre yield in the current year works out to 208 pounds as against 169 pounds or an increase of over 24%.

TECHNICAL MEETING ON MARKETING

The FAO/ECAFE technical meeting on marketing has recommended various measures for the development of efficient agricultural marketing.

The meeting which concluded its 10-day session in New Delhi recently, observed that "while efficient marketing is directed initially towards helping the producer and the consumer, it is also a vital component and instrument of the economic and social development of a country."

Nearly 40 delegates from Cambodia, Ceylon, China, Taiwan, Indonesia, Laos, Malaya, Pakistan and India and officials of the FAO and ECAFE participated in the meeting which was presided over by Shri R.T. Mirchandani, Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India and leader of the Indian delegation.

Intended to enable countries of Asia and the Far East region to pool and exchange their experiences, the meeting discussed in detail the effectiveness of various approaches to marketing improvement, the types of marketing research and surveys for guidance of policies, the organisation and working of government marketing departments and the specialised training of marketing personnel.

Competition At Farm Level

The meeting was of the view that greater competition between private enterprises should be induced as 90% of marketing of foodgrains is handled by private traders in several countries of the region. The lack of competition at the farm level was the main weakness of the existing marketing systems and could be eliminated only by freeing individual farmers from obligations to sell their produce to the trader-creditors. This could be overcome to the extent farmers can obtain credit from other institutions.

Credit Facilities

The meeting drew a distinction between credit for production needed by the farmer and credit for marketing but emphasised that these should be linked by an integrated co-operative system. It was felt that the progress so far achieved in this direction was not very significant.

The meeting maintained that warehousing of farm products was essential for orderly marketing and for ensuring regular supply of produce both during the peak and lean periods. In India Central and State warehousing corporations have been established and Government capital is being provided for these projects. Receipts given for products stored in the warehouses can be used to obtain short-term loans from the banks.

As regards standard grades and contract terms for the sale of agricultural commodities, the meeting agreed that these were beneficial both to the producer as well as to the consumer. The Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937 enforced in India and Pakistan might be considered a model for such legislation.

Extension And Training

The meeting recommended that market news services should be strengthened in countries where they have already been established and should be organised in others. Collection and timely dissemination of strategic market information was vitally important both for the efficient marketing of produce by farmers and traders and for policy making and price stabilisation measures by Governments.

The meeting emphasized the need for extension work both at the farm level and in the various markets and recommended the setting up of a marketing wing consisting of a number of qualified "practical" marketing specialists who could ensure that the marketing knowledge was passed on to the extension workers, farmers and traders.

The meeting stressed that the plans for social and economic development should be based on the knowledge of existing marketing institutions and practices together with functional relationships within the economy. In countries like India where general marketing studies have been carried out and where research activities and governmental planning are relatively advanced there is need for keeping information up-to-date.

Regional Institute Of Marketing

The most immediate need, the meeting felt, was provision of specialised training in the field of marketing so that efficiency of service could be improved. It recommended that a centralised Regional Institute of Marketing should be established in the region for providing such training.

Addressing the concluding session of the meeting on May 6, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, Union Minister for Agriculture said that the urgent need for improving marketing conditions had been spotlighted by the numerous marketing investigations and surveys carried out by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection of the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

India's Schemes For Marketing

The Minister said that several schemes for accelerating development work have been included in the country's development plans. An integrated scheme of rural credit and marketing was already under operation. The National Co-operative and Warehousing Board was functioning for promoting programmes of production, marketing, storage, warehousing, export and import of agricultural commodities through co-operative institutions or warehousing corporations. Under the programme for setting up large size co-operative marketing societies in each of the major marketing centres over 900 such societies had been organised. For providing storage facilities on scientific basis warehouses were being set up both at the national and State levels. A

programme for regulating all the important agricultural markets in the country had been launched. For providing high quality produce the programme of grading was being promoted and the export of certain major agricultural produce was allowed only after they were compulsorily graded.

Milk Powder Factory

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 6, the Minister for Food and Agriculture said that the scheme to establish a milk powder factory at Vijayawada was included in the 2nd Five Year Plan of Andhra Pradesh. The State Government had made a provision of Rs. two lakhs for it in their budget for 1959-60. The State Government had also applied for UNICEF assistance to secure the imported equipment required for the proposed factory. The date of starting the factory was contingent on obtaining this equipment.

Manufacture of Baby Food

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on May 6, the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, said that four firms had been permitted to manufacture baby food in the country.

Shri Shastri said that the four factories would be set up at Nabha, Aligarh, Moga and Kaira and they were expected to go into production within two years. He added that nearly 4,500 tons of infant milk food and malted milk were expected to be produced by these factories every year.

River Projects & Power

SCHEMES FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 6, Hafiz Mohd. Ibrahim, Union Minister of Irrigation and Power, said that 7,701 villages had been electrified from the beginning of the Second Five Year Plan up to the end of December, 1958.

Hafiz Sahib also added that it had been decided to extend loan assistance to the State Governments from 1959-60 for rural electrification schemes included in the Plans of the States on the same terms as were sanctioned for increasing employment opportunities; i.e., for the first five years only interest would be paid and thereafter the loan and the interest together would be recovered in equal instalments spread over 25 years.

For a scheme to qualify for this assistance, the Minister continued, it should fall into one or the other of the following categories: (a) rural distribution extended from grid system; (b) in the case of urban schemes, extensions from urban area to the adjoining rural area; and (c) small generating stations with their associated feeder and distribution lines where these were intended to serve one village or a group of villages.

Scheme For Himachal Pradesh

In a written reply to another question on rural electrification of Karsog Ilaqa of District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, the Union Minister stated that electrification of this area was envisaged under the scheme entitled "Electrification of Suni, Karsog and surrounding areas", included in the second Five Year Plan. Administrative approval and expenditure sanction to an estimate of Rs. 10 lakhs were accorded in May, 1958. Preliminary work had already been completed and the construction of overhead lines was in progress.

Improvement In Scarcity Areas

In a written reply to a question Hafiz Mohd. Ibrahim, Union Minister for Irrigation and Power, laid a statement on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on May 7, in which it was indicated that a total amount of Rs. 3,937.41 lakhs had been sanctioned up to the end of 1958-59 under the programme of permanent improvement of scarcity areas.

State-wise figures were: (*amount in lakhs*) Andhra Rs. 553.00; Assam Rs. 105.44; Bihar Rs. 236.38; Bombay 790.26; Hyderabad (erstwhile) Rs. 178.74; Mysore Rs. 360.00; Madhya Pradesh Rs. 16.74; Punjab Rs. 33.50; Rajasthan Rs. 275.00; Madras Rs. 590.00; West Bengal Rs. 83.35; and Uttar Pradesh Rs. 705.00.

Hafiz Sahib added that these loans were being given to the above States since 1953 to enable

ELECTRICITY OUT-PUT IN JANUARY 1959

The total electricity output in India in January 1959, as compared with the figures for 1958 and 1951, rose by 19% and 144% respectively.

There was a somewhat similar increase in January 1959 in electricity consumption during the period 1951-1958 and 1959.

The production figures for January 1959 by public utility power stations on an all-India basis amounted to 1,153.6 million k.wh. of which 930.2 million k.wh. were sold to ultimate consumers.

Corresponding figures for January 1958 were 971.4 million k.wh. and 788.2 million k.wh., and those for January 1951 were 473.0 million k.wh. and 374.3 million k.wh. respectively.

them to carry out certain irrigation schemes in the scarcity affected areas. In the case of West Bengal and Assam these schemes also related to some other sectors like flood control, education, health, roads, etc.

As regards the terms and conditions attached to the loans given to the States under this programme, it might be mentioned that the loans sanctioned prior to 1958-59 were interest free for the first five years. Thereafter they carried an interest of 4½% p.a. The principal together with the interest was repayable in 25 equal instalments. From the year 1958-59 and onwards there would be no interest-free period.

The loans would carry interest during this period also at the normal rates. As however a certain amount of financial assistance had been assured to the State Governments in respect of this programme, the Government of India would give subsidies to the State Governments to cover the amount of interest which the State Governments would have to pay to the Centre for the period for which these loans would have been interest-free under the original terms.

Education & Culture

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON BASIC EDUCATION

Inaugurating the National Seminar on the Orientation of Elementary Schools towards the Basic Pattern at the Government Junior Basic Training College in Allahabad on May 11, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, called upon all those connected with Basic Education to draw up a minimum programme of Basic Education which would be acceptable to the whole country. He felt that it was not correct to have introduced Basic Education in the rural areas only, when the urban areas were left out.

The Seminar was attended by about 50 delegates from all over the country. These included some State Deputy Ministers of Education, Directors of Education and other high officials connected with Basic Education in the States, Union Territories and Administrations. A few non-officials working in the field of Basic Edcation were also present. Among them were also representatives of the Inter-State Board of Anglo-Indian Education and the Conference of Public Schools in India.

The three-day National Seminar came to an end on May 13. It accepted 1960-61 as the target date for the completion of the orientation programme except in a few States where, in view of certain special circumstances, this, it felt, might be extended to 1961-62.

The Seminar listed six broad activities which should form the content of the orientation programme in the schools and recommended that these should be introduced in all the grades of all types of non-Basic elementary schools, Government or otherwise, rural or urban.

The Seminar considered a period of 15 days training as necessary for the orientation of trained teachers. It suggested that suitable orientation training courses be arranged for the district officers and inspectors at different levels and the Head Teachers in addition to the Assistant School Teachers.

The Seminar expressed the view that it was necessary to produce suitable literature for this programme which would give necessary guidance to the teachers and the inspecting officers.

On the question of financial resources, the Seminar recommended that funds and other resources available for education under the Community Development Programme should be fully utilised. Voluntary contributions from the local community represented a vast potential source in the matter of equipping the schools and would be tapped to the maximum advantage so as to supplement the orthodox ways of finding funds for such purposes.

It was decided that the implementation of the programme should be evaluated simultaneously through appropriate agencies. The Central Government would collect reports from the various States and if necessary another National Seminar might be held after a year or so.

JUNIOR TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 4 Shri Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, laid a statement on the Table of the House. According to the statement the scheme for the Junior Technical Schools envisages the training of boys who have passed the VIIIth class and are of the age group 14 in a three year integrated course of liberal education, elementary technical education and workshop training. When the boys leave the school at the age of 17 they are expected to have acquired a fair amount of skill in a particular engineering trade and its associated technical knowledge along with a minimum level of education (of the Matriculation standard) necessary for life. The main object is to provide a strong base for the formation of a cadre of young skilled workers with a broad general education.

Each school will have a total enrolment of about 200 with 60 annual admissions. They will provide for specialised training in specified trades in engineering industry. Each school is estimated to cost Rs. 7.844 lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 1.562 lakhs ultimate annual recurring.

The Central Government will set up such schools but will give financial assistance to State Governments and private agencies to cover 60% of the total non-recurring expenditure approved and 60% of the deficit in recurring expenditure

Students Receiving Technical Education

Answering a question in the Lok Sabha the Union Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Dr. M.M. Das, said on May 7 that twenty-nine thousand two hundred and ninetyfive students were receiving engineering education in the country at present.

In a written reply to another question regarding the number of students who had completed their engineering and technical education at degree and diploma levels during the last five years, Dr. M.M. Das said that their number was: Degree — 20,243, Diploma — 22,923.

Asked as to the number among them who received their training abroad, the Deputy Minister said that similar figures in respect of students who received their training abroad during the last five years were not available, but it might be mentioned that over 2,000 engineers, scientists and technologists had registered themselves in the 'Indians Abroad' Section of the National Register Unit.

A.I.C.T.E. EXAMINATIONS RECOGNISED

According to an announcement dated May 2, the Government of India have decided to recognise the examinations held by the All India Council for Technical Education in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering for purposes of recruitment to subordinate posts and services under the Central Government in the respective fields. These examinations were formerly known as the All India Certificate Examinations.

Maulana Azad Medical College

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 6, the Minister of Health, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, laid the following statement on the Table of the House:

"A sum of Rs. 58,783 was spent on the conversion of the 120-bed block in the Irwin Hospital for use as Physiology and Anatomy Departments and as office for the Maulana Azad Medical College. A sum of Rs. 45,465 was also spent on additions and alterations to the jail buildings so that they might be used as hostels for boys and girls and as staff quarters.

"Administrative approval for construction of the college building was accorded in January, 1959, and expenditure sanction was accorded on April 3, 1959. Detailed plans and estimates had been drawn up and tenders were being invited by the Central Public Works Department. The work was expected to be taken up sometime in June or July 1959.

"Equipment worth Rs. 1,34,589 had been purchased for the Departments of Anatomy and Physiology and for the library. In addition equipment worth about Rs. 1 lakh had been transferred by the Lady Hardinge Medical College to the Maulana Azad Medical College and orders for additional equipment worth about Rs. 30,000 had been placed."

CENTRAL GRANTS FOR BASIC EDUCATION

In a written reply to a question Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, laid the following statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on May 7, giving the total expenditure, recurring and non-recurring, incurred during 1958-59 by the Central Government on each Scheme of Basic Education and estimate of the annual expenditure for 1959-60:

During 1958-59 Rs. 755.75 lakhs was sanctioned to various State Government for schemes pertaining to Basic and Elementary Education, and no specific allocation for Basic Education alone was made. The estimated expenditure on these Schemes during 1959-60 was Rs. 105.00 lakhs

The position regarding Central Schemes on Basic Education is as follows:

Name of the Scheme	Total expenditure, recurring and non recurring during 1958-59	Estimate of the annual expenditure for 1959-60
	Rs.	Rs.
1. National Institute of Basic Education	1,29,408	1,88,000
2. Grant to Voluntary Organisations in the field of Basic Education	1,28,547	6,54,000 (includes pre-primary Education)
3. Production of Literature and other material for Basic Education	3,400	2,00,000
4. Loans for Hostels	1,55,300	10,00,000
5. Scheme to encourage Post - Basic Education	43,000	4,50,000
6. Seminars in Basic Education	15,446	19,000
7. Committee to study introduction of Basic Education in Public Schools	2,084	—

WORKING DAYS IN COLLEGES

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 4, the Union Minister of Education said that in their meeting held on July 8 and 9, 1958, the University Grants Commission decided that all the Universities be advised to provide for at least 180 clear working days, exclusive of Sundays, holidays and days used for examinations. The advice of the Commission was communicated to all the Universities for consideration.

He added that it was primarily for the Universities themselves to take a decision in the matter. However, it was understood that twentyseven Universities either provided or had agreed to provide for 180 clear working days excluding Sundays, holidays and days used for examinations. Besides, the University of Madras had suggested that a minimum of 190 days including days of college examinations be fixed, while the University of Bombay had informed the Commission that the actual working days in the Faculties of Arts, Science and Technology would be about 180 days including the examination days.

Audio-Visual Education

Replying to a question, the Union Minister of Education, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, said in the Lok Sabha on May 4, that the authorities concerned had been advised to introduce audio-visual education as an important subject in the teachers' training colleges.

Dr. Shrimali added that the States of Bihar, Bombay, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Orissa and Rajasthan had introduced audio-visual education as an important subject while the Punjab State had included it as a compulsory subject of study in their teachers' training colleges. The Administrations of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Laccadive, Manipur as well as Tripura had no training colleges within their territories. The recommendation was still under the consideration of the remaining State Governments, namely, Andhra, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Delhi Administration.

School Of Foreign Languages

In a written reply to a question Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, stated in the Lok Sabha on May 4 that the School of Foreign Languages, New Delhi, was the only institution which was run under the auspices of the Government of India. The number of Indian teachers and students engaged in the teaching and study of foreign languages at the School at present were 5 and 522 respectively. The net expenditure (after excluding receipts) incurred on the School during the last two years were as follows:

1957-58	Rs. 38,981
1958-59	Rs. 52,006

Hostels For Indian Students In U.K.

The Government of India have, according to an announcement dated May 2, sanctioned a grant of £30,000 to the Y.M.C.A. Indian Students' Union and Hostel, London, for the construction of an Extension Block in the present Hostel building at 41-Fitzrey Square, London, in order to provide more accommodation for Indian students in London.

The grant is payable in two equal annual instalments of £15,000 each, the first instalment having been sanctioned in 1958-59.

Educational Aid To Political Sufferers

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education laid a statement on the Table of the House on May 7, giving details of replies received from various State Governments in regard to grant of educational concessions to dependents of political sufferers. The Minister said that the State Governments and the Union Territories concerned were being asked to expedite finalisation of their proposals. Generally speaking, Dr. Shrimali said, delay was inherent in the working out of the scheme as an estimate of the number of persons likely to be benefited had to be ascertained first and the financial implications worked out. The State Governments which had yet to reply had not given any reasons for the delay. The summaries of the replies supplied by the States are given below:

Andhra Pradesh: Will introduce the Scheme in the current academic year. Details are under preparation and a provision of Rs. 1,00,000 has been made tentatively for the purpose.

Assam: Will introduce the Scheme in the current financial year. Details are under preparation and Rs. 1,20,000 has been estimated as the probable expenditure.

Bihar: No reply forthcoming yet.

Bombay: The matter is receiving attention.

Jammu & Kashmir: Apparently do not intend to introduce the Scheme.

Kerala: The matter is receiving attention.

Madhya Pradesh: Will introduce the Scheme. Details are under preparation.

Madras: The matter is receiving attention.

Mysore: Introduced a Scheme of their own in November, 1958. They are now preparing details for a new Scheme in the light of the proposal received from the Government of India.

Orissa: No reply forthcoming yet.

Punjab: The matter is receiving attention.

Rajasthan: No reply forthcoming yet.

Uttar Pradesh: Are considering a revision of their own scheme in the light of the proposal received from the Government of India.

West Bengal: The matter is receiving attention.

Delhi: The Scheme will be introduced in the current academic year. Proposals for the grant of freeships and half-freeships have been worked out and will be put into effect at the appropriate time. The question of the grant of certain other concessions is under examination.

Himachal Pradesh: No reply forthcoming yet.

Manipur: Details of the Scheme are under preparation.

Tripura: The Scheme will be implemented in the current academic year. Details have not so far been communicated by the Administration.

N.B. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindive Islands do not have political sufferers.

Scholarships Scheme For Backward Classes

The Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes Scholarships Board, at a meeting held in New Delhi on May 7, approved of the decentralisation of the scheme relating to the award of scholarships to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes for post-Matriculation studies in India. Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, presided over the function.

It was agreed at the meeting that work in connection with the award of these scholarships would be transferred to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations with effect from the current year. The Union Ministry of Education would allocate available funds to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and lay down the principles governing the award of scholarships.

The Board also agreed to the proposal that the Scheduled Tribes living outside the specified areas be treated at par with those living within the specified areas in a State for the purpose of award of scholarships.

GANDHIJI'S WRITINGS

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 8 on the progress made so far in the collection of Mahatma Gandhi's writings, Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, stated that most of Gandhiji's writings upto 1927 and a large number of speeches and letters had been collected. The first two volumes of the collected works of Mahatma Gandhi had been published in English and Hindi; the third volume in English would soon be sent to the press and the Hindi version of it was in hand.

Replying to another question, the Union Minister in his written reply stated that committees for collecting material for inclusion in the collected works of Mahatma Gandhi had been set up in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Another Transmitter For Bombay

A 20 kw medium wave transmitter was installed at Bombay on May 3. Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, was present at the inaugural concert held on the occasion.

By the end of the first Five Year Plan, Bombay had two medium-wave services the first from the 50 kw transmitter commissioned about 1954, and the second carried on a low power transmitter. The installation of the new transmitter will now improve and strengthen this second channel programme of the Bombay Station.

This transmitter forms part of a large consignment of equipment received from Australia under the Colombo Plan Aid Scheme. A 300 ft. high radiating steel tower, which serves as the aerial for the transmitter, has been also supplied by the Australian Government.

NOTABLE FEATURE

A notable feature of the transmitter is the combination of two 10 kw Units, to give a total output of 20 kws. In case one of the Units develops a fault, there is an automatic provision for its elimination so that the service may continue uninterrupted on low power with the help of the other Unit.

The transmitter will operate on 1040 kc/s corresponding to a wave-length of 288.5 meters. The installation has been completely carried out by All India Radio's own engineers. Under favourable conditions the reception from this transmitter will be available throughout the State of Bombay.

Community Radio Receiving Sets

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 8, the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Dr. B.V. Keskar laid the following statement giving details about State-wise distribution of Community Radio Receiving Sets on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Name of the State/ Union Territory	*Number of community receiving sets supplied for installation from 1954-55 to 1958-59.*
Ajmer	250
Andhra Pradesh	3,500
Assam	1,250
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	12
Bihar	3,904
Bhopal	640
Bombay	4,369
Hyderabad	400
Himachal Pradesh	1,341
Jammu & Kashmir	1,200
Kutch	28
Lacadive, Minicoy & Amindivi Islands	7
Madras	1,015
Madhya Bharat	353
Madhya Pradesh	1,960
Manipur	116
Mysore	700
Orissa	4,800
Punjab	5,600
Pepsu	310
Pondicherry	115
Rajasthan	3,300
Saurashtra	566
Travancore-Cochin	
Kerala	773
Tripura	350
Uttar Pradesh	9,950
Vindhya Pradesh	370
NEFA	250
Naga Hills — Tuensang Area	100
Total:	47,589

DRAMAS ON PLAN ACTIVITIES

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 5, Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, stated that the Song and Drama Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had on its register 55 drama troupes. Their services were utilised by the Division, on payment of subsidy, for the purpose of giving performances on developmental activities of the Plan. From January 1 to December 31, 1958, they staged 613 dramas. The number of dramas staged during the month of March, 1959 was 9. The figures of expenditure for these periods were Rs. 1.56 lakhs and Rs. 2,500 respectively.

GIFT OF MANUSCRIPTS TO NATIONAL LIBRARY

The National Library at Calcutta has received a gift of valuable manuscripts associated with the memory of Acharya Keshab Chandra Sen, says an announcement dated May 7.

Donated by his daughter-in-law, Shrimati Mrinalini Sen, the manuscripts are a record of the minutes of the meetings of the Brahmo Samaj's Missionary Conference.

They were made over to the library by Prof. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

The records start with the minutes of the meeting held on Sravan 22, 1794 — Saka (August 5, 1872), and end with the meeting of Sravan 7, 1805 — Saka (July 22, 1883).

The manuscript record is considered to be of great importance because of its direct association with Acharya Keshab Chandra Sen whose signatures appear on many pages.

There are also two original drafts of letters addressed to Prof. Monier Williams and Prof. Max Muller by the Secretary of the Missionary Conference about the activities of Brahmo Samaj.

The original documents are likely to be of much interest to those who want to study the activities of the Brahmo Samaj.

The manuscript pages of the minutes have been laminated and bound by the National Archives of India.

ART PURCHASES FOR NATIONAL MUSEUM

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 7 Dr. M.M. Das, Union Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs said that a sum of Rs. 10,83,000 was spent from the year 1947 to April 30, 1959 on the purchases of ancient paintings and manuscripts along with other objects for the National Museum, New Delhi.

Technological Museum

India's first composite Industrial and Technological Museum was opened by Prof. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, in Calcutta on May 2, 1959.

Sponsored by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Rs. 20-lakh Birla Industrial and Technological Museum, which is located at 19, Gurusaday Road, in the southern part of the city is housed in a three-storeyed building, donated by the Birlas.

Covering an area of about 10 bighas of land, the building, which is associated with the memories of Rabindranath and Satyendranath Tagore, is surrounded by a lovely park in an artistic setting. With a plinth area of 19,700 square feet, the building has a total floor area of 33,000 square feet.

Work on the Museum started in December 1956, soon after the formation of a 12-member planning committee, headed by Dr. B.C. Roy, which was entrusted with the task of drawing up a blueprint for the Museum. Keeping in view the wide range of subjects covered by science and technology, the planning committee decided that the Museum should portray three important aspects; recent advances in technology; contribution of technology to the welfare of mankind; and application of modern methods of technology of the Indian industries.

Overcoming the initial difficulties of collection and procurement of models, the Museum has now set up galleries on seven different branches of science and technology, in which the pattern of industrialisation is most reflected.

On the ground floor are housed galleries on electricity and metallurgy. With the help of working models, and posters, the development of electricity has been shown from the time of the historic kite flying by Benjamin Franklin upto the modern period.

In the metallurgy section, the different processes of production of copper and iron — from mining to casting ingots — have been explained with the help of models posters, translites, flow charts, production charts and relief maps.

On the first floor, galleries on petroleum, television studio, optics and miscellaneous, electronics and nuclear physics have been arranged.

A unique feature of the Museum is the provision for visitors' participation. To arouse interest in science and technology, visitors will be allowed to handle some of the instruments and working models.

Galleries on telephony, railways, automobile, electric power generation and transmission, plastics and coal will be added later.

Provision has been made for the setting up of a technical library, an auditorium, a multi-storeyed building, having an exhibition space of 50,000 square feet and a photography section.

District Gazetteers

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Dr. M.M. Das, Union Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, stated on May 4 that the following amounts have been paid to different States so far for the compilation of district gazetteers:

(i)	Bihar	Rs. 18,000/-
(ii)	Bombay	Rs. 12,000/-
(iii)	Madras	Rs. 24,000/-
(iv)	Mysore	Rs. 6,000/-
(v)	Rajasthan	Rs. 6,000/-
(vi)	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 6,000/-

Competition Of Hindi Plays

A New Delhi announcement of May 8 says that in the competition of play-production in Hindi organized by the Sangeet Natak Akademi between April 21 and May 7, 1959, at New Delhi, "Naye Hath" by Anamika, Calcutta, has been unanimously adjudged the best by the Judges.

To encourage play-writing in Indian languages, the Sangeet Natak Akademi decided in 1957 to start competitions for plays and production. In the first instance, two Indian languages, Hindi and Tamil, were selected. This year, accordingly, scripts were invited from authors in both the languages for the Best Play Competition and from performing groups for participation in the Best Production Competition. The response was very encouraging and a large number of entries were received.

As regards the Best Production, groups were selected both on the basis of the quality of the scripts submitted as well as the standing of performing groups. The Competition for Best Production in Tamil will be held in Madras some time in June, 1959.

In Hindi, in all, the following nine groups participated from different centres such as Delhi, Allahabad, Patna, Calcutta, Bombay, Poona and Hyderabad.

A prize of Rs. 2,500 in cash and a gold shrinkhal and a shawl to the author of the best adjudged play will be awarded. A similar prize of Rs. 2,500 in cash to the best production of a play will be awarded. The winning group will also be paid a sum of Rs. 2,500 for production expenses.

The Competition is open to any professional or amateur group or company of at least two years' standing, which has produced at least three plays during the period. Only original plays can participate in the Competition. No translation or adaptations are accepted. The following categories of plays are also excluded:

(a) Folk plays;
(b) Dance-drama;
(c) Shadow-plays and
(d) Screen-plays.

The plays should preferably be on any aspect of contemporary life and must be original.

Scientific Research And Industry

Answering a question on May 4, Dr. M.M. Das, Union Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, laid a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha giving details of the steps taken by the Central Government to bring about a co-ordination between scientific research and industry.

Dr. M.M. Das in his statement said that the following steps had been taken in this connection:

Special staff consisting of Industrial Liaison Officers and Regional Liaison Officers have been appointed with a view to maintaining an active and living contact between the industry and the research laboratories. This staff carries out case studies of specific industries, ascertains their problems and refers these problems to laboratories for solution.

It also brings to the notice of the industry the results of researches completed by the laboratories that are useful for adoption for exploitation by industry.

Natural Research Development Corporation, an autonomous organization consisting of prominent industrialists, has been set up to help industry to develop and commercially exploit researches.

Scientific publications in way of journals and special literature for bringing out results of researches carried out in the labortories are published by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Extension services have been started with a view to demonstrating to the industry all over the country the processes developed in the laboratories. These have been found particularly useful for cottage and small scale industries.

Demonstrations of the results of suitable processes are also arranged by the laboratories in different exhibitions organized from time to time by the Central and State Governments.

Arrangements are made by bringing together technologists and scientists from industry, universities and National Laboratories and arranging symposia every year on different subjects of industrial interest.

Industrialists have been nominated on the Executive Councils and other bodies connected with research Laboratories and Institutes.

A Joint Standing Committee for scientific research and industry has been established consisting of representatives of industry, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, presided over by the Minister of Industry, which meets occasionally to discuss and formulate proposals for developing close contacts between industry and research.

Replying to another part of the question regarding the contribution made by the Central Scientific Institutes to the industry during 1957-58, Dr. Das stated as follows:

While it is difficult to assess in measurable terms the contribution of research to industrial welfare and development, it can briefly be stated that in case of National Laboratories, following contributions have been made to the welfare and progress of industry during the year 1957-58:

(i) A few new industries have been established as a result of processes developed by laboratories. The more important of these are (a) Mica Insulating Bricks; (b) Manufacture of Nicotine Sulphate for Insecticides and (c) Production of composite protein food. A number of processes have been leased out to the industry for commercial exploitation.

(ii) Substitutes for a number of imported raw materials, supplies of which were getting scarce every day have been developed by National Laboratories and taken up by industry.

(iii) Intelligence service has been maintained by supplying information on various technical matters needed by industry.

Process On Dimerized Fatty Acids

A process on Dimerized Fatty Acids has been developed at the Shri Ram Institute for Industrial Research, Delhi, says an announcment dated May 12.

The process developed at the Institute involves dimerization of fatty acids from drying and semi-drying oils like linseed, safflower, tobacco, etc. The polymerization is effected with the help of certain catalysts at temperatures much lower than what are usually reported to be necessary. In addition to reducing the reaction time, the improved technique is claimed to completely suppress thermal degradation of fatty acids. Saturated fatty acids which do not take part in polymerization are later separated by distillation.

The porcess has been studied on a pilot plant scale where batches of 6-8 lbs. of fatty acids have been processed, and sufficient data collected to scale up the unit to commercial size. This product compares favourably with dimerized fatty acids being marketed by a prominent foreign concern.

Conditions for preparing alkyds and polyesters using these finished fatty acids have been standardized and work on preparation of polyamides and other similar products is in progress.

Maleic Anhydride From Benzene

A process on "Maleic Anhydride from Benzene" has been developed at the Shri Ram Institute for Industrial Research, Delhi.

Maleic anhydride is an important chemical intermediate for the plastic and paint industries. It is used in alkyd resins to impart better impact resistance, colour retention and versatility.

In industrially advanced countries, maleic anhydride finds application in the manufacture of polyesters which are fast developing as materials of construction for chemical plants, automobiles, aircraft, refrigerators, etc. Apart from alkyds and polyesters it is used for modifying drying and semi-drying oils also.

The manufacture of maleic anhydride has not so far been taken up in India and requirements are being met from imports. There are vast possibilities for developing maleic anhydride and its products in this country. Immediate potential demand for the product is estimated at 1,000 tons per annum.

A plan capable of producing 300 tons of maleic anhydride per annum is estimated to cost Rs. 4.81 lakhs.

Production Of Projectors

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on May 5, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said that the manufacture of 35 mm filmstrip projectors had already been taken up by the Ordnance Factory at Dehradun. The factory was expected to produce 500 projectors in the first year, 750 projectors in the second year and 1,000 projectors per annum in the third and subsequent years.

Regarding the cost of the projectors, Dr. Shrimali said that the wholesale price would range between Rs. 300 and Rs. 325 and the retail price between Rs. 412.75 and Rs. 450 per projector.

The Minister added that the question of supplying the projectors to educational institutions at concessional rates was under consideration.

Himalayan Mountaineering Institute

The annual general meeting of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, was held in New Delhi on May 1 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, who has been President of the Institute since its inception in 1954.

The meeting re-elected, for another term of three years, Prime Minister Nehru as President and Dr. B.C. Roy, Chief Minister of West Bengal, as Vice-President of the Institute. Apart from the election of other office-bearers and passing of the annual budget, the meeting decided to store sufficient sets of mountaineering equipment which expeditionists could buy or hire. This measure should encourage mountaineering enthusiasts all over the country to plan and undertake expeditions. In addition, trekkers could, if they so desired, avail themselves of the opportunity of technical assistance and advice available at the Institute.

Started in late 1954, the Mountaineering Institute is now housed in its own buildings. It conducts four basic courses in a year of six weeks' duration each and about 350 persons have so far undergone these courses. The Institute also undertakes an advanced course roughly once in two years which takes the form of an expedition to a peak. The last advanced course was for climbing the Nanda Devi, and the next one is expected to be held in October November this year.

Ex-students of the Institute have done well in a number of mountaineering expeditions, three of them having been included in the successful Cho Oyu expedition of 1958. Three ex-students climbed the Trisul (23,360 feet) the same year. An expedition to Nandakot (22,510 feet) in the Kumaon Hills and Black Peak (20,000 feet) in Garhwal is being organised for this summer by ex-students of the Institute belonging to the Navy and the Army respectively.

The Institute is taking active steps to get mountaineering equipment manufactured in the country. The Bata Shoe Co. has manufactured prototypes of climbing boots and the Ordnance Factories are manufacturing a large number of items of mountaineering equipment.

Indian Soldiers In U.N.E.F. Olympiad

The Indian Contingent serving with the UN Emergency Force in the Gaza Strip in Egypt participated in the Fourth UNEF Olympiad which concluded at Deir El Ballah on April 1.

Following are the final points of the teams which participated: India 173 points; Brazil 75 points; Sweden 46 points. Lt. Gen E.L. M. Burns, Commander, UNEF, gave away silver trophies to the various winners.

Health

GRANTS FOR DEVELOPING INDIGENOUS MEDICINE

A sum of Rs. 53,13,712 has been sanctioned so far during this plan period by the Union Ministry of Health for the development of indigenous systems of medicine including homoeopathy, reads an announcement dated May 13. The total provision in the second Five-Year Plan for this purpose is Rs. 100 lakhs. Financial assistance is given to private organizations and State Governments for research in indigenous systems and for upgrading teaching institutions.

During 1958-59, Rs. 20.55 lakhs were also advanced to various State Governments as the Union Government's matching contribution to the expenditure incurred by them on the establishment/upgrading of teaching institutions in indigenous systems of medicine, including homoeopathy. For the current financial year, a provision of about Rs. 30 lakhs has been made for grants to State Governments and private organizations for research and upgrading.

The institutions to whom grants are given are engaged either in research work or in teaching of indigenous systems of medicine. Research is generally confined to clinical trials of various Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic drugs and medicines. To some institutions grants have been sanctioned for plantation of medicinal herbs used in Ayurvedic and Unani treatment. To others grants have been given for publishing works on Ayurveda and Unani systems of medicine.

During the first Five-Year Plan, the Union Government spent a sum of Rs. 12,82,710 against the provision of Rs. 37.50 lakhs. The response during the first Five-Year Plan was not encouraging as most of the State Governments had not made sufficient provision in their own Plan schemes for promotion of indigenous systems of medicine.

Demographic Advisory Committee

The Ministry of Health has constituted a Demographic Advisory Committee to advise on research and studies in inter-relationship between economic, social and population changes on the reproductive pattern, attitudes and motivation affecting the size of the family.

The chairman of the committee is Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University. The members are: Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis, F.R.S., Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta; Shri P. Thomas, M.P.; and Shri Ashok Mitra, I.C.S., Registrar General, India. Lt. Col. B.L. Raina, Direc-

CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SERVICE SCHEME

The Contributory Health Service Scheme for Central Government Servants in Delhi and New Delhi was introduced on July 1, 1954. The Scheme, which catered to a population of 2,23,000 in the beginning, now serves over four lakh beneficiaries.

Under the Scheme all Government servants irrespective of their rank and their family members, which include dependent parents, are entitled to medical benefits on a contributory basis. Medical benefits include medical investigation and treatment in hospitals and at home, consultation with medical attendants and specialists and supply of medicines.

The Government servants pay a small monthly contribution ranging between 50 nP and 12 rupees depending upon the pay of the Government servant. Besides the Central Government servants, the staff of ten semi-Government and autonomous institutions and members of their families have also been admitted to the Scheme.

While there were 16 dispensaries (static) in 1954, their number increased to 26 in 1958. There are also three mobile dispensaries now. Over 30 maternity and child welfare centres have been recognised in Delhi for providing gynaecological or confinement facilities free of charge to families of Government servants. Advice is also tendered to the beneficiaries covered under the Scheme in Family Clinics attached to the Contributory Health Service dispensaries. Mothers' clubs, free film shows, group talks and free distribution of milk are organised at these centres.

With the expansion of the area of operation of the Scheme the expenditure on it has progressively increased. As against the receipt of Rs. 7,70,747 in 1954-55, the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 13,92,707. In 1957-58, against the receipt of Rs. 21,00,000, the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 35,90,000. The estimated receipt for the year 1958-59 is Rs. 25,93,000, while the estimated expenditure is Rs. 53,00,000.

Since low paid Government servants are not in a position to get any physical check-up done, it is proposed to start a physical check-up clinic under the scheme. It will function at the Central Secretariat dispensary where all Government servants would get their physical check-up done on payment of a nominal fee.

tor, Family Planning, is Member-Secretary. The committee can co-opt additional members for *ad hoc* purposes. The members of the committee will hold office for a period of three years.

The committee will advise on training and research in demography keeping in view that these will be of assistance to Government in taking economic and social measures for programmes of national reconstruction.

The committee will also co-ordinate demographic research schemes receiving financial assistance from the Government of India, review the progress made at the Centres getting financial aid from the Ministry of Health, and examine and recommend proposals submitted to the Ministry of Health for financial help for demographic research.

The Union Government has made a provision of Rs. 30 lakhs in the second Plan for demographic training and research. A Demographic Training and Research Centre has been established in Bombay in collaboration with Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and the United Nations. Three demographic centres have also been set up at the Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University; Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta; and the Department of Statistics, Government of Kerala, Trivandrum.

Committee On Medical Education

The Union Ministry of Health has constituted a committee to assess the present facilities for post-graduate medical education in the country, says an announcement dated May 9. Dr. B.C. Roy, Chief Minister of West Bengal, is chairman of the committee.

The terms of reference of the committee broadly are (i) assessment (or evaluation) of the existing facilities for post-graduate medical education in the country; and (ii) formulation of recommendations for the future plan of development of post-graduate medical education.

Health Education Bureaux

Answering a question in the Rajya Sabha on May 4, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that the Government of India have formulated a scheme for the establishment of ten Health Education Bureaux in the States with Central assistance during the second Five-Year Plan period and have circulated it to the State Governments.

The Minister added that in order to encourage the State Governments to establish these Bureaux, the expenditure of Rs. 99,540 recurring and Rs. 10,000 non-recurring would be shared by the Union Government with the State Governments on the approved pattern.

For the purpose of establishing greater co-ordination between the Central and State Health Education Bureaux, it was proposed to hold periodical meetings, conferences, seminars etc. of health educators.

INDIAN DELEGATION TO W. H. O. ASSEMBLY

A Government delegation led by Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health left for Geneva on May 8 to attend the annual meeting of the Assembly of the World Health Organization.

TRAINING OF NEPALESE NURSES

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 1, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, stated that eleven Nepalese nurses had come for training in the midwifery course at Irwin Hospital, New Delhi. Their expenses would be borne by the World Health Organization.

Social Welfare

T. C. M. AID FOR SOCIAL WELFARE EDUCATION

A supplemental agreement was signed on May 7 between the Government of India and the U.S. Technical Cooperation Mission. Under this, T.C.M. has made grant provision of approximately Rs. 10 lakhs ($ 203,000) to assist social welfare education in India. The institutes benefiting from this assistance are: The Delhi School of Social Work; Institute of Social Science, Kashi Vidyapith, Banaras; Lucknow University Department of Social Work, and School of Social Work, Madras.

Each of the four institutes will get one American specialist in social work education and books and periodicals not available in India. While a major part of the funds — $ 196,000 — will be for the services of U.S. technicians, the remaining $ 7,000 will go towards buying books and periodicals outside India. The U.S. specialists will be provided under contract with the Council on Social Work Education, New York.

The supplemental agreement is a continuation of the original project on social welfare education initiated in 1955. Under this project, seven American educators have already come to six different Indian institutes of social sciences. U.S. assistance to this project, including this agreement now totals approximately $ 584,000.

Vocational And Technical Trades

Under the Craftsmen and Displaced Persons Training Scheme, 25,414 persons including 842 women were receiving training in vocational and technical trades at different training centres at the end of March, 1959. Of the total number of trainees, 1,232 were displaced persons. In addition, under the Apprenticeship Training Scheme, 6 displaced persons were receiving practical training in production work in West Bengal.

There were 369 instructor-trainees at the Central Training Institutes at Koni-Bilaspur and Aundh, and 31 women instructor-trainees at the Industrial Training Insitute for women at New Delhi at the end of March.

BOMBAY SOCIAL WELFARE BODIES

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 4, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Minister of Education said that three hundred and seventy-two voluntary social welfare organisations in Bombay State had been given grants amounting to almost Rs. 6 lakhs by the Central Social Welfare Board during the year 1958-59.

Study Team On Tribal Blocks

An announcement made on May 7 says that the Government of India has constituted a committee to study the working of the Special Multi-Purpose Tribal Blocks, started for intensive development of selected areas inhabited by the Scheduled Tribes.

The Committee, which is to submit its first report by August 31, 1959, will advise the Government of India on how to implement more effectively the intensive development programme of the Blocks and give the programme a proper tribal bias.

Two Special Multi-Purpose Tribal Blocks were first started in April 1956 at Keonjhar and Kalahandi, Orissa. The purpose of the tribal block is to bring about rapid improvement in the economic and social standards of the tribal people by selecting specially backward but compact areas for all-sided development.

PROGRESS OF FAMILY PLANNING

Sanction for the opening of two urban family planning clinics in the cities of Bombay and Nagpur was given by the Union Ministry of Health during the month of March, 1959. Grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 7,150 were also sanctioned for these centres to the Dadar Bhagini Samaj, Bombay, and Dalvi Memorial Children Hospital Committee, Nagpur.

The target was to have 600 rural and 150 urban clinics by March, 1959, and actually 539 rural and 251 urban clinics were functioning at the end of March, 1959. During March, Rs. 77,254 were sanctioned as continuation grant for such clinics.

To enable the Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital, Allahabad, to start a training centre for family welfare workers, a grant of Rs. 1,05,000 was approved by the Ministry. Also additional grants totalling Rs. 15,000 were sanctioned to Matru Sewa Sangh, Nagpur, and Andhra Mahila Sabha Nursing Home and Free Dispensary, Madras, for training of family welfare workers.

As aid to the Regional Training Centre at the Medical College, Amritsar, a continuation grant of Rs. 8,000 was sanctioned to the Family Planning Association of Punjab, Simla.

The Avvai Rural Medical Service, Gandhigram, Chinnalapatti, will be given a grant of Rs. 4,000 for family planning education programme.

The Demographic Training and Research Centre, Bombay, will get Rs. 36,670 and the Demographic Research Centre, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi, Rs. 3,000 for various research schemes.

The seventh training course at the Family Planning Training and Research Centre, Bombay, was started on February 25, 1959. Thirty-seven trainees, including 19 doctors, 7 health visitors and 11 social workers, were admitted to the course. The total number of persons trained so far during the Second Plan period is 2,310.

FAMILY PLANNING EXHIBITION

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on May 1, Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Minister of Health, said that it was proposed to put up the exhibition on family planning in various towns of the country. For this purpose, it was intended to make 14 additional sets of the exhibits. Over 80,000 persons visited the exhibition during February-March, 1959, when it was held in New Delhi. The expenditure incurred was Rs. 36,000. The exhibition was also put up in the Town Hall, Old Delhi, during the month of April, 1959.

PENSIONS FOR D Ps

The age and fee concessions admissible to the displaced persons from Pakistan and the unliberated areas of Jammu and Kashmir State have been extended up to December 31, 1960, says a New Delhi announcement dated May 9.

The age concession allows a candidate three years in excess of normal upper age limit in respect of recruitment by the Union Public Service Commission through a competitive examination. This relaxation is, however, subject to the condition that he does not avail of a larger number of chances than are allowed to a candidate under normal age limits

For appointments, not filled through competitive examinations, the maximum age limit for entry as well as for permanent absorption is relaxed up to 45 years. However, the age limits are further relaxed by 5 years both in respect of gazetted and non-gazetted posts in the Central Services as well as All India Services for displaced persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.

To help the displaced persons, the Union Public Service Commission is authorised to remit the prescribed application or examination fees where it is satisfied that the applicant is a bonafide displaced person and is not in a position to pay the fees.

EMPLOYMENT OF D.Ps. DURING MARCH

A New Delhi announcement dated May 12 states that out of 3,401 displaced persons who had registered with Employment Exchanges during March 1959, 445 secured employment. The figures for the previous month were 3,668 registrations and 408 placements. Of those placed during March, 296 were migrants from East Pakistan and 149 from West Pakistan.

At the end of March, 44,341 displaced persons were on the Live Register of Exchanges as compared with 45,095 at the end of the previous month.

Social Welfare Work in States

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 21, the Minister of Education Dr. K.L. Shrimali, said that 180 social welfare centres in 38 projects situated in 19 districts were functioning at present in Mysore State under the programmes of the Central Social Welfare Board.

The main items of work taken up by the Project Centres are Balwadis, Creches, Health Centres, Craft Training etc. Accounts in respect of these projects are maintained project-wise and it is not possible to indicate the expenditure centre-wise.

Seven employees in these Projects belong to the Scheduled Castes.

MADRAS

Replying to another question the same day, the Minister said that 7 and 6 Welfare Extension Projects were allotted to Madras State by the Central Social Welfare Board for the years 1957-58 and 1958-59 respectively.

Twelve integrated welfare extension projects are actually functioning in Madras State at present.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 16, the Minister of Education, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, said that a sum of Rs. 17,500/- was given as grants by the Central Social Welfare Board to five institutions in Jammu & Kashmir State during 1957-58 and 1958-59.

A sum of Rs. 4,500/- was given to the Welfare Society for the Blind and Disabled, Jammu (Tawi) and Kashmir Seva Sadan Society for Women, Srinagar.. Kashmir in 1957-58.

In 1958-59, Stree Udyog Karyola, of Jammu, Kashmir Seva Sadan Society for Women in Srinagar, and the Welfare Society for the Blind and Disabled of Jammu received a total of Rs. 13.000/-.

Slum Clearance In Orissa And Punjab

A New Delhi announcement dated April 22 says that during March, 1959, the Union Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply scrutinised one slum clearance project of Orissa and another of Punjab and authorized the State Governments to proceed with their implementation subject to certain modifications. The projects are estimated to cost Rs. 3.80 lakhs and involve the construction of 105 single-storey tenements for re-housing 105 slum dwellers.

Under the Orissa project, which is the second to be sponsored by the Bhubaneswar Notified Area Council, 30 single-storey tenements estimated to cost Rs. 1 lakh will be put up to re-house 30 families.

The slum clearance project formulated by the Moga Municipal Committee, Punjab, is intended to provide accommodation to 85 slum families by constructing 85 single-storey tenements.

During the financial year, 1958-59, the amounts finally released to various States totalled Rs. 100.80 lakhs as loan and Rs. 67.11 lakhs as grant against the allocation of Rs. 145 lakhs and Rs. 73 lakhs provided as loan and grant respectively under the Slum Clearance Scheme. Except Jammu and Kashmir, all States were able to utilise partly or fully their allocations during the last financial year.

Working-class Consumer Price Index Numbers

The Consumer Price Index Numbers for Working Class (base shifted to 1949=100 except where otherwise indicated) increased at 8 centres, declined at 5 and remained stationary at 3 during March 1959, says an announcement dated May 6.

According to the Labour Bureau, Government of India, the maximum rise of 4 points was recorded by the index number for Dehri-on-Sone, which stood at 105. The index number for Tinsukia appreciated by 3 points to 120; for Jamshedpur and Cuttack by 2 points each to 122 and 113 respectively, and for Berhampur, Gauhati, Kharagpur and Mercara (base 1953=100) by one point each to 114, 95, 106 and 116 respectively.

In this group of centres, the food group index numbers appreciated at all the 8 centres, the fuel and lighting group index numbers at 3 centres, the clothing group index numbers at 5 centres and the miscellaneous group index numbers at 2 centres.

FALL AT 5 CENTRES

The index number for Satna (base 1953=100) declined by 7 points to 104, for Jabalpore by 5 points to 105, for Akola and

Bhopal (base 1951=100) by 3 points each to 104 and 117 respectively, and for Silchar by one point to 105.

In this group of centres, the food group index number declined at all the 5 centres and the fuel and lighting group index number at one centre only.

STATIONARY AT 3 CENTRES

The index number for Delhi, Jharia and Ludhiana showed only fractional variations and stood at 126, 113 and 106 respectively.

The provisional index numbers for Ajmer and Plantation Centres (base January to June 1949=100) stood at 106 and 120 respectively. The provisional all-India index receded by one point to 117 during March. The final all-India Index for January, 1959, was 117.

Labour & Employment

NATIONAL WELFARE BOARD FOR SEAMEN

Speaking at the second meeting of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers at Bombay on May 4, Shri Raj Bahadur said at its inaugural meeting, the Board had decided that the first essential step towards the institution of comprehensive welfare measures, was to have specific proposals drawn up on the basis of which further action could be taken by Government. Accordingly, a Committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. Nagendra Singh, which in its turn appointed three other sub-committees namely — (i) Sub-Committee for Welfare in Ports, (ii) Sub-Committee for Social Security Scheme, (iii) Sub-Committee for Finance.

These sub-committees had to collect factual data, visit the various ports to examine witnesses and take a number of other steps before coming to conclusions with regard to the recommendations to be made by them. The reports of these sub-committees containing comprehensive, details and specific proposals had been received.

Shri Raj Bahadur said, naturally, Government would have to examine the recommendations which the meeting would be making in these proposals.

He said, besides the valuable reports on the questions of welfare in ports, social security and finance, there was a proposal for the establishment of a welfare fund with a view to pooling the available resources and providing a receptacle for future accruals. The establishment of this fund would ensure that the implementation of welfare measures was not handicapped because of paucity of financial resources.

Employees' Provident Fund

In a meeting held in New Delhi on April 30, the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund, recommended to Government, as a measure of relief, payment of a sum of Rs. 100/- to the nominee of a deceased member of the fund in addition to the actual accumulations, provided the total amount does not exceed Rs. 1,000/-.

The Board also recommended that heirs of deceased members should be paid Rs. 30/- from the Reserve and Forfeiture Account of the fund when they obtain a valid succession certificate in respect of the accumulations of the deceased.

The Board decided to recommend to Government that the Employees' Provident Fund organisation should be declared permanent. Also, members of staff in regional offices should be given Central Government scales of pay and allowances.

The Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, at present applies to 39 industries. About 25.4 lakhs of employees in 6,965 establishments get the benefit of provident fund in these industries. The provident fund contributions up to the end of January 1959 amounted to Rs. 131.20 crores.

Auto-Transport Workers Provident Fund

According to a New Delhi announcement dated May 1, the Employees' Provident Funds Act, 1952, has been made applicable to road motor transport establishments, employing 50 or more persons. with effect from April 30, 1959. Consequently, about 215 establishments in the private sector, employing 82,000 workers, are likely to get the benefit of provident fund.

Accident In Durgapur Steel Plant

Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister for Steel, Mines & Fuel, Government of India, made a statement in the Lok Sabha on May 4, in reply to a calling attention notice by Shri Hansda and others in regard to the accident in Durgapur Steel Project.

Following is the text of the statement:

"I am sorry to inform the House that on the morning of the 27th April, 1959, an unfortunate accident took place at the construction site of the Durgapur Steel Plant. According to the information received from Durgapur, the accident took place at about 7-45 A.M. last Monday.

"While some workmen of the contractor were fixing roof trusses in the heavy forging bay of the blooming mills of the plant under construction, three of the trusses under erection at the north end of the bay collapsed, resulting in the death of two workmen immediately and injury to several others. One workman died on the way to hospital and four were admitted to the project hospital in the steel township, of whom two died subsequently. Four serious injury cases were sent to Burdwan district hospital for treatment, of whom one has died. Thus the total number of deaths is six.

"All five serious injury cases were receiving treatment in Durgapur and Burdwan hospitals, of whom one has since been discharged. The others are, however, reported to be out of danger. Three of the workmen had minor injuries and were given outdoor treatment only.

"Besides the enquiries which are being conducted by ISCON, the Project authorities have appointed a committee of enquiry to go into the facts of the accident and the Committee is going into the matter.

"The report of the Committee is expected to be available in the course of this week. It appears that while three senior engineers of the contractors were supervising generally at site and were at some distance from the scene of the accident, they were not on the spot of the accident at the time the accident took place.

"I am informed that all necessary erection equipment including a mobile crane was available for the erection work but no over-head cranes were necessary for this work."

Working Of Employment Exchanges In March

Employment Exchanges helped 17,860 persons to secure jobs during March, 1959, as compared with 19,966 placements in the previous month, says an announcement dated May 7. This decrease in placements was mainly noticeable in Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Bombay, Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar.

Of those placed in employment during March, 4,412 were employed in the Central Government, 8,800 in State Governments, 2,662 in quasi-Government establishments and local bodies and the rest under other employers.

During the month, 6,876 employers utilised the services of the Exchanges as compared with 6,743 during February. The number of vacancies notified by them to the Exchanges increased from 27,885 to 33,641 in March.

The number of persons who registered with the Exchanges, however, decreased from 1,73,513 in February to 1,63,386.

The number of persons who sought employment assistance through the Exchanges at the end of March was 12,17,650. This was 7,127 more than the figure at the close of the previous month.

The States

FLOOD PROTECTION WORK IN DELHI

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on May 7, Hafiz Mohd. Ibrahim, Union Minister for Irrigation and Power, laid a statement on the Table of the House stating that an interim scheme for regrading the Najafgarh drain by removal of silt and obstructions between Kakruala bridge and downstream of Delhi-Rohtak railway bridge, had been sanctioned for Rs. 1,48,748 for completion before the next monsoon and the work had been taken up by the Central Public Works Department.

In addition, estimates for 13 schemes, recommended by the Committee for completion before the next monsoon, had been prepared by the Central Public Works Department and forwarded to the local bodies concerned for appropriate action.

The schemes and estimated costs of each were: Improvements to the drainage in Market Road, New Delhi — Rs. 28,400; Improvements to the storm water drainage of the Jorbagh area — Rs. 1,67,000; Provision of storm water relief drain for the Fire Brigade Lane — Rs. 77,200; Regrading of the Khushak Nulla in the upper reaches — Rs. 1,86,000; Improvement to interception arrangements for Krishi-Bhavan round about — Rs. 5,600; Desilting of the Khushak Nulla from Kitchener Road to R.B. 19610 (Road Bridge at Kotla Mubarakpur) — Rs. 99,900; Improvements to the drainage of the area behind the Fire Brigade Lane — Rs. 48,400; Desilting of the Khushak Nulla down-stream of R.B. 19610 and Barapula Nulla — Rs. 1,61,300; Remodelling of the Lajpatnagar Nulla — Rs. 1,47,100; Improvements to the internal drainage system in the Minto Road area (Phase I) — Rs. 18,300; Improvements to the sewerage system in the Panchquin Road — Rs. 1,30,200; and Desilting and resectioning of the Sonehripul Nulla in New Delhi Rs. 74,000.

The executive agency for the first eight schemes would be the New Delhi Municipal Committee, and for others the Delhi Municipal Corporation.

The Minister also stated that the Committee set up under the chairmanship of the Minister for Works, Housing and Supply for planning measures against floods and similar calamities in Delhi had suggested certain short-term and long-term protection measures against floods.

JUNIOR BASIC SCHOOLS IN DELHI

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on May 6, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Minister of Education said that the number of junior basic schools in Delhi at present was 235 and the number of children studying in them was about 25,000.

The Minister added that there were 848 teachers in those schools, of whom 635 were permanent. These schools, he said, were under the Delhi Municipal Corporation and necessary action to confirm more teachers was being taken by them.

Tuition Fees In Delhi Schools

In reply to a question asking the tuition fee charged in each class in private schools in Delhi and the difference between the rates of tuition fee charged in Government and private schools, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, Union Minister of Education, said in the Lok Sabha on May 4 that the tuition fee in each class in private schools in Delhi receiving grant-in- aid from Government was as follows:

Class for boys' schools	Ist grade Rs.	2nd grade Rs.
I-V	Nil	Nil
VI	4.00	2.50 nP.
VII & VIII	6.00	4.00
IX	8.00	6.00
X	9.00	7.00
XI	10.00	8.00
Class for girls' schools	Ist grade Rs.	2nd grade Rs.
I—V	Nil	NIL
VI	2.00	1.50 nP.
VII & VIII	3.00	2.25 nP.
IX	4.00	3.00
X	5.00	3.50 nP.
XI	6.00	4.00

An additional fee of 25 naye paise p.m. is chargeable from the students taking science in Middle and 50 naye paise p.m. per science subject from those in the High and Higher Secondary classes. An additional fee of Re. 1.00 is chargeable from pupils taking Music.

The fees charged by other private schools which do not receive any grant-in-aid from the Government vary from school to school. Generally the fees charged in lower classes range between Rs. 15 to Rs. 25 p.m. and in higher classes between Rs. 25 to Rs. 40 p.m.

The Minister further said that there was no difference between the rates of tuition fee charged in Government and private aided schools.

PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL BODIES

Replying to a question, the Union Minister of Education, Dr. K.L. Shrimali, said in the Rajya Sabha on April 22 that maintenance grant to Government-aided private educational institutions in Delhi was paid at the rate of 90 per cent of the difference between approved recurring expenditure and fee income.

In reply to another part of the question asking whether the Punjab Education Code applied to all educational institutions in Delhi, the Minister said that the Code as amended to suit local conditions applied to all educational institutions recognised by the Delhi Administration for purposes of grant-in-aid.

Health Of Delhi School Children

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on May 5, Dr. K.L. Shrimali said that a School Medical Service Scheme was started by the Directorate of Health Services, Delhi, on an experimental basis, with the help of the UNICEF. Due to limited staff it was applied, to begin with, to the Municipal Schools in Jama Masjid and Daryaganj areas only. This scheme was now being operated by the Delhi Municipal Corporation. So far as Government Aided High/Higher Secondary Schools were concerned, there was no such scheme, but most of the schools employed part-time medical officers for periodical check-up of the health of school children. The medical check-up, he added, included examination of teeth also.

REGULATION OF MONEY-LENDING IN TRIPURA

The Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946, has been extended to Tripura by the Central Government exercising its powers under the Union Territories (Laws) Act, 1950.

The Tripura Advisory Committee recommended the adoption of this measure at its last meeting.

The Act regulates the practice of money-lending and makes it compulsory for a money lender to take out a licence. It also limits the rates of interest and prohibits the levy of a charge on loans for expenses incurred on investigating title of property etc.

ASSENT FOR BIHAR RELIEF LOANS BILL

The Bihar Natural Calamities Loans (Amendment) Bill, 1958, has been assented to by the President, says an announcement dated May 11.

The Bill, which amends the Bihar and Orissa Natural Calamities Loans Act, 1934, seeks to provide loan to owners of buildings affected by natural calamity.

ASSENT FOR BIHAR SALES TAX BILL

According to a New Delhi announcement dated May 2, the President has given his assent to the Bihar Sales Tax Bill, 1959.

The Bill seeks to introduce in the State a composite tax system combining a general sales tax, at a low rate, on sales made by dealers with a turn-over exceeding Rs. 5,000/- and a single-point tax on sales by traders having a turn-over above Rs. 15,000.

The objective is to bring in a larger revenue by making applicable the sales tax to low-income groups and cover a larger number of dealers.

At present, there is a single-point sales tax system in the State with rates varying with the type of goods sold.

ASSENT FOR RAJASTHAN BILL

The President has given assent to Rajasthan Passengers and Goods Taxation Bill, 1959, says an announcement dated May 1.

The Bill has been sponsored by the State Government to raise additional revenues estimated at Rs. 30 lakhs, by a new tax on passengers and goods transported by motor vehicles.

Framed on the lines of Punjab's legislation on this subject, the Bill proposes the levy of tax at a rate not exceeding one eighth of the value of the fare or freight in the case of cemented, asphalted and certain other types of roads and not exceeding one twelfth of such value in other cases.

Provision has also been made for payment of tax in respect of distance covered within the State in cases where passengers or goods are carried from any place outside the State to any place within the State or vice versa.

APPLICATION OF LAWS TO W. B. AREAS

The West Bengal Transferred Territories (Assimilation of Laws) Amendment Bill, 1959, has received the assent from the President, says an announcement dated May 15.

The amending legislation empowers the Government to have the Bihar Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1954, and Chota Nagpur Rural Police Act, 1914, in the territories transferred from Bihar to West Bengal.

Therefore, an amendment has been effected in the West Bengal Transferred Territories (Assimilation of Laws) Act, 1958, which provides for bringing the territories transferred from Bihar to West Bengal under the same set of laws which are applicable to the rest of West Bengal as far as possible.

Defence

INDIA'S DESIRE FOR PEACE

Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, Defence Minister, addressing the officer students of the U.S. National War College on May 11, at the end of their three-day visit to the capital, said that whatever the provocation, India would never be drawn into a world conflict or global war.

The Minister pointed out that it was India's "effective desire" to cut down her defence expenditure in the interest of her economic development. Her Rs. 250 crore defence budget for 1959-60 was very small compared to India's territorial extent, with a land frontier of over 9,000 miles, a sea coast of 3,500 miles and the huge size of her population.

Questioned about collective security, Shri Krishna Menon said that military alliances of any character were "a direct violation of the U.N. Charter", and that there was no moral or political justification for these pacts.

The Minister declared that there was no hope of peace in the world and, what was more, no possibility of peaceful existence of smaller nations until there was co-operation and understanding between the Big Powers.

Questioned about the shooting down of the Indian Canberra by Pakistan last month, Shri Krishna Menon described this wanton and deliberate act of a neighbouring country as an "international crime". According to international law, there was no justification whatsoever to shoot down an unarmed plane in peace-time.

NAVAL OFFICERS' MEETING

Matters pertaining to the conditions of service in the Navy and all-round economy in expenditure were discussed at a meeting of Senior Naval Officers presided over by Vice-Admiral R.D. Katari, Chief of the Naval Staff, on May 5.

While discussing means for improving welfare of naval personnel, the need for expeditious building of suitable married accommodation and catering arrangements was stressed.

Finally, the imperative need for effecting fullest economy in all spheres of naval activities was emphasised at the meeting. The steady progress made so far in effecting economy in expenditure and the measures introduced in the various commands for the purpose as well as the results achieved thereby were also reviewed.

TERRITORIAL ARMY CONFERENCE

Lt.-Gen. L.P. Sen, Chief of the Genearl Staff, Army Headquarters, inaugurated a three-day conference of the Territorial Army and Lok Sahayak Sena in New Delhi on May 7.

FIVE ASHOKA CHAKRA AWARDS ANNOUNCED

An announcement made on May 2, says that the President has approved five new Ashoka Chakra decorations, one to a sailor of the Navy and the rest to personnel of the Assam Rifles, including an officer. The names of the recipients of the awards are L./Nk. Amar Singh Rana (Class II), and Lt.-Col. J.D. Nadirshaw, Leading Steward D. Switzer, Hav. Mering Ab, and Rifleman Jamkhulen Kuki (Class III).

Coaching Camps For Army Athletes

Systematic coaching of Army athletes, gymnasts and footballers has been arranged by the newly formed Army Sports Control Board, according to an announcement made on April 1. A series of coaching camps are being held at different centres with the help of foreign coaches whose services have been requisitioned under the Rajkumari sports coaching scheme.

To keep the leading footballers in condition, a camp is being organized at the Madras Engineer Group Centre, Bangalore, with the help of Mr. Varga, a Hungarian football coach, who is now in India. Approximately, 35 players from the Madras Engineer Group, Artillery, Assam Regiment and AMC Centres will be coached in this camp, which will start from April 1,1959 and last for one month.

Mr. Smolevsky, a leading Russian teacher-trainer from the Soviet Central Institute for Physical Culture, Moscow, trained 20 top Army gymnasts at the Army School of Physical Training, Poona, from February 4 to February 28, 1959.

NANDA KOT EXPEDITION

A Delhi announcement of May 12 says, news has been received that the naval mountaineering expedition, which left Delhi on April 27 to climb the 22,510-foot Nanda Kot in the North-East Pindar Glacier area of the Kumaon Himalayas, established its base camp at Narspanpati at 14000 feet on May 7.

All the seven members of the expedition party, which is led by Shri M.S. Kohli, Senior Commissioned Instructor Officer, are reported to be keeping fit.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

MAY 1 TO 15

May 1 — The Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, opens at Mokameh the bridge over the Ganga linking north and south Bihar

3 — The Prime Minister announces in New Delhi that the Government is setting up a committee to study the question of the use of funds and properties held by Hindu religious institutions

4 — The Rajya Sabha holds a two-and-half hour discussion, in which the Prime Minister participated, on the situation arising out of recent events in Tibet

6 — The Minister for Mines and Oil, Shri K.D. Malaviya, announces in the Lok Sabha that a new coal seam has been discovered in Madhya Pradesh

6 — An agreement between Messrs. Techno-Export, Moscow, and the Neyveli Lignite Corporation, for the supply of machinery, equipment and technical services for the erection and commissioning of the Neyveli Thermal Power Station based on lignite, is signed in New Delhi

7 — The Rajya Sabha passes the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Amendment Bill, as adopted earlier by the Lok Sabha

— The Lok Sabha passes an official Bill, already adopted by the Rajya Sabha, for the regulation of the profession of cost and works accountants

— In a supplementary agreement signed in New Delhi between the U.S. Technical Co-operation Mission and the Government of India, the T.C.M. makes an additional grant of approximately ten lakhs of rupees which will benefit four Institutes of Social Sciences in India

8 — The Rajya Sabha adjourns *sine die*

— The first report to the President of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities is placed before the Lok Sabha

— The Prime Minister winds up a two-and-half hour discussion in the Lok Sabha on the situation in Tibet

9 — Budget Session of the Lok Sabha concludes

— The Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, inaugurates in New Delhi the 9th session of the Akhila Bharatiya Rashtrabasha Prachar Sammelan

12 — Mr. P.Y. Antrapov, Soviet Minister for Geology and Mineral Resources, arrives in New Delhi on a week's visit to the country

— The President of the World Bank, Mr. Eugene Black, arrives in Bombay accompanied by the Vice-President of the Bank, Mr. Illif

13 — The Chief Ministers of States begin a conference in New Delhi to discuss common problems relating to technical education in the country. The conference is convened by the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs

14 — A delegation, led by the Union Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel, Shri Swaran Singh, leaves New Delhi on a goodwill visit to the Soviet Union

— Prime Minister Nehru announces at a Press Conference in New Delhi that the Government of India have decided to set up a State-owned company to distribute oil along with the major distributing companies operating in the country

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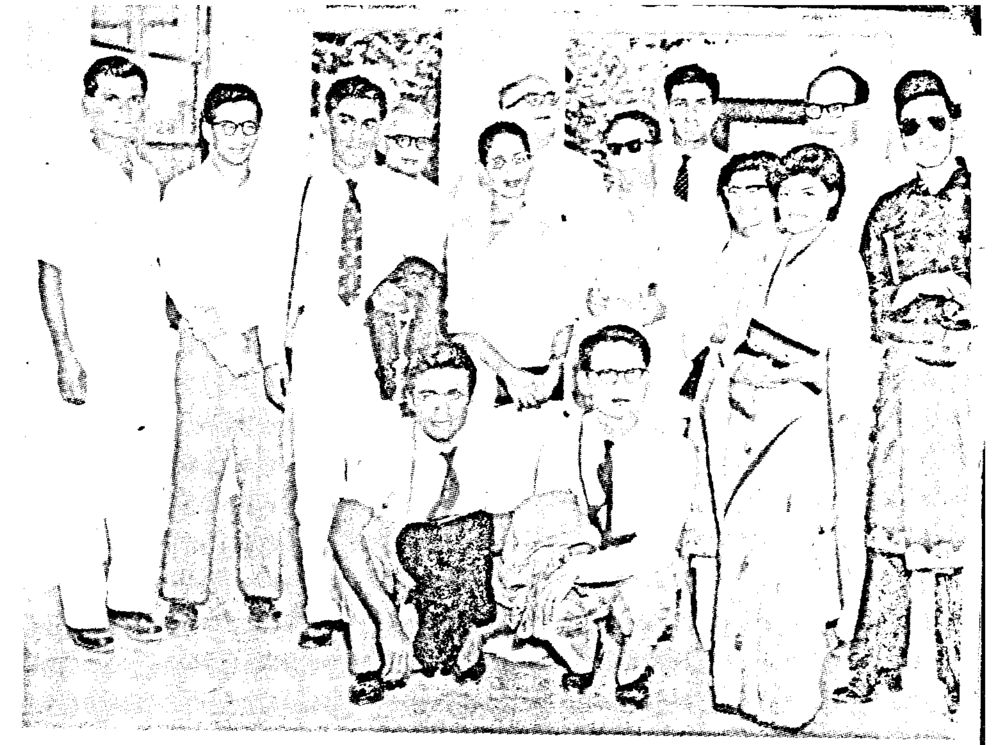
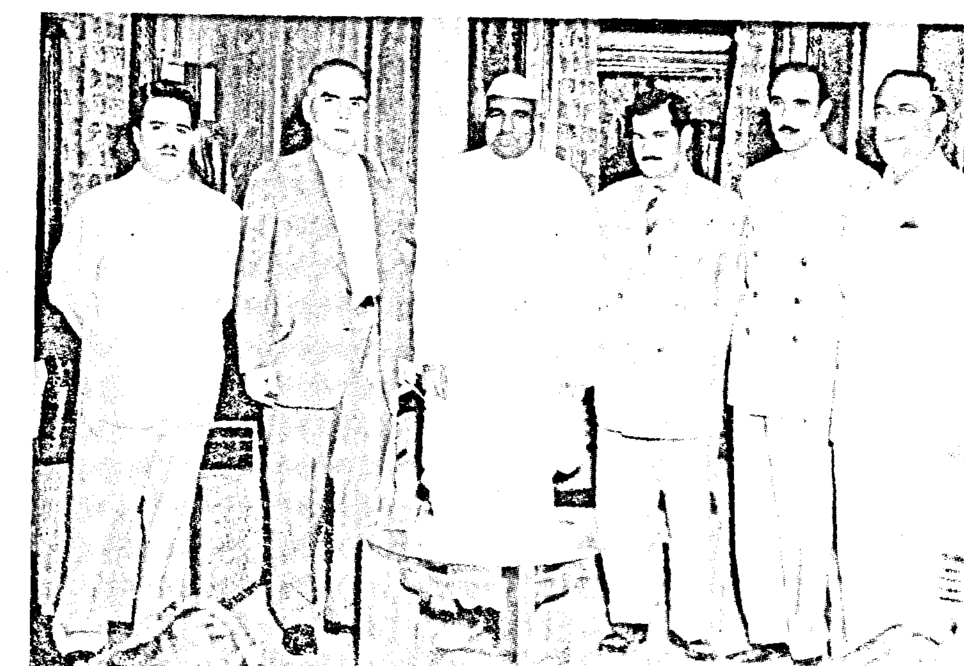
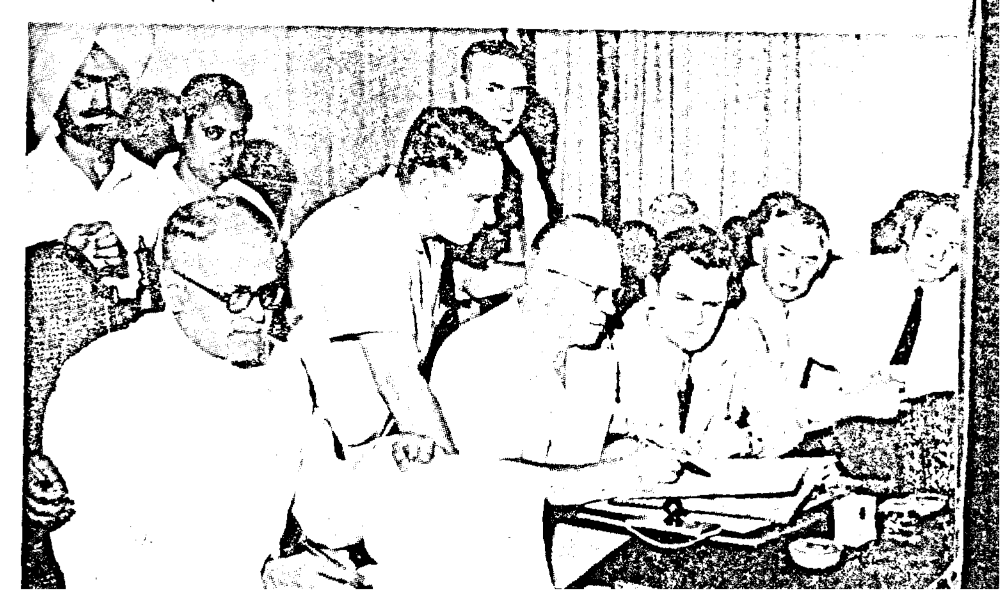


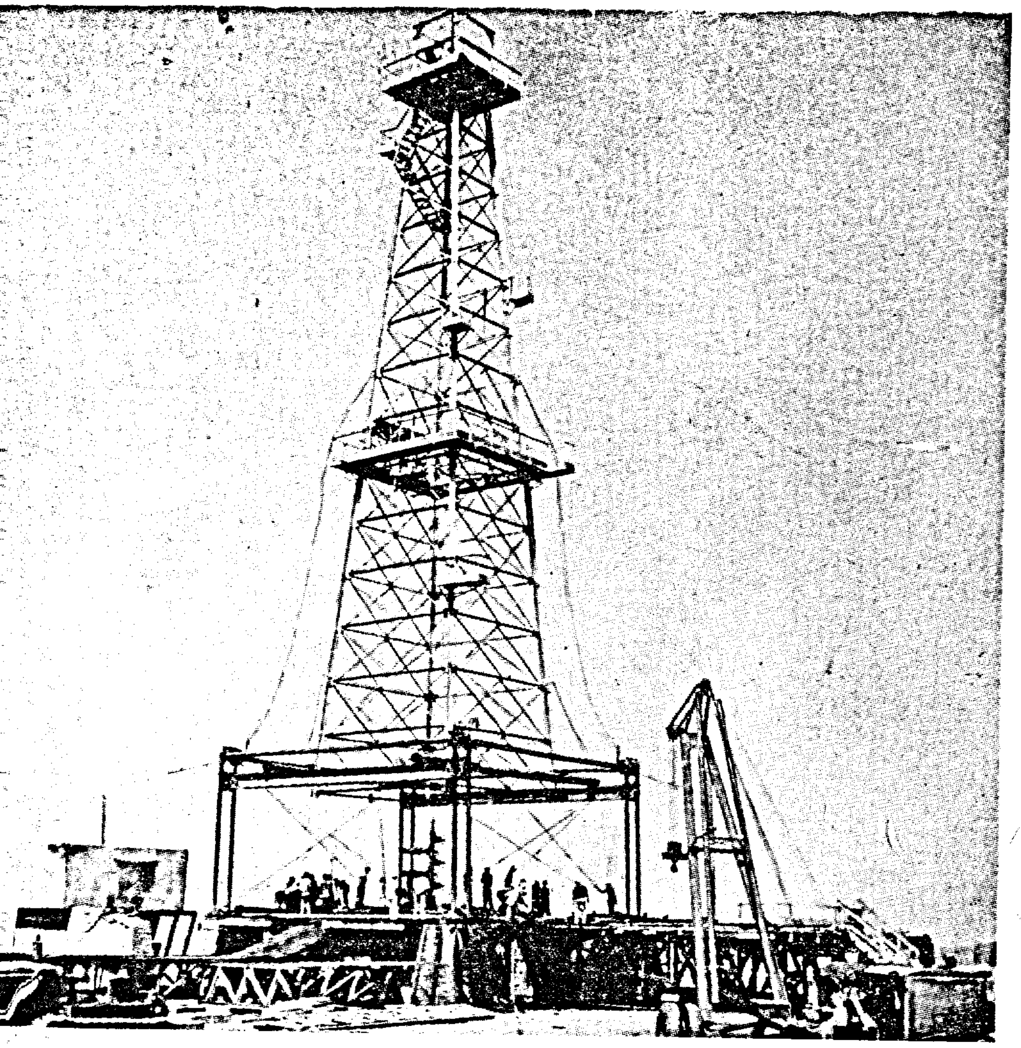
A party of students of the University of Malaya, on a visit to India, with Shri Humayun Kabir, Union Minister of Scientific Research & Cultural Affairs, in New Delhi on May 5



Members of the Iraqi Railway Delegation to study the working of the Indian Railways with Shri Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Railways, when they called on him in New Delhi on May 4



Shri N. S. Mani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Mines & Fuel, and Mr. V.A. Sergeev, Counsellor for Economic Affairs, U.S.S.R. Embassy in India, signing an agreement in New Delhi on May 6 for the supply of machinery, equipment and technical services for the Neyveli Thermal Power Station



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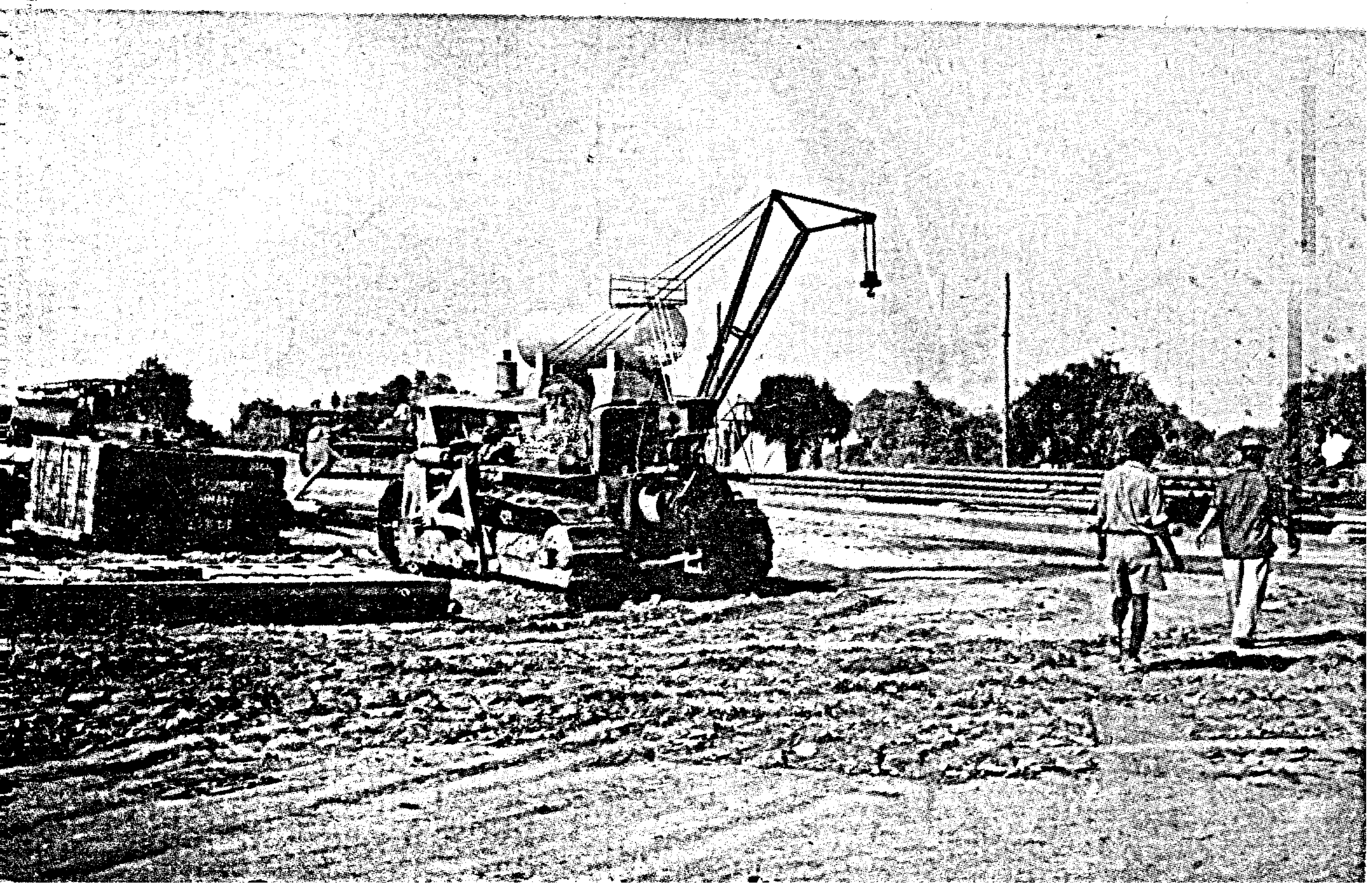
OIL AT CAMBAY

Thanks to the work of our geologists and the help they have received from foreign experts, oil has been discovered in Cambay.

A high pressure stratum of oil and gas was discovered after penetrating 1,672 metres in Well No. 1, and it is estimated that this oil band is a fairly wide one. It will, however, be after completing the drilling of a large number of holes to determine the area of the oil field that its commercial potentialities can be properly estimated.

A side view of the Derrick at the Cambay oil exploration site

A crane at work at the site of the Second Well



Indian Information

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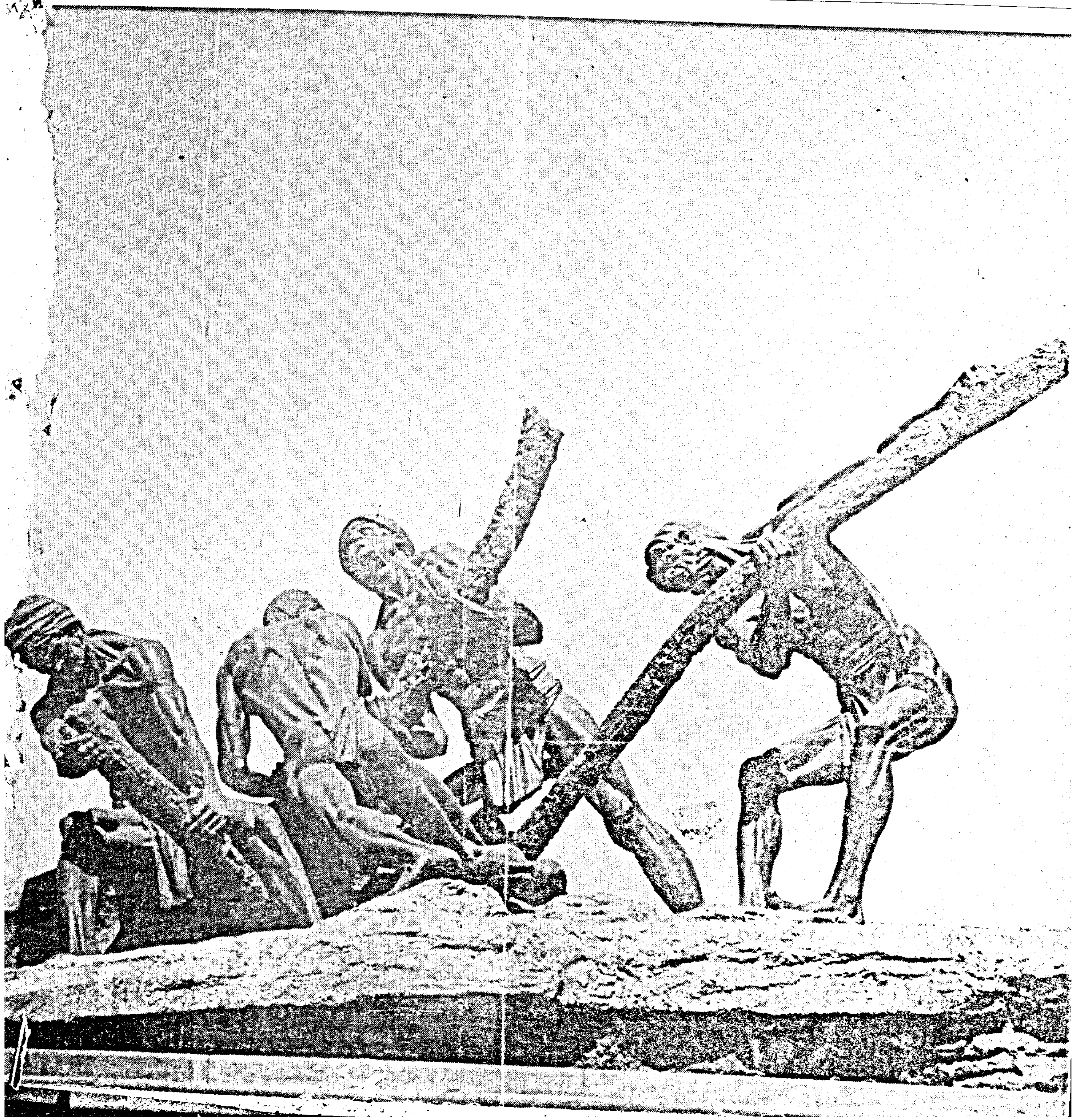
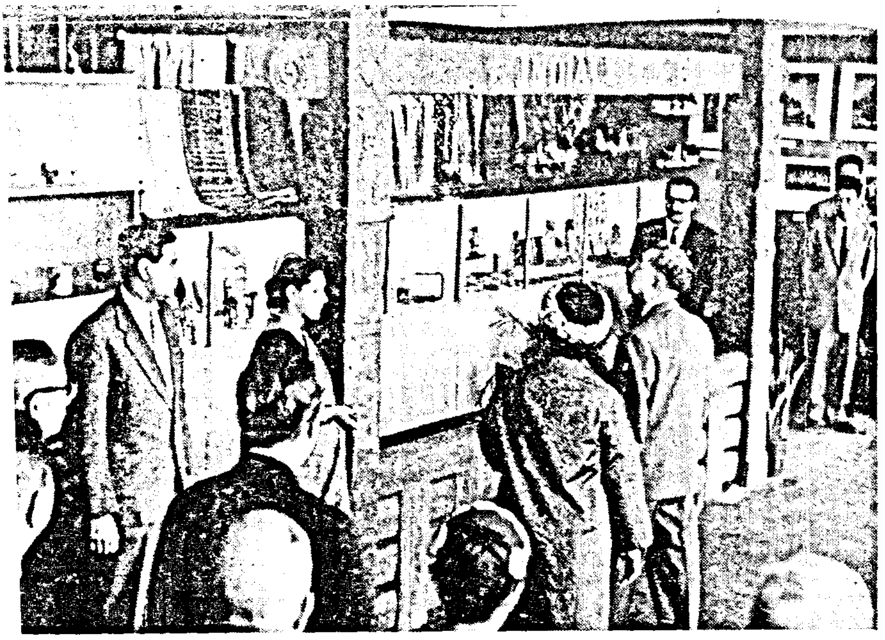
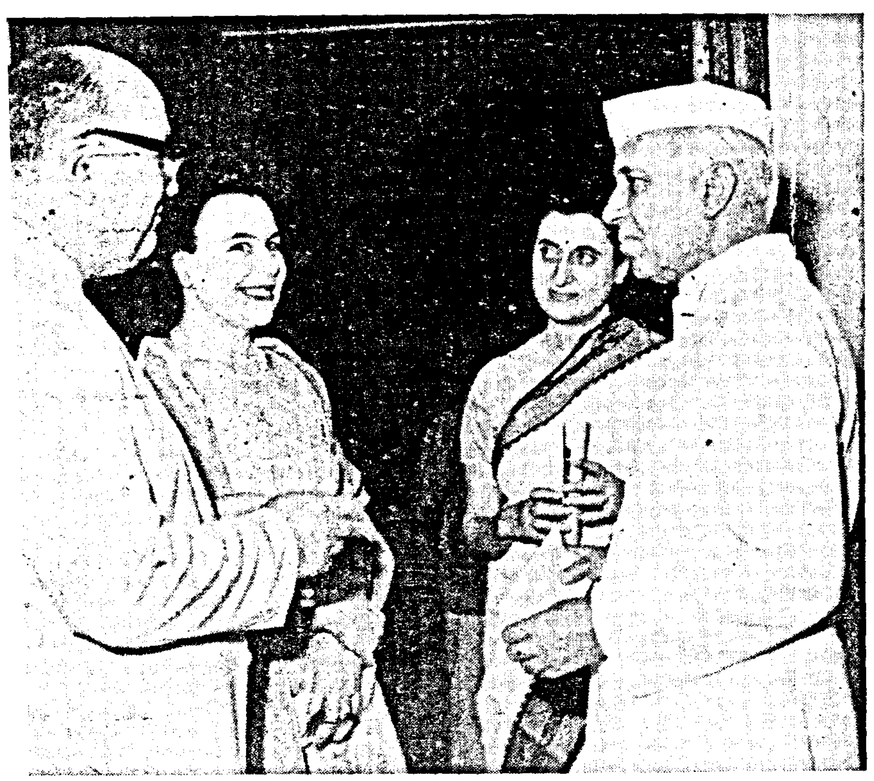




Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan inspecting the exhibits at the Indian stall in the International Trade Fair held recently at Tokyo



Mr. Andor Foldes, an eminent Hungarian-American pianist, with Shri Jawaharlal Nehru after he gave a recital arranged by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in New Delhi on May 19

The Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, inspecting a model of the proposed building of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi when he visited the Institute on May 21

Indian Information

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COVER : Photograph of the sculpture, 'Triumph of Labour' by D. P. Roy Choudhury, selected as the main motif for the special postage stamp in the denomination of 15 nP. which is being issued on the 40th Anniversary of the International Labour Organization on June 15.

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

Political & General

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC CO-OPERATION

An announcement dated May 23, says that the National Advisory Committee on Public Co-operation recently considered the report of its Sub-Committee constituted for formulating proposals for strengthening people's agencies like non-official voluntary organisations and local institutions like village panchayats and co-operatives. Shrimati Durgabhai Deshmukh was the Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee had stressed the need for strengthening voluntary organisations, since public co-operation and participation are to be the basis for formulation and implementation of national Plans of development. It suggested that all-India voluntary organisations should have national policies in regard to their work, have better co-ordination among themselves and their sister organisations, clearly demarcate the functions of planning and field work between their headquarters and field agencies and work closely with government departments regarding specific programmes of work. For assuring voluntary organisations a minimum staff structure, the Sub-Committee recommended that grants should include provisions for setting up the core of a staff structure and administrative machinery. It called for the provision of increased training facilities for the voluntary and salaried personnel of these agencies.

The Sub-Committee recommended training for co-operative workers also and stressed the importance of the co-operatives in activising latent resources and manpower. The need for simplifying co-operative laws and rules and for giving assistance to co-operatives in undertaking pilot projects in new field was also stressed. The Sub-Committee felt that the panchayats should be the prime instrument of action on behalf of the community in the villages and they should be enabled to raise enough resources for expanding their work. Training programmes for panchayat personnel were also necessary. In the opinion of the Sub-Committee, municipalities and other local self-governing institutions were really social welfare agencies which ought to be enabled to undertake greater responsibilities.

The Prime Minister, who is the Chairman of the National Advisory Committee, indicated general approval of the Sub-Committee's recommendations. He, however, emphasised that even while receiving grants from the Government, voluntary organisations should endeavour to raise as much as possible themselves. This was essential if the voluntary agencies were to preserve their independence and voluntary character.

Grants To Voluntary Organisations

The National Advisory Committee decided to recommend that to ensure continuity and better quality of work, the grants given to voluntary organisations should provide for the core of the staff structure. The grants might be divided into two parts, recurring and non-recurring. The recurring part of the grant should cover the core of the staff structure and administrative machinery. Assistance from Government might range from 50 to 75 per cent of the expenditure. There should, however, be a clear responsibility on the part of the voluntary organisation to bear at least 25% of the expenditure of any scheme. Cent per cent grants should be given only in exceptional cases or for specific programmes in which Government were interested.

It was also decided that while receiving financial assistance from the Government, the voluntary agencies should spare no efforts to raise funds themselves and use voluntary services in an organised manner.

The Committee agreed that Government should also give grants for providing training facilities to the voluntary and salaried personnel of these agencies. The training programmes should be run mainly through voluntary agencies.

More Powers To Panchayats

The National Advisory Committee recommended that the staff of the voluntary agencies might be provided the same facilities as given to Government servants in respect of housing and medical treatment.

It was also agreed that the voluntary agencies submit quarterly reports of their work to the Planning Commission.

The National Advisory Committee recommended that more powers should be given to panchayats and they must be enabled to raise enough resources to discharge the functions devolving on them. The rules and procedures relating to the functions of the panchayats might be simplified.

Earlier while inaugurating he Fourth Meeting of the Committee in New Delhi on May 18, the Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru stressed the need for "full opportunities of co-operation between different political parties in the plans of national development."

The Prime Minister emphasized that it was not enough to have this co-operation at the top level alone. "In Parliament, at the State level, co-operation should be there and we are trying to encourage that. But we want the co-operation at lower levels also." However, the Prime Minister felt, the co-operation should be secured without importing party politics at the village level. The whole approach of public co-operation, he said, had to be flexible.

The Prime Minister pointed out that there was today a ferment in the people's minds as a result of the wide-spread thinking and discussions that were going on regarding the Plan. Public co-operation was an offshoot of the Five Year Plan and a good deal of discussion on the subject had taken place and several reports had been prepared.

There was also a good deal of criticism regarding the Plan programmes. But the Prime Minister called for a practical approach and a constructive line of criticism.

After discussion, Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, Minister of Planning, who presided over the afternoon session, concluded by observing that both All-India organisations as well as regional bodies in the States could evolve and implement programmes of public co-operation, especially on the food front. It was necessary to find out from State Governments whether there were any agencies at the State Government level corresponding to the Public Co-operation Division in the Planning Commission at the Centre for co-ordinating the work of voluntary organisations. It was decided that the State Governments should be contacted for information on this point as well as for reports on the specific schemes of the various voluntary organisations for securing public co-operation. Similar information would be called for from the all-India organisations also regarding their schemes. It was decided that quarterly reports should be prepared on the basis of such data and the next meeting of the National Advisory Committee, to be convened in October or November this year, would consider these reports.

The National Advisory Committee was constitued by the Government of India in 1952 for reviewing and assessing the progress of public co-operation in relation to National Development, advising the Planning Commission from time to time regarding the progress of public co-operation in relation to the fulfilment of the Plan and making suggestions and recommendations on matters of policy and on programmes concerning public co-operation.

State Bills In 1958

Among the 167 State Bills which received the President's assent last year, the largest single group was 34, affecting land and agricultural reforms.

Of these, seventeen bills introduced or improved legislation relating to abolition of intermediaries in land, while the other half provided relief from agricultural debt, protection from eviction, vesting of proprietorship, compensation for improvements by tenants, etc.

States to sponsor such bills were: Bombay which initiated six; Rajasthan which introduced four; West Bengal which presented two, and Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Orissa, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh which voted one each.

The other subjects covering the bills were: rent control on buildings — 11; sales-tax — 10; control of essential commodities — 6, and motor vehicles — 6.

The two States which accounted for the largest number of bills receiving assent — 41 each — were Bombay and Bihar while Rajasthan came second with 22 bills. Uttar Pradesh sponsored 15 bills and Kerala and West Bengal 14 each. Punjab's bills to receive assent were 12 as against 18 in 1957, the largest number sent by a State that year.

Figures of other States were: Madhya Pradesh — 10; Madras — 9; Andhra Pradesh — 9; Mysore — 7; Orissa — 5; Assam and Bihar — 4 each.

More Settlers In Andamans

According to an announcement of May 27, another 190 families of settlers from the mainland, consisting of about 750 persons, have arrived in the Andamans, India's Island territories.

Of these, 600, who are displaced persons from East Bengal are being settled in the North Andaman Islands while the other 150, who hail from Bihar, will go to the South Andamans. Another batch of 170 families from East Bengal, Bihar and Madras is scheduled to reach the Islands in June this year.

Since the commencement of the Colonization Scheme, almost 2,500 families, about 10,000 persons, have been settled in the Islands, Before the end of the Second Plan, 4,000 families, mostly from East Bengal, would have found new lands.

Under the Colonization Scheme, each family gets 10 acres of free land, five clear and levelled for paddy cultivation and the other five bushy and hilly for cocoanut and other plantations.

Till the first crop is harvested — it may mean a year — the Government grants a subsistence allowance of Rs. 70/- per month in addition to reimbursement of passage money: Rs. 210. A loan of Rs. 1,730/- is also advanced to every family for house building and purchase of draught animals, seeds, utensils, etc.

Before selecting a place for settlement, the Administration makes a detailed survey to determine its suitability. Land is tested from agricultural viewpoint. The settlers from other colonies are brought to see it. Once approved, the land is stripped of jungle and grass cover and made habitable.

Government Servants Learn Hindi

Over half a lakh Government employees of the Union Government have learnt Hindi in the classes started by the Centre, says an announcement dated May 29. 807 such classes have been started in 54 cities. To encourage more employees to learn Hindi, Government is giving cash awards on the result of each test in the order of merit. Till December 1958, 7,297 proficiency certificates had been issued.

The scheme initiated by the Education Ministry in July 1952 and taken over by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in September 1955, is expected to cover more than three lakh employees by 1961-62. In the first quarter of the current year, the figure of employees learning Hindi stood at 17,000.

Three Courses

Employees have been offered three courses—Prabodh, Praveen and Pragya—each one lasting for nine months. The medium of instruction is English.

Prabodh, the first or elementary course, is intended for those officers who speak a South Indian language or English. Praveen, that is the second or middle course, is meant for those officers whose mother tongue is either Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Assamese or other allied languages. Pragya, which is of the standard of Matriculation, is for the officers having Punjabi, Urdu, Kashmiri, Sindhi, Pushtu or other allied language as their mother tongue.

The tests are held each year generally in February, May, August and November. They are conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Ajmer, at such centres where the Ministry conducts classes.

I.A.S. OFFICERS HOLDING SCIENCE DEGREES

Nearly one-fourth of officers in the Indian Administrative Service hold science degrees or post-graduate diplomas in technical subjects, says an announcement dated May 16.

Figures relating to May last year show that out of the total strength of approximately 1,460 officers, 373 IAS officers had science or technical degrees.

In other Class I Central Services including the I.F.S., I.A. & A.S., the number of officers with such qualifications in May 1958 was 496. In all the Class I officers numbered about 12,500.

Service-wise distribution of officers holding science or technical diplomas in May 1958 was: I.F.S. 27, Indian Audit and Accounts Service 85, Indian Railway Accounts Service 16, Indian Defence Accounts Service 21, Indian Income Tax Service 142, Central Excise Service Class I 63, Indian Postal Service 26, Military Lands and Cantonment Service 15, Indian Customs Service Class I 15 and Transportation (Traffic) of the Commercial Department of Railways 85.

Training Course For Clerks

About 8,300 candidates took the Clerks' Grade Examination for 750 posts in the Union Ministries and allied offices held in December last.

The clerks are to be given a course of training in the Central Secretariat Training School. The course has been drawn up in consultation with the Organisation and Methods Division.

The Union Public Service Commission is to hold annually an examination for the recruitment of clerks who will be absorbed in the Central Secretariat Clerical Service.

The centre-wise distribution of candidates who took the December examination was: Delhi—7,094; Allahabad—135; Bombay—123; Calcutta—76; Cuttack—3; Ludhiana—302; Madras—266; Nagpur—18; Patna—22; Shillong—6; Patiala—106; Srinagar—5; Hyderabad—68; Bangalore—60 and foreign centres—17.

PRESIDENT'S MEDAL FOR U. P. POLICE OFFICER

The President's Police and Fire Services Medal for gallantry has been awarded to the late Shri Bhullan Singh, Sub-Inspector, Civil Police, Uttar Pradesh, for displaying "great initiative, exceptional courage and devotion to duty in the performance of which he laid down his life", says an announcement dated May 22.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF ALLAHABAD

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on May 21 says that the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Raghubar Dayal, a Judge of the Allahabad High Court, to perform the duties of Chief Justice of that Court during the absence on leave of Shri Justice Orby Howell Mootham, with effect from July 11 to August 10, 1959.

Assistance To Political Sufferers

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha on February 16, Union Home Minister, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant said, nearly 800 political sufferers received financial assistance out of the Home Minister's Discretionary Grant during the period beginning March 1956.

The number getting the benefit in the States totalled 461, Mysore being the highest with 124 persons. Among the Union Territories, Delhi claimed 312 beneficiaries while the total figure stood at 346.

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

Planning & Finance

T. C. M. AID FOR INDUSTRIAL FINANCE BODIES

Two Agreements covering the allocation of Rs. 10 crores each to the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) and the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFC), out of U.S. P.L. 480 rupee funds, were signed in New Delhi on May 21, between the Government of India and the U.S. Technical Co-operation Mission. These P.L. 480 funds will help augment the resources of the two Financial Corporations and enable them to render additional assistance to private industrial sector in the country during the Second Plan period.

The new agreements bring the total U.S. Local currency assistance to India to Rs. 154 crores.

The agreements were signed by Shri N.C. Sen Gupta, Joint Secretary, Union Ministry of Finance, for the Government of India and Mr. Howard E. Houston, Director, for the Technical Co-operation Mission.

The ICICI, set up in 1955 with a paid-up capital of Rs. 5 crores held jointly by India, U.S. and U.K. companies, encourages foreign and Indian private participation in the expansion of Indian private enterprise by providing loans, purchasing equity shares and underwriting of capital funds. The ICICI has received a Rs. 7.5 crores interest-free loan from the Government of India, representing the sale proceeds of U.S. steel grants to India and a line of credit of about Rs. 5 crores ($10 million) from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The IFC, established by the Government of India in 1948, also furnishes medium and long-term credits to private Indian Industrial concerns. It is estimated that the I.F.C. will require additional funds of the order of Rs. 20 crores during the remaining part of the Second Plan period for providing financial assistance to enterprises. Half of this will be met by this P.L. 480 loan.

P.L. 480 is an Act of Congress which authorises the U.S. Government to sell agricultural commodities to friendly foreign countries and accept payment in local currencies, such as rupees. The moneys accruing from sale proceeds are then reloaned to be invested in economic development projects.

MEMBERS OF ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

According to a Press Note issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat on May 2, the following Members of the Lok Sabha have been elected to serve on the

Committee on Estimates for the period commencing from May 1, 1959 to April 30, 1960:

Dr. Sushila Nayar; Shri T.N. Viswanatha Reddy; Shri N.R. Ghosh; Shri Mathuradas Mathur; Shrimati Mafida Ahmed; Shri S.A. Matin; Shri Narendrabhai Nathwani; Shri Rajeshwar Patel; Shri Surendranath Dwivedy; Shrimati Renu Chakravartty; Shri M. Sankarapandian; Shri Jhulan Sinha; Shri Hem Barua; Shri C.R. Basappa; Shri H.C. Dasappa; H.H. Maharaja Pratap Keshari Deo; Shri D.A. Katti; Shri Bhausaheb Raosaheb Mahagaonkar; Shri M. Muthukrishnan Nair; Shri T. Nagi Reddy; Shri Vutukuru Rami Reddy; Sardar Amar Singh Saigal; Shri Dinesh Singh; Sardar Iqbal Singh; Shri Raghunath Singh; Shri Tayappa Hari Sonavane; Shri Sunder Lal; Shri A.M. Tariq; Shri M.G. Uikey.

Commerce & Industry

DEVELOPMENT OF COTTONSEED OIL INDUSTRY

According to an announcement dated May 24, the Government of India have accepted the recommendation made by the *Ad Hoc* Committee set up in October 1957, that the target of production of cottonseed oil should be 70,000 tons per year. The Committee was asked to examine the problems of the cottonseed oil industry and recommend measures for its speedy development.

The Committee has recommended a plan for the development of the industry in two stages. The first stage envisaged the production of 60,000 tons of cottonseed oil by the existing and licensed units and by establishing nine additional units each with a capacity of 12,000 tons per annum in terms of cottonseeds. Out of these nine units, the Committee has recommended, that two should be set up in Madras, two in Madhya Pradesh and four in the Punjab and one in Rajasthan. The second stage would achieve a production of 70,000 tons of oil by the setting up of five more units of similar capacity—one in Madhya Pradesh and four in the Punjab.

The Committee considered that there was full justification for increasing the foreign exchange expenditure of Rs. 1.6 crores for the immediate development of the industry. The Committee felt that special efforts might be necessary to develop cottonseed oil industry on modern lines in the Punjab. The Government have accepted these recommendations.

It has expressed the view that in order to increase production, first preference should be given to existing oil mills and vanaspati factories and new units should only be developed if existing units did not take to crushing cottonseeds expeditiously. The Committee has also recommended that while every encouragement might be given to organisation of industry on co-operative lines, existing oil-mills, vanaspati factories and new entrepreneurs should not be prevented from setting up of cottonseed oil mills on modern lines at approved locations.

Organisation On Co-operative Lines

The Government of India consider that co-operatives should receive preference in the matter of granting licences for setting up of cotton seed oil mills and that every encouragement should be given to them for this purpose. For implementing this policy, Government would specify areas or States which would be reserved for development of industry on co-operative basis. Even in areas not so reserved, licences to private entrepreneurs would be issued only when there were no prospect of a co-operative coming forward to take up cotton seed crushing within a reasonable period.

Fiscal Measures

The Committee have also suggested fiscal measures which would give necessary incentive for the crushing of cottonseed and the consumption of cottonseed oil as cooking oil and in the manufacture of vanaspati. It has recommended that the State Governments should waive the sales tax levy on cottonseed and exempt cotton seed which is fed to cattle from payment of sales tax. The State Governments should also be requested to advise local bodies to consider the abolition of octroi duty on cottonseed. The Government of India have accepted the recommendations and they would be brought to the notice of the State Governments concerned for implementation.

The Committee has recommended that the Reserve Bank should be requested to advise all scheduled banks to consider the question of advancing loans on cottonseed and cottonseed products. The Government might also advise State Finance Corporations to accord high priority to cottonseed oil industry in the scheme of assistance to private industrialists. The Government have accepted these recommendations.

It has recommended that excise duty on cottonseed oil should not be levied for another five years. The Government have not accepted this recommendation as it would not be possible to give any assurance that such duties would not be imposed within the next five years. The recommendation that the export duty of 30% advalorem on first cut linters which was abolished early in 1958 should not be reimposed for another five years has also not been accepted by the Government.

Cottonseed Cake

The Committee has recommended that production of balanced ration for cattle composed of decorticated cottonseed cake, hulls, rice bran, grain, etc. should be undertaken on a large scale and the Committee has also stressed the desirability of intensive propaganda for popularising the cottonseed cake.

It has also expressed the view that the production of undecorticated cottonseed cake need not be discouraged. Delinting of seed should, however, be done in all cases. As an animal feed stuff, undecorticated cake could replace the whole seed more readily than decorticated cake in the initial stages.

Research

Referring to problems of research, the Committee has recommended that investigation on cottonseed and cottonseed products should be co-ordinated by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Committee has stressed the need for active steps to extend the cultivation of the fuzzy variety of cottonseed in different regions of the country. The Committee has also stated that the linter industry should be organised on the basis of production of first-cut and second-cut as the latter is the most suitable raw material for high grade chemical cotton essential for the manufacture of plastics, rayon films, explosives, etc.

The Government have accepted all these recommendations and would take steps to implement them as far as possible. Wherever necessary, these recommendations would be brought to the notice of the State Governments concerned for implementation.

Export Promotion For Cotton Textiles

In an Import Trade Control Public Notice, the Government of India have announced a further modification of the export promotion scheme for textiles under which licences are issued for import of certain coal tar dyes, textile chemicals and gums against exports of cotton textiles (other than handloom cloth) and yarn, reads an announcement dated May 21.

Under the revised scheme, which comes into force from the quarter July-September, 1959, mills whose cotton textiles are exported will be eligible for import licences equal to two per cent of the f.o.b. value of exports of grey cloth or dyed or processed cloth.

Registered processors processing cloth whether in bound or duty paid will be given import licences equal to four per cent of the f.o.b. value of exports of dyed or processed cloth. Exporters will be entitled to import licences equal in value to two per cent of the f.o.b. value of exports of grey cloth or dyed or processed cloth.

Mills, whose yarn is exported will be granted import licenses equal in value to two per cent of the f.o.b. value of the exports of grey yarn. Registered processors processing yarn will be entitled to import licences equal in value to two per cent of the f.o.b. value of exports of processed yarn. Exporters will be given import licences equal in value to two per cent of the f.o.b. value of the export grey yarn or processed price.

Any party who perform more than one of the functions of manufacturing, processing and exporting will be entitled to claim licences equal to those admissible under the respective categories whether manufacturer, processor or exporter.

Cotton Imports For Exporting Mills

According to an announcement dated May 21, the Government of India have announced in an Import Trade Control Public Notice, the basis for granting licences for import of cotton by exporting mills.

Under the scheme, which comes into force from July 1, 1959, mills which export cotton cloth, yarn or both will be entitled to 66 2/3 per cent of the f.o.b. value of such exports.

Out of the raw cotton entitlement under the scheme, the eligible mills may import and retain for their own use cotton of such categories as may be specified from time to time by the Textile Commissioner equal in value to the percentages specified in the public notice.

In respect of exports of fine and super-fine cloth and yarn of counts 60s and above, the percentage will be the full value of the entitlement provided it is shown to the satisfaction of the Textile Commissioner that such exported cloth was manufactured out of the foreign cotton imported by the mill. In other cases it will be 20 per cent of the value of the entitlement.

Mofussil mills located at a distance of more than 200 but less than 400 miles from the ports of Bombay, Madras and Calcutta may import and retain for their own use 22 per cent of the value of the entitlement. In the case of other mofussil mills located at a distance of more than 400 miles, it will be 25 per cent of the value of the entitlement.

Art Silk Imports For Textile Exporters

The Government of India have set up a Committee to scrutinise pending applications for import licences for art silk yarn under the Export Promotion Scheme, says an announcement, dated May 20.

Under the scheme, which was suspended on March 6, 1959, licences for the import of art silk yarn were being issued to exporters of Indian art silk fabrics, sarees, garments, hosiery and other art silk manufactures.

The Committee, now appointed, will scrutinise applications which were submitted to the port licensing authorities up to March 6, 1959, and which were not finally disposed of. Applications in

respect of which a partial relief was given for want of ceiling or for production of further documents by the applicants or for the verification of values, etc. will also be treated as pending applications.

Government have also decided that exporters who had completed all the formalities connected with the export of the goods and had also earned the foreign exchange before March 6, 1959, and were otherwise eligible to apply for import licences under the scheme before its suspension may submit their applications for import licences to the port licensing authorities concerned before May 31, 1959.

Any applications for import licences already submitted by exporters fulfilling the above conditions to the port licensing authorities after March 6, 1959, will also be considered by the Committee.

The Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Bombay, will be the chairman of the Committee. The other members of the Committee are Shri V. Subramaniam, Deputy Textile Commissioner, Bombay, and a representative from the office of the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports of Calcutta or Madras in respect of the applications pertaining to the respective offices.

For the scrutiny of the applications by the Committee, individual applicants may be required to appear before the Committee with all necessary documents as may be called for by the Committee.

Sino-Indian Trade Agreement Extended

Letters were exchanged on May 5, between Shri K.B. Lall Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Mr. Tu Yu-yun, Counsellor for Commercial Affairs in the Embassy of People's Republic of China in New Delhi, extending till the end of 1959 the validity of the Trade Agreement between India and China concluded in 1954.

The total trade between the two countries in 1957 and 1958 amounted to Rs. 8.6 and Rs. 8.7 crores respectively. In 1957, imports amounts to Rs. 4.9 crores against exports of Rs. 3.7 crores. Imports during 1958 amounted to Rs. 5.3 crores against exports of Rs. 3.4 crores. The main items of imports from China are newsprint, chemicals, steel, cassi and raw silk. Important among the Indian exports to China are tobacco, raw cotton, shellac and jute manufactures.

EXPORT OF INDIAN HANDICRAFTS

Indian handicrafts earned foreign exchange worth Rs. 6.36 crores during 1957. This, however, does not include handloom fabrics and handprinted cloth as also those handicrafts sent by post parcels or purchased by foreign tourists.

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

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

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

For the promotion of exports of Indian handicrafts a number of steps have been taken by the Government of India. The Indian Handicrafts Development Corporation has been set up to develop production of handicrafts and to find markets abroad. A commercial information and intelligence service has been started by the All India Handicrafts Board; publications are also issued to help exporters in India and traders abroad and advice is given on designs and business methods.

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH IRAQ RATIFIED

An announcement made in New Delhi on May 18, says that letters were exchanged between the Governments of India and Iraq in Baghdad today ratifying the trade agreement between the two Governments signed on December 29, 1958. The agreement will be valid for a period of one year from today.

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

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

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

Foreign Trade Of India During March

A Press Note issued by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and statistics on May 21 says that the provisional figures of foreign trade of India by all routes, i.e. sea, air and land, on private and Government accounts during March, 1959, according to information available so far in the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, are given below:

Merchandise, excluding transit trade of Pakistan and other overland foreign countries viz. Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan: Exports Rs. 47.00 crores, re-exports Rs. 22 lakhs, imports Rs. 65.61 crores; Total trade Rs. 112.83 crores. The import figures are exclusive of the value of certain consignments of Government stores awaiting adjustment.

Treasure: Exports (including re-exports) of currency notes Rs. 57 lakhs, gold and current coins (excluding gold coins) nil. Imports of currency notes Rs. 1.00 crores, gold Rs. 4 lakhs, current coins (excluding gold coins) negligible.

Balance Of Trade: Subject to the limitation in import figures mentioned above, the total value of exports (including re-exports) of merchandise and gold fell short of imports by Rs. 18.43 crores.

Import Of Tyres And Tubes

The Government of India have decided to issue supplementary licences for import of tyres and tubes for trucks and bicycles of all sizes during the licensing period April-September 1959. This has been announced in an Import Trade Control Public Notice, says an announcement dated May 19.

The supplementary licences will be granted to established importers for a value equal to one-fifth of the face-value of the basic quota licences issued to them for the current licensing period.

Tractor And Other Tyres

An announcement of May 26, says that the Government of India have notified in an Import Trade Control Public Notice their decision to raise the quota for import of tractor and off-the-road tyres, tubes and flaps.

According to the Public Notice, the quota will be increased from 50 per cent soft and 50 per cent general to 100 per cent soft and 100 per cent general during the current half year.

Import Of Exposed Cinema Films

The Government of India have announced in an Import Trade Control Public Notice, the policy for the import of exposed cinematograph films during the licensing period April-September 1959, says an announcement dated May 23.

According to the Public Notice, exposed cinematograph films will be licensed to established importers on a quota of 10 per cent general and 10 per cent soft during the current half year.

Additional licences for the extra footage involved in importing 3-D films will be issued on application. Licences issued for exposed films will not be valid for import of films sent abroad for processing, etc. Supplementary licences will be granted to established importers under an arrangement in consultation with the Ministries concerned.

The minimum value of quota licences will, where necessary, be raised, so as to enable the established importers to import at least one feature film not exceeding 12,000 ft. in length by clubbing together their quota licences for two half-yearly licensing periods.

Applications from established importers for the import of educational films will be considered *ad hoc* on the basis of past imports of such films. The applicants are also required to produce satisfactory evidence to show that the films are educational in nature and are required for exhibition in schools and colleges and other educational institutions.

EXPORT LICENCES FOR TEA

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on May 29, 1959 says that the Government of India have decided to extend till June 30, 1959 the period of validity of special export licences issued during 1959 under the Tea Act.

Working Of Companies Act In Northern Region

Sixty Companies—3 public and 57 private—were registered under the Companies Act, 1956 in the Northern Region during the three months, January to March, 1959, says an announcement dated May 17.

In addition, one Association, which is not for making profit was registered under the Act in Uttar Pradesh. The total authorised capital of these Companies was over Rs. 2.31 crores.

The Northern Region comprises the Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

During the same period 35 Companies in the Region went into liquidation and names of 64 Companies were struck off the Register under Section 560 of the Companies Act.

In the Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, nine private Companies and one public Company were registered. Nine Companies went into liquidation. Names of two Companies were struck off the Register.

Eleven fresh prosecutions were launched by the Registrar against different Companies for defaults of Companies Act. Of the cases decided during the quarter, eight resulted in conviction and a total fine of Rs. 1,000 was imposed on the accused in there cases.

In Delhi, 36 private and two public Companies were registered. Eighteen Companies went into liquidation and names of 22 Companies were struck off the Register.

During the period under review 40 fresh prosecutions were launched by the Registrar. Of the cases decided, 82 cases resulted in conviction and a total fine of Rs. 8,380 was imposed on the accused.

In Uttar Pradesh, nine private Companies were registered. While four Companies went into liquidation, names of 17 Companies were struck off the Register.

Twenty-six fresh prosecutions were launched by the Registrar against different Companies and their directors or officers for defaults under various Sections of the Companies Act. Of the cases decided during the quarter 19 resulted in conviction and a total fine of Rs. 2,175 was imposed on the accused.

In Rajasthan during the quarter, three private Companies were registered. Four Companies went into liquidation and names of 23 Companies were struck off the Register.

Thirty-two fresh prosecutions were launched by the State Registrar against different Companies. Of the cases decided, 11 resulted in conviction and a total fine of Rs. 2,670 was imposed on the accused.

Government Aid To Steel Company

The Government of India's contribution to the expansion programme of the Indian Iron and Steel Company, which is making steady progress, is of the order of over Rs. 18 crores, says an announcement of 29th May.

A loan of Rs. 7.9 crores was interest-bearing whereas Rs. 10.18 crores were sanctioned as a special advance.

In addition to this direct assistance, the Government of India have also guaranteed two World Bank Loans secured by the Company, the first for 30.02 million dollars and the second for 20 million dollars.

The Consolidated Loan of Rs. 7.9 crores bears interest at the rate of 4¾ per cent and is repayable with interest in instalments spread over the period from December 1958 to December 1967.

The Special advance will be free of interest till 1st July 1953 or such later date as may be mutually agreed upon; it has no muturity date but the Government will decide, on the advice of the Tariff Commission, whether interest should be charged from 1st July 1958 or such later date as may be mutually agreed upon and at what rate the Company should repay the advance.

No definite date for repayment of the special advance has been fixed.

The first World Bank loan of 30.02 million dollars bears interest at the rate of 4¾ per cent and is repayable with interest in instalments spread over the period from April 1959 to October 1967; and the second loan of 20 million dollars bears interest at the rate of 5 per cent and is repayable with interest in instalments spread over the period from April 1960 to October 1967.

The Company's expansion programme envisaged raising their capacity from about 300,000 tons of finished steel to about 800,000 tons per year.

One Coke Oven Battery, one sulphuric acid plant and the erection of a new furnace have been completed. Orders for most of the plant and machinery required for the rest of the expansion scheme have been placed and shipments have started.

The programme is to be completed by the end of the year.

MANUFACTURE OF HIGH TENSILE STEEL WIRE

The Government of India have licensed several units for the manufacture of high tensile wire for various purposes including pre-stressed concrete construction, reads an announcement dated May 27.

The capacity licensed so far is about 40,000 tons. India requires about 8,000 tons of high tensile steel wire annually. The entire demand is imported.

In view of the capacity already licensed, the Government of India do not propose to manufacture the same type of wire in the three steel plants in the public sector.

The present production of high tensile structural bars and plates is about 300 to 400 tons per month. The public sector steel plants are expected to meet the demand for high tensile structurals, bars and plates in the country.

IRON ORE OUTPUT IN MARCH

The total output of iron ore during the month of March, 1959 was estimated at 609,000 metric tons as against 632,000 metric tons during the preceding month according to the Indian Bureau of Mines.

The largest output was reported from Bihar and Orissa with 268,000 and 171,000 metric tons respectively.

Among the minor producing States, Mysore, Madhya Pradesh and Bombay accounted for 80,000, 40,000 and 30,000 metric tons respectively.

During the month despatches of iron ore to Iron and Steel Plants and export markets were 471,000 and 142,000 metric tons respectively.

PRODUCTION OF COAL IN MARCH

The production of coal during March 1959 from all fields in India was 3,955,143 tons. The amount of coal despatched was 3,487,375 tons.

The comparative figures for the preceding month were

3,845,860 and 3,044,583 tons respectively.

The average daily loading for the month of April from the West Bengal and Bihar fields was 4,114 wagons as against 4,052 wagons in the month of March 1959.

The highest loading on any day during the month of April 1959, was 4,703 wagons.

The approximate tonnage shipped during April was 1,52,730 tons in 25 ships, out of which coastal shipping accounted for 89,011 tons in 15 ships, whereas foreign accounted for 63,719 tons in 10 ships.

A daily average of 203 wagons was allotted for shipment traffic during April 1959, as against 240 in March 1959.

About 87,186 tons of coal were despatched to Pakistan in April 1959. A daily average allotment of 132.10 wagons was made during the period, for export to Pakistan.

Mineral Production in 1958

According to an announcement of May 31, provisional estimates made by the Indian Bureau of Mines place the total value of mineral production (excluding petroleums and minerals prescribed under the Atomic Energy Act, 1948) in 1958 in the country at Rs. 1310 million compared with Rs. 1,273 million in 1957.

The increase of Rs. 37 million was mainly due to a higher production of coal, salt, iron ore, mica, limestone and ilmenite in the year under review.

Coal with an output of about 46.1 million metric tons was the leading commodity and was valued at Rs. 866 million.

The production of other minerals was: Copper ore 411,000 metric tons; gold 5. 288 kilograms; ilmenite 314,000 metric tons; iron ore 6 million metric tons; limestone 10.3 million metric tons; manganese ore 1.2 million metric tons; mica (crude) 31,802 metric tons; and salt 4.2 million metric tons.

The over-all position is indicated by the quantity index of mineral production which stood at 125.5 in 1958 (base 1951:100) compared with 123.6 in 1957.

Total foreign exchange earnings by the exports of ores and minerals during 1958 amounted to Rs. 460 million as against Rs. 641 million in the preceding year. The decline was mainly due to a steep fall in the exports of manganese ore, from 1,742 thousand metric tons in 1957 to 976 thousand metric tons in 1958.

The total value of metals produced during the year was Rs. 1,117 million as compared to Rs. 1,094 million in the preceding year. Production of finished steel totalled to about 1.3 million metric tons.

Output of ferro-manganese registered a tremendous increase, from 4,630 metric tons in 1957 to 44,984 metric tons in 1958.

Amongst non-ferrous metals, production of aluminium during 1958 was 8,316 metric tons; copper 7,966 metric tons; gold 5,288 kilograms; lead 3,387 metric tons; and silver 3,421 kilograms.

The total value of imports of metals amounted to Rs. 1,328 million as against Rs. 1,911 million in 1957. Imports of iron and steel materials accounted for about 70 per cent of the total value and the rest was shared by the imports of non-ferrous metals like aluminium, copper, lead, tin and zinc.

While the mineral market in 1958 was characterised by the falling prices of manganese ore arising from lack of adequate foreign demand, a significant feature of the market was the rise in the prices of non-ferrous metals.

Mineral Production After Independence

The value of mineral production has nearly doubled in the last ten years. Their value in 1957 was Rs. 1,237 million representing an increase of 19 per cent over that of 1956.

Coal, with an output of 43.5 million tons, was valued at Rs. 814 million in 1957. The production of metallic minerals was at Rs. 287 million and of non-metallic minerals at Rs. 119 million.

The building material accounted for the remaining Rs. 53 million in the total value.

The quantity index of mineral production stood at 123.6 (1951=100 being base). The index figure during the preceding year, in 1956, was 116.3.

MINERAL DEPOSITS IN KASHMIR

Large reserves of graphite in Kashmir have been traced by the Geological Survey of India, says an announcement dated May 1.

The reserves which lie in Baramula district are estimated to be 35.84 million tons up to a depth of 100 feet; workable reserves for the same depth are calculated at 14.33 million tons.

The Survey has recommended that the preliminary investigation should be extended to other deposits in the area.

The report has suggested that "After completing the preliminary work the detailed investigation including the surveying of the deposits on a larger scale should be carried out to determine the exact reserves and the demarcation of better quality bands in the deposits."

GYPSUM

Vast reserves of gypsum in Kashmir State have been traced by the Geological Survey of India, according to a New Delhi announcement of May 22.

The reserves, which contain 91.75 per cent of gypsum, lie in the hill ranges traversed by numerous nalas on the northern side of Jhelum river in the Baramula district.

The deposits can yield gross reserves of 25.51 million tons for a depth of 100 ft. and a workable reserve of 15.31 million tons for the same depth.

At present the gypsum deposits of Kashmir do not find any major use in the State and only a few tons are excavated for purposes of white washing and other minor local uses, from a quarry half a mile north of Buniyar. The mineral is worked out by open quarrying process and transported to the nearest town of Baramula on mules.

The Geological Survey of India has recommended that the present investigations should be continued westward beyond the Islamabad Nala in the area. They have also recommended detailed investigation of the deposits along with the graphite deposits in the area.

SOAPSTONE DEPOSITS IN BIHAR STATE

A New Delhi announcement made on May 25 says that the survey of the talc-magnesite rock of Pathar Pahar, in Singhbhum district of Bihar, has established the existence of over 6 million tons of the material to the depth of 50 feet. The talc-magnesite rock forms a small narrow exposure, 1800 feet long by 500 feet wide on the top of Pathar Pahar.

Communications

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR OF RAILWAYS

The annual report of the Chief Government Inspector of Railways in the Ministry of Transport and Communications says the number of passenger train accidents on Indian Railways into which statutory enquiries were held by the Government Inspectors of Railways was eighteen in 1957-58, as against sixteen in the preceding year.

Formal enquiries are held into every passenger train accident involving loss of human life or serious injury to any passenger, or an estimated damage to railway property of Rs. 20,000 or more. A Government Inspector may, however, hold an inquiry into any accident if, in his opinion, the contingent circumstances are such as to render such an inquiry desirable.

Causes Of Accidents

The total number of accidents of various types, including minor accidents, on the Indian Railways, as reported by the Railway Administrations, was 15,397 in 1957-58 as against 13,987 in the previous year. Out of a total number of 4,027 train accidents under main categories, an analysis was made of the causes of 2,747 accidents about which information had been furnished by the Railway Administrations by September 30,1958, and this showed that 1,082 accidents were due to failure of human element, 1,228 to technical defects and the remaining 437 to various miscellaneous causes.

Of the eighteen accidents formally investigated by the Government Inspectors, twelve were cases of collisions between railway trains; one was a case of side-collision of a passenger train with a road vehicle, and three of derailments. Of the remaining two accidents, one was caused by the felling of a tree which fouled the running line while the other one was caused by fire which broke out in a compartment of a mail train. Eleven out of thirteen collisions are ascribed in the report to failure on the part of the railway staff and one to the fouling of railway track by a road vehicle. In one case the cause of the accident has not been given in the report as the case is sub-judice in a court of law. Of the three cases of derailment, two are attributed to failure or defective condition of fittings/parts of locomotives or rolling stock and one to train wrecking. Eighty-three persons were killed and 569 injured in these 18 accidents.

Opening Of New Lines

As a part of their duty to inspect Railways prior to their opening for the public carriage of passengers, the Government Inspectors of Railways authorised, during the year under review, the opening of 103.52 miles of new railway lines and 40.09 miles of lines laid to double the track.

The Government Inspectors of Railways are responsible for the annual routine inspection of all Company-managed railways. So far as the Government Railways are concerned, the General Managers are responsible for such inspections but it is open to the Government Inspectors of Railways to inspect or visit any railway or a section of a railway to keep themselves posted with the latest developments in the working of railways. During the year under review, the Government Inspectors inspected in full 14 Company railways and also accompanied the Railways officials during the General Managers' annual inspections of Government Railway, over a route mileage of 5,757.

New Type Of Rolling Stock

On the recommendations of the Inspectors, the Railway Board sanctioned the running of four new classes of locomotives and six new types of rolling stock.

During the period under review, Government Inspectors gave sanctions for the opening of a number of new crossing stations, conversion of flag stations to crossing stations, remodelling of station yards and other such works connected with increasing the line capacity to cope with increased railway traffic. Similarly, a large number of works connected with the installation of new bridges, signals, interlocking installations, etc., and for improving the existing strength and standards of track and bridges were also sanctioned. The total number of such sanctions given was 2,648.

Safe Carriage For Oversize Goods

The Railways, the report adds, had to carry an increasing number of various new types of machinery and oversize consignments from ports to inland stations, specially in connection with Five-Year Plan projects, and many of these infringed the prescribed maximum dimensions of goods for carriage by wagons. Detailed instruction for the safe carriage of such consignments were scrutinised and their carriage by railways sanctioned, the total number of such sanctions being 475.

Railway Act Amended

A Bill passed by Parliament during its last session to amend the Railway Act has received the assent of the President and became law with effect from May 2, 1959. The Railway Board has issued instructions to Railway Administrations throughout the country asking them to take suitable consequential action immediately.

Under the amended Act, for persons obstructing railway servants in the discharge of their duties, the punishment has been increased to imprisonment up to six months or fine up to Rs. 500/-, or both.

The railway authorities have now power to arrest without warrant persons indulging in offences relating to alarm chain pulling and to travel without a proper ticket or pass with intention to defraud.

Penalty for unauthorised alarm chain pulling has been raised from a fine of Rs. 50 to imprisonment up to three months or a fine of Rs. 250 or both. The offence has been made cognizable.

In the case of habitual ticketless travellers courts have been given the power to ask an offender to execute a bond for good behaviour, with or without sureties.

The unauthorised occupation of a berth or a seat reserved for another has been made punishable, with powers to the railway administrations to remove the unauthorised passenger from the reserved compartment, seat or berth.

The amended Act prescribes a fine up to Rs. 250 for unauthorised hawking or sale of any article whatsoever on railway premises.

Replacement Of Railway Level Crossings

All State Governments have been requested to indicate to the Railway Board their requirements of road over-bridges and under-bridges during the remaining two years of the second Plan and also during the third Plan period says an announcement dated May 19. The State Governments have also been requested to indicate the relative priorities of these bridges.

Normally, the railways consider the provision of a road over-bridge or under-bridge only on receipt of a specific request from the State Government concerned. The Government of India recently advised the State Governments that all schemes relating to over and under-bridges in replacement of level crossings should form part of the State Plans, and that after obtaining the prior approval of the Planning Commission the road authorities' share of the cost may be met from the loans which State Governments receive from the Centre for their development schemes. The cost of these bridges can also be met by the State Governments now from the proceeds of the tax on railway passenger fares, which accrue to State Governments.

The State Governments have accordingly been requested to draw up the necessary proposals and provide funds in their Plans, so that railway administrations can prepare co-ordinated programme for the whole country.

A.I.R. TO TRAIN RAILWAY ANNOUNCERS

Announcers of the Indian railways are to be trained at the Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi stations of All India Radio, says an announcement dated May 17.

The railways employ announcers at all major stations to make announcements relating to train arrivals and departures. They also make announcements calculated to develop civic consciousness amongst passengers. The object of the training is to ensure that these announcements are really effective.

General Managers of all the Zonal Railways have been asked by the Railway Board to contact the A.I.R. authorities for starting the training of railway announcers early.

WORLD BANK TEAM'S VISIT CONCLUDES

The two-member team deputed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to study railway projects in India, met the Railway Board on May 29 at the conclusion of their fortnight's tour of the country, says an announcement of the same date. Earlier they met the General Manager and senior officers of the Northern Railway. During their fortnight's tour of the country, they visited the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, the Integral Coach Factory, a number of other railway projects and the Bhilai and Rourkela steel projects.

Advisory Body For Sail Vessels Industry

According to an announcement of May 24, the Government of India have constituted a Central Advisory Committee for the Sailing Vessels industry. The Committee will deal with all-India matters relating to the industry and advise Government on the steps to be taken for the future development of the industry, the construction of improved types of vessels on scientific lines and on the improvement of port and repair facilities where possible with special regard to the needs of sailing vessels and help in the evolution of a uniform system of trade practices, customs and usages to be observed throughout the country by those connected with the industry.

The Committee will also advise Government on the rules to be framed under the provisions relating to sailing vessels in the Indian Merchant Shipping Act and on laying down the principles for the grant of financial assistance for the mechanisation of sailing vessels. It will suggest measures for the education and training of tindels and seamen under sail and for the welfare of seafarers under sail. Other functions of the Committee include giving of advice on ways of checking anti-social activities in the trade promotion of sailing vessels traffic to make the trade run on equitable lines and on other allied matters pertaining to the industry.

The Chairman of the Central Advisory Committee will be the Director General of Shipping.

Four Regional Advisory Committees are also to be set up.

India-Italy Radio-Photo Service

A direct radio-photo service between India and Italy was inaugurated on May 24, by Shri S.K. Patil, Union Minister for Transport and Communications. India already has direct radio-telephone and radio-telegraph services to Italy, both of which were opened in February last year.

With the inauguration of the new service, India now has 11 direct radiophoto, 24 radio-telegraph and 24 radio-telephone services to 27 countries. Telecommunication services to the rest of the world are available indirectly through the international net-works of foreign associates.

The rate for commercial radio photo-telegrams from India to Italy will be Rs. 120.0 for the first 150 sq. cms. or fraction thereof and Rs. 60.0 for each additional 100 sq. cms. or fraction thereof. The maximum size of a single picture will be 25×22 cms. i.e. 550 sq. cms. Larger pictures will be accepted for transmission in sections.

Food & Agriculture

STATE TRADING IN FOODGRAINS

A New Delhi announcement of May 18 says that in a letter to the State Governments on the scheme of State Trading in foodgrains, the Union Government through the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, have expressed the hope that the States "will take necessary action to implement the scheme." They have been told that if any State Government wished to vary the scheme in any significant way, "the Government of India should be consulted, as the main objectives of the scheme can be fulfilled only by ensuring a fairly uniform approach to the problem throughout the country."

Referring to the interim scheme of State Trading and its ultimate pattern, the Government of India say that efforts should be directed towards a "speedy realization of the ultimate pattern" and that State Governments should make every effort "to organize and develop co-operatives which can increasingly handle the marketed surplus of foodgrains". They have been asked to send quarterly reports to the Government of India indicating the number of societies at the different levels organized for this purpose and the nature and quantities of foodgrains dealt with by them.

Quality Standards Of Foodgrains

While every effort should be made to develop co-operatives and to channel the marketed surplus through them, it is essential, the Government of India point out, that there should be adequate safeguards for ensuring proper quality standards of foodgrains with reference to the prices fixed. "The question of rationalizing the standards and specifications of foodgrains with a view to introducing progressively proper grading of foodgrains has been taken up by the Government of India," they say.

Explaining the implications of the interim scheme, the Government of India state that "it is designed to provide an orderly transition from the existing channels of distribution or throwing excessive burden on the administrative machinery of the Central and State Governments."

The first step in the interim scheme is to license the wholesale trade including the processing industries. "If properly implemented, one of the advantages of the licensing system would be to eliminate speculators who, without being genuine dealers, suddenly enter the market and manipulate the prices."

The Government of India have suggested that constant watch should be kept so that no one actually functions as a wholesaler without obtaining a license.

Safeguards Against Contraventions

The Government of India emphasize that the licensing of traders is only a means to an end and that legitimate business should have nothing to fear from it. Efforts, however, be made "to make it impossible for any licensee to influence the market by withholding stocks or by contravening the control orders regarding prices and movements of foodgrains." For this purpose not only should the licensees be required to furnish regular returns of the stocks but a periodical check should be exercised over their stocks and accounts with reference to the returns." It is desirable that deterrent action should be taken when a mal-practice is detected. In appropriate cases the licence may be cancelled making it impossible for such a person to be in business or prosecution launched for breach of the conditions of the licence or of any statutory orders.

Referring to the provision in the interim scheme that Government could take over a portion of the stocks from the licensees for distribution through fair price shops at reasonable prices, the Government of India say that "the objective should be to acquire sufficient stocks so that the Government may, by selling foodgrains through fair price shops, make it difficult for the licensed wholesalers even in respect of the stocks left with them, and for the retailers who may buy from licensed dealers, to charge higher prices."

Statutory Control Of Wholesale Prices

Another essential feature of the interim scheme is the statutory control of wholesale prices in every State and throughout the country. Emphasizing that "it is imperative that the controlled prices should be enforced by all possible means," the Government of India point out that prices in surplus and deficit districts should be fixed in such a manner that "the flow of foodgrains from surplus to deficit areas within a zone is not impeded." Except in one or two States, the wholesale prices of rice/paddy have been declared as controlled prices, but since the main object of State trading is to ensure stability of prices throughout the country, particularly in deficit areas where prices tend to go up more than in the surplus areas, "it is essential that wholesale prices should be declared in the entire areas comprised within each State". Where existing price control orders do not cover the entire State, the Government of India have asked for suggestions regarding fixation of controlled prices in the uncovered areas to enable them to issue necessary orders.

Purchase Machinery

Referring next to the objective of State Trading to ensure a fair price also for the producer, the Government of India consider that, besides laying down a minimum controlled price for the producer, it is also essential that the "State Governments should have a suitable machinery for purchasing direct from the producer at the fixed price" if he is unable to sell his produce at that price to a trader. This has already been attempted with success in some States and the Government of India have recommended its adoption in all other States where it had not been adopted so far. They also state that though the State trading scheme at present envisages State trading only in rice and wheat, there is no objection "to a State Government's buying some quantity of any other grain which may be of special importance to that State".

Full-Scale State Trading

The Government of India draw attention to the provision in the interim scheme of State trading for experimentation on full scale State trading in selected areas if a State Government consider it practicable and desirable. There are two views on the subject: one, that if full-scale State Trading is undertaken rationing is unavoidable and the other that even though Government acquire the entire marketed surplus it should be possible to distribute it without having recourse to rationing. While pointing out that it is difficult to generalize on a subject like this, as conditions differ from place to place, the Government of India state that "if any State Government feels that it is possible to undertake such an experiment in any area within that State, a detailed scheme may be drawn up and forwarded to the Government of India for consideration."

WHEAT CONTROL ORDER AMENDED

An announcement of May 28 says that according to a Government of India Notification issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, wheat products — *maida, rawa* and *suji* — can now be moved without restriction from any of the northern wheat zones to the southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Madras and Mysore. The export of these commodities is also permitted from Madhya Pradesh and Bombay to Rajasthan. The Notification amends the Inter-Zonal Wheat Control Order of 1957.

Increased availability of indigenous wheat in the northern zones has led to the removal of restrictions on the movement of wheat products to the South, in order that the southern States' requirements may be met.

The reason for permitting the export of *maida, suji* and *rawa* from Bombay and Madhya Pradesh to Rajasthan is that the production of these products in Rajasthan itself is too small to meet the local demand.

PRODUCTION OF JOWAR

An announcement of May 21 says that the 1958-59 production of jowar, which is next in importance to rice and wheat as a food crop, was 8,689,000 tons as against 8,246,000 tons in 1957-58. This shows an increase of 443,000 tons or 5.4 per cent.

The current year's area under jowar also shows an increase as compared with last year. In 1958-59 the area was 42,608,000 acres as against 42,203,000 acres in 1957-58.

The per acre yield in 1958-59 works out to 457 lbs. as against 438 lbs. in 1957-58 — an increase of over 4 per cent.

According to the All-India final Estimate of Jowar for 1958-59, issued by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the increase in production was shared mainly by Bombay, Andhra Pradesh and U.P. The intensive Rabi Campaign is reported to have contributed to a substantial rise in production, particularly in Bombay.

The States mainly responsible for the higher acreage were Bombay, U.P., Mysore and Rajasthan.

Seeds For Green Manure Plant

Results, of far-reaching practical importance in the development of green manure resources for helping in increased food production, have been obtained as a rseult of experiments conducted at the Agricultural Farms at Patna, Bikramganj and Sabour, in Bihar, says an announcement of May 31.

Green manuring has been advocated by the agricultural authorities all over India, but the progress in its adoption has been retarded by the lack of seeds. The Bihar experiments were organised to find out the optimum spacing of the *dhaincha* plant in planting along the borders of the fields for production of seeds in paddy lands. In all the three stations it was found that plants grown one foot apart yielded the maximum amount of seeds. It was found that each acre field bund could produce nearly 2½ maunds of seeds, sufficient for green manuring eight acres in the next season. Even one ounce of seeds will produce sufficient plants to cover the bunds of an acre even with only one-foot spacing between plants.

Agricultural University For U. P.

Uttar Pradesh will have an agricultural university on the pattern of the U.S. Land Grant College, following an agreement signed in New Delhi between the Government of India and the U.S. Technical Co-operation Mission, says an announcement of May 28.

The agreement provides for Rs. 20.14 lakhs ($424 000) of technical assistance for the development and operation of the University which will be located at the Terai State farm, Rudrapur. Of this, Rs. 14.28 lakhs ($300,000) will be used for procuring books and scientific equipment from outside India and the remaining Rs. 5.86 lakhs ($124,000) for securing the services of American specialists and consulting and for training in the U.S.A. of two Indian teachers.

This agreement supplements the T.C.M. Technological Assistance of about Rs. 8.5 lakhs ($147,000) provided last year, when this project was initiated. Total T.C.M. assistance for agricultural education and research so far has slightly exceeded Rs. 3.5 crores ($7 500,000).

RELEASE OF SUGAR FOR SALE

A Press Note issued by the Directorate of Sugar and Vanaspati on May 23 says that the Government of India have released 1,90,000 tons of sugar for sale. This quantity is appreciably higher than that released last month.

In the case of sugar factories situated in U.P., North Bihar and the Punjab, sales are to be effected at prices not higher than the ex-factory price fixed by the Government of India on December 22, 1958.

Working Group On Co-op Farming

Government of India have decided to set up a Working Group to make definite recommendations on ways and means for efficient development of co-operative farming in the country, says an announcement dated May 21.

Although co-operative farming has figured both in the First and Second Five Year Plans, there still exists a considerable vagueness and confusion about its details. Following the acceptance of joint co-operative farming on a voluntary basis as the ultimate agrarian pattern in India, the Working Group will help the Government in the formulation of an action programme based on available experiences.

The Group will have a prominent person in public life as its Chairman. The membership will include a representative each of the Reserve Bank of India, the Planning Commission, the Department of Community Development and the Department of Co-operation in the Centre, a Development Commissioner and a State Registrar of Co-operative Societies. Amongst non-officials in the Group will be one M.P., and a person connected with co-operative farming.

The Group will visit different parts of the country to study successful experiences as also the problems encountered in the field. It will review the work done, methods adopted and techniques evolved in co-operative farming.

It will make specific suggestions particularly with regard to types and methods of organisation, and financial as well as administrative requirements for a country-wide programme.

In order to facilitate the study of the Working Group, the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation are asking the State Governments to collect and keep ready well in advance information and data relating to the existing co-operative farming societies.

Central Board Of Forestry Meets

The Central Board of Forestry met at Pachmarhi on May 14 under the chairmanship of Dr. Deshmukh, Union Minister for Agriculture. It comprises Forest Ministers of States, Secretary, Union Ministry of Agriculture, Inspector-General of Forests and State Chief Conservators of Forests. The conference at Pachmarhi was the Board's fifth meeting.

The Board proposed an outlay of Rs. 116.9 crores on forestry schemes in the Third-Five Year Plan. Farm forestry, defined as the practice of forestry in all its aspects on farm and village lands, was marked to get 50 crores of this amount. In this connection, the Board felt that it was essential to obtain the willing co-operation of the people in the largest possible measure for the successful implementation of the scheme and that this could be achieved with the aid of community development personnel.

Other major items in the proposed forestry plan are: economic plantations and extension forestry accounting together for 18.25 crores; Working Plans or schemes of management and rehabilitation of degraded forests, Rs. 13 crores; nature conservation (new nomenclature for wild life), Rs. 3 crores including a specified provision for the Delhi Zoo; forest communications, Rs. 7 crores; forest protection, Rs. 3 crores; and forest research, Rs. 2 crores.

Among the resolutions passed by the Board was one that called for acceleration of expenditure on forestry schemes in the current Five-Year Plan. It suggested that State Governments should make every effort to utilise the amounts available during the last year of the plan.

A number of resolutions mainly of a technical nature were also adopted. The Board also recommended that a survey of teak-bearing areas not properly surveyed so far should be undertaken.

As the dry zone forms an important part of the country as a whole in relation to forestry schemes, the Board felt the necessity to organise and conduct fundamental and applied research on various aspects of dry zone afforestation.

It also urged that farm forestry should be encouraged in the dry zone areas in order to improve degraded waste lands and that poor forests should receive particular attention by way of protection from fire and grazing. Farm forestry should be integrated with the activities of the community development blocks and should form an important item of rural development.

A resolution stressed the importance of setting up of regional research centres as adjuncts to the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun. The Board called for the early setting up of a centre at Gauhati for the north-eastern region and suggested that other centres should be opened during the Third Plan at suitable places within the States of Madhya Pradesh and Bombay. It also urged that steps should be taken to evolve procedure under which such schemes could be aided by the Union Government.

River Projects & Power

DESILTING IRRIGATION TANKS IN MYSORE

The Team on Minor Irrigation Works, set up by the Committee on Plan Projects, Government of India, in its Report has suggested a desilting-cum-reclamation scheme which can step up the cultivable area in Mysore by one lakh acres and which will also be self-financing. Shri N.V. Gadgil is the leader of the team.

There are, in Mysore, over 35,000 tanks, of varying sizes.

Restoring the original capacity of the tanks creates difficulties today, because it involves bringing more land under submergence and thus a wastage of cultivable land to that extent. Desilting by itself is a very expensive operation costing about Rs. 1,500 per acre per foot depth.

After a very detailed study, the Team has come to the conclusion that the most feasible solution is desilting of tanks.

The Government of Mysore has agreed to take up the project on an experimental basis during the present working season and the next. The Team has also recommended that public participation in the maintenance of tanks should be ensured through the Community Development programme and funds should be collected and spent by the panchayats. A survey party should be appointed to survey all areas having shallow subsoil water and prepare a scheme for economic, expeditious and effective utilisation of subsoil water for lift irrigation, preferably with the use of electricity. Wells can be constructed within the boundaries of the tanks for utilising the subsoil water available near the ground for irrigating dry-farmed lands. Schemes envisaging the intensification of lift irrigation in the West Coast districts of Mysore should be implemented soon so that benefits may accrue at an early date. In areas where water is not adequate for paddy, production of non-paddy food crops or other suitable cash crops by irrigation should be encouraged. The Team has also recommended that irrigation and agriculture should be dealt with under one Ministry to develop an integrated approach towards the effective utilisation of irrigation potential. Irrigation engineers should also possess basic knowledge in agriculture, especially in relation to the water requirements of crops and frequency and depth of irrigation as affected by soil, texture and crops.

D.V.C. POWER SYSTEM

The Panchet power station of the Damodar Valley Corporation will be commissioned in August, 1959. Having an installed capacity of 40,000 kw., the power house will increase the total generating capacity of the D.V.C. power system to 254,000 kw. Work is also in progress for installation of another generating unit at Bokaro with a capacity of 75,000 kw.

In addition, a power station at Durgapur, with a capacity of 150,000 kw., and another at Chandrapura of 125,000 kw. — the latter for meeting the needs of railway electrification — are in hand. These additions would futher increase the capacity of the D.V.C. network to 604,000 kw.

Present Output And Distribution

At present, three DVC power stations are functioning — a thermal station at Bokaro and two hydel stations, one each at Tilaiya and Maithon.

The installed capacity of the thermal station is 150,000 kw., and of Tilaiya and Maithon 4,000 kw. and 60,000 kw. respectively.

The bulk of the power being produced by these thermal and hydel stations, averaging over 148,000 kw., is being used for industrial purposes, and annual revenue derived from sales of power amounts Rs. 450 lakhs.

Among the industries which receive DVC power are the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Kunti, the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Jamshedpur, the Hindustan Cables, Durgapur Steel Project, the Associated Cement Company, Sindri Fertilizers, and the Indian Copper Corporation, Ghatsila.

The DVC power is also supplied to the Bihar and West Bengal State Electricity Boards and the Eastern Railway.

Some power is consumed by the DVC construction units as well.

Community Development

SEMINAR ON TRIBAL PROJECTS

Dr. Zakir Hussain, Governor of Bihar, inaugurated at Ranchi on May 18, the first seminar of field workers in multi-purpose tribal projects of the Eastern Region.

Organised by the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, the Seminar was presided over by Shri Bhola Paswan, Minister for Welfare, Bihar. In addition to workers of the tribal projects in Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Manipur and Tripura, the three day seminar was being attended by a few non-officials including M.P.s; M.L.As, and representatives of voluntary organisations like the Adimjati Seva Sangh.

The Regional Seminar set up three working groups to discuss measures for ensuring development of tribal people preserving, at the same time, their traditions and culture.

The first group, which met under the Chairmanship of Dr. Verrier Elwin, emphasised the need for a survey of conditions obtaining in multi-purpose tribal blocks. Regular scientific studies of those conditions by trained personnel and research institutes were also necessary. The working group recommended that in formulating schemes for the welfare of the tribal people, representatives of tribals should be associated both with planning and implementation of programmes.

Steps needed for development of tribal economy were discussed by another working group under the chairmanship of Shri L.N. Shrikant, Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The group felt that provision of adequate agricultural loan, setting up of co-operative purchase and sales societies, and the conversion of grain golas into grain banks would facilitate economic development of tribal areas.

Development of animal husbandry, distribution of sheep, goats, pigs and poultry birds among the tribal people were also recommended.

The third group, which was presided over by Dr. B.H. Mehta, Head of the Department of Tribal Welfare, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, dealt with the question of social services for the tribal people. The group felt that in all tribal welfare programmes, social development should be regarded as a comprehensive concept implying regional environmental development, economic progress, social organisation, and cultural uplift.

In the field of health, the care of women and children and control of communicable diseases were particularly stressed upon by this working group.

Education & Culture

RECOMMENDATIONS OF LIBRARIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee for Libraries submitted its report to the Government of India recently, says an announcement dated June 1. In the Report the Committee has among other things recommended free library service to every citizen, establishment of an independent Directorate of Social Education and Libraries in every State, a 25-year library plan at the Central and State levels and a cess of 6 nP in a rupee of property tax to meet the expenses of a free service.

The Advisory Committee for libraries was set up by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Shri K.P. Sinha, the late Director of Public Instruction, Bihar, to inquire into the present needs of the people in the field of reading and to recommend a future library structure for the country. The Committee was formed in pursuance of a recommendation made by the Seminar on "the role of libraries in social education" held in September-October, 1955.

The Report gives interesting details of the history of the development of libraries in India, the role of the libraries at various levels, present position of library service in India, training for librarianship and the second Plan targets for the development of libraries.

The Report points out that by the end of the Second Five Year Plan the entire country would be covered with a network of Central, State and District libraries. It discloses that at the end of March 1954, the country had nearly 32,000 libraries most of them small, stagnating pools of books. Between them they had a book-stock of a little over 71 lakh volumes with an annual use of about 377 lakh books. The country spent less than half a crore of rupees on this service.

The Advisory Committee, however, points out that the phrase 'public libraries' is used in a very loose sense in India. Most of the so-called public libraries are only subscription libraries. Strictly speaking, the number of free public libraries in India are not many.

New Library Pattern

The Advisory Committee, in its report, says that the library pattern in the country should consist of a National library, State central libraries, district libraries, block libraries and panchayat libraries. It further recommends that it would be desirable to have an independent Directorate of Social Education and Libraries in every State. Wherever on account of any special local circumstances this is not possible, the State Government should have at least a whole-time senior class I officer of the rank of Deputy Director of Education.

The Committee expresses the opinion that every Panchyat should have a library. The management of such libraries should vest in the Panchayat or village committees. Over the Panchayat libraries there should be Block libraries. The District libraries will form the pivot of library service in a State. Then, every State should have a State library consisting of two wings — the State Central Library and the State Lending Library. At the all-India level, there should be a National Central Library and three national book deposit centres. These centres should be run by the Government of India under the National Central Library.

There should, the Report continues, be an all-India Library Advisory Council under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Education to review and assess the work done by the State library committees, to collect and publish description and statistical report on working of libraries in the State, to lay down minimum standards of library education in the country and to lay down minimum standards of library service for various sectors.

Children's Wings

An interesting recommendation made by the Advisory Committee is that libraries in big cities as well as district libraries should have 'children wings' attached to them.

Pleading for co-operation between the different types of libraries, the Advisory Committee says that the public libraries should co-operate with school libraries, college libraries, departmental and research libraries, university libraries and even with the subscription libraries which are ultimately to be absorbed in the public library system. School libraries, it says, are of great and strategic importance to the public library system.

25-Year Plan

The Advisory Committee says that the Government of India and State Governments should have a 25-year library Plan to raise the library structure from its present embryonic dimensions to a size which will do justice to the cultural and educational needs of the people.

In order to fulfil this task, the Committee has suggested that Government should levy a cess of 6 nP on a rupee of property tax in all places with permission for the local bodies to raise the cess. The Government of India, it adds, should contribute to the library funds of a State an amount equal to the cess collected in that State.

To begin with, State Governments should give grants equal to the cess collected and gradually in the course of the next 25 years raise their contribution to three times the cess collected.

The library system in each State, according to the Report, should function as follows:

The cess collected in an urban area by a municipality or corporation will constitute the library fund of the municipality or corporation. Similarly, the cess collected in the area within the block will constitute the block library fund. The Central and State Governments will each add an amount equal to the cess collected either in cash or in the form of provision of staff or both. This contribution will be placed at the disposal of the District libraries to be administered and spent for the benefit of the entire district.

In this connection, the Advisory Committee has recommended that the State Governments should enact a comprehensive State Library Law.

Morale Of Librarians

The Committee feels that certain practices which adversely affect the morale of librarians should be abolished. One of such practices is the demand to furnish security from a librarian and to penalise him for loss of books. Such practices, it says, are iniquitous and unheard of in the library practice of any advanced country in the world. The Committee is of opinion that librarians should not be transferred too frequently. Their minimum qualification should be graduation with diploma in librarianship, and their conditions of service should correspond to the conditions of service of educational personnel in the States.

Correlation Technique In Basic Education

Shri Shriman Narayan, Member, Planning Commission inaugurated a four-week Workshop-cum-Refresher Course on Technique of Correlation in Basic Education in New Delhi on May 19. Shri K.G. Saiyidain, Secretary, Union Ministry of Education, presided over the function.

The course was organised by the National Institute of Basic Education as part of their training programme for functional leaders in the field of Basic Education. Thirty-eight representatives from all the States attended this course.

Shri Shriman Narayan, said that the aim should be to prove that the Basic Education system was not only materially but also intellectually superior to other systems of education.

Shri Shriman Narayan expressed the view that the technique of correlation had become the heart and soul of Basic Education. He, however, advised workers in the field of Basic Education to bear three things in mind in this connection. In the first place, correlation had to be related to three things, viz., craft, physical environment and social environment. It was a mistake to connect correlation with craft alone. He pointed out that Gandhiji and other leaders who conceived the idea of Basic Education never meant that all knowledge should be correlated with craft only.

Secondly, although every attempt should be made to correlate education with these three things, there should be no forced correlation where one could not be established. Any attempt at artificial correlation, he said, would convert Basic Education into a dead routine.

Thirdly, he felt that it was necessary to work out schemes of Basic Education both for the rural and urban areas. This was necessary in order to allay the apprehensions in the mind of the villagers that Basic Education was meant only for them.

Shri Shriman Narayan further observed that it was not correct to say that it was difficult to adopt the technique of correlation. In fact, if rightly understood, it could become a natural process of teaching.

PROGRESS OF BASIC EDUCATION

During the period 1949-56 the total number of Basic Schools rose from 32,182 to 47,813. In 1955-56, there were 4,842 senior Basic and the rest 42,971 junior Basic or Basic primary schools. During the session 1955-56 there were 50,60,207 pupils (39,36,954 boys and 11,23,253 girls) on rolls in the senior Basic and junior Basic schools of the country. Of these 37,30,459 pupils were enrolled in junior Basic/Basic primary schools and the rest in senior Basic schools.

The number of Basic teachers' training colleges and training schools has been constantly increasing. According to the information gathered upto August-September 1956, it rose up to 666 (33 post-graduate training colleges and 633 training schools, including those institutions which impart teachers' training for both traditional as well as Basic education).

If the targets for expansion of Basic education in the Second Plan are fully achieved, the Basic schools will form no more than 20 per cent of the total number of elementary schools (three lakhs) in the country. The handicaps are lack of adequate funds and the necessary trained teachers in sufficient numbers. It has thus been found necessary that side by side with the programme of complete conversion of the non-Basic schools in selected areas there should be evolved an orientation programme introducing a minimum Basic pattern in the non-Basic schools. This orientation programme will cover about 80 per cent of the existing primary schools as well as the additional primary schools started as part of the drive for universal compulsory education in India.

The National Seminar on the orientation of Elementary Schools towards the Basic Pattern, held recently, accepted 1960-61 (end of Second Plan period) as the target date for the orientation of elementary schools except in a few States where because of certain special circumstances this might be extended to 1961-62.

LITERATURE ON BASIC EDUCATION

The Union Ministry of Education has set up a "Basic Education Literature Committee" to advise the Ministry on the production of suitable literature and material on Basic education. The Secretary, Union Ministry of Education, will be the Chairman of the Committee.

Recommendations Of Rural Education Body

According to an announcement dated May 22, a change in the pattern of rural education, to ensure that the farmers' requirements figure in it prominently, has been strongly advocated by the Committee on Rural Education.

Appointed by the Union Ministry of Education, the Committee was asked to study the working of the four classes of educational and training institutions, namely, the Janata Colleges, the Rural Institutes, the Manjari (Agricultural) Schools and the Basic Agricultural Schools.

The terms of reference included an examination of the objectives, a broad indication of the syllabus and suggestions for improvement in the institutions with a view to avoiding duplication as well as preventing surplus of output.

The Committee recognised that the main purpose of various classes of institutions under examination should be education of rural people for a better and fuller life as well as the training of workers for service to the village folk. It, therefore, studied the working of the institutions in the light of the new pattern of rural development through the nation-wide programme of Community Development and National Extension Service.

The Community Development Programme aims at economic development, social change and democratic growth by inculcating in the rural people progressive outlook, the spirit of self-reliance and co-operative functioning and building up peoples' organisations. The success of the programme entails education or training of villagers with a view to improving them in their own vocation, training of extension personnel to do specific jobs, and promotion of local leadership through education. The general pattern of rural education, according to the Committee, should be designed to conform to these objectives and requirements.

Agricultural Education

Pointing out that agriculture is likely to remain the biggest avenue of employment for the rural people for many years to come, the Committee underlined the vital importance of agricultural education for the villagers.

Educated farmers, it maintained will lend powerful support to the Extension agency, solve the food problem by ensuring rapid progress in the field of agricultural production, arrest the present drift of talent from rural to urban areas and revitalise the village life.

The syllabus, the standard of teaching and other facilities for the agricultural course at Multi-purpose Higher Secondary Schools should be designed to make the agriculturists' sons progressive farmers, train a variety of Agricultural Extension workers and enable persons to carry on research in agriculture. With another year's education in agriculture, the student undergoing this course should be able to reach the diploma level.

The Committee recommended same status and importance for the Post-Basic Schools as the Multi-purpose Higher Secondary Schools.

A Progressive Outlook

The education given in the Higher Secondary School and the Post-Basic Schools located in rural areas should provide the village youth, in addition to a sound knowledge in agriculture, the necessary academic attainment, a progressive outlook, acquaintance with and understanding of rural conditions and problems. The Committee suggests that as early as possible all appointments at the village level in posts such as that of Gram Sevak, Gram Sevika, Karamchari, Talati, Patwari, Secretary of the Village Co-operatives and Panchayats, Fieldman, Demonstrator for forms, etc., should be made from amongst students with the above educational equipment.

Similar posts under local authorities and non-official voluntary agencies working in the field of rural development could also be earmarked for them.

Until that stage is reached, Matriculates who do the two-year course in the integrated basic agricultural school-cum-extension Training Centres, but are not absorbed as Gram Sevaks, should be given preference for such employment.

Since the Gram Sevak will require greater knowledge in agriculture, the Basic Agricultural School should provide students completing the agriculture course in Higher Secondary and Post-Basic Schools another year of intensive education in agriculture. This should be followed by six months' orientation training in extension.

A student successfully completing this course in a Basic Agriculture School should be eligible for joining an Agricultural College and completing the Graduate course in three years.

He should be regarded as a diploma holder in agriculture and should be given preference for recruitment to several posts in Agriculture Departments and also other posts at the village level.

No restriction on admission to one-year course of Basic Agricultural Schools to match with the demand for Gram Sevaks seems necessary.

The Committee sees many advantages in keeping the Basic Agriculture School and the Extension Training Centres separate. It strongly urges a reconsideration of the decisions for their integration. It says a change in the name to call them just Agriculture Schools is also desirable.

The Manjari Schools, in the opinion of the Committee, should be ultimately converted either to the post-basic or to the Multi-purpose Higher Secondary pattern or to the Agricultural Schools.

For the benefit of non-Matriculates and those who cannot carry on education upto the Higher Secondary Schools, they might continue for the present on the existing lines.

To a limited extent, they may produce candidates for appointment as *talaties* but not Gram Sevaks.

The Committee did not favour the two-year Certificate Course in Agricultural Science in Rural Institutes. Those institutes should be conceived primarily as education institutions and not as vocational training institutes. The three-year Diploma Course for rural service is recommended as their principal course.

The Committee is also against these institutes taking up Extension Schemes to render service directly to the rural people. This main service to the development programme, should be to produce suitably educated and orientated persons for the Extension Service.

Rural Institutes, the Committee felt, must logically lead to the idea of rural university. It, however, cautioned against any artificially fast pace being set for developing them into such universities.

A course in rural engineering, combining civil and public health engineering with a little of mechanical and electrical knowledge thrown in, could be advantageously introduced in these institutes. The attempt should be to produce multi-purpose engineers who understand properly the rural problems.

The Committee observed that the rural institutes cannot be developed on the lines of Land Grant Colleges of the U.S.A. Although there should be intimate relationship between the Rural Institute and the Extension Agency of the Development Blocks, there should be no attempt at collaboration in terms of sharing of executive responsibility concerning the programme of the Block.

The syllabus suggested by the Committee for these Institutes includes five 'core' subjects and six others for specialisation.

Janata Colleges

The Committee was critical of the Janata Colleges. In its opinion, hardly any one of them was fulfilling much useful purpose. They have assumed the character of formal institutions and failed to attract the already usefully employed adult villagers who are the potential leaders. Besides, they are too expensive to be multiplied on a large scale.

The right approach to the problem of adult education, the Committee says, will be to operate more through Community Development Programme than to set up Janata Colleges of the existing pattern.

The best use that the Committee can suggest to make of the existing Janata Colleges is training of village school teachers for the development programme.

Promotion of the idea of the village school as the Community Centre is considered by the Committee as the most important line of future development. For this, a permanent system of proper training for the village school teacher should be evolved.

Hobby Workshops In Universities

According to an announcement of May 27, the University Grants Commission has accepted proposals for the establishment of hobby workshops in universities and colleges. The normal hobby workshop is expected to provide facilities for carpentry and wood-turning, smithy and metal workshops, assembling of electronic and electrical appliances, photography and clay modelling and papier-mache.

The scheme is being tried in the first instance in 10 universities viz., Aligarh, Baroda, Calcutta, Poona, Delhi, Madras, Nagpur, Saugar, Venkateswara and Viswa-Bharati. As regards colleges, about 100 of them may be selected to begin with and the scheme started on the same lines as in the universities, but on a smaller scale.

The Commission has agreed to give financial assistance to the universities to the extent of Rs. 5,000/- recurring per year for staff required for setting up hobby workshops. Besides, financial assistance amounting to Rs. 25,000 non-recurring for equipment and another Rs. 25,000 non-recurring for building would also be given. Any scheme involving more than this expenditure would be financed by the universities themselves.

In case of the colleges, the Commission has approved the payment of staff required for running the workshops. Two non-recurring grants of Rs. 10,000/- each for meeting expenses under 'building' and 'equipment' have also been approved. The Commission has also agreed that recurring grants may be paid in these cases for a period of five years from the commencement of the scheme.

DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES RECOGNISED

Recognition of degrees and diplomas of certain National Institutions has been extended for another two years, that is, up to September 17, 1961, for purposes of employment with the Union Government, says an announcement of May 28.

The names of the institutions and degrees or diplomas are: (equivalent degrees or diplomas given in brackets) Gurukul Vishwa Vidyalaya, (formerly known as university Kangri) (a) Alankar (B.A.), (b) Vidyadhikari (Matric); Gurukul Vishwa Vidyalaya, (formerly known as university), Vrindaban Adhikari (Matric); and Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, (a) Jamia Senior (Inter Arts or pass in 1st year examination of three year degree course), (b) Jamia Sanadi (B.A.), (c) Sanad-e-Muallimi-formerly known as Teachers' Training after graduation-(B.Ed or B.T.).

OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME

The Government of India have decided to continue during 1959-60 the Union Territories Overseas Scholarships Scheme for higher studies/research abroad for persons who by birth or domicile are resident of the Union Territories. Five Scholarships will be awarded of which four will be in the field of science, technology, medicine or fine arts and one in the field of Humanities. This is according to a New Delhi announcement dated May 23.

ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNIQUE FELLOWSHIPS

The Indian Institute of Public Administration is implementing from this year its Fellowships Programme whereby two to four University teachers will be attached to Government departments for three to six months for the study and observation of administrative techniques and practices, says an announcement of May 27.

Similarly, two to four Government officers will be provided facilities for periods ranging between three to six months.

Already, the Institute has sponsored some University teachers for study abroad of administrative techniques and administration. Three Government officers from States have also been selected for an advance study of Organisation and Methods techniques.

Grants For Cultural Activities Abroad

The Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs sanctioned grants amounting to several thousand rupees, during the quarter January-March 1959, for the promotion of cultural activities abroad, says an announcement dated May 30.

At the request of the Ramakrishna Mission, Colombo, a capital grant of Rs. 75,000 has been sanctioned to them as financial assistance for the construction and purchase of equipment for a Cultural Centre at Colombo. The grant would be placed at the disposal of the Indian High Commission at Colombo who will make necessary payment to the Mission.

Another grant of Rs. 6,666 has been sanctioned to the Ramakrishna Mission Vedanta Centre, London, for its cultural activities during 1959-60.

A sum of Rs. 10,000 has been sanctioned as subsidy for purchasing and assisting Nepali literary publications during 1958-59.

An annual grant of Rs. 8,000 to the Indian Association of Cairo has been sanctioned while a sum of Rs. 3,000 has been given as grant-in-aid to the Indian Hospice, Jerusalem, for the year 1957-58.

Other grants sanctioned during the quarter include an annual grant of £975 to the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, during 1958-59 and a sum of Rs. 1,000 to the Indian League, Australia, to enable it to continue its activities towards closer cultural relations between the two countries.

Trust For Translation Of Classics

A Joint 'Unesco-India Trust Fund' with contributions both from the Government of India and the Unesco has been created for publishing translations of classics under the Unesco's Major Project scheme to foster mutual appreciation of the Cultural values of the Orient and the Occident says an announcement dated May 28.

India has so far contributed a sum of Rs. 75,000/- to this Fund in five yearly instalments of Rs. 15,000/- each commencing from the year 1953-54. The Unesco has also been contributing a similar amount and has so far paid a sum of $13,253 (Rs. 65,000) from its own budget towards this Fund.

Out of this Fund, so far Rs. 97,000/- approximately have been utilised and a further sum of Rs. 43,000/- is expected to be spent during this year.

The Fund is operated by the Unesco.

Of the 51 Indian Classics covered under this Project, the Unesco has so far initiated action on the translation of 36 classics. Five of them are to be translated into English and French both and the remaining into either language. Of these, five classics have since been published, four in French and one in English.

Board For Sanskrit Development

The Government of India have decided to set up a Central Sanskrit Board to advise them on matters of policy pertaining to the propagation and development of Sanskrit in the country, says an announcement dated May 18. The Board, which will be an advisory body, will consist of nine members including the Chairman.

The other functions of the Board will be to advise the Government (a) regarding patterns of Sanskrit education at different levels, co-ordination of courses, teaching and similar activities, standardisation of syllabuses, examinations and degrees, qualifications of different types of teachers and their training arrangements; (b) regarding methods to be adopted for the improvement and development of the Pathshala system of education and privately organised research institutes; (c) on the question of adding research departments to higher Pathshalas and awarding Research Scholarships and stipends to the students of Pathshalas; (d) on the methods to be adopted for the preparation and publication of improved Sanskrit text-books; and (e) regarding the State Honours and Awards for Pandits and to recommend names of eminent Sanskrit scholars for such Honours and Awards.

The Board will have power to set up such sub-committees as it may deem necessary for the proper discharge of its functions.

The Sanskrit Commission, set up by the Government of India in October 1956, in its Report had strongly recommended the setting up of a Central Sanskrit Board. There is a provision of Rs. 5 lakhs in the Second Five-Year Plan for implementing some of the important recommendations of the Commission.

FIRST COPYRIGHT OF SANSKRIT WORK

The first Sanskrit work to be registered by the Copyright Office is a published work entitled "Samkhya Vedanta Prasadeeya Bhashya Muktaphalam (Poorva Bhagaha)" by Shri Ragni Venkatachallapati Prasada Cheyunulu of Vijayawada, says an announcement dated May 27.

Co-ordinating Body For Youth Welfare

The Union Ministry of Education have set up a nine-member Co-ordination Committee with Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, Member of Parliament, as the Chairman, to examine the question of co-ordination and integra-

tion of different schemes and programmes in the field of Physical Education, Recreation and Youth Welfare, says an announcement dated May 28.

The other Members of the Committee are: Shri Mahavir Tyagi, M.P.; Shri Asoka Mehta, M.P.; Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, M.P.; Shri P.N. Kirpal, Joint Secretary, to the Government of India, Ministry of Education, New Delhi; Shri H.C. Sarin, I.C.S., Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi; Shri A.A.A. Fyzee, Vice-Chancellor, Jammu and Kashmir University, Srinagar; Shri G.D. Sondhi, Sabathu (Simla Hills); and Shri P.M. Joseph ,Principal, Lakshmibai College of Physical Education, Gwalior (M.P.).

The terms of reference of the Committee will be as follows:

(a) to evaluate the respective merits and to define the role of various schemes for Physical Education, Recreation, Character-building and Discipline, operating in educational institutions;

(b) to recommend measures for the proper coordination of approved schemes in order to avoid duplication and wastage of resources;

(c) to examine ways and means of developing the most useful schemes and activities for the promotion of Physical Education, Recreation, Character-building and Discipline among students.

The following activities and organisations will come *inter alia* within the purview of the Committee viz., Scouting and Guiding, N.C.C. and A.C.C, National Discipline Scheme and other Character-building Schemes, Physical Education and Recreation, Promotion of Youth Welfare activities such as Youth Festivals, Youth Tours, Youth Hostels, Leadership and Dramatic Camps, Youth Welfare Boards and Committees.

The Government of India have been considering for some time the question of co-ordination and integration of the various schemes and programmes in the field of Physical Education, Recreation and Youth Welfare. It has been felt for a long time that some of these activities are overlapping and that some are not quite useful as others.

The Estimates Committee of Parliament as well as the Central Advisory Board of Physical Education and Recreation had also recommended that the Government should set up a Committee to evaluate and co-ordinate these various schemes and programmes.

SUMMER SCHOOL IN ADVANCED PHYSICS

India's first Summer School in Advanced Physics was inaugurated by Shri Humayun Kabir, Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, at Mussoorie on May 22, 1959. The four-week school has been organised by the Union Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

POOL OF TECHNICAL PERSONNEL

A Press Note issued on May 26 by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research says that the Council has established a Pool for temporary placement of well-qualified Indian scientists, technologists, engineers and medical personnel who return from abroad until they are absorbed in suitable posts on a more or less permanent basis. Persons with Indian qualifications who have outstanding academic records were also eligible for appointment to the Pool.

Prize For Indian Documentary

According to an announcement dated May 29, "Call of the Mountains", the documentary film produced by the Films Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, has been awarded the prize "Targa Del Centro Sporting Italiano".

This documentary, which had been recently awarded an all-India Certificate of Merit, in the National Film Awards ,was entered in the 15th International Competition of Sports Motion Pictures held during February, 1959, in Rome (Italy). The jury at this Competition have awarded the above mentioned prize and a testimonial for this film.

This film revolves round one of the treks organised by the Himalayan Mountaineers' Institute in Darjeeling and some exciting shots of this hazardous trek are included in it.

PROCESS FOR PRODUCING CATION RESIN

A process for the manufacture of Cation Exchange Resin from Cashewnut Shell liquid has been worked out at the National Chemical Laboratory, Poona, says an announcement dated May 29.

The resin which is generally used as a water softening agent can be used both in the sodium form and hydrogen form. In sodium form it can be used in place of zeolites for softening water for boilers and air conditioning units under certain conditions. In the hydrogen form it can be used in combination with anion-exchange resins for demineralisation of solutions.

Economics of the manufacturing procedure have been studied on a pilot plant capable of handling 75 lbs. of cashewnut shell liquid per batch.

The equipment and accessories for the two processes are simple and can be easily fabricated locally. Raw materials except formalin are available from indigenous sources.

Health

STIPENDS FOR TRAINING IN PUBLIC HEALTH

The Union Ministry of Health has decided to award stipends to not more than 195 engineers, 180 engineering subordinates, 60 water-works operators and 60 sanitary inspectors for training in public health engineering during the current financial year, says an announcement dated 29th May.

Stipends of the value of Rs. 150 per month per trainee for a period of 10 months will be given to not more than 30 engineers taking the M.E. (PH) degree at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, and to not more than 15 for the M.Sc. degree in Public Health Engineering at the Engineering College, Guindy, Madras.

Stipends of the same amount will be available for not more than 150 engineers undergoing training at the Engineering Colleges at Roorkee and Guindy for the three-month courses.

The rates at which engineering subordinates under training for three months at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, and the Engineering Colleges at Roorkee and Guindy will get stipends will be Rs. 100 per month per candidate.

The water-works operators' course will be of about a month's duration at various regional centres and the stipend will be of Rs. 100 per month per candidate. Stipends of Rs. 75 per month per candidate will be given to sanitary inspectors under training in short courses organised at various regional centres.

In the case of M.E. (PH) degree, M.Sc. engineering course and the engineering subordinates three months' course, stipends will also be admissible to those trainees, if any, who are already undergoing the course during the current year from the date they join the course. Candidates sponsored by State Governments, Municipal Corporations, Improvement Trusts, Local Bodies etc. through their respective State Governments and approved by the Ministry of Health are eligible for assistance. The stipends will be given, in addition to the pay and allowances drawn from the State, but during the training the candidates will not be entitled to daily allowance.

Payment of tuition, examination fees, etc., on behalf of the trainees will be made at the prescribed rates, except in the case of the trainees at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, which is exempt. Regarding M.E. (PH) degree course for engineers, the Director of All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta will pay to the Calcutta University for admission to examination at the normal rate of Rs. 125, inclusive of migration and registration fees, per candidate trained at the Institute.

Progress Of Goitre Control Schemes

Two field survey units of the Union Ministry of Health are now engaged in de-limiting the areas of Goitre endemicity, says an announcement of May 26. One team is now in the Mandi district in Himachal Pradesh after finishing its work in the Bilaspur district. The other team has started surveys in the Siang Frontier Division of N.E.F.A.

The Health Ministry's scheme for the control of goitre proposes to cover a population of 87.5 lakhs during the Second Five-Year Plan which has an allocation of Rs. 18 lakhs for the purpose. The scheme envisages the estimation of the magnitude of the problem, supply of iodied salt to inhabitants of areas affected with endemic goitre and assessment of results of iodine prophylaxis.

Only iodised salt will be made available in the selected endemic areas in the States of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, U.P., Bihar, Assam and NEFA in the first instance for consumption at the same price as ordinary salt. The cost of iodisation will be met by the Union Government.

The UNICEF has agreed to provide one iodisation plant capable of processing 70 tons of salt per day sufficient for a population of 2.75 million The plant is expected to arrive by September, 1959, and will be installed at Sambhar Lake. The UNICEF is also giving two vehicles on loan for the two survey teams. W.H.O's assistance will be in the shape of technical advice and guidance.

Endemic goitre associated with cretinism, deaf-mutism and various other grades of physical and mental deterioration is prevalent in some regions of India. The southern slopes of the Himalayas covering a distance of over 1,500 miles and consisting of the northern parts of Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, U.P., Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, NEFA and Manipur are probably the most classical areas of endemic goitre. Starting from Gilgit and Chitral in Kashmir, the goitre belt covers the Kangra valley in Punjab, the Himalayan tracts of Tehri, Garhwal, Almora, Naini Tal, the Sub-Himalayan regions of Bahraich, Gonda, Basti and Gorakhpur in U.P.; the Champaran, Darbhanga and Purnea districts of Bihar; the Darjeeling and Cooch-Behar districts of West Bengal; terminating in the Naga and Lushai hills Assam. In the north, the belt embraces the States of Nepal, Sikkim, and Bhutan. Apart from a small portion of the tribes of Ranchi Plateau, goitre is rare elsewhere in the country. About 9 million persons are affected with goitre in India.

Health Report For March

Births and deaths registered in towns with a population of 30,000 and over during March, 1959, were respectively 27 and 11 per thousand of population as against 25 and 10 during the month of February, 1959.

According to the available reports the country remained free from plague. Reports of cholera and small-pox, however, continued to come in from some parts of the country.

Cholera: Based on preliminary data for the third week of April, 1959, i.e. week ended April 25, mild incidence of cholera was reported from the Puri district of Orissa State, and Bankura, Burdwan and Calcutta city in West Bengal. Mild incidence was also reported from the Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh.

Small-pox: Heavy incidence was reported from the districts of Kotah and Sikar and considerable incidence was reported from the Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan. Considerable incidence continued to be reported from the Madras city. Mild incidence was reported from the districts of Amantapur, Cuddapah, East Godavari, West Godavari, Guntur, Hyderabad, Krishna, Nellore, Sripakulam, Visakhapatnam and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh; Cachar district in Assam; Monghyr district in Bihar; Kottayam district in Kerala; the districts of Ahmednagar, East Khandesh, Greater Bombay, Amreli, Poona, Satara South, Sholapur, and Nagpur in Bombay State; Chingleput, Coimbatore, North Arcot, South Arcot, Tanjore and Salem districts in Madras State; Bellary, Belgaum, Chickmagalur, Coorg, Dharwar Kilar, Mandya, Shimoga, South Kanara, Bangalore, Chitaldurg, Mysore and Hassan districts in Mysore State; Cuttack Dhenkanal, Kalahandi, Keenjhar and Sambalpur districts in Orissa; Ferozpur and Ludhiana districts in Punjab; Nagaur district in Rajasthan; Allahabad, Azamgarh, Bareilly, Dehra Dun, Deoria, Kanpur, Lucknow, Faizabad, Garhwal, Hardoi, Jhansi and Shahjahanpur districts in Uttar Pradesh; Birbhum, Calcutta city, Hooghly, Murishadabad and Midnapur districts in West Bengal; and Karikal and Pondicherry.

Gastro-enteritis: During the week ended April 18, 208 cases and 24 deaths were reported from a few districts in Uttar Pradesh.

Kyasanur Forest Disease: Eight attacks with no deaths were reported from Shimoga district in Mysore State.

Influenza: During the second week of April, 26 cases were reported from Poona city as against 75 cases and one death during week ended April 11, 1959. Reports of sporadic cases were also received from Assam, Mysore and Punjab.

Note: Epidemic means 100 cases or more per week per million of population.
Considerable incidence means 30-50 cases per week per million of population.
Mild incidence means less than 30 cases per week per million of population.

CONTRIBUTION TO P.M.'S RELIEF FUND

A sum of Rs. 2,51,450.16 (Rupees two lakhs fifty-one thousand, four hundred fifty and sixteen naye paise) was received in the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund during the period December 1, 1958, to February 28, 1959, says an announcement dated May 18.

Social Welfare

WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL WELFARE

An announcement dated May 20 says that the various sub-groups of the Working Group on Social Welfare assigned to prepare blue-print for social welfare work in the third Plan have been meeting in New Delhi since May 13. The first meeting of the Group was held on April 8. The various sub-groups during this period have prepared reports in their specialised fields, which were discussed by the Working Group as a whole at a meeting held in New Delhi on May 19. Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh, Chairman of the Group, presided.

The draft reports of the various sub-groups are proposed to be discussed with the representatives of the State Governments and voluntary organisations between July and the first week of September. The Working Group, for the facility of its work, has divided the country into four regions, viz., Southern, Western, Eastern and Northern The meetings of the Group will be held at Madras, Bombay, Lucknow and Delhi. The final draft report of the Working Group is expected to be submitted to the Planning Commission some time in the beginning of November.

The seven-sub-groups of the main Working Group, which were set up at the first meeting, have prepared their reports in the fields of women's welfare, child welfare, welfare of the handicapped, aged and the infirm, social defence, youth welfare, slum clearance and prohibition and training manpower, research and survey in administration.

WORK OF KALYAN KENDRAS IN DELHI

Delhi has now **six** *Kalyan Kendras*, centres to help the wives of Government employees to utilise their leisure in getting training and doing job work in tailoring, knitting and embroidery.

The 350 women working at the centres have executed 500 orders. Also, they are running a sales depot which is earning Rs. 300/- every day.

Kalyan Kendras, a venture of the Staff Welfare Organization, are being opened in the colonies of Government servants to enable their families to earn additional income. Side by side, knowledge in the arts and crafts is being promoted. The centres are earning from the articles stitched or knitted as well as charging a small fee of Rs. 2/- per head per month from the trainees.

Labour & Employment

CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT MEETS

The Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda, addressing the first meeting of the 30-member Central Committee on Employment at New Delhi on May 25 suggested the creation of a special fund for each industry to deal with the problem of providing help to persons thrown into unemployment by closure of establishments.

Shri Nanda said that the Second Five-Year Plan commenced with a back-log of unemployed labour force to the extent of 5.5 millions. The hope of the government when the Second Plan was framed was that in the course of its operation, employment opportunities equal to the new entrants to the labour force might be provided. It was also thought that in view of underemployment that was prevailing in the agricultural sector the creation of new employment opportunities should be in the non-agricultural sector. But even with the size of the Second Plan that was contemplated in 1956, all that was possible to do was to provide employment opportunities to only 80 per cent of the new entrants in the non-agricultural sector, and any more ambitious attempt to relieve the situation would have upset the other objectives of the Second Plan.

It was a matter of regret that within one year of its operation, the Second Plan came up against hurdles in respect of both external and internal finance. Other problems also arose which accentuated the difficulties. Production in the primary sectors could not come up to the level of the requirements and the price level, particularly of agricultural commodities, kept up an upward trend. The rise in prices would itself have curtailed the physical target, and, therefore, the employment content of the Plan, even if the original size had been maintained. This had, however, to be cut down to Rs. 4,500 crores in the middle of last year. These unfavourable circumstances led to a reduction in the target of employment generation outside agriculture from 8 million to 6.5 million. The contribution of the agricultural sector also towards the generation of fresh employment might have suffered to an extent for the same reason. The net result would, therefore, be that when the Third Plan started after two years there would be a larger back-log of unemployment than there was when the country embarked on the second Plan.

New Entrants

In terms of achievement so far, rough calculations showed that the first three years of the Second Plan might have created employment at the rate of about one million a year. This meant that even to reach the revised target of 6.5 million non-agricultural employment opportunities, special efforts may be needed during the current year and the next. Experience in the first Plan was that its final stages yielded relatively better results in terms of employment than the earlier years. It was partly because the large-scale investments start maturing after a time-lag. This might happen now also. It would be too optimistic to expect that the Third Five-Year Plan could, even at its best, succeed in wiping out the problem of unemployment totally. The third Plan would have to carry the handicap of heavy back-log of about 1.5 millions more than that of the Second. But the greater part of the difficulty would arise, however, from the fact that many more people would enter the labour force between 1961-66 as compared to the previous five years. The lowest of the current estimates of new entrants to the labour force during the Third Plan placed the size of this part of the problem at 14 million employment seekers. Added to that there would be roughly about 7 million unemployed by 1961. It was hoped to create employment opportunities of a size which was equivalent to the number of new entrants in the labour force during this period. It might not be realistic to expect in the normal way to attain a higher level of employment. Unorthodox ways of enlarging the scope of productive employment in the country should also be explored. And, there were enough tasks of economic utility to be performed and plenty of natural resources remaining to be utilised for this purpose.

Educated Job-Seekers

A disquieting feature of our live register data Shri Nanda went on, was the large number of educated applicants. The educated applicants, i.e. matriculates and above, numbered 2.22 lakhs out of a live register total of 7.05 lakhs at the end of March 1956, when the Second Plan began, and their number went up to 3.60 lakhs at the end of March 1959 out of the live register total of 12.18 lakhs for the same date. Thus, the educated job seekers accounted for about 30 per cent of the 'all-categories' applicants. On the suggestion of the Working Group on Educated Unemployed, the second five-Year Plan contained special schemes for the educated unemployed. These were: (i) establishment of work and orientation centres to foster a sense of dignity of manual labour and re-orientation by training, (ii) setting up of production centres (small-scale industries) as feeder units to large-scale industries and for servicing, and (iii) organisation of goods-transport co-operatives to handle a part of the inter-city and intra-city goods traffic. Unfortunately, these schemes had not progressed satisfactorily and they were, by and large, still in the pilot stage.

Today the rural boys and girls who got education in towns were practically lost to the rural areas as those areas did not have modern amenities and attractions for the educated youth. The consequence was that the rural areas were deprived of that stimulus and leadership which the presence of educated persons in the village community could provide. But the tasks of economic development in rural areas and the mobilisation of efforts there, on the requisite scale, called for the service of a much larger number of educated persons than what was available now. And to bring this about, organised effort on new lines was called for.

Closure Of Units

Referring to closure of units which was much in evidence last year, and the resulting unemployment, Shri Nanda said that in the case of actual and threatened closures, amelioration was sought in the provisions of the Industries Development and Regulation Act and very often they proved to be of little help because the position of those concerns had by then deteriorated to such an extent that placing them on a sound footing became too costly and a difficult proposition. It was necessary, therefore, that a close watch was kept on the working of industrial undertakings so that suitable action could be taken at a very early stage. This was already under consideration of government. When it became necessary to take over a concern and find alternative management for it, this should not be put off because of difficulties regarding financial resources or the needed personnel. A special fund might be created for each industry which might be found useful in supplementing the other resources that could be secured but might not be adequate in view of the special conditions. Whether this was considered indispensable or not for the sake of continued working of such establishments, there were other essential purposes also for which the creation of such a fund might be found to be necessary. It had happened before that when a plant closed down, the workers were soon reduced to a state of helplessness and destitution and were compelled to eat up their meagre provident fund accumulations. In some cases the undertaking was not found to be in a position to pay up the terminal benefits and even the wages for a considerable period. For this, there was no effective remedy at present. What was needed was a fund to provide relief that might be due on such occasions. The fund could also be used for the purpose of re-training and transfer to other occupations. This was a social responsibility which should be squarely accepted. It was worthwhile also because even when a few establishments were affected, the whole climate of industrial relations was vitiated and law and order problems arose.

Workers' Co-operatives

There was another aspect of the problem, namely, that some undertakings had already reached a state that, in view of their heavy financial burdens owing to gross mismanagement, no rescue operations would be of any avail. The liquidation procedures now took a long time. It should be made possible for co-operatives of workers or some other agency to keep the plant running while the value of its assets was being determined and all other claims on those assets were frozen.

Proposals Of Housing Ministers' Conference

A New Delhi announcement of May 28 says that the Government of India have written to some organisations of employers commending the recommendation made by the Third Housing Ministers' Conference held at Darjeeling that employers should voluntarily take advantage, in a larger measure of the liberalised financial assistance given under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme; otherwise Government will be compelled to consider legislation making it compulsory for employers to build houses for workers. The Conference has suggested that the question of such legislation should be considered after watching the progress under the liberalised terms till the Housing Ministers meet again to review the matter.

The Union Government agree that State Governments should help employers to acquire land near their factory premises for housing their workers. They have advised the State Governments to use the short-term loan given under the Scheme for acquisition and development of land for employers and other constructing agencies on a no-profit-no-loss basis.

Allotment Of Houses

Government have accepted the suggestion that subject to the principles enunciated in the Scheme, allotment of houses should be left to employers in consultation with workers A Managing Committee consisting of an equal number of representatives of employers and workers with an official chairman nominated by the State Government should be constituted to allot houses according to mutually agreed rules. Where no agreement had been reached between the employer and workers on allotment, the Government of India's Subsidised Housing Allotment Rules should apply. These Rules have also been relaxed to enable an employer to allot, at his discretion 15% of the total number of houses built. The Managing Committee can allot another 10% of the houses out-of-turn and the remaining 75% houses in accordance with the model Allotment Rules.

Government concur with the view that State Governments should, as a rule, refrain from allotting houses built under the scheme to their employees and other ineligible persons or to permit continuance of occupation by workers when they lose this status, except as laid down in the Subsidised Housing Allotment Rules. Where such use has been made, the amount spent should be refunded to the Union Government. Government have also indicated the lines on which cases for disposal of houses already constructed under the Scheme and in occupation of ineligible industrial workers should be dealt with.

The suggestion about inducing workers to occupy subsidised industrial housing has been accepted by the Union Government. To this end, the State Governments have been exhorted to make provision for essential basic amenities, such as water-supply, electricity, sewerage; community facilities such as schools, hospitals, maternity homes near the colonies; and lowering of rent for a limited period by bringing down municipal rates and taxes or by subsidising rent from the labour welfare fund, direct or through subsidies from the State Governments.

DEMAND FOR SUBSIDISED RENT

To avoid the possibility of completed houses remaining unoccupied or being sublet to ineligible persons, State Governments have been advised to ascertain the demand for subsidised rent. The State Governments should obtain the requisite data from the Labour Commissioner or other local authorities.

The Union Government agree that where workers cannot afford to pay the rent of a *pucca* house and are averse to open developed plots, the State Governments may provide, where possible and where only single-storey construction is contemplated, a skeletal house of about Rs. 8 per month rent. The skeletal house should have provision for construction of covered accommodation, specifications for which are under preparation and can be executed on a self-help basis.

The suggestion that State Governments, if they desire, may utilise 2 per cent of the total number of houses built under the Scheme for requirements of office-cum-store and residences for the staff whose presence in the estate is essential for administration, has been accepted.

POOLING OF RENTS

To equalise the rents in earlier and later-built colonies, the Government of India have accepted the recommendation that State Governments may pool rents, and have further proposed that for the present State Governments may try this experiment in one or two selected areas with a view to ensuring that the houses are occupied by eligible industrial workers.

The Union Government have not accepted the suggestion to raise the ceiling cost of Rs. 5,800 for multi-storey one-roomed houses in Bombay and Calcutta cities to Rs. 6,000 as prescribed under the Slum Clearance Scheme. The higher limit under the Slum Clearance Scheme had been permitted since price of land is higher in slum areas as compared to those in the periphery where the industrial tenements are now being built.

The Union Government agree with the proposal that State Governments should ensure at the initial stages of formulation of projects in the area that proper sites are or will be available.

The Union Government have suggested to the State Governments to review their administrative arrangements and rules with a view to implementing the recommendation of the Conference that they should, through the Registrar of Co-operative Societies or other competent officer, keep a watch on the progress of construction of houses by co-operative societies of workers.

Wage Committee Report On Working Journalists

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment on May 29 says that the Government of India have accepted, with certain minor modifications, the recommendations of the Wage Committee for Working Journalists regarding fixation of rates of wages for journalists.

Government have accordingly made an Order in terms of the recommendations of the Committee subject to the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 8 of the recommendations—for the words "news agency is transferred", the words "news agency is or has been transferred" shall be substituted; and

(b) the words "until the newspaper or news agency is reclassified in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 21" shall be inserted at the end of the paragraph.

The Order shall come into operation on the dates specified by the Committee, viz., (a) June 1, 1958, in the case of classes A, B, and C of dailies and class I news agencies and (b) the date of publication of the Order of Government in the case of classes D, E, and F of dailies, all classes of weeklies and classes II and III of news agencies.

Government's order and the recommendations of the Committee have been published in a Gazette of India Extraordinary issued today.

Following are the recommendations of the Wage Committee:—

1. Definitions: In the following paragraphs and in the Schedule, the following expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them:

'Accounting Year' used with reference to a particular year shall, in the case of a newspaper establishment whose accounting year is a calendar year, mean that calendar year and shall, in the case of a newspaper establishment whose accounting year is different from the calendar year, mean that accounting year of the establishment of which more than half falls in the particular calendar year.

Example: If the accounting year of a newspaper establishment starts from 1st April, reference to the accounting year 1955 in the succeeding paragraphs shall be construed as reference to the accounting year 1955-56 of such establishment. On the other hand, if the accounting year of newspaper establishment starts from 1st October, reference to the accounting year 1955 in those paragraph will be construed as reference to the accounting year 1954-55 of that year.

'Category' means any of the kinds of employees mentioned under the groups set out in paragraph 23.

'Gross Revenue' means in the case of a newspaper the total of its circulation revenue (including subscription revenue) and advertisement revenue and in the case of a news agency, means the subscription revenue. In the case of a newspaper, the circulation revenue and the advertisement revenue shall be taken to be the amount of such revenue arrived at after deducting the commission actually allowed to the extent to which the amount of the commission so allowed is reasonable.

'Group' means two or more newspapers published by a newspaper establishment from the same centre; 'Multiple Unit' means the same newspaper published from more than one centre by a newspaper establishment; 'Chain' means more than one newspaper published by a newspaper establishment from more than one centre.

'Metropolitan Centre' or 'Metropolitan City' means the city of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi or Madras.

CLASSIFICATION OF NEWSPAPERS AND NEWS AGENCIES

2. For the purpose of fixation of wages of working journalists, newspapers and news agencies should be classified in the manner hereinafter provided.

3. Classification of newspapers and news agencies should be based on the average revenue of the three accounting years, 1955, 1956 and 1957.

4. In the case of a newspaper or a news agency completing two out of the aforesaid three accounting years, its classification should be determined on the basis of its average revenues for those two years.

5. In the case of a newspaper or a news agency which has completed only one year of the said accounting years, its classification should be determined on the basis of its revenues for that year.

6. The clasification determined in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 should continue until the newspaper or news agency is reclassified in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 21.

7. A newspaper or news agency started during the accounting year 1957 or at any time thereafter should be deemed to fall within the lowest class of newspapers or news agencies and should continue to remain in that class until it is re-classified according to the provisions of paragraph 21.

8. If the ownership of a newspaper or a news agency is transferred by one person to another at any time after the accounting year 1954, the provisions of paragraphs 3 to 7 should apply to such newspaper or news agency as if the revenues of the newspaper or news agency for the relevant accounting years under the previous owner were its revenues for those years under the new owner.

DAILIES

9. Daily newspapers should, subject to the provisions of the succeeding paragraphs, be classified under the following six classes:

Class	*Gross Revenue*
A	Rs. 50 lakhs and above
B	Rs. 25 lakhs and above, but less than Rs. 50 lakhs.
C	Rs. 12½ lakhs and above, but less than Rs. 25 lakhs.
D	Rs. 5 lakhs and above, but less than Rs. 12½ lakhs.
E	Rs 2½ lakhs and above, but less than Rs. 5 lakhs.
F	less than Rs. 2½ lakhs.

10. If the advertisement revenue of any such newspaper not being a newspaper falling in Class F, is less than half of its circulation revenue, it should be placed in the class next below that in which it would fall on the basis of its gross revenue.

GROUPS, MULTIPLE UNITS AND CHAINS

11. In the case of a multiple unit, all constituent units should be placed in the highest of the classes in which they, taken separately, would fall under the foregoing provisions, provided that no such unit should as a result of the provisions of this paragraph be placed more than two classes above the class in which it would fall on the basis of its own revenues in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 9 and 10.

12. In the case of a group, each of the units in the group should be classified in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 9 and 10 on the basis of its own revenue or, if it is a unit forming part of a multiple unit, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 11.

Provided that if there is a unit or units falling under any of the classes A, B, or C, and also a unit or units falling under any of the classess D, E or F, then the unit or units falling under any of the classes A, B or C should be retained in that class and the unit or units falling in any of the classes D, E or F should be placed in the class next above such class.

Provided further that notwithstanding anything contained in this paragraph, if the group contains a constituent unit of a multiple unit, such constituent unit should not be placed in a class higher than that in which it would fall in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 11.

13. For the purpose of paragraph 12, all dailies including the seventh

day edition of a daily, by whatever name called, published by a newspaper establishment in the same language from the same centre should be taken together and treated as if they formed one unit and the revenues of all such papers put together should be deemed to be the revenues of such unit.

14. Where a newspaper in a chain is published from a centre from where no other newspaper in that chain is published, and such newspaper does not form part of a multiple unit, the newspaper should, notwithstanding anything contained in paragraph 12 be classified on the basis of its own revenues in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 9 and 10.

WEEKLIES

15. Weeklies should be classified on the basis of their gross revenues as follows:

Class	*Gross Revenue*
I	Rs. 12½ lakhs and above
II	Rs. 5 lakhs and above, but less than Rs. 12½ lakhs.
III	Rs. 1 lakh and above, but less than Rs. 5 lakhs.
IV	Below Rs. 1 lakh.

16. A Weekly, which is substantially the seventhday edition of a daily or a special edition of a daily by whatever name it may be called, should be deemed to be part of the daily and should be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 11,12 and 13. All other weeklies, whether forming part of a group or chain or not, should be classified as weeklies in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 15.

BI-WEEKLIES AND TRI-WEEKLIES

17. All bi-weeklies and tri-weeklies should be classified on the basis of their gross revenue in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 15.

OTHER PERIODICALS

18. In view of the paucity of evidence in respect of periodicals which are intended to be published at longer intervals than a week, the Committee do not make any recommendation regarding salaries, scales or grades for working journalists employed in establishments publishing such periodicals.

NEWS AGENCIES

19. Except as provided in paragraph 20, news agencies should be classified on the basis of their gross revenue as follows:

Class	*Gross Revenue*
1	Rs. 25 lakhs and above
2	Rs. 10 lakhs and above, but less than Rs. 25 lakhs
3	Below Rs. 10 lakhs.

20. A foreign news agency, that is to say, a news agency which operates in India but whose principal office is situated outside India, should be treated as belonging to Class 1 of news agencies.

RE-CLASSIFICATION

21. It should be open either to the employer or to the employee to see re-classification of a newspaper or news agency at any time after the accounting year 1950 on the basis of the average revenues of the three immediately preceding accounting years provided that such re-classification should not be sought more than once in any period of three consecutive accounting years.

CLASSIFICATION OF AREAS

22. For the purpose of payment of dearness allowance to full-time employees and monthly retainer to part-time employees, areas should be classified as follows:—

Area I	..	Metropolitan cities
Area II	..	Towns with a population of over 5 lakhs but excluding metropolitan cities.
Area III	..	Other places.

(The population figures as published in the last available All-India Census Report should be taken to be the figures for the purpose of the above classification.)

CLASSIFICATION OF WORKING JOURNALISTS

23. Working journalists employed in newspaper establishments should be grouped as follows:

(For functional definitions of various categories of working journalists see Schedule.)

I. FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

(a) *IN NEWSPAPERS:*

Group		*Category*
I		Editor
II —	(*i*)	Assistant Editor.
	(*ii*)	Leader Writer.
	(*iii*)	News Editor.
	(*iv*)	Special Correspondent.
IIA —	(*i*)	Chief Sub-Editor.
	(*ii*)	Chief Reporter.
	(*iii*)	Principal Correspondent in a metropolitan centre accre dited to a State Government.
	(*iv*)	Correspondent accredited to the Central Government other than a Special Correspondent.
III —	(*i*)	Sub-Editor.
	(*ii*)	Reporter.
	(*iii*)	Correspondent.
	(*iv*)	All working journalists other than those mentioned under any other group unless placed higher by the establishment.
IV —		Proof Reader.

(b) *IN NEWS AGENCIES*

(*i*) CLASS I NEWS AGENCY

Group		*Category*
I —		General Manager or Editor
I-A —	(*i*)	Chief News Editor
	(*ii*)	Person in charge of the Principal news bureau in a metropolitan centre.
II —	(*i*)	News Editor (Indian News)
	(*ii*)	News Editor (Foreign News)
	(*iii*)	News Editor (Commercial News)
	(*iv*)	Special Correspondent
	(*v*)	Person in charge of the principal news bureau in a State other than in a metropo litan Centre.
II-A —	(*i*)	Senior Correspondent
	(*ii*)	Chief Reporter
	(*iii*)	Chief-Sub Editor.
III —	(*i*)	Reporter.
	(*ii*)	Correspondent.
	(*iii*)	Sub-Editor.
	(*iv*)	Person in charge of a News bureau at a centre other than those mentioned above.
	(*v*)	All working journalists other than those mentioned under any other group unless placed higher by the establishment.

(*ii*) CLASSES 2 AND 3 NEWS AGENCIES

Group		*Category*
I —		General Manager or Editor
II —	(*i*)	Assistant Editor.
	(*ii*)	News Editor.
	(*iii*)	Special Correspondent.
II-A —	(*i*)	Senior Correspondent.
	(*ii*)	Chief Reporter.
	(*iii*)	Chief Sub-Editor.
III —	(*i*)	Sub-Editor.
	(*ii*)	Reporter.
	(*iii*)	All working journalists other than those mentioned under any other group unless placed higher by the establishment.

II. PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

Part-time correspondents whose principal avocation is that of journalism.

24. It is not obligatory for a newspaper establishment to employ any or all of the categories of employees grouped above. Some of the functions may be combined.

25. The principal duties performed by an employee should determine the category of such employee; neither designation nor casual or occasional work should be taken into account for such categorisation.

Remuneration

WAGES, SCALES AND GRADES

26. Working journalists of different groups employed in different classes of newspapers and news agencies should be paid basic pay per mensem in accordance with the following scales:

I DAILIES

Class of Newspaper	Group of Employees	Scale
A	I	No Scale
	II	Rs. 600-50-1000 (8 years.)
	II-A	Rs. 500-30-650-50-900 (10 years.)
	III	Rs. 250-25-450-30-600-40-800 (18 yrs.)
	IV	Rs. 125-7½-155-10-225-15-300 (16 yrs.)
B	I	No Scale
	II	Rs. 500-30-650-50-900 (10 yrs.)
	II-A	Rs. 400-25-600-40-800 (13 yrs.)
	III	Rs. 175-20-375-25-600 (19 yrs.)
	IV	Rs. 100- 5-120-7½180-10-200-15-260 (18 yrs.)
C	I	No Scale
	II	Rs. 400-20-500-25-650 (11 yrs.)
	II-A	Rs. 350-20-450-25-600 (11 yrs.)
	III	Rs. 150-15-300-20-500 (20 yrs.)
	IV	Rs. 80- 5-130-7½-160-10-200 (18 yrs.)
D	I	No Scale
	II	Rs. 200-15-350-25-450 (14 yrs.)
	II-A	Rs. 175-15-325-25-400 (13 yrs.)
	III	Rs. 1257½-200-10-210-15-300 (17 yrs.)
	IV	Rs. 75- 5-125-7½-170 (16 yrs.)
E	I	No Scale
	II	Rs. 150-15-225-25-325 (9 yrs.)
	II-A	Rs. 125-15-200-25-300 (9 yrs.)
	III	Rs. 100- 5-150-10-200-12½-225 (17 yrs.)
	IV	Rs. 70- 5-140 (14 yrs.)
F	I	No Scale
	II	Rs. 125-10-175-12½-200 (7 yrs.)
	II-A	Rs. 100-10-180 (8 yrs.)
	III	Rs. 80- 5-150 (14 yrs.)
	IV	Rs. 65- 5-120 (11 yrs.)

II WEEKLIES:

Class of Weekly	Group of Employees	Scale
I	I	No Scale
	II	Rs. 400-20-500-25-650 (11 yrs.)
	III	Rs. 150-15-300-20-500 (20 yrs.)
	IV	Rs. 80- 5-130-7½-160-10-200 (18 yrs.)
II	I	No Scale
	II	Rs. 200-15-350-25-450 (14 yrs.)
	III	Rs. 125-7½-200-10-200-15-300 17 yrs.
	IV	Rs. 75- 5-125-7½-170 (16 yrs.)
III	I	No Scale
	II	Rs. 150-15-225-25-325 (9 yrs.)
	III	Rs. 100-5-150-10-200-12½-225 (17 yrs.)
	IV	Rs. 70- 5-140 (14 yrs.)
IV	I	No Scale
	II	Rs. 125-10-175-12½-200 (7 yrs.)
	III	Rs. 80- 5-150 (14 yrs.)
	IV	Rs. 65- 5-120 (11 yrs.)

III NEWS AGENCIES:

Class of News Agency	Group of Employees	Scale
I.	I	No Scale
	I-A	No Scale
	II	Rs. 500-30-650-50-900 (10 yrs.)
	II-A	Rs. 400-25-600-40-800 (13 yrs.)
	III	Rs. 175-20-375-25-600 (19 yrs.)
II.	I	No Scale
	II	Rs. 400-20-500-25-650 (11 yrs.)
	II-A	Rs. 350-20-450-25-600 (11 yrs.)
	III	Rs. 150-15-300-20-500 (20 yrs.)
III.	I	No Scale
	II	Rs. 150-15-225-25-325 (9 yrs.)
	II-A	Rs. 125-15-200-25-300 (9 yrs.)
	III	Rs. 100- 5-150-10-200-12-225 (17 yrs.)

DEARNESS ALLOWANCES:

27. Dearness allowance should be paid to working journalists at the following rates:—

Range of basic pay	Area I Rs.	Area II Rs.	Area III Rs.
Rs. 65-100	50	40	30
101-200	60	50	40
201-300	70	60	50
301-400	80	70	60
401-500	90	80	70
501-750	105	95	85
751 and above	120	110	100

REMUNERATION OF PART-TIME EMPLOYEES:

28. Part-time correspondents should be paid a monthly retainer at the following rates:—

Class of Daily	Class of News Agency	Area I Rs.	Area II Rs.	Area III Rs.
A	—	100	75	24
B	1	75	50	20
C	2	50	40	15
D	—	40	30	15
E	3	25	20	10
F	—	25	15	10

For the purpose of the above table, the area applicable to a part-time correspondent should be the area in which he resides. Any further payment on a column basis should be the subject of mutual settlement.

OTHER ALLOWANCES

29. In view of the paucity of evidence on the subject, the Committee recommends that the fixation of conveyance, entertainment, travelling, overseas and other allowances should be left to collective bargaining between the working journalists and the newspaper establishments concerned.

FITMENT

On Initial Application Of The New Scales

30. For the purpose of paragraphs 31 to 36 and paragraph 41 "relevant date" means—

in the case of classes A, B, and C of dailies and class 1 of news agencies	... 1st June, 1958
in the case of classes D, E and F of dailies, all classes weeklies and classes 2 and 3 of news agencies	... The date of publications of the order of Central Government on these recommendations under section 6(3) of the Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act, 1958.

31. For fitment of the employees into the new scales, only the service in a particular group in the particular newspaper or news agency or in a newspaper of news agency produced or conducted by the same establishment, should be taken into account. The scale into which an employee is to be fitted should be the scale prescribed in paragraph 26 for the group to which he belongs.

32. The basic pay of a working journalist should be fixed at the stage corresponding to his existing basic pay as on the relevant date or if there is no such stage in the scale, then at the next higher stage provided that if the addition to the minimum pay of the scale of a number of increments equal to one for every two completed years of service in the group to which he belongs, takes him to a higher stage in that scale, his basic pay should be fixed at such higher stage.

Provided further that if his existing basic pay is higher by at least Rs. 50/- than what he would be entitled to on a point-to-point basis in the scale in paragraph 26 applicable to him and if such existing basic pay does not coincide with a stage in that scale, he should be fitted at the next lower stage, but the existing basic pay should be protected and the difference may be absorbed in a future increment.

33. For the purpose of paragraph 32, the existing basic pay of a working journalist as on the relevant date should be arrived at by taking the pay allowed to him by his employer on the relevant date, whether it be called basic or consolidated, adding to it the amount of dearness allowance, if any, which he may be receiving and deducting therefrom the amount of dearness allowance calculated in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 27 above which will be appropriate to the resulting basic pay.

34. For the purpose of paragraphs 32 and 33, a scale of pay or dearness allowance or location allowance enjoyed by an employee on the relevant date as a result of the implementation of the Wage Board decision should not be taken into account and the emoluments which he would have received but for such implementation should be the basis for working out his existing basic pay for the purpose of those paragraphs.

35. When a working journalist is fitted into a scale in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 32 to 34 as on the relevant date, he should be entitled to count increments in the appropriate scales as from that date.

36. In no case should the total of the existing basic pay and dearness allowance, if any, be reduced as a result of the operation of the provisions contained in these recommendations; provided that in cases where the Wage Board decisions stand implemented on the relevant date, the excess of the total of the basic pay, dearness alowance and location allowance, if any, payable on that date under that decision over the total of the basic pay fixed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 32 and dearness allowance laid down in paragraph 27 may be absorbed in future increments.

37. If the total of the basic pay and dearness allowance, if any, payable to any group of working journalists by an establishment in accordance with its own scheme of wages is in excess of the total of the basic pay and dearness allowance payable to working journalists in that group under the scheme of our recommendations year by year, the employer may maintain his own scheme of wages and dearness allowance for that group and in such case the provisions of paragraphs 31 to 36 should not apply to such group.

On Re-classification

38. When a newspaper or news agency is reclassified in accordance with paragraph 21, the employee should be fitted into the new scale applicable to him on his existing basic pay. When the basic pay does not coincide with a stage in the new scale, the employee should be fitted at the next higher stage when the classification goes up and at the next lower stage when the classification goes down. In the latter case, the higher existing basic pay should be protected and the difference between the existing basic pay and the pay to which he is so fitted may be absorbed in a future increment.

Apprentices and Probationers

39. An apprentice is a person who is only a learner and not an employee in a newspaper establishment. The period of apprenticeship should not exceed two years.

40. A working journalist may be employed as a probationer for a period not exceeding one year during which he should get a basic pay at not less than the minimum of the scale applicable to the class of newspaper or news agency and the group in which he is a probationer and should also get the appropriate dearness allowance.

Date Of Operation

41. These recommendations should be operative in respect of each newspaper and news agency as from the relevant date applicable to it in accordance with paragraph 30.

42. The total amount of arrears payable by any newspaper or news agency to its working journalists as a result of retrospective operation provided in paragraph 41 should be paid in four equal half-yearly instalments, the first instalment being payable not later than six months from the date of publication of the order of the Central Government under section 6(3) of the Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act, 1958, on these recommendations, the second instalment being payable not later than 12 months from that date and so on.

Provided that if the services of any working journalist are terminated by the employer before all the instalments are paid, the balance of the instalments remaining unpaid should become due immediately on such termination.

SCHEDULE

Functional Definitions of the Various Categories of Working Journalists.

Group I

Editor is a person who directs and supervises the work of the editorial side of a newspaper.

Group II

Assistant Editor is a person who assists the Editor in the discharge of his duties generally in relation to comments and opinions and writes leaders and may also write other copy involving review, comment or criticism.

Leader Writer is a person who regularly writes leaders and may also write other copy involving review, comment or criticism.

News Editor is a person who co-ordinates and supervises the news department of a newspaper and is responsible for the news content of all the editions of a newspaper.

Special Correspondent is a person whose duties regularly include reporting and interpreting all news of parliamentary, political and general importance as an accredited correspondent at the headquarters of the Central Government and where there is more than one correspondent of the newspaper establishment so accredited, the principal correspondent.

Group II-A.

Chief Sub Editor is a person who regularly assigns and allocates work to Sub editors, supervises their work and is generally responsible for the determination of news space and the general display of news.

Chief Reporter is a person who is in charge of all reporters at a centre of publication, supervises their work and also reports on the more important news of the centre.

Group III

Sub Editor is a person who receives, selects, shortens, summarises, elaborates, translates, edits and headlines news items of all descriptions. He may do some or all of those functions.

Reporter is a person who gathers and dispatches by wire, post or any other means, news from any centre.

Group IV

Proof Reader is a person who checks up printed matter or "proof" with editor copy to ensure strict conformity of the former with the latter. Factual discrepancies, slips of spelling, mistakes of grammar and syntax may also be discovered by him and he either corrects or gets them corrected.

SECTION II — NEWS AGENCIES

Group I

General Manager or Editor is a person who directs and supervises the news service of the entire agency.

Group IA

Chief News Editor is a person who directs and supervises the news services of the entire agency.

Group II

News Editor is a person who is in charge of a news desk and supervises, directs and guides news service in the principal office of the news agency.

Special Correspondent is a person whose regular duties are to report all news of parliamentary, political and general importance and who is accredited to the Central Government.

Assistant Editor in a class 2 or class 3 news agency is a person who assists the General Manager or Editor in the discharge of his duties generally.

Group II.A

Senior Correspondent is a person whose regular duties are to report all news of parliamentary, political and general importance.

Chief Reporter is a person in a metropolitan centre who is in charge of all reporters in that centre and also reports on the more important news of the centre.

Chief Sub-Editor is a person in a metropolitan centre who regularly takes charge of a shift on the editorial desk and assigns duties and supervises the work of the sub-editors.

Group III

Reporter is a person who gathers and presents news at a particular centre.

Correspondent is a person who gathers and dispatches by wire, post or any other means, news from any centre.

Sub-Editor is a person who receives, selects, shortens, summarises, elaborates, edits and headlines news items of all descriptions. He may do some or all of those functions.

UNIFORM WAGES FOR PLANTATION WORKERS

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 11, the Minister for Labour and Employment, Shri Gulzarilal Nanda stated that the Central Government had received replies from all State Governments excepting Assam regarding the application of uniform wages for plantation workers.

The State Governments had pointed out that the existing wages had been fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and in some cases by agreements. Variations in the wage rates were due to conditions in different areas, such as the size of plantations etc. Most State Governments were not in favour of setting up a Wage Board for this industry.

The States

PROGRESS OF GREEN MANURING IN BIHAR

There was practically no local production of green manure seeds in Bihar in 1956-57. In 1957, a concrete attempt was made to popularise the production of green manure seeds and green manuring. In 1957-58, 1,050 maunds of green manure were produced and in 1958-59, 42,239 maunds. 3.86 lakh acres were covered by peripheral planting of green manure plants for seed production in 1958-59. It is expected that 11.7 lakh acres will be covered in 1959-60 by peripheral planting which is becoming increasingly popular. The area under green manure was .97 lakh acres in 1956-57. It shot up to 3.28 lakh acres in 1958-59 and, due to the intensive campaign now under way, it is expected that in 1959-60 the cumulative target of 8.25 lakh acres will be exceeded.

In Orissa

Orissa also shows a similar progress. The green manured area in that State has gone up from ten thousand acres in 1957 to a lakh of acres in 1958 and it is confidently expected that over a million acres will be covered in 1959. In Orissa, paddy is sown broadcast and very recently the State has been experimenting with the technique of mixing one to four ounces of *dhaincha* seeds with paddy. The green manure plant is thus raised in the field itself for raising seeds for the next season.

Taccavi Collections In Bihar

Bihar's 1958-59 revised budget estimate of the realisation of Taccavi arrears was Rs. 75 lakhs. The actual realisation during 1958-59 has exceeded Rs. 500 lakhs as a result of an intensive drive to collect the arrears. Out of the collections, Rs. 31.84 lakhs were collected by the Gram Panchayats.

Accommodation For Offices In Delhi

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on April 22, Shri K.C. Reddy, Minister of Works, Housing and Supply said that an assessment of the accommodation requirements for Central Government offices in Delhi had been made. Against the total requirements of 42.78 lakhs sq. ft. the accommodation available at present in permanent Government-owned buildings was 10.38 lakh sq. ft.; in leased and requisitioned buildings (including Princely houses), 5.71 lakh sq. ft.; and in temporary hutments, 21.59 lakh sq. ft. (Total: 37.68 lakh sq. ft).

Three multi-storeyed buildings which would provide 4.32 lakh sq. ft. of accommodation were under construction, and five more buildings were proposed to be constructed, which would partially meet the shortage that would be caused on account of

demolition of temorary hutments.

The allocation of accommodation in the new buildings would be considered when they were ready for occupation.

The Minister also laid on the table of the House a statement showing the requirements of various offices of the Central Government catered for from the general pool.

NEW DEVELOPMENT AREA IN DELHI

In reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 4, Union Minister of Health, Shri D.P. Karmarkar said that Ranjit Nagar Colony in West Delhi had been declared as a "development area" under the Delhi Development Act, 1957. A scheme for the development of 116.25 acres of land in this area at an estimated cost of Rs. 68.81 lakhs had been formulated by the Delhi Development Authority and was being scrutinised by Government.

ASSENT TO BOMBAY LAND REQUISITION BILL

The President has given assent to the Bombay Land Requisition (Extension and Amendment) Bill, 1959, says an announcement dated May 20.

The bill empowers the Bombay Government to requisition sufficient space for storage of foodgrains, location of fair price shops and offices for the staff entrusted with the foodgrains distribution scheme.

For this limited purpose the State Government has decided to use the powers under the Bombay Land Requisition Act, 1948 in those districts of the existing Bombay State which before November 1, 1956 were parts of the old Bombay State. The Bill also seeks to extend all the provisions of the Bombay Land Requisition Act, 1948 to the rest of the areas of the existing Bombay State.

ASSENT TO M. P. BIDI WORKERS WAGES BILL

The President has given assent to the Minimum Wages (Madhya Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 1959, says an announcement dated May 25.

The Bill amends the Minimum Wages Act of 1948 to make the Bidi manufacturers of Madhya Pradesh responsible for payment of minimum wages to workers employed by them.

Hitherto, Bidi manufacturers in the State escaped liability for payment of minimum wages by engaging petty contractors who, in turn, employed workers for making bidis from raw material supplied to them.

As the bidi makers were employed by the contractors Courts held in certain cases that the manufacturer was not an "employer" within the meaning of the 1948 Act.

Defence

I. A. F. BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

The annual General Body meeting of the I.A.F. Benevolent Association was held at the Air Force Station, Racecourse Camp, in New Delhi on May 18. The meeting, which was presided over by the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal S. Mukherjee, who is also the President of the Managing Council of the Association, was attended by over 200 officers and airmen-members of the Association.

In his report, the Secretary of the Association, Wing Commander P.N.G. Rangachari, said that the financial assistance amounting to over 90,000 was rendered by the Association during the year. This included the extension of monthly grants to ex-servicemen and to the families of deceased service personnel, for their rehabilitation and for the education of their children. A proposal to endow a number of scholarships in various institutions to help the children of Air Force personnel killed while on duty, was also under the consideration of the Council. The Secretary revealed that 90 per cent of the relief measures undertaken by the Association were generally meant for airmen and their dependents and the remaining ten per cent for officers and their families.

Formed in 1940, the I.A.F. Benevolent Association has been helping those disabled while flying. It also brings relief to the dependents of those killed in accident and allocates grants to victims of disease and misfortune. For its funds the Association depends upon the subscriptions of its own members who are all Air Force personnel, and on the voluntary donations received from charitable institutions, business houses and philanthropists. Over Rs. ten thousand were collected during the Air Force Day ball held a few weeks ago in the Capital to raise funds for the Association

Dr. K.S. Krishnan and Shri M.J.B. Manekji were re-elected civilian members of the Council. Mrs. D.A.R. Nanda and Mrs. Arjan Singh were also elected as lady members of the Council for the year.

New I.A.F. Crest

The President has approved of the new crest of the Indian Air Force, says an announcement dated May 30.

The crest consists of a Himalayan eagle in a roundel, with the State Emblem on top, and a scroll with 'NABHAH SPRISAM DEEPTAM' as the motto.

The Himalayan eagle is known for its swiftness and ferocity, and the spectacular manner in which it attacks its quarry. It is symbolic of the functions of the Air Force as a fighting Service.

The motto 'NABHAH SPRISAM DEEPTAM', which means "touching the sky with glory", symbolises the ambition of every airman "to fly higher and higher and attain glories in the sky".

AIR CHIEF RETURNS FROM INDONESIA

Air Marshal S. Mukherjee, Chief of the Air Staff, returned to New Delhi on May 15 after paying a visit to Indonesia, Malaya, Singapore and Burma. Mrs. Mukherjee and four IAF officers, who accompanied the Air Chief during the two-week tour, also returned with him.

The Chief of the Air Staff had left Palam for Djakarta in an IAF Dakota on April 27 at the invitation of the Indonesian Government. His visit was in reciprocation of similar goodwill visit to India by the Air Chief of the Indonesian Air Force.

Nanda Kot Climbed by Naval Expedition

The first Indian Naval expedition to Nanda Kot (22,510 feet) successfully climbed the summit at 2.20 p.m. on Monday, May 25, according to a telegraphic message received at Naval Headquarters, says an announcement dated May 28. The leader of the expedition Shri M.S. Kohli, Senior Commissioned Instructor Officer, and Shri K.P. Sharma, Yeoman of Signals made the final assault.

The 22,510-feet high Nanda Kot is situated in the North-East Pindari Glacier area in the Kumaon-Himalayas. The first known climbers ever to reach the summit of Nanda Kot were members of the Japanese expedition led by Mr. Y. Hota in the year 1936.

Improved Standard Of Sport In Army

According to the latest annual report of the Services Sports Central Board the general standard of sport witnessed during the championships in athletics, basketball, boxing, cricket, football, golf, hockey, lawn tennis, squash rackets, swimming, volley-ball, weight-lifting and wrestling, conducted by the Board at various stations in the country, showed a marked improvement on previous years.

Of the five gold, four silver and four bronze medals won by the Indian team in the Asian Games at Tokyo, the Service athletes claimed the lion's share. Jem. Milkha Singh won two gold medals there and one at the British Empire and Commonwealth Games at Cardiff. In the National Athletic Championship held at Trivandrum in February last, the Services established monopoly in practically all the events; of the eight records created, they were responsible for six.

In cricket, Maj. Hemu Adhikari had the distinction of leading India against the West Indies in the fifth and final Test at Delhi, which ended in a draw. Another Service cricketer of promise is Cadet A.K. Sen-Gupta of the National Defence Academy, who had the unique honour of hitting up the first century against the West Indies when the visiting side played a match against a Services XI at Khadakvasla. Later, Lt. Surendra Nath and Cadet Sen-Gupta played for India in Tests against the West Indies. Lt. Surendra Nath and Flt. Lt. V.M. Muddiah have been included in the Indian team now touring the U.K.

Servicemen also cornered most of the glory in the National Swimming Championship held in the Capital in October, winning with a total of 96 points, with Bombay as the runners-up with 47. Of the ten records created in the men's events, Service swimmers claimed six. Service personnel also annexed the first and third places in the high and low spring board diving.

In wrestling, Jem. Lila Ram won a gold medal for India at Cardiff.

India & The World

New Diplomatic Appointments

Iraq

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on May 26 says that His Excellency Mr. Kassim Hassan has been appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Iraq in India in succession to His Excellency Mr. Hussain Jamil.

Pakistan

A Press Note dated May 2 issued by the Ministry of External Affairs says that His Excellency Dr. Omar Hayat Malik has been appointed High Commissioner for Pakistan in India, in place of His Excellency Mian Ziaud Din, who has been recalled.

U.A.R.

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on April 24 says his Excellency Mr. Ahmed Hassan Elfeky has been appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Arab Republic in India in place of His Excellency Mr. Omar Abou-Richeh who has been recalled.

INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on April 25, says that Shri Arthur S. Lall, till recently India's Permanent Representative at the U.N. Headquarters has been appointed as Ambassador of India to Austria. He will assume charge of his assignment in July, 1959.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

MAY 16 TO 31

May 16 — Shri Krishna Menon, the Defence Minister, opens at Jodhpur a defence science laboratory where the performance of arms and equipment under conditions of dry heat will be studied

21 — Two agreements are signed in New Delhi between the Government of India and the American Technical Co-operation Mission, covering the allocation of ten crores of rupees from American P.L. 480 rupee funds each to the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India and the Industrial Finance Corporation of India

— A two-day session of the Regional Asian Executive Committee of the International Conference of Free Trade Unions starts in New Delhi

24 — The Government's decision on the recommendations of the *ad hoc* committee set up to examine the problems of the cottonseed oil industry is announced

25 — The Ceylon Prime Minister, Shri Bandaranaike, opens in Colombo a meeting of officials of the Colombo Powers to draw up plans for an Asian-African Conference on economic co-operation

— The Central Committee on Employment holds its first meeting in New Delhi

27 — The Government announces that the entire production of sugar by mills in the country will now be at the disposal of Government for direct allocation

29 — An agreement providing an eighty million rouble credit to India for setting up plants to manufacture medicines and surgical instruments is signed in Moscow

— The recommendations of the Wage Board for working journalists and the decision of the Government thereon are announced

31 — A protocol providing for a substantial increase in trade between India and Yugoslavia is signed in Prague

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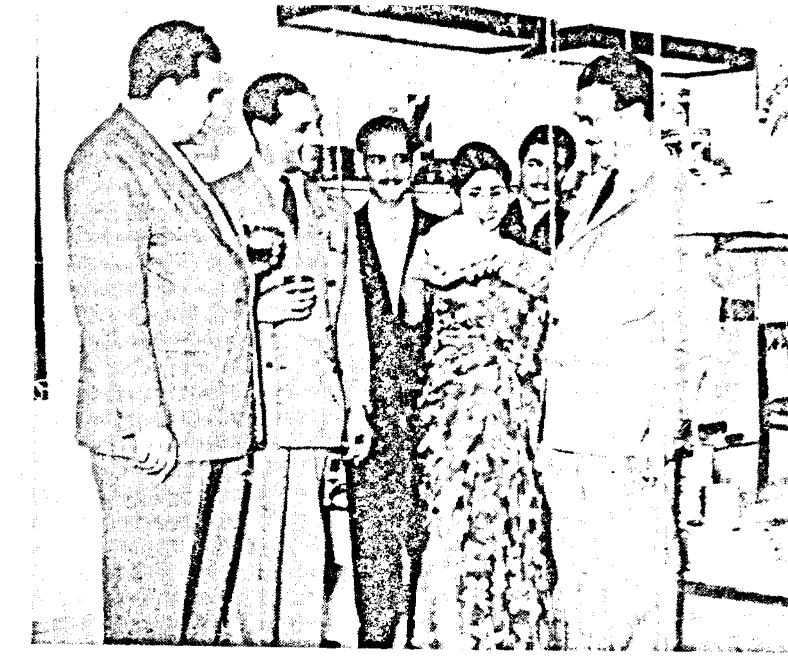
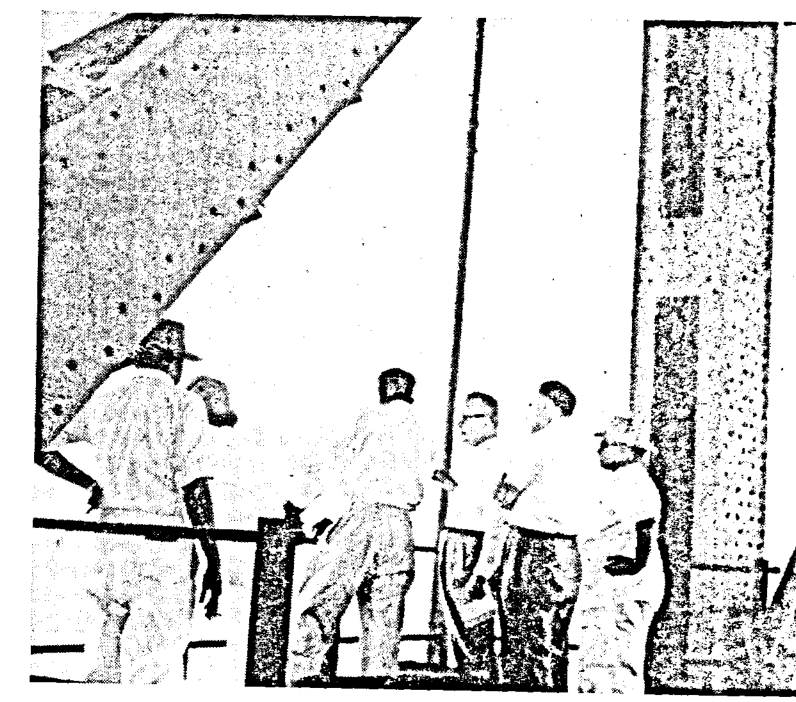
THE SALES SECTION, LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT,
PARLIAMENT HOUSE, NEW DELHI.



The Chairman of the Iranian Tea Board, Mr. Mansouri, examining a packet of Indian tea in the India Display Centre, Teheran



Mr. A.F. Geolet and Mr. R.A.D. Loven, of the Technical Operation Department of the International Bank for Reconstruction, who were on a study tour of Indian Railways, being shown round the Ganga Bridge at Mokameh

The Union Law Minister, Shri A. K. Sen, with Mr. Malcolm Macdonald and members of the team of U.K. officials who held informal discussions on the Laws of the seas with Government of India officials in New Delhi

Tea leaves being plucked from plants

A tea estate with its factory amid picturesque surroundings